

Part I: Attachments
OMB Control Number 1820-0664
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Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: The Ohio State University
Subdivisions of Lead Agency: The Ohio State University Research Foundation and
Industrial, Welding and Systems Engineering Department (IWSE)
Address of Lead Agency: 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency: acting representative,
David Flowers, Sponsored Program Officer, OSU Research Foundation
Address for Certifying Representative: 1960 Kenny Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210
Telephone for Certifying Representative: 614-292-3738
E-mail for Certifying Representative: flowers.137@osu.edu

Name and Title of Program Director: William S. Marras, Ph.D.
Address for Program Director: IWSE, 278 Baker Systems, 1971 Neil Avenue,
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Telephone for Program Director: 614-292-6670
E-mail for Program Director: marras.1@osu.edu

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):
Address for Program Director:
Telephone for Program Director:
E-mail for Program Director:

Name of Implementing Entity: Assistive Technology of Ohio (AT Ohio)
Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity:
Address of Implementing Entity: 445 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Bldg. L, Worthington,
Ohio 43085

Name and Title of Program Director: William T. Darling, Ph.D., Director
Address for Program Director: 445 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Bldg L, Worthington,
Ohio 43085
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Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):
Address for Program Director:
Telephone for Program Director:
E-mail for Program Director:

Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

2.1 Identification and Description of the Lead Agency – Identify and describe the Lead Agency referred to in section 4 (c)(1)(A) of the AT Act.

2.1A Identification and Description of Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is not Designated

2.1B Identification and Description of the Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is Designated

The Ohio State University is a public institution of higher education. While the official designee of the program in Ohio is The Ohio State University, the oversight of the program is subdivided between The Ohio State University Research Foundation and the Industrial, Welding and Systems Engineering Department. OSURF serves as the fiscal agent while IWSE oversees operation and coordination.

The Ohio State University Research Foundation (OSURF) is a nonprofit corporation created in 1936 as a vehicle to promote development, implementation and coordination of sponsored research at the university in the furtherance of educational objectives. Early in 1936, members of The Ohio State University Alumni Association and the Board of Trustees of the University decided that sponsored research conducted within the university should be coordinated through a central agency. Prior to that time, faculty members were free to negotiate conditions of sponsorship and performance for research that involved university personnel, facilities, and equipment without institutional sanction or control. The Board of Trustees appointed Dr. James L. Morrill, who was assistant to the president and who later became president of the University of Minnesota, to tour the country and determine how other large institutions were managing their sponsored research activities. Out of his study came the recommendation that led to the creation of OSURF, which was patterned closely after a similar organization at Purdue University. In November 1936, the Ohio Secretary of State issued a charter to The Ohio State University Research Foundation as a nonprofit educational corporation. Incorporators of the Foundation included the renowned inventor Charles F. Kettering and James F. Lincoln, president of the Lincoln Electric Company.

A revision of the regulations of the Research Foundation, adopted in 1974, gave greater proportionate representation to administrative officials of the university and university faculty on the Research Foundation's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors consists of the following member directors:

- Trustee Member (1):
 - Appointed by the Board of Trustees of the university.
- University Administration Members (3):
 - Including the Vice President for Research, the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and the Dean of the Graduate School as designated by the Board of Trustees of the university.

- Faculty Members (4):
 - Selected from the faculty by the Research Committee of the University Senate.
- Alumni Members (2):
 - Designated by The Ohio State University Alumni Association from alumni of the university.
- At-Large (1):
 - Designated by the president of the university from among members of national organizations of distinguished engineers, scientists, and scholars.

The Research Foundation Board of Directors elects officers at its regular annual meeting. The officers include president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and executive director of the Research Foundation. The directors appoint an executive committee and other committees as needed.

The function of the Research Foundation has evolved over the years in response to the wishes and needs of the university. The Research Foundation began as an organization created to encourage industry sponsorship of university research. It now provides specialized integrated program planning and administrative services for research and other activities supported by a wide range of external sponsors.

OSURF does not own or operate research facilities but utilizes facilities provided by the university under an agreement between the Board of Trustees of the university and the Research Foundation. Personnel working on Research Foundation projects are appointed as university personnel and are paid through the university under provisions of the agreement. The Research Foundation Board of Directors approves the operating budget for the Research Foundation's administrative expenses.

Industrial, Welding and Systems Engineering Department (IWSE) is divided into two sections: Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) and Welding Engineering (WE). Both sections provide an undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Science) and Graduate degree (Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy) programs. ISE is concerned with the integration of information, humans, machines and materials into successful efficient systems. WE is concerned with all of the activities related to design, production, performance, and maintenance of welded products.

Industrial and Systems Engineering provides the perfect blend of technical skills and people orientation. An industrial engineer addresses the overall system performance and productivity, responsiveness to customer needs, and the quality of the products or services produced by an enterprise. They also are the specialists who ensure that people can safely perform their required tasks in the workplace environment. Industrial and Systems Engineering has three cornerstone areas:

Human Factors/Ergonomics

Human Factors Engineering, also known as Ergonomics, can be briefly defined as the science of fitting the environment or a task to the human. "It is an interdisciplinary field

with roots in engineering, psychology, and physiology.” The design of most tools, machines and computer systems today include some Human Factors or Ergonomic considerations. Furthermore, it has become a critical element of their marketing. This has created a strong job market for this profession.

Manufacturing Engineering

The strength of any industrialized nation hinges on its capability to efficiently and cost effectively manufacture goods. It is the task of the manufacturing engineer to develop and apply the engineering science required for the efficient design and implementation of the manufacturing processes and systems critical to global competitiveness.

Manufacturing Engineering is truly a multidisciplinary subject. Its science base is provided by the fields of metallurgy, physics, chemistry, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, and economics to name but a few.

Operations Research

Although well prepared for technical responsibilities, engineers have traditionally received little or no formal training for decisions beyond their specialties. As engineering management opportunities become available, they feel a strong need to develop additional capabilities above those that they had acquired as engineering specialists.

These new capabilities are necessary for decision-making roles in broad areas while they maintain identity in their technical backgrounds.

Operations research is the art of mathematical modeling and analysis to design, evaluate, or improve the operations of a real-world system. The first step, modeling, involves identifying the most important characteristics of the system and representing them abstractly using the language of mathematics. The tools of mathematics and computers are used to perform the second step, analysis of the mathematical model. The Institute of Industrial Engineers describes industrial engineers as engineers who design, improve, and install systems of people, material, information, equipment and energy. Operations research is a part of industrial engineering because the industrial engineer needs the tools of operations research to specify, evaluate, and predict performance of a system, particularly when the system does not yet exist.

The current Interim Chairman of IWSE is Dr. John C. Lippold. Assistive Technology of Ohio’s principal investigator (program director as listed earlier in this document) is Dr. William Marras, a professor in Human Factors & Ergonomics.

2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity – Identify and describe the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing Entity is designated by the Governor.

In 1992, the Governor designated the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC) as the lead agency for Ohio TRAIN, the Ohio Statewide Assistive Technology Program. In 1994, the program was reconstituted and placed at The Ohio State University. Renamed Assistive Technology of Ohio (AT Ohio), the program originally was housed within the Ohio State University Hospital. In 1997, the program was moved to the Industrial, Welding and Systems Engineering area of the College of Engineering. For

thirteen years, AT Ohio has provided assistive technology services and statewide advocacy in the field of disability.

The mission of AT Ohio is to assist Ohioans with disabilities and the families of children with disabilities in securing the types of assistive technology devices and services that will help them lead independent lives. Over the next three years, under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended, AT Ohio will continue to serve as the lead agency responsible for the Statewide AT Program, and AT Ohio will continue or begin programs to accomplish this mission.

The Ohio State University is a public, land-grant, four-year nationally accredited comprehensive institution of higher education. Because the University is not a state agency dedicated to specific programs that promote limited activities or serve limited populations, AT Ohio will have the flexibility to provide services across the lifespan and any environment for any purpose. This flexibility also means that access to AT Ohio services will not be limited by eligibility criteria such as income, age, type of disability, or the reason that the individual needs AT. Despite being centrally located in Columbus, AT Ohio remains committed to being a statewide program, providing access through the use of two (2) toll-free numbers and an Internet web page. AT Ohio also conducts activities in all regions of the state on a periodic basis.

AT Ohio employs, and will continue to employ, a diverse staff of dedicated professions with specific areas of expertise. We are committed to hiring a high percentage of staff who are people with disabilities, or whose life has been impacted by having a family member with a disability. Our staff has received extensive training on assessment in the area of assistive technology, and has comprehensive legislative and policy backgrounds. They also are committed to serving on statewide disability boards, commissions, and councils that help promote both the agency and its mission.

AT Ohio staff and board members have served or are serving on the following boards and commissions: The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, the Ohio Community Computing Network, and the Ohio Disability Policy Coalition. Our agency is a member of the Association of Tech Act Program Agencies. Members of our staff are also members of the National Rehabilitation Association and the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. These statewide councils have given us lasting relationships with individuals representing all state agencies that provide services to Ohioans with disabilities, including the Rehabilitation Services Commission, the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Education.

AT Ohio will conduct many of its activities with partnering agencies and via subcontractors throughout the state. This will ensure that programs are available locally

to individuals with disabilities through regional centers. AT Ohio will enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), with the following entities:

- Fifth Third Bank
- The Treasurer of the State of Ohio
- Computer Solutions
- Public libraries in the following counties: Adams, Auglaize, Carroll, Champaign, Crawford, Gallia, Harrison, Highland, Jefferson, Mercer, Meigs, Miami, Noble, Preble, Scioto, Van Wert, Vinton, Washington, and Wyandot counties.

These entities have expertise that will allow us to provide a wide range of services across the state.

2.3 Show of Good Cause for Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity – If the Governor has chosen to change the Lead Agency or, if applicable, Implementing Entity as allowed in section 4(c)(1)(C) of the AT Act, provide an explanation of good cause for this re-designation.

The lead agency and the implementing entity has not been re-designated.

Attachment 3: State Advisory Council

3.1 Membership of the Advisory Council - Identify the members of the Advisory Council and each member's designation as an individual with disabilities who uses AT, a family member or guardian of such individual, or a representative of a State agency or other entity.

During the three years of this state plan, the Advisory Council of AT Ohio will provide consumer-driven, consumer-responsive advice to the state for planning and implementation of the activities of Ohio's statewide assistive technology program.

The Advisory Council consists of eleven (11) members. Six of these members, or 55% are either people with disabilities who use AT or parents of children who use AT. The remaining five members represent the Ohio Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired, the Statewide Independent Living Council, the state Department of Education, Goodwill Rehabilitation Center, and the state Workforce Development Board.

Members of the Advisory Council

Individuals with Disabilities:

Phil Skidmore, Bidwell
Ken Morlock, Columbus
Deborah Kendrick, Cincinnati
(3 consumers awaiting appointment)

Family Members:

Robin Kyman,

Agency Representatives:

Brenda Curtis, Statewide Independent Living Council;
Carl Sabo, Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired;
Daniel Girard, principal, Slate Hill elementary school (Department of Education).
(Designee from Ohio Workforce Development Board to be nominated.)

Other Agency Representative:

Mary Vail, Goodwill Rehabilitation Center.

The members of the Advisory Council live in counties throughout the state to ensure representation from both rural and urban areas of Ohio. Similarly, the membership reflects the diversity of the state as it includes significant female membership and diversity of type of disability as well as using varied types of assistive technology.

3.2 Structure and Operation of the Advisory Council – Describe the structure and operations of the Advisory Council.

Members of the Advisory Council become part of the council in two ways: agency representatives that are appointed by their respective agencies and consumer representatives that are volunteers solicited through the networks of disability organizations and councils throughout the state. All members are expected to serve a three-year term to coincide with the length of AT Ohio's state plan.

A chairperson who has been elected by the members of the council will lead the Advisory Council. A similarly elected vice-chair will serve in the absence of the chairperson. The Advisory Council itself will determine the need for subcommittees or ad hoc committees. At the chairperson's discretion, council decisions are made either through consensus or by member vote. The Advisory Council will adopt bylaws under which they will conduct their operations.

The Advisory Council will meet three times, with the meeting being held in Columbus. AT Ohio's staff will make the meeting room arrangements, develop materials for information packets for members, and ensure site and material accessibility. The chairperson of the Advisory Council and the AT Ohio director together will set the agenda for Advisory Council meetings to ensure that council members are informed about state AT issues. Meetings may feature presentations and guest speakers who will be selected based on the input of council members. Staff of AT Ohio will update the Advisory Council on the activities of the program, share recent data with the Advisory Council, and present any planned initiatives so the Advisory Council can provide input. The chairperson will facilitate discussion throughout the meeting to gain input and provide guidance in planning program activities. Staff will record minutes of the meeting.

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

Assistive Technology of Ohio will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during year one and will submit after year one an amendment identifying the long-term goal and short-term goals set to improve upon this baseline during years two and three of the State Plan. This baseline will be established by using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by the RSA after the State Plan process has been completed.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

Objectives for Device Loan and Demonstration Programs

- Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
- Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage over year 1 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed the device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
- Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage over year 2 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed the device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

Objectives for Device Loan and Demonstration Programs

- Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an

AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

- Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage over year 1 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed the device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
- Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage over year 2 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed the device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

Objectives for Device Loan and Demonstration Programs

- Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
- Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage over year 1 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed the device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
- Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage over year 2 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed the device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunication need as a result of the assistance they received.

Objectives for Device Loan and Demonstration Programs

- Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service meets an IT/telecommunication need as a result of the assistance they received.
- Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage over year 1 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed the device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service meets an IT/telecommunication need as a result of the assistance they received.
- Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage over year 2 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed the device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service meets an IT/telecommunication need as a result of the assistance they received.

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

Objectives for State Financing Activities and Reutilization Programs

- Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices and services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
- Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage over year 1 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs or educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
- Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage over year 2 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

Objectives for State Financing Activities and Reutilization Programs

- Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices and services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
- Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage over year 1 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs or employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
- Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage over year 2 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal: Percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

Objectives for State Financing Activities and Reutilization Programs

- Short-term goal for Year 1: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices and services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
- Short-term goal for Year 2: Increase in percentage over year 1 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs or community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.
- Short-term goal for Year 3: Increase in percentage over year 2 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization

programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

4.8 Additional Measurable Goals -- If applicable, describe any measurable goals that the State has set in addition to the goals established in items 4.1 through 4.7 for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology.

Ohio asserts no additional measurable goals.

Attachment 5: State-level Activities

5.1 State Financing Activities – Describe how the State will implement State financing activities as described in section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act.

Over the next three years, Assistive Technology will conduct a state financing activities: (1) The Assistive Technology Low Interest Loan, and we also promote the State of Ohio Treasury Office's Access for Individuals Program.

- 1. Assistive Technology Low-Interest Loan Program.** Ohio's Tech Act program, Assistive Technology of Ohio, will provide loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. This program began in 1998 using funds provided by Title I of the Rehab Act of 1988, as amended. Funds are on deposit with Fifth Third Bank, with a specified loan officer conducting loan approval and distribution of funds. Assistive Technology of Ohio supports an accessible website to disseminate information about this and other programs. The website has a toll free and local number where residents can call, or they can download the loan application from the website.
- 2. Access for Individuals Program.** This is primarily a linked-deposit program of the State of Ohio Office of the Treasurer, Jeannette C. Bradley. Although not specifically a program of Assistive Technology of Ohio, we act as a contact point for the program. The application for the Access for Individuals loan is also used as the application for AT Ohio's Assistive Technology Loan. We have streamlined two programs into one to make it easier for applicants to effectively apply for funds by using a single application. Loan approval is conducted for both programs by a Fifth Third designated loan officer. This saves applicants from having to complete two separate applications.

Fifth Third Bank reviews the Access for Individuals loan application first. Should the application for the State Treasurer's program be denied, the application is referred to AT Ohio. If AT Ohio determines that the applicant meets our criteria, we will approve the loan. Under the Access for Individuals Program, loans are secured by some form of collateral. Under AT Ohio's Low Interest Loan Program, loans are secured by the funds on deposit in a loan pool at Fifth Third Bank.

Neither loan has any origination fees. Loans are repaid at a below-market interest rate, and applicants can work with the bank on getting flexible terms to repay the loan. This helps make the loans low-cost and affordable for persons with limited, low or fixed incomes.

AT Ohio, The State Treasurer's Office and Fifth Third Bank enforce policies that prohibit them from denying loans based on an applicant's gender, race, ethnicity, age, or type of disability. Loans start at \$1,000 and can go up to \$10,000. The size of the Access for Individual loan can exceed that amount when loans are made

using Home Equity or conventional Auto Loans. AT Ohio's Assistive Technology Loans are limited to a \$10,000 cap.

Applicants are given loans generally based on their creditworthiness. When there is a question regarding the ability of an applicant to repay a loan, AT Ohio may decide whether or not to guarantee a loan with its funds, when other circumstances warrant.

AT Ohio will help individuals obtain assistive technology by providing loans for hearing aids, wheel chairs, power wheelchairs, and augmentative and assistive communication devices, among other things. A more relaxed credit criteria is applied on a case-by-case basis to ensure that Ohioans who may be of higher credit risk are not denied assistive technology solely on that basis.

Over the next three years, Assistive Technology of Ohio will work with Fifth Third Bank and the State of Ohio Treasurer's Office in making the application process even more streamlined. We will use additional marketing methods to make sure that more Ohioans are aware of the Low Interest Loan Program. We will be defining more specifically the roles each organization has in tracking and providing information to consumers about the Low Interest Loan Program. We will be looking for ways to make more Ohioans eligible to receive loans.

Marketing methods to be used will include:

1. Print advertisements
2. Public Service Announcements on radio and/or TV
3. Information on website
4. Exhibits and displays at disability conferences
5. Printing and wide-spread distribution of brochures
 - a. Independent Living Centers
 - b. Public Libraries
 - c. Disability Organizations
 - d. As requested by consumers
 - e. Downloadable link on website

5.2 Device Reutilization Program – Describe how the State will implement a device reutilization program as described in section 4(e)(2)(B) of the Act.

Over the next three years, AT Ohio will continue to directly administer the Computer Recycle and ReDistribution Program (CRRP), which refurbishes donated computers for people with disabilities in the state of Ohio.

AT Ohio has operated CRRP since late 2000. CRRP was created to address a growing need for people with disabilities (specifically lower-income individuals) in obtaining computer technologies in the state of Ohio. This need was significantly magnified a few

years later when many rehabilitation and disability agencies reclassified computer equipment (desktop, monitor, printer, scanner) as pervasive and ubiquitous equipment and would no longer classify such equipment as assistive technology.

When AT Ohio initially began the program, the consumer paid for all costs associated with the refurbishing and shipping of the computer equipment. In 2002, AT Ohio designated some of its state funds to help fund CRRP, reducing the direct costs for consumers to participate in the program. These funds along with AT Ohio funds are used to compensate the refurbishing subcontractor. State funds are also the main source of funding for any/all replacement equipment, upgrades, and software for the refurbished computers and a portion of the shipping costs.

The need for computers among Ohio's disability population is strong, as evidenced by the long waiting list we currently have for a computer.

If a person with a disability, family member or guardian would like to participate in AT Ohio's CRRP, he or she will contact AT Ohio through the mail, its accessible web site or toll free line and request an application to receive a refurbished computer through the program. AT Ohio will respond to all requests by sending an application and information and terms of the program which include:

- AT Ohio does not offer a warranty on refurbished equipment nor do we guarantee the brand of equipment to be received.
- AT Ohio does not provide any software other than a basic operating system (Microsoft Windows 98, 2000 or a freeware Linux system) and a Microsoft®-compatible "Office" suite known as Open Office.
- Along with application, the consumer must provide proof of eligibility to participate in program (i.e. letter from counselor, physician, etc.)
- After obtaining application and proof of eligibility, AT Ohio will add consumer to wait list (if applicable).
- When a refurbished computer becomes available, AT Ohio will notify consumer. Consumer will be responsible for shipping costs in the amount of \$50, paid to subcontractor (note: Costs to the consumer for shipping were raised on 7/22/05. A cost of \$25 will be honored for consumers on wait list before this date).
- Subcontractor is responsible for shipping computer equipment.
- AT Ohio does not release personal information of consumers who participate in the program other than general information that supports reporting requirements.

If an individual, business or other who has computer equipment they no longer need and would like to donate to CRRP, they will contact AT Ohio through its accessible web site, the mail or CRRP toll free line. AT Ohio staff will:

- Provide information to perspective donors by mail, email or phone on the equipment specifications that the program will accept.
- Make arrangements for pick-up or delivery of donated equipment.
- Respond to all donors by sending a thank you letter for their donation.
- Donor agrees to provide AT Ohio description of device(s) and contact information.

If an individual, business or other would like to make a cash donation to help defer the costs associated with the refurbishing of computers by CRRP, they will contact AT Ohio through its accessible web site, the mail or CRRP toll free line. AT Ohio staff will:

- Respond to all donors by sending a thank you letter for their donation.
- Donor agrees to provide AT Ohio with contact information.

Over the next three years, AT Ohio will work to expand and improve the CRRP. Plans for expansion and improvement over the next three years include:

- (1) Increase computer donations to help reduce the current waiting list by working with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and other business associations in marketing the donation side of the program.
- (2) Develop and place ads in various Ohio publications soliciting donations.
- (3) Find at least 1 or 2 more subcontractors to help refurbish computers.
- (4) Work to increase private/business/foundation and other resource entities in actual dollar donations to help fund equipment and software upgrades to computers.
- (5) Apply to become a Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher (MAR) that is sponsored and operated by The Technology Place for Nonprofits (“Techsoup”). The donation program provides Microsoft Windows 98 and Windows 2000 operating systems to U.S. based nonprofit PC refurbishers for a cost of \$5 per system.
- (6) Work with The Ohio State University Research Foundation (OSURF), AT Ohio’s fiscal oversight agency, in developing a procedure for private donations for CRRP.

AT Ohio’s CCRP is and will remain accessible to any individual in the state regardless of where they live. This is achieved by offering a statewide toll-free number that individuals can call or a website that they can visit to learn about the program and request to participate in the program. Once a computer is requested, our program will place consumer on a waiting list (if applicable) and the computer when it becomes available to that individual’s residence (or designated shipping address) anywhere in the state. The individual is charged a nominal fee for shipping.

AT Ohio currently does not provide software or other adaptable equipment with the computers other than a basic operating system and Open Office. When possible, AT Ohio works with consumers to find other resources in obtaining extra equipment and software. During the next three years, the program will increase its efforts in obtaining increased state dollars and private dollars to address the needs of individuals who have extra accessible software and equipment requests.

Our Computer Recycling and ReDistribution Program benefits individuals with disabilities regardless of age or type of disability. Our program has excellent working relationships with other agencies in our state, with most being the main referral/point of contact for participation in our program.

Our Computer Recycling and ReDistribution Program increases access to AT because it provides individuals with information about and the ability to obtain computer technology that they would be otherwise unable to obtain through other agencies and programs. The program also helps to counteract the current separation growth of the digital divide for people with disabilities. The program helps people with disabilities become connected in the new electronic and information age.

5.3 Device Loan Program – Describe how the State will implement a device loan program as described in section 4(e)(2)(C) of the Act.

Over the next three years, Assistive Technology of Ohio will expand its network of Adaptive Toy Lending Programs to include additional assistive technology. Currently the program works with public libraries to implement loan programs in many communities. Adapted toys are designed for children with disabilities. The toys enhance motor skills, teach cause and effect and provide basic skills experience required to operate more advanced assistive technology. The toy-lending program currently operates in more than 30 public libraries in Ohio. Extra effort will continue to be made in reaching underserved populations, especially in the Appalachian areas of the state and rural areas where access to assistive technology is limited.

AT Ohio will work with public libraries in implementing assistive technology loan programs. We will begin with adaptive computer accessories and then move into other areas of assistive technology. Adaptive computer accessories will include

- Alternative keyboards (large keys, one-handed keyboards, ergonomic keyboards, ABC layout, etc.)
- Alternative input devices (joysticks, trackballs, large mice, small mice, touch screen windows)
- Screen reading software such as Jaws
- Voice recognition software such as Dragon Naturally Speaking
- Height adjustable computer furniture to accommodate wheelchairs
- Screen magnification software such as Zoom!
- Screen magnification hardware

By working with public libraries, many more communities can be reached, and more Ohioans with disabilities can be served and have access to assistive technology that may otherwise be out of reach. Plus, consumers can try out the technology before purchase to find out whether or not an adaptation is appropriate for them. Some of the adaptive toys or assistive technology can be cost-prohibitive. By working with public libraries, consumers can borrow the toys or technology to try them out, either by taking the technology home for a designated borrowing period, or using it at a public computing station within the library.

Consumers can access the participating libraries by following links on AT Ohio's website. Once they are linked to a library, consumers will be able to access the catalog of adaptive toys and assistive technology through the participating library's website online catalog.

5.4 Device Demonstration Program – Describe how the State will implement a device demonstration program as described in section 4(e)(2)(D) of the Act.

As of the writing of this state plan, AT Ohio does not operate any Device Demonstration Program (DDP). Up until May 31, 2005, AT Ohio operated a device demonstration lab based out of our regional office in Marietta, Ohio. The Technology Outreach Program (TOPS) was housed at Washington State Community College and operated under a grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). This program ended, as indicated, at the end of May. According to ARC, the equipment purchased under ARC grants is intended to provide an enduring benefit to the Appalachian region of the state. AT Ohio no longer has an employee in the southeast region of Ohio. As a result of these facts, we are in the process of donating the equipment for the Device Demonstration Program to Washington State Community College for the furtherance of a program that will now be run by Washington State.

The Marietta program served only a three or four county area. Furthermore, it was located in the far southeast region of Ohio, the most sparsely populated region of our state. AT Ohio plans to develop a new Device Demonstration Program that will have the capacity to provide this needed service on a statewide basis. To this end, we are developing plans to purchase a minivan or minibus to be converted into a portable DDP.

This vehicle will be fully modified to indicate to consumers the various ways that a vehicle can be adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities. Included within the vehicle will be ways to modify the gasoline pedal, brakes and gearshifts, along with the radio, windshield wipers, and heating and air conditioning units. The van will also house various types of assistive technology that can be used in a device demonstration.

The goal will be to expand our DDP to be able to take to secondary schools and high schools across the state. We will also be able to use the vehicle and assistive technology equipment at statewide disability and rehabilitation conferences.

In year one of the this state plan, AT Ohio will try to identify the level of interest of schools and community organizations across the state for a device demonstration presentation. How this program will operate and how it is received (i.e., feedback), will impact the goals set by AT Ohio for years two and three of this state plan.

Regardless of how they operate, the demonstration programs will be designed to offer individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals the opportunity to experience a number of different devices while being guided by experts. Allowing them to compare and contrast different devices will help them make an informed decision about what device to purchase or whether to purchase a device at all.

Attachment 6: Comparable Support

6.1 Source and Amount of Support – Identify the State-level activity for which there is comparable support, the source of this support, the amount of the support, and the project year for which this support is being provided.

6.2 Comparability -- Demonstrate that this support is comparable in terms of funding and that the activities are comparable in terms of scope.

6.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities and collaborate with the appropriate entity, if the comparable funds are provided to, or the activities are conducted by, an entity other than the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity.

Ohio is not claiming comparable support.

Attachment 7: State Flexibility

7.1 Activity – Identify each State-level activity the State is choosing not to carry out.

7.2 Maintenance of Statewideness and Comprehensiveness – Demonstrate that the Statewide AT Program will continue to be comprehensive without conducting this activity.

7.3 Achievement of Measurable Goals - Demonstrate that the State can reach its measurable education goals, employment goals, telecommunications and information technology goals, and community living goals without conducting such activities.

7.4 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will coordinate activities and collaborate with entities in the State that do conduct this activity, if the State chooses not to conduct this activity because another entity already conducts it.

Ohio is not utilizing the state flexibility clause of the AT Act.

Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities – Describe how the State will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education and businesses as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(i) of the AT Act.

Over the next three years, AT Ohio will engage in a number of training activities. AT Ohio has already conducted a series of statewide assistive technology education days for human services professionals. We anticipate being able to continue delivering such training upon request. These include:

- **Training for education professionals** (special education teachers, speech therapists, occupational and physical therapists). The Director of AT Ohio has been asked to teach a course at The Ohio State University on the use of assistive technology in special education classrooms. The topics to be covered include a basic understanding of AT, to including AT in the classroom, to training on the use of specific devices. The training will be developed to cover a broad range of disabilities that teachers are likely to encounter in their professional duties. In addition, discussions are being held regarding the possibility that in coming years, the class could be offered via distance learning.
- **Training for employment professionals.** AT Ohio contracts with professionals in the field to conduct education days aimed at improving employment potential for people with disabilities through the use of AT. We have conducted and will continue to conduct regional trainings for vocational rehabilitation counselors and social workers that focus on employment. The training is developed to include information for a broad array of disabilities and devices.
- **Statewide disability conferences.** AT Ohio professional staff remain committed to giving presentations on assistive technology for independent living. These conferences are widely attended by both people with disabilities and professionals working in the field. This training is developed to include information for a broad array of disabilities and devices.

Technical Assistance

- AT Ohio is working in partnership with the Goodwill Rehabilitation Center of Columbus to provide training on the accessibility features available on Windows® operating systems through our involvement in the Microsoft® Accessibility Resource Center.

Transition

The AT Act requires that AT Ohio specifically focus on training and TA around transition. This includes transition for students with disabilities who are leaving high school for employment or post-secondary education and transition for those entering or maintaining community living. During the first year of this plan, AT Ohio will work in partnership with the Nisonger Center, also located at The Ohio State University, in their work in area of transition. The Nisonger Center is involved in several national studies surrounding transition from school to work, and specifically the role that assistive technology plays in this transition. They have administered programs that we have participated in where they provide direct support to students in schools to train and evaluate teachers, counselors, and students on the effective use of assistive technology. We will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining our specific contribution to their important work.

8.2 Public Awareness Activities – Describe how the State will provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the AT Act.

Over the next three years, AT Ohio will use a multifaceted approach (mailings, Internet, exhibits, presentations, and training) to increase awareness about the benefits of assistive technology devices and services, the types of AT devices and services available, funding for AT devices and services, and policies related to AT. AT Ohio will provide the following public awareness activities:

Information and Referral. The toll-free 800 numbers provide free information and referral services on AT for people of all ages with disabilities. Family members, service providers, teachers, case managers, and others who work in fields related to disability services or AT may also use this service. AT Ohio provides information to those who call on the availability, benefits, location, appropriateness and cost of AT devices or services. In addition, AT Ohio will, as cases warrant, send additional information about assistive technology devices or services to callers so that they can make an informed decision. A consumer satisfaction survey will be mailed to callers following the call to determine if they are satisfied with the information provided by AT Ohio or if they need additional information.

Newsletter. The AT Ohio newsletter is developed and disseminated in hard copy and mailed to consumers. Over the next three years, AT Ohio will also develop a web-based newsletter and a list serve to disseminate information to subscribers over the Internet. We will continue to generate a hard-copy newsletter for both our Adaptive Toy Lending Program and mailing list (as requested by consumers) at least twice a year. Sections of the newsletter will contain information about new assistive technology devices, conferences and other educational forums, community events, disability sporting events, updates on Legislation, and reviews of media of interest to persons with disabilities.

Web Site. AT Ohio will continue to maintain a website that features in-depth information on the four State Level Activities of the AT Act of 1998, as amended, as well as other information about programs offered by AT Ohio. The Web site will continue to evolve to include web blogs, extensive links to a wide variety of resources, including online disability communities, links to vendors of assistive devices and services, update on legislation on disability-related topics, announcements of national or international conferences relating to disability. The Web Site will also expand to include information on where to find used and donated assistive devices. Contact information will continue to be available so consumers can contact AT Ohio easily. The Web site will also have a text-only version so users with screen-readers can readily access the information. The web site will also include all telephone numbers, toll free, local, and fax and TTY line. The web site is being developed to include lists of AT specialists throughout Ohio who conduct AT assessments and evaluations.

Exhibits, Displays and Presentations. AT Ohio has participated, and will continue to participate, in local, statewide, regional and national conferences related to disabilities. Brochures detailing AT Ohio's programs and services will be made available, with alternate formats provided as requested. AT staff has created power point presentations that range from AT for Early Intervention, to AT for Senior Citizens and How to make public libraries accessible for patrons with disabilities. In addition, AT Ohio will co-sponsor disability-related events, or provide financial support to certain disability-related events as deemed appropriate to our budget.

Training. AT Ohio will hold "Assistive Technology Education Days" for professionals to learn about the different kinds of Assistive Technology devices that are available.

8.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and others to improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) of the AT Act.

Because coordination and collaboration with public and private entities often is based on emerging, new, or changing policies and procedures, it is difficult to anticipate all of the coordination and collaboration activities that AT Ohio will undertake over the next three years. In the past, coordination and collaboration involved the proposal of new or changes to current AT policies, providing input on proposed AT policies, and analysis of the impact of current AT policies. AT Ohio does this by participating on statewide disability councils, advocacy groups and disability networks throughout Ohio, and through independent efforts.

Currently, AT Ohio is collaborating and coordinating with:

- The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council by having our director serve as the chairman for a two-year term.

- The Statewide Independent Living Council by having our board president serve as a board member.
- The Ohio Disability Policy Coalition by having our agency as a member.
- The Ohio State University by teaching a class on assistive technology for special education teachers through the College of Education.

AT Ohio anticipates coordinating and collaborating on policies in a similar manner over the next three years.

Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities

9.1 Nature and Extent of Resources -- Describe the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators to assist in accomplishing identified goals.

As described in attachment 5, Assistive Technology of Ohio will work with Public Libraries throughout Ohio to implement its Adaptive Toy Lending Program. Each library will provide storage space for AT devices free of charge as an in-kind contribution. They will also provide administrative support for the program such as cataloging, replenishing of consumables (batteries, etc.), replacement of broken devices, and addition of new toys and devices not originally provided. Each library will also put notice of the Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology Lending program on its website.

We are already working with some 30 public libraries across the State of Ohio to implement the Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology Lending Program. Many of these libraries are located in economically depressed and areas of underserved populations where access to adaptive toys and assistive technology is limited. The libraries implement policies and procedures that are congruent with the policies and procedures they have in place for all other catalogued material.

9.2 Mechanism to Ensure Collaboration – Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the implementing entity, if any, and the State.

In general, each public library will act as the implementing agency for the Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology Library, with Assistive Technology of Ohio being the initial primary source of toys and equipment. AT Ohio has earmarked a portion of funds from the State of Ohio for this program.

Assistive Technology of Ohio will enter a written agreement with each public library with which we have implemented an Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology Lending program. The agreement will stipulate the responsibilities of each party, (AT Ohio and the public library) and each party's role in implementing, maintaining and expanding the Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology Lending program. Each library will submit annual reports to Assistive Technology of Ohio regarding the usage of the Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology programs. Face to face meetings with librarians will take place to discuss concerns related to the Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology Lending Program. AT Ohio will also publish an Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology newsletter on a twice a year as a mechanism of networking among all the public libraries participating in the Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology Lending Program.

9.3 Involvement of State Advisory Council - Describe the nature and extent of the involvement of the State Advisory Council in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals required in section 4(d)(3).

The primary responsibility of the Assistive Technology of Ohio Advisory Council shall be to serve in an advisory capacity to AT Ohio on issues relating directly to the needs, problems, and other concerns of people with disabilities with regards to Assistive Technology. While AT Ohio personnel are directly responsible for delivery of most of the required state level and state leadership activities, the council will support and assist staff in fulfilling these responsibilities to improve the lives of people with disabilities, their families and those who are concerned about assistive technology issues. This structure will allow for integration and coordination among various services and programs with the ultimate goal of providing consumers with a “one-stop” approach to AT access and acquisition in the State of Ohio.

The Assistive Technology of Ohio Advisory Council will evaluate all programs and services on a yearly basis and produce an annual report that will be used to identify and plan for program improvement in future years. The annual report will be provided to the legislature and the Governor. For purposes of State Plan submission, the AT Council discussed content and issues during the August meeting and the Executive Board reviewed and approved the document prior to submission.

Attachment 10: State Support

10.1 State Support for State-level Activities – If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State-level activities described in section 4(e)(2).

In 2002, AT Ohio was able to secure a line item in the State of Ohio's Biennial Budget. In State Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003, AT Ohio received from the state \$50,000 in each year. In Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005, the State instituted across the board percentage cuts to every line item, and AT Ohio received \$47,531 for both years. For the 2006/07 State Fiscal Years, AT Ohio will also receive \$47,531 in both years.

These state dollars have been used as a match for other grant awards, to purchase equipment for the Adaptive Toy and Assistive Technology Lending Library and for the Computer Recycling and ReDistribution Program. During the next two years, AT Ohio plans on using the funding from the state to continue supporting the purchasing of equipment for the Lending Libraries and the Computer Program. Since federal dollars cannot be used for the direct purchase of technology for individuals with disabilities, state dollars are used to help purchase the technologies needed to refurbish the computers.

AT Ohio will also continue to go after other funding opportunities, in which case, the state dollars might be needed as a match for a separate grant award opportunity. In this type of scenario, only the Computer Program will benefit from the State Dollars.

10.2 State Support for State Leadership Activities - If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State Leadership activities described in section 4(e)(3), if applicable.

Because of the uncertainty of the Computer Program since its operation is based solely on the donations of computers, there is a possibility that funding could be left over that would need to be reallocated at the end of the state fiscal year. If this would happen, the dollars would be used for state leadership activities.

AT Ohio will also work to secure other avenues of funding for state leadership activities in future years.

Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

11.1 Tracking Expenditures – Describe planned procedures for tracking expenditures for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

All departments at the Ohio State University Research Foundation use the same networked software and accounting program. An elaborate coding system has been developed by Ohio State University through the years to track expenses. The PeopleSoft® software and the web-based “P.I. Portal” allow appropriate personnel to track expenditures on via the Internet. At any time, a report can be obtained to monitor expenditures to assure that AT Ohio is in compliance with the percentages and budget amounts as per the State Plan. It will be the responsibility of AT Ohio’s director to monitor expenditures on a monthly basis.

11.2 Proposed Budget Allocations – Attach a budget containing proposed allocations for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

The following are proposed budget allocations for State Leadership and State Level Activities for Year 1 of the project. These numbers will serve as an estimate only for Year 2 and Year 3 of this State Plan.

Proposed Allocation	Distribution	Total Award Amount
		<u>\$397,130</u>
State Level	60%	\$214,450
State Leadership	40%	\$142,967
<i>Leadership Activities</i>	<i>95% (of 40%)</i>	<i>\$135,819</i>
<i>Transition</i>	<i>5% (of 40%)</i>	<i>\$ 7,148</i>
Indirect Costs	10%	\$ 39,713
TOTAL		<u>\$397,130</u>

Within the above budget, AT Ohio proposes to apportion funds for specific activities in the following manner. However, these numbers reflect a proposal only, and will serve as an estimate only for Year 2 and Year 3 of this State Plan.

State Level Activities	Proposed Allocation
State Financing Activities	\$32,168
Device Reutilization Program	\$53,612
Device Loan Program	\$64,335
Device Demonstration Program	\$64,335
State Leadership Activities	Proposed Allocation
Training and Technical Assistance Activities	\$50,038
Transition	\$ 7,149
Public Awareness Activities	\$42,890
Coordination and Collaboration	\$42,890