

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

Council on Developmental Disabilities

Assistive Technology State Plan (ATSP)

August 2006

STATE: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Council on Developmental Disabilities

Assistive Technology State Plan (ATSP)

PART I: ATTACHMENTS

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Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency: Council on Developmental Disabilities

Address of Lead Agency: 1312 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP, 96950

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency: Antonio Chong,
Executive Director

Address for Certifying Representative: 1312 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP, 96950

Telephone for Certifying Officer: 1-(670) 664-7000

E-Mail: E-mail for Program Director: tchong@cnmiddcouncil.org

Name and Title of Program Director: Antonio Chong, Executive Director

Address for Program Director: 1312 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP, 96950

Telephone for Program Director: 1-(670) 664-7000

E-Mail for Program Director: tchong@cnmiddcouncil.org

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):

Address for Program Director: Same

Telephone for Program Contact: Same

E-Mail for Program Contact: Same

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Name and Title of Implementing Entity: Northern Marianas College – Community Development Institute – University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Proposed – Governor Designation Not Completed)

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity: Same

Address of Implementing Entity: P.O. Box 501250, Saipan MP 96950

Name and Title of Program Director: David Attao, Program Director

Address for Program Director: Same

Telephone for Program Director: (670) 234-5498, Extension 1014; fax (670) 235-4966

E-mail for Program Director: dattao@nmcnet.edu

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director): Same

Address for Program Contact: Same

Telephone for Program Contact: Same

E-Mail for Program Contact: Same

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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: Not Applicable

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

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities was established in 1984 as a line division under the Executive Branch. In 1994 the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities was funded to develop, implement, and administer a Commonwealth wide program to meet assistive technology needs of persons with disabilities. An Assistive Technology Task Force was created within the DD Council to implement systems change. As a result, a program entitled STRAID, for System of Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities, was established. Today it oversees the Assistive Technology activities funded under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended.

STRAID will continue to carryout its Mission; to enhance the quality of life and opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the Commonwealth, enabling them to become independent, productive, integrated, and fully included in the community through systems change activities which increase access and utilization of Assistive Technology devices and services. However, as a result of the new requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended, the Implementing Entity for the AT Program in CNMI will not be STRAID. The Lead

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Agency will continue to be the Council on Developmental Disabilities, and certainly STRAID will continue to provide supporting services.

However, after thorough deliberation involving the Governor, the State Rehabilitation Council, the Council on Development Disabilities Board, and numerous other stakeholders and service providers it was decided to select an Implementing Entity that is a service providing agency with extensive experience, resources and interagency relationships to implement the activities of the State Plan.

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.

The Northern Marianas College (NMC) – Community Development Institute-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CDI-UCEDD) has been selected by Governor Benigno R. Fitial to be the Implementing Entity for purposes of fulfilling the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended. However, as of this submission, the Governor has not signed the official designation letter, but is expected to do so within the next 60 days.

The delay is related to the approval process required to implement the primary Partnership Agreement between the Lead Agency, the Council on Development Disabilities, and the Implementation Entity the Northern Marianas College (NMC) – Community Development Institute-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CDI-UCEDD). Because Federal funds are involved, and will be transferred from the Lead Entity to the Implementing Entity, the Office of Attorney General must approve the Partnership Agreement. This approval process includes review of the transfer process, establishing

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appropriate accounts with the Department of Finance meeting requirements for this purpose and other legal and regulatory requirements.

In addition, the appropriate accounts and transfer mechanisms must be established by the Secretary of Finance, Federal Programs Office, and approved by the Office of Attorney General. This is an established process that is triggered whenever Federal funded projects involve transfer and oversight agreements between agencies of the Executive Branch. Currently there are a variety of similar partnership agreements between the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Public School System Special Education Program, the Transitional Living Center, the Commonwealth Health Center, the Center for Independent Living, the Workforce Investment Agency, the State Rehabilitation Council, and the Community Guidance Center (formerly the Mental Health Center) among others. Many of these partnerships, memorandums of understanding, and agreements involving resources of many kinds, including funding, are long standing. In this case under this new AT Act, with a new partnership, the approval process for signing the Partnership Agreement has been lengthened.

- (i) Overview Description of the Northern Marianas College (NMC) – Community Development Institute-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CDI-UCEDD)

NMC was established in May 1981 as a public, non-profit corporation located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). NMC is a comprehensive community college that offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, 18 associate degree programs, 18 certificates of achievement options, and 17 certificates of completion programs.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) have accredited NMC since 1985. In 2001, NMC's accreditation was reaffirmed by the ACCJC of

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WASC and was granted initial accreditation by the Senior Commission of Colleges and Universities of WASC for its baccalaureate degree in elementary education.

The Northern Marianas College has a main campus on the island of Saipan, and two satellite campuses, one on the island of Tinian, and the other on the island of Rota, thus accessing community members throughout the CNMI.

The Community Development Institute and University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CDI-UCEDD Program) is a key department of the Northern Marianas College and is responsible for Interdisciplinary Training; Technical Assistance; Community Outreach & Training; Research; Information Dissemination; as well as Building Partnerships; Short-term courses; and Demonstrations.

CDI-UCEDD is one of 61 such programs throughout the United States and its territories. NMC CDI-UCEDD is represented in the Association of University Centers on Disabilities as the a part of the Pacific Basin University Centers (PBUCE) in partnership with American Samoa's (AS) UCEDD Program and is housed under the University of Hawaii UCE's Pacific Outreach Initiative (POI). The PBUCE was developed in 1993 thus NMC CDI-UCEDD has been in existence for thirteen years.

CDI-UCEDD has established many partnerships throughout the CNMI, Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland. The NMC CDI-UCEDD is a key member of the CNMI Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network, also known as, the CNMI Tri-Agencies which includes the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Incorporated (NMPASI), with NMC CDI-UCEDD as the lead agency. NMC CDI-

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UCEDD has a Consumer Advisory Council (CAC), composed of individuals with developmental disabilities and/or their family members, partner agencies, and community members, which help direct the Program's outreach efforts and annual scope of work, guiding the goals and objectives of the Program.

NMC however, faces the same extraordinarily difficult barriers faced by all service and community support organizations in the CNMI. These barriers include extremely geographic isolation. The CNMI, the Island of Saipan as its capitol, is approximately 8,000 miles to the west of Washington, D.C., 6,000 miles west of California, and 3,000 miles west of Hawaii in the Western Pacific Ocean.

As mentioned earlier, CDI-UCEDD has an Advisory Council with a majority of the Advisors being people with disabilities, people with children with disabilities, service providers from various agencies including non government. Council meetings are held at least once per quarter, minutes taken, and goals and objectives reviewed regularly, evaluated and revised as needed. CDI-UCEDD is represented on various "State" Councils and Boards that include all organizations providing services to people with disabilities related needs. These include the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and the CNMI State Workforce Investment Board, Special Education State Advisory Panel among others. In turn, various key organization Boards and Councils are represented on the CDI-UCEDD Advisory Council.

The proposed Implementing Entity has been working with AT projects in its own capacity. The DDC and NMC have for the last several years had a close working relationship with OVR which has greatly increased the capacity of NMC to plan, implement, manage, evaluate and improve AT project services.

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- (ii) CDI-UCEDD goals, objectives, and activities include conducting programs which address the needs of individuals with disabilities throughout the entire CNMI community, including but not limited to those in education, employment, telecommunications, and community living.

It does this effectively and efficiently through the extensive and multifaceted communications systems established with all other information, health, treatment, education, information, and AT device providers in the CNMI. This system has as its foundation a cross-referral system (while meeting confidentiality requirements of various agencies). Each service provider, or education-based agency, or AT device providing agency provides their clients, consumers, and stakeholders with a variety of alternatives, options, and other sources of support of all types listed above.

Northern Marianas College is home to the CNMI's only public radio station and has access to other media outlets including for-profit radio and television stations, and newspaper providers to conduct public information, education, and awareness activities. The College also has a distance education facility which reaches satellite campuses on the islands of Rota and Tinian, as does the radio and television programming. NMC also coordinates public information activities in both a lead and supportive role with other agencies using telecommunications available on this isolated island

- (iii) NMC over the past 13 years as described above has demonstrated a sophisticated ability to coordinate and collaborate with other public and private entities in the various fields of disability services and assistance, as well as worked closely with Assistive Technology projects. It has also demonstrated its ability to collaborate and coordinate with other public and private agencies that serve individuals

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with disabilities. This includes families, guardians, advocates, and/or other authorized individuals throughout the CNMI.

2.3 Show Good Cause for Change in Lead Entity 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, providing an explanation of good cause for this re-designation which CAFD has the experience, staff and infrastructure to carry out the activities under this State Plan in a timely manner.

Not Applicable

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Attachment 3: AT 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.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has established a CNMI Assistive Technology Advisory Council for the Implementing Entity, the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities, which will assume authority and implement activities upon final authorization to act as the Implementing Entity by the Governor.

The Council will provide consumer responsive, consumer driven advice to the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities and other appropriate organizations and individuals for the planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of the activities carried out through this State Plan, including setting measurable goals described in section 4(d)(3). Not less than fifty-one (51) percent of the members of the Advisory Council are individuals with disabilities that use AT or the family members or guardians of such individuals.

The Advisory Council Members are:

Individuals with Disabilities who use assistive technology and family members:

- John Demapan, Saipan
- Jason Teregeyo, Saipan
- John Arriola, Saipan
- Margaret Manglona, Rota
- Frances H. Diaz, Tinian
- Cynthia Attao, Saipan
- Elisa Aldan, Non-Profit Representative

State Agency Representatives

- Felicita Abraham – NMC Rehabilitative Services Programs
- Edith Deleon Guerrero – Workforce Investment Agency
- Suzanne Lizama – Program Director, Special Education Part “B”
- Lydia Igitol – CNMI Center for Independent Living
- Magarita Olopai-Taitano, OVR
- David Attao – NMC-CDI-UCEDD

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Members of the Council who are individuals with disabilities requiring the use of AT represent the three populated islands – Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Saipan having a significantly greater population has proportional representation. The members come from small villages as well as more populated areas of the islands.

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

The Consumer members were selected based upon recommendations from consumers already participating on other State Boards and Councils. Recommendations were requested to identify individuals not already on Boards and Councils but who expressed interest in carrying out such a community service. Prospective members were also nominated based upon demonstrated past involvement. For members nominated who were not already on Boards or Councils this was demonstrated by participation in community meetings, seminars, community conferences, involvement with community activities and other volunteer efforts. The purpose was to, insofar as possible, ensure that the members selected would be active and participate. Consumer members were also selected to represent the three main inhabited islands to ensure equitable representation. Insofar as possible, the Consumer members represent individuals who use a wide variety of AT devices and have varying challenges.

The Advisory Council Members were selected based directly upon the types and variety of services and frequency of services provided.

The Council will have a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson who must be Consumers. The Secretary will be a State Representative. Informal Roberts Rules of Order will be used, subject to the desires of the Council. Majority vote applies. Minutes must be taken, and an Agenda and Minutes from previous

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meetings must be provided to each member not less than five days prior to all meetings. Notice of a formal meeting must be given to all members at least 14 calendar days in advance of the meeting. A quorum is met if there are at least 51% of the members present who are individuals with disabilities or their families or consumers under the Act as defined. This information must be provided to each Consumer member in a form or format that provides them with the information.

The Council shall at its first meeting begin writing the by-laws of the Council. These by-laws shall be completed within 60 days of the first meeting of the Council, and shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Consumer members.

The Chairperson may appoint an Executive Committee or other such committees as deemed necessary, taking into consideration the wishes and needs of the council. The Council shall publish an annual report. Consumer members of the Council shall serve for a term of three years and may be reappointed once for an additional three year term. The by-laws shall deal with issues such as vacancies which may occur. The State representatives shall be the director of the agency listed, or person who holds the position of the current person listed.

In general the Council shall operate and function, and carry out duties and responsibilities using generally accepted practices. Among these are: Represent their constituents, attend meetings, provide input, make recommendations, represent the Council in the community in a positive manner, carry out the will of the Council, and inform community constituents of Council activities.

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Minutes of all meetings, and all reports of any kind, are provided to the Executive Director of the Lead Agency who shall be an ex officio member of the Council. Minutes are to be provided to all members and key stakeholders. Actions will be published as needed or requested.

The Council shall operate under CNMI Sunshine and Open Government laws and regulations. The public shall be notified through public notices at least five days prior to any official Council meeting.

Specific responsibilities of the Council include, but are not limited to: representing their constituency; providing input to service providing agencies; service providing agencies providing up-to-date information regarding AT to the Consumer members; formulating public policy and the education of the public about the Act of 2004; informing the public about the resources available under this State Plan and assisting the public and other agencies to use the resources provided through this State Plan in a manner consistent with the letter and spirit of the Act; provide the Council with input from the community; and, assist in efforts to improve the education, services, quality of life, employment opportunities, among other activities for people with disabilities who use or need assistive devices.

Other responsibilities are found in Attachment 9, dealing with planning and State Plan operations and implementation and evaluation. (The Advisory Council did not meet the first year.)

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Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

NMC-CDI-UCEDD will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during year two, and will submit after Year two an amendment to the lead agency and RSA 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 RSA.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - o Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the 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 education purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection instrument has not been established by RSA.

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - o Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration

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programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

- o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection instrument has not been established by RSA.

4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:

- o Short-term goal for Year 3:

- o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the 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 services for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

- o Short-term goal for Year 1: : N/A data collection instrument has not been established by RSA.

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal:

- o Short-term goal for Year 3:

- o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the 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 services for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

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- o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection instrument has not been established by RSA.

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

• Long-term goal:

- o Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection instrument has not been established by RSA.

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

• Long-term goal:

- o Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
 - o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection instrument has not been established by RSA.

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4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - o Short-term goal for Year 3
 - o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

 - o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection instrument has not been established by RSA.

4.8 Additional Measurable Goals – None at this time.

Attachment 5: State Level Activities

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

NMC-CDI-UCEDD will collaborate with the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities (CAFD) and the DD Council (Council) to support the Alternative Financing Program (AFP) program that was implemented in December 21, 2005, after a rather lengthy effort to select a Community Based Organization (CBO), in this case CAFD. The Council through CAFD issued an RFP in an effort to solicit proposals and interest from commercial lenders in the CNMI, to underwrite loans under the program. CAFD received two proposals from two lenders; one eventually rescinded their proposal due to inadequate funding to start the loan program. The Council was able to assist CAFD to negotiate and enter into an MOU with the remaining commercial lender after several months of meetings and negotiations.

The Council was able to develop a comprehensive policies and procedures manual that was submitted together with the grant submissions before the final approval of the AFP funding grant. The policies and procedures manual have since been revised. Since the implementation of the AFP program, the program accepted to guarantee over 23 loans with a total liability exposure of approximately 69K.

The Services offered by the Council through the CAFD under this program include: 1) Information and Referral; 2) Consumer Counseling; 3) Loan Guarantees.

The CAFD selected Bank of Saipan as the Commercial Lending partner for the program. Bank of Saipan has branch offices in all populated jurisdictions in the CNMI. The program has a standing policy, wherein, loan applicants shall be notified or made aware that they have several choices as to where to obtain a loan application and or loan counseling. Loan applications are available in all

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Council offices and programs including - four BOS branch offices on Saipan alone, and branch offices in Tinian and Rota. All staff of the Council are trained to assist clients should the need arise; the Systems Navigators with the Family Support 360 project are trained and have assisted loan clients at the program center, or at any location of their choosing.

Since the implementation of the AFP program, the program conducted over twenty outreach activities inclusive of all of the three populated islands. Various public awareness activities were initiated and conducted by presenting the program during PTA meetings with all schools on the three islands (at least two times with each of the schools during last FY). Most service provider agencies were visited on three islands to present the program and conduct training on the program policies and procedures.

Marketing materials were developed for print to be included in all newspapers or magazines on island. The CAFD has distributed over 1,200 program brochures since implementation.

(b)(c) CNMI will examine ways to best coordinate and collaborate, and link, the Alternative Financing Loan Program (AFLP) with the Assistive Technology State Plan Goals in the CNMI during the 3 years of the State Plan.

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

Through DD Council's effort, we conducted a consumer survey to establish what happens to unwanted and or damaged or broken AT devices or equipments in the CNMI. The information gathered indicated consumers generally discard damaged/broken AT devices/equipment after they are not able to find anyone to fix them or find available parts locally because the cost of importing needed parts. A device reutilization program was not set up during the

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first year, however, a public announcement to encourage the public to donate unwanted AT devices or equipments that could be fixed and refurbished and put back into circulation is being developed.

The difficulty in funding the purchase of AT devices, the harsh tropical humid climate, the extensive areas of rough coral surfaces around buildings, facilities, and homes as well as recreational areas, the absence of any repair or maintenance businesses or facilities, the absence of any replacement part stores or services in the CNMI, and related problems have made device reutilization programs extremely difficult.

However, there are a number of informal programs that do exist within various organizations which have formal and informal AT device reutilization systems. The organizations involved include primarily the Special Education Program which includes the Infant and Toddler Program and then services to eligible students through age 21, the Commonwealth Health Center (the government hospital), the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Council for Developmental Disabilities Assistive Technology Project known as Systems of Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (STRAID). In addition, the State Rehabilitation Council and the State Independent Living Council (to name just two) provide a forum for communication between and among a much larger number of agencies involved with AT devices. In this process agencies do provide other participating organizations with information about AT devices they have but which are not being utilized. In some cases two or more agencies having an AT device with a deficiency can coordinate taking useful parts from one to provide a working AT device to an individual with an immediate need. This is NOT a formal system.

It is clear that as a result of this State Plan, one of the Goals to be implemented in Year Two or Three will be to establish a formal online AT Device Reutilization System Program. It is clear from surveys and evaluations of current programs that this is a clear and serious need. The 2004 Office of Vocational

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Rehabilitation Community Needs Assessment found that the need for more AT devices, funding assistance for AT devices, and maintenance and repair services was one of the four primary problems among people with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

As additional resources become available the need for such a program becomes essential. Establishing a formal Reutilization Program would result in many positive outcomes. Among these are: 1) AT devices that go unused because no one knows they are available would be used; 2) Reutilization would not necessarily cost the new user additional money. This is an important consideration as in the CNMI as more than half of all families are below the poverty level, and some 85% of all public school students are eligible for Federal free meal programs; 3) Establishment of such a system would encourage private businesses to carry parts and provide maintenance as they saw the economic viability of establishing such a business based upon reliable data as to the number of devices, repair, replacement, and maintenance of parts needs; and 4) The waiting time for access to a AT device would conceivably be reduced, certainly in some cases.

The CNMI reviewed the State Plan for South Dakota. In this section they detailed a well throughout strategy for addressing the reutilization problem within the context of this Assistive Technology 2004 Act. The CNMI believes the parts of the South Dakota component quoted below are applicable to the CNMI and they are adapted for the CNMI State Plan.

The device reutilization activities during year two and three of the AT plan will involve the continued facilitation of collaborative efforts among providers, stakeholders, and individuals with disabilities to support and grow the program, to increase public awareness (See Attachment 8.2) about the program, and to increase the number of individuals receiving AT devices that would not otherwise have received them (See Attachment 4: Measurable Goals). Activities associated with the overall goals of years two and three include:

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1. Working with medical providers on a campaign to encourage individuals who currently own durable medical equipment that they no longer need to recycle the equipment through a program to developed in the CNMI through this State Plan Goals to increase the selection of equipment available through the program. (The Council did not act on this activity during the first year; however, we are aware that there were some form of understanding was established between the Public Health system and the Council, to assist the Council in encouraging individuals to donate any personal durable medical equipment to the program. Between 2001 and 2004, there were two motorized wheelchairs, two standard wheelchairs and a personal hoist that were donated to the program.)
2. Working with disability service providers on a campaign to encourage organizations and individuals with disabilities who currently own assistive equipment but no longer need it to recycle the equipment through a program to be developed under the CNMI State Plan goals to increase the selection of equipment available through the program. (The CNMI Public School System has agreed to share or to refer any assistive equipment not in used by the schools, or any entity to our AT program).
3. Explore the feasibility of a partnership AT vendors throughout the region to develop a program to refurbish used devices as some devices may be made available and usable with minor repairs and upgrades and provided to individuals with disabilities through the reutilization program. (Some officials from a small university in Osaka, Japan, came by the Council's office in August 15th, 2006, and offered to train two interested CNMI residents to fix standard and simple motorized wheelchairs and scooters. The university will support room and board costs. They are recommending that we send the two individuals during next summer season (2007), when the weather is more conducive. We have two potential candidates, one from a private business and one from the Public

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School System. Currently, all vendors in the CNMI, selling assistive technology are sending the devices needing technical repairs off-island.)

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

(The Council will continue using the same device loan program currently in place since the inception of the program.)

The same problems and barriers that are outlined in the Device Utilization Program detailed above apply to the Device Loan Program. Because there are no stores in the CNMI that sell AT devices, everything must be specially ordered either from Hawaii (they have limited variety) or the mainland U.S. This is incredibly expensive and time consuming.

As a result, a formal program that provides for the loan of a variety of AT devices which are in stock and on hand simply would be both logistically and financially impossible.

However, by combining the goals of the Reutilization Program, with the creation of an online inventory of available AT devices, with the support from other organizations that also provide funding for or make AT devices available at no cost e.g. Special Education, it seems possible to plan, implement, and maintain a form of Device Loan Program tailored to the unique circumstances of the CNMI.

The Commonwealth Health Center, Special Education, individuals with disabilities who have old or out grown AT devices, which are unused but salvageable, would seem a rich resource from which to develop a Device Loan Program in some form.

There a number of other resource projects which could be included in this effort such as The Assistive Technology Project, Children's Developmental Assistance Center, Community Guidance Center, Disabilities Support Services,

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Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers with Developmental Delays or Disabilities, SSI, and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Services at Northern Marianas College, and the Work Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities Program.

Again, the CNMI believes that the South Dakota State Plan addresses these issues well, and our specific problems, very well. As a result some are adapted and included in this CNMI State Plan.

The overall goal of the first year of the Device Loan Program will be to design a system by which family members and practitioners as well as individuals with disabilities will be able to borrow a device for an extended period of time and to use that device in an appropriate environment in order to make a decision about acquisition. By allowing individuals with disabilities and professionals to borrow AT devices, CNMI residents are offered an opportunity to try out a device before they buy. It also meets the interim needs of individuals with disabilities whose own devices are being repaired or to those who are waiting for the approval of the purchase of a device.

As the current equipment loan program does not have the capacity to conduct the program in a comprehensive manner, the second and third year plan activities will revolve around supporting and growing the program, including identifying additional device loan needs and gaps in services and determining appropriate strategies to meet the continuing and growing AT loan needs. Collaborative partnerships will be an integral part of the device loan program and the Council on Developmental Disabilities and the CAFD will continue to take the lead in developing partnerships and will provide opportunities through meetings and/or professional development opportunities to facilitate the ongoing relationships towards a functional Device Loan Program.

An additional responsibility of this CNMI State Plan for years two and three will be to explore avenues to develop the comprehensiveness of the device loan program by "filling in the gaps" in which types of devices needed by specific

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demographic groups might be missing. A number of strategies will be explored to increase the number and types of devices available including:

1. Working with medical providers on a campaign to encourage individuals who currently own durable medical equipment that they no longer need to donate the items to the device loan program to increase the selection of equipment available through the program. (The Council did not act on this activity during the first year; however, they are aware that there were some form of understanding was established between the Public Health system and the Council, to assist the Council in encouraging individuals to donate any personal durable medical equipment to the program. Between 2001 and 2004, there were two motorized wheelchairs, six standard wheelchairs were donated from local sources; two standard wheelchairs were donated by a family from Japan; and a personal hoist that were donated to the program.)
2. Working with disability service providers on a campaign to encourage organizations and individuals with disabilities who currently own assistive equipment but no longer need it to donate it to the device loan program increase the selection of equipment available through the program. (The CNMI Public School System has agreed to share or to refer any assistive equipment not in used by the schools, or any entity to our AT program).
3. Explore the feasibility of a partnership AT vendors in the U.S. mainland to develop a program to refurbish used devices as some devices may be made available and usable with minor repairs and upgrades and provided to individuals with disabilities through the device loan program. (The Council's Executive Director spoke briefly with Guam and Hawaii AT Act Program representatives during the ATAP training this past June (2006) in Baltimore, and express the Council's desire to collaborate in developing a "used device" program that the Council's programs could mutually benefit. We are currently making arrangements to meet with the Hawaii AT Ac

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program on the Executive Director's way back from the AFP training in January 2007).

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

Currently there is no formal Device Demonstration Program. Currently, there is one day a year during Development Disabilities or Vocational Rehabilitation Month(s) during which all agencies using, having, making available, or individuals who have privately purchased an AT device hold a conference at which time these devices of all types are on display and their uses demonstrated. There are also catalogs available, and on occasion, a factory representative will fly some 6,000 miles or more to give media demonstrations of devices and answer questions – as well as take orders.

It is clear that one of the measurable goals developed in Year One of this State Plan will be to establish a Device Demonstration Program in Years Two and Three. The Utilization, Loan, and Demonstration Programs are clearly all linked and must be developed in such a way as to be coordinated and cross-supportive.

It is not feasible to have a center for Demonstration Programs used solely for that purpose as no facility exists for such a purpose, and it would be counter-productive. However, as a result of developing an Online Device Identification and Location Program, as well as the other programs identified above, it would be very feasible to develop periodic and alternative demonstration activities.

A number of positive outcomes would be realistic to expect, among others: 1) more people would become aware of more, better, and appropriate AT devices; 2) agencies and organizations would further develop and expand communication systems; 3) sharing of AT devices would become easier to accomplish; 4) public awareness would be increased; 5) the opportunities for

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private business to establish AT device businesses would be increased; 6) the availability of AT devices would increase and be easier to track making sharing and reutilization more efficient; and 7) the ability to identify used, unused, and old AT devices in public and private individual possession would increase in turn supporting Loan and Reutilization Programs, as these are refurbished or useful parts reused.

It is also clear that as a result of this goal that a number of new partnerships, MOU's, and other agreements would be developed between agencies that know each other well, and other agencies identified above which traditionally operate independently. The greater the public awareness the easier it should be for all agencies to develop new methods to address the three weaknesses in our current AT programs and services.

In addition, it cannot be stressed sufficiently the importance of obtaining hard data on the number and types of AT devices used in the CNMI as well as the likely prospect of significantly increasing the numbers and variety of devices. The importance of attracting the private sector to open stores selling, repairing, and providing supplies for AT devices cannot be overstated.

In the current system it is not uncommon for it to take a year or more between the time a person with disabilities is deemed eligible for an AT device, they are measured, the paperwork is completed, and the item shipped and arrives in the CNMI. It is very common that the individual will outgrow the device by the time it has arrived.

This is extremely counterproductive and currently is a deterrent to agencies which having very limited resources. It is also damaging to the morale of the individual for whom the device was ordered and their family. It also negatively impacts their quality of life, and often their employability.

During Year One development of Measurable Goal feasibility studies, a number of strategies must be created, many which mirror those identified in 5.2 and 5.3 above to address this issue.

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Activities should include using high speed video streaming presentations from U.S. AT device vendors, perhaps establishing a local demonstration website, use of the PSS e-rate Internet system. These could all be used during conferences and seminars in large and small group settings to reach the maximum possible audience in the CNMI.

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.

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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.

Not Applicable

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Attachment 7: State Flexibility

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

Not Applicable

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

Not Applicable

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.

Not Applicable

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.

Not Applicable

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Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities - Describe how the CNMI will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals non local settings statewide, including representatives of the CNMI education agency, other CNMI 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.

o This includes specifying the activities to be undertaken to provide transition assistance in accordance with section 4(e)(3)(B)(i)(III).

The CNMI has a population of only 70,000 people. The amount of funding each individual agency has to provide support or services to individuals with disabilities including AT devices, as well as training, staff enrichment, public education and information, and developing new program and training activities alone, is extremely limited. As a result, while there are small 'in-house' training activities of many kinds in every information and service providing organization, most training activities are done through collaboration of a number of agencies.

Both the Lead Agency (Council on Developmental Disabilities) and the Implementing Entity (The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities) are key participants in all CNMI wide training activities to: enhance knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals, staff, professionals, and others, of all public and private agencies including the Public School System (the sole state and local education agency) and Northern Marianas College (the only 'state' post secondary education provider), health providers other than the hospital, guidance, counseling, and employment services organizations, early intervention programs, adult service programs, the Commonwealth Health Center (only hospital in the CNMI), programs for the elderly (the Aging Program), and private sector business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, as well as employment focused organizations including the Workforce Investment Agency, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and others.

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These training and technical assistance activities include planning, implementing, and evaluating training activities on all three islands in large group settings such as conferences, to small group activities with single organizations, or in settings which involve agencies addressing limited issues related to AT devices.

The participants involved in these activities include professional service providers, organization directors and management personnel, organization support staff, consumers and their families and other stakeholders in a variety of combinations. These activities are outcome and product outcome orientated. They are designed to provide new information, expand knowledge on best practices and new exemplary programs and services, as well as providing the participants with other functional information related to assistive technology devices and services, and uses – including how to access services and information after the activity is completed.

Training with education agencies including the Infant/Toddler Program, Special Education, and schools' support staff such as counselors and related services professionals such as Speech Pathologists, Audiologists, and Assistive Technology staff has been conducted through multi agency training and technical assistance activities. Collaboration has included the education agencies to determine needs and recommend topics, formats, and presenters, and other agencies such as the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. This collaboration allows a larger amount of financial resources to be provided for regular training and enrichment programs/activities which are multifaceted and target various groups – rather than having only sufficient resources to conduct one large activity once or twice a year.

This format is used in coordinating training and technical assistance activities with and for other agencies, both in the public and private sectors – including community activities, throughout the year. The training of service providers and professions in various areas of AT devices related to employment

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are essential and a primary goal of the collaborating organizations – as is early identification, intervention, and service delivery.

With the arrival of communication technology, agencies supporting and involved with AT devices activities, and consumers and their families, have had greater access to training and technical assistance. The Lead and Implementing entities work with the Public School System E-Rate Internet Program, the local media, the Northern Marianas College Distance Education Program, the Commonwealth Health Center High Speed Internet Medical Support Program, and other support organizations to use real and delayed teleconferencing activities and presentations which are both small group focused, large group focused and community focused.

Previous and planned topics include those specifically identified through surveys and evaluation instruments, and input from various stakeholders during training activities as well as input from Federally supported Regions Support Agencies, information from professional medial, health, related services, vocational rehabilitation, disabilities and other publications.

General training activities have and will include, but not be limited to: 1) Assistive technology, and planning for its future use for infants and toddlers, the service providers and their parents and family; 2) Working with Special Education to training staff in use of and inclusion of AT devices in the Individual Education Plan for each individuals; 3) Training individuals in how to best use AT devices; 4) Community education activities to assist in identification of those needing AT devices, and to support the reutilization, loan and related AT device programs; 5) Use of computers and computer technology as AT devices; 6) Empowerment and advocacy for the individual, family, community, and service providers; 7) employers and prospective employers in working with, supporting, and improving the workplace environment for employees using AT devices; 8) Alternative uses of assistive technology including uses in the home, uses in the classroom at K-16

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levels, and uses in community facilities, community recreational centers, and related locations – among other activities.

Training and Technical Assistance under this State Plan will incorporate training and technical assistance already planned, in the planning stage, and being considered for future activities. With the additional resources from this State Plan the Lead Entity, the Implementing Entity, and the collaborating partners noted throughout this State Plan will be able to expand activities and implement activities previously unavailable or limited in scope.

One area that has proven extremely difficult is the Transition from public school to higher education and employment for youth needing or using AT devices. A goal of this training component is to expand collaboration with the key agencies which are the Special Education Transition Program, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, the Workforce Investment Agency, the Employment Training and Services Program in the Department of Labor, and the Chamber of Commerce as well as individual business groups e.g. the Hotel Association, and individual employees as well as, of course, the individuals and their families who are involved with AT device use.

8.2 Public Awareness Activities - Describe how the CNMI 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 past three years collaborating service providers and support organizations in the public and private sector, as well as consumers, advocacy groups, and employers, have been working on the issue of how best to coordinate and maximize the effectiveness of public awareness activities. Public awareness activities are time consuming, resource intensive, and agencies and organizations are often not prepared or lack resources of various kinds to make the best most effective use of public awareness resources; or, to utilize public

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aware techniques that insure the message reaches the intended audiences effectively.

One of the goals that will be developed in Year One and Implemented as soon as possible is a Joint AT Services Website using the Internet. This activity and goal has been mentioned previously e.g. in the Reutilization section. Establishment and appropriate use of such a website would provide a clearinghouse-type resource that would be enormously valuable as a communication, planning, and resource access tool not only for the support services and service providers but for the consumers and the community. The site would have various links and some would be available to the public, some to service providers only.

The Internet is widely used in the CNMI. Every collaboration agency or organization, including businesses mentioned in this State Plan, have access to the internet. The public schools and Northern Marianas College students and staff all have easy access to the Internet. The number of families whom have Internet access is growing. In addition, community recreational centers provide computer Internet access as does the only Public Library.

In the process of establishing a Joint Internet Public Awareness Program for agencies, which can provide schedules of activities, presenters, topics, registration, related and supporting information, technical links and other communication links directly to specific agencies, the collaborating agencies would fulfill a goal that has been of significant concern over the last several years, bringing together a more effective use of the internet as a resource. Materials developed and presentations will be in alternative formats.

In addition to using the Internet for public awareness activities, all collaborating agencies agree, and the local media has pointed out, that public awareness activities lack coordination, often overlap, and frequently are counterproductive as activities are scheduled as conflicting times with other activities. This problem has been raised by community advocacy groups,

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consumers and families, as well as other community members, not to mention the agencies involved in public awareness.

Through this State Plan, we will have the resources and the 'clout' and/or the expertise to assist agencies and community organizations to better utilize the radio, TV, print, and technology resources available.

The steps in this process will be to: 1) Begin formal coordination with agencies which currently collaborate most effectively; 2) Broaden this model to include agencies and organizations which have close and good communication links with those initially involved in this State Plan Public Awareness Coordination Process; 3) Conduct one or two coordinated public awareness activities that all participants are comfortable with having conducted them in the past, or been involved, e.g. Developmental Disabilities Month, Vocational Rehabilitation Month; 4) Broaden the public awareness activities to include employment organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce which has traditional been willing to participate, but often is left out of the loop; 5) Broaden the 'loop' to include an ever expanding number of groups of participating organizations, community members, consumers, and others; 6) Identify and include previously under utilized resources, e.g. the Chamber of Commerce as noted above, but there are many other resources and organizations, both formal and informal which could, but often are not, involved in community awareness activities; 7) Fully implement the Internet Website, as well as a Public Awareness Coordination Program using traditional models that are effective and less resource intensive and the new models above.

A number of agencies and organizations publish regular newsletters, annual reports, quarterly reports and other public information documents on a regular basis. There is no coordination to circulate these documents and newsletters throughout the AT service delivery and support community or in the general community. Most agencies have dozens of various pamphlets covering a variety of topics. Many of these include AT issues. An objective related to the

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goal of expanding and improving public awareness under this State Plan will be to coordinate dissemination of these documents. The Implementing Entity (NMC-CDI-UCEDD) would become a Clearinghouse for information related to support and service delivery agencies and organizations as well as community organizations. The purpose would be to make more useful information easily available in the most efficient least resource intensive manner possible.

Over all, the NMC-CDI-UCEDD, as Implementing Entity, would work to be increasingly responsible and accountable for assisting, coordinating, planning, carrying out, and publicizing a wide variety of State Plan activities for the collaborating agencies and community organization described in this State Plan.

These activities would include: traditional newsletters and pamphlets; traditional workshops, seminars, conferences, and enrichment activities; technology assisted coordination of activities using a Website; developing and implementing new models to address public awareness needs such as becoming a Clearinghouse for information; evaluating activities conducted; and developing new models to include users and potential users and their families, including employers and potential employers in these activities. Overall, this would shift a significant amount of PR and planning work from agencies to the Implementing Agency.

8.3 Coordination and Collaboration - Describe how the CNMI 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.

A number of new and revised coordination and collaboration models identified previously are proposed. These include use of technology including the Internet, creation of a website and corresponding links, new models of

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conducting training, staff, and consumer resource programs, enrichment and information programs, as well as public awareness activities.

NMC-CDI-UCEDD will begin by using traditional models which participants feel comfortable with. Based upon the development of trust as a result of quality coordination and collaboration of assistance, NMC-CDI-UCEDD will begin to implement improved and new CC methods and models with selected agencies and organizations. Based upon success and experience of these activities, the plans will be revised and improved and expanded to include additional CC organizations. By the end of three years all of the agencies listed in this State Plan will be participating to various degrees in new CC methods and models.

This will include expansion of CC participants to traditionally under or non involved participants e.g. employers and employer groups.

This model will provide for CNMI wide access to information, training, coordination of activities, conducting new training activities and public awareness activities, and all coordinated using traditional and new collaborators in both traditional and new ways described in previous sections.

One major goal will be to provide seamless coordination and collaboration in a timelier manner, while at the same time freeing agencies from resource intensive tasks such as public awareness, dissemination of information, and coordination and collaborative planning of activities.

As a result of this effort, the CNMI will be able to provide a more inclusive and quality comprehensive system of AT access and acquisition that meets the needs of all individuals with disabilities and their families. This will result in a better quality of life for individuals, families, organizations, and the community. In addition, this State Plan will result in a higher quality and more efficient CNMI wide system of AT access and acquisition by a larger number of individuals, while at the same time making available more highly trained and qualified direct service providers, support staff, and AT users. These improvements will greatly benefit individuals in small villages, and those people on the islands of Rota and

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Tinian by making available information, training, and access to services using technology and through other means described above.

Equally important is that the use of scarce resources will be better coordinated, more efficiently used, and focused in more effective ways to all segments of the community.

The Advisory Council, made up of key participants, will play the key role to insure involvement, cooperation, smooth transfer to new proposed systems, and for evaluating and improving State Plan activities. The Advisory Council members were very carefully selected to insure that Coordination and Collaboration of this State Plan would be successful and that new systems and service and support models would continue as standard operating procedures by the end of the State Plan. The members selected have the expertise and knowledge, contacts, influence, respect, and authority to insure success of all components of this State Plan through the Lead and Implementing Entities and all of the present and proposed new participants and collaborators.

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Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities Section 4(d)(4) of the AT Act requires that the CNMI describe how public and private entities were involved in the development of the State Plan for AT and will be involved in the implementation of the activities to be carried out through the grant. To complete Attachment 9, the CNMI must provide the following:

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.

NMC-CDI-UCEDD has its own offices but will collaborate with the Lead Agency to use the facilities and support of the Lead Agency (the Council on Developmental disabilities). In addition, the Council Members had pledged access to their facilities and support services including personnel and technology equipment to insure full implementation and successful completion of the Goals, Objectives, and Activities of this State Plan. These include access to Distance Education Facilities e.g. the Northern Marianas College Distance Education Program facilities and staff.

NMC-CDI-UCEDD and Developmental Disabilities Council have recordkeeping and fiscal management staff. In addition, the Department of Finance within the CNMI Executive Branch will provide fiscal management assistance. The CNMI government also pays for an independent audit of each Executive Branch agency each year with will include this State Plan.

NMC-CDI-UCEDD has access to computers, AT technology staff, service providers, and support personnel, as well as AT facilities through the Commonwealth Health Center and other agencies. The CNMI government has facilities such as conference and meeting, and teleconferencing facilities and equipment centers to host large and small group activities of various kinds. All telecommunications, security, utilities, facilities maintenance and related support

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is provided by the CNMI government. Non government support organizations have also pledge support and access to services and facilities as needed. This includes private community sector organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce.

Collaborative partners include those representing agencies on the Advisory Council, all of the education agencies and others identified by name throughout this State Plan. The private sector media companies have pledged to provide free public awareness and information time. This includes free broadcast time for information and AT education meetings, conferences, and staff and consumer enrichment and information activities.

Other support includes professional consultants, program development, PR expertise and related professional assistance.

9.2 Mechanisms to Ensure Coordination - Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the implementing entity, if any, and the CNMI.

The Lead Agency (the Council on Developmental Disabilities) has a long history of close collaboration, sharing of resources, and joint program development, implementation and evaluation with the Implementing Entity, NMC-CDI-UCEDD. The communications and collaborations systems built up over the years includes but is not limited to: joint staff activities and development of programs and projects; regular meetings between the Executive Directors of the respective organizations, as well as those on the Advisory Council; regular phone and Internet communication; and joint membership on various other Advisory Council and other agencies which provide AT support and services and related activities.

The Governor has been involved in the planning and development of this State Plan and its components including the Alternative Financing Loan Program for Assistive Technology Devices, selection of the Advisory Council, and

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selection of NMC-CDI-UCEDD as the Implementing Entity at the request of the Lead Entity (The Council on Developmental Disabilities).

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 Council members were carefully selected to provide the most experienced and extensive expertise about AT programs. They were also selected based upon their previous involvement in AT device activities related to this State Plan as well as through their contacts in the community and involvement in community activities related to AT, including employment programs.

This Advisory Council provides extensive technical expertise, service provision expertise, support program expertise, consumer need and involvement expertise, experience in planning, implementing, and evaluation of a variety of AT related programs. These programs include all segments of the community from professional health services, related services, special education, employment programs and services, consumer advocacy and needs experience, as well as individuals using AT devices and their experience in the needs of individuals using such devices. Based upon the experience of the Council members and their support staff, or contacts in the community, and their collective experiences, this State Plan was collaboratively planned and written. When it is approved, they will use their collective expertise and resources to insure that it is successfully completed, and that its components become permanent parts and standard operating procedure of the various agencies and community organizations.

The Council is specifically tasked by the Governor to: 1) Advise the implementing agency through the Lead Agency about the assistive technology

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needs of support and direct service organizations, as well as the needs of individuals needing or using AT devices and their families, as well as community input and involvement e.g. employment and transportation issues; 2) Assist the Implementing and Lead Entities, as well as the collaborating partners in designing specific program activities to successfully meet the goals developed during Year One and beyond; 3) Monitor and evaluate, on a monthly basis, the progress of the Implementing and Lead Entities;

4) Use their expertise, contacts, and authority to assist in the implementation of the planned activities; 5) Provide input on training and enrichment activities for all stakeholders; 6) Conduct a final evaluation of the State plan at the end of Year Three to be disseminated throughout the CNMI and to the appropriate Federal Agency.

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Attachment 10: State Support

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

Not Applicable – However, section 9.1 and in other places within this State Plan address this support at length.

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.

Not Applicable

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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).

The Council on Developmental Disabilities is a line agency of the Executive Branch under the Governor. The Northern Marianas College is an autonomous agency. As a result, each entity is required to comply with federal and local financial and related recordkeeping regulations. In the case of the DD Council, the CNMI Procurement and Supply Department monitors all expenditures through Purchase Orders and other formats for compliance with Procurement and Supply Regulations which follow generally accepted P&S rules and procedures. In addition, the Department of Finance Office Federal Programs Officer establishes a unique account for each Federal project with a separate account number. The expenditures must comply with the Grant Award and the Approved State Plan Budget. In the case of the Northern Marianas College, both local and federal regulations are followed, however the College has a wealth of experience in successfully managing federal grants and has a positive rating doing so. Both entities are audited by an independent Office of the Public Auditor audits CNMI government expenditures each year, and this includes expenditures of the Lead and Implementing Entities and the funds received as a result of this State Plan. Furthermore, the Northern Marianas College hires an independent Financial Auditing Firm (Deloitte and Touche) to conduct audits on specified accounts.

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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 Year Two of the State Plan.

Total Award Amount for Year 2: \$105,000.00

Within the above budget, CNMI AT Act program proposes to apportion funds for specific activities in the following manner.

	Proposed Allocation Year 2
Device Reutilization Program	\$7,350.00
Device Loan Program	\$26,250.00
Device Demonstration Program	\$13,750.00
Training and Technical Assistance Activities	\$17,700.00
Transition	\$ 6,300.00
Public Awareness Activities	\$14,750.00
Coordination and Collaboration	\$10,500.00
Indirect Cost	(8%) \$ 8,400.00
TOTAL	\$105,000.00

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Assistive Technology State Plan (ATSP)

Lead Entity: Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Implementing Entity: Northern Marianas College-Community Development Institute-
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities**

On Behalf of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

JOHN ARRIOLA, Board Chairman DATE

RENATO S. REYES, Board Vice Chairman DATE

MARGARITA TORRES ALDAN, Board Secretary DATE

CARLITO PAGCALAWAGAN, Finance Chair DATE

CYNTHIA ATTAO, Board Membership Review Committee Chair DATE

ANTONIO C. CHONG, Executive Director DATE

On Behalf of Implementing Agency

DANNY Ö WYATT, Acting President DATE

DAVID ATTAO, Director NMC-CDI-UCEDD DATE

On Behalf of the CNMI Government Office of the Governor

Honorable BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor DATE

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

Council on Developmental Disabilities

Assistive Technology State Plan (ATSP)

Part II – Assurances

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Part II – Assurances

OMB Number: 1820-0664

Expiration Date: 12/30/2008

Section 1 - Recordkeeping, Data Collection, and Reporting

1.1 The State will annually collect data related to the required activities implemented by the State under this section in order to prepare the progress reports required under subsection 4(f) of the Act. Section 4(d)(6)(A)

1.2 The State will prepare reports to the Secretary in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may require to carry out the Secretary's functions under this Act and keep such records and allow access to such records as the Secretary may require to ensure the correctness and verification of information provided to the Secretary. Section 4(d)(6)(H)

1.3 The Lead Agency will submit the State Plan for AT on behalf of the State to ensure conformance with Federal and State accounting requirements. Section 4(c)(1)(A)(i)(II)

1.4 The Lead Agency will submit the progress report on behalf of the State. Section 4 (f)

Section 2 - Administration of Funds

2.1 The Lead Agency will control and administer the funds received through the grant. Section 4(d)(6)(C)

2.2 Funds received through the grant will be expended in accordance with Section 4 of the Act, and will be used to supplement, and not supplant, funds available from other sources for technology-related assistance, including the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services. Section 4(d)(6)(B)

2.3 The State will adopt such fiscal control and accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure proper disbursement of and accounting for the funds received through the grant. Section 4(d)(6)(D)

2.4 Funds made available through a grant to a State under this Act will not be used for direct payment for an assistive technology device for an individual with a disability. Section 4(e)(5)

2.5 A public agency or an individual with a disability holds title to any property purchased with funds received under the grant and administers that property. Section 4(d)(6)(F)

Section 3 - Accessibility of Programs

3.1 The physical facility of the Lead Agency and Implementing Entity, if any, meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) regarding accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Section 4(d)(6)(E)

3.2 Activities carried out in the State that are authorized under this Act, and supported by

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Federal funds received under this Act, will comply with the standards established by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (20 U.S.C. 794d). Section 4(d)(6)(G)

Section 4 - Requirements of 34 CFR 76.104

- 4.1 The plan is submitted by the State agency that is eligible to submit this plan.
- 4.2 The State agency has authority under State law to perform the functions of the State under this program.
- 4.3 The State legally may carry out each provision of this plan.
- 4.4 All provisions of this plan are consistent with State law.
- 4.5 A State officer, specified by title in this certification, has authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the plan.
- 4.6 The State officer who submits this plan, specified by title in this certification, has authority to submit this plan.
- 4.7 The agency that submits this plan has adopted or otherwise formally approved this plan.
- 4.8 The plan is the basis for State operation and administration of the program.
After having carefully reviewed sections 1-4 of Part II of the State Plan for AT and the corresponding statute, the undersigned, authorized to sign the document on behalf of their respective organizations, hereby affirm that the State of CNMI is in compliance and will remain in compliance with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this STATE PLAN FOR AT.

On Behalf of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

JOHN ARRIOLA, Board Chairman DATE

On Behalf of the CNMI Government Office of the Governor

Honorable BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor DATE

STATE: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section

1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Signature: JOHN ARRIOLA
Title: Board Chairman
Organization: CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

STATE: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands GEPA, Section 427 Provision:

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will take all the necessary steps to ensure that all partners and subcontractors in the CNMI Assistive Technology Program will comply with the GEPA (General Education Provisions Act), section 427. We will ensure that all people have equal access to and equitable participation in our programs and services.

We will not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, national origin, color, disability or age.

All programs and materials will be developed so that children and adults with disabilities and those with diverse backgrounds will be able to successfully and fully participate. For example:

1. For individuals who do not speak or understand English, we utilize local translation services. These services provide staff to translate information over the telephone.
2. Literacy levels will be considered. For those individuals who cannot read, or have limited reading skills, we have the ability to put the information on audiotape, use captioning services and can have materials prepared in Braille for individuals who are blind.
3. We systemically reach out to people in rural areas, particularly those living in the rural villages on the island of Saipan, and to those living on the islands of Rota and Tinian.
4. We make sure that all materials and services are developed and provided based on cultural needs of the people with whom we work.
5. Our programs will be held in physically accessible locations. In addition, we will ensure that if someone needs accommodations such as sign language interpreters to effectively participate they will be provided.

On Behalf of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

JOHN ARRIOLA, Board Chairman

DATE