

**Georgia Tools for Life
State Plan for Assistive Technology
FY 2005-2008**

Part I: Attachments
OMB Control Number: 1820-0664
Expiration Date: 10/31/2008

Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: **Georgia Department of Labor**

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency:
Rehabilitation Services/Vocational Rehabilitation Program/Assistive Technology Unit

Address of Lead Agency: **Suite 510**
148 Andrew Young International Blvd., NE
Atlanta, GA 30303-1751

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency: **Bobby Pack**
Deputy Commissioner

Address for Certifying Representative: **Suite 510**
148 Andrew Young International Blvd., NE
Atlanta, GA 30303-1751

Telephone for Certifying Representative: **404-232-7300**

E-mail for Certifying Representative: **Bobby.Pack@dol.state.ga.us**

Name and Title of Principle Investigator: **Joy Kniskern**
Principle Investigator

Address for Principle Investigator: **1700 Century Circle, Suite 300**
Atlanta, GA 30345

Telephone for Principle Investigator: **404-638-0387**

E-mail for Principle Investigator: **Joy.Kniskern@dol.state.ga.us**

Name and Title of Program Director: **Carolyn Phillips,**
Tools for Life Program Manager

Address for Program Director: **1700 Century Circle, Suite 300**
Atlanta, GA 30345

Telephone for Program Director: **404-638-0388**

E-mail for Program Director: **carolynpphillips@mindspring.com**

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director): **Not applicable**

Address for Program Director: **Not applicable**

Telephone for Program Director: **Not applicable**

E-mail for Program Director: **Not applicable**

Name of Implementing Entity: **Not applicable**

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Entity: **Not applicable**

Address of Implementing Entity: **Not applicable**

Name and Title of Program Director: **Not applicable**

Address for Program Director: **Not applicable**

Telephone for Program Director: **Not applicable**

E-mail for Program Director: **Not applicable**

Name and Title of Contact (if different from Program Director): **Not applicable**

Address for Program Director: **Not applicable**

Telephone for Program Director: **Not applicable**

E-mail for Program Director: **Not applicable**

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 Assistive Technology (AT) Act.

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

In 1991, the governor designated the Department of Human Resources/Division of Rehabilitation Services/Vocational Rehabilitation as the lead agency for Tools for Life, Georgia's Tech Act Project (as it was commonly referred under the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988). In July of 2001, legislation moved the Division of Rehabilitation Services/Vocational Rehabilitation Program to the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL). GDOL now serves as the Lead Agency for the Statewide AT Act Program of 1998, as amended in 2004, for Georgia and is directly responsible for conducting and overseeing the activities of the Statewide AT Program, Tools for Life (TFL). Since 1991, Tools for Life has provided Georgians with disabilities free access to information and referral services, an accessible assistive technology informational website, and publications in accessible formats on topics related to disability rights, laws, policies, assistive technology demonstration and lending centers, computer recycling and distribution, and funding opportunities for assistive technology.

Tools for Life

Our Mission: We are committed to increasing access to appropriate assistive technology so Georgians with disabilities can live, learn, work and play independently in their own communities.

Our Vision: The Tools for Life program will be an exemplary model for putting assistive technology into the hands of people with disabilities, through innovative, consumer-driven, public-private partnerships.

Our Goal: To make assistive technology accessible, usable, timely and more affordable for Georgians with disabilities.

Tools for Life is committed to increasing the provision of, access to, and funding for assistive technology for Georgians of all ages and all disabilities through varied, comprehensive activities and services available statewide. Over the next three years, the Georgia Department of Labor will continue to serve as the lead agency responsible for the Statewide AT Program, under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004, and Tools for Life will continue current programs and begin new initiatives to accomplish this mission.

TFL is committed to serving all of Georgia and will make its programs available statewide through a toll-free number and an accessible website, conducting local and regional activities, and collaboration with Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRC). The ATRCs carry out TFL initiatives identified in contract agreements.

Through continuing and increasing collaboration, Tools for Life will have the flexibility to assist individuals with assistive technology (AT) needs across the lifespan, in any environment, for any purpose. Access to Tools for Life services and projects will not be limited by eligibility criteria such as income, age, type of disability, or the reason that an individual needs AT.

Tools for Life has a diverse staff of educated and motivated professionals with technical expertise in the AT field. The TFL staff and ATRCs collaborate to provide Georgians with access to expertise that addresses AT needs in all areas of life, emphasizing education, employment, information technology (IT), telecommunication, and community living. This is achieved by employing staff with education and experience in the fields of assistive technology, occupational therapy, computer technology, rehabilitation counseling and management. Four TFL and ATRC staff members currently hold an Assistive Technology Practitioner credential from the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America. Tools for Life will ensure that the skills of its staff and the ATRC staff members remain current by providing them with training opportunities during the three years covered by this state plan.

Committed to collaboration and partnership building, Tools for Life has a 14-year history of established relationships with public and private entities in Georgia. Tools for Life and ATRC staff members participate on boards, Advisory Councils, workgroups, committees, and commissions that address the assistive technology-related needs of Georgians with disabilities across the life span with agencies and programs such as: the Department of Labor, Department of Education, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Technical and Adult Education, the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Council on Aging Services, Babies Can't Wait (Early Intervention Program), Georgia Project for Assistive Technology, the state ADA office, the Alternative Media Access Center, the Veterans Administration, the Small Business Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation, High School/High Tech, Assistive Work Technology, Workforce Investment, Benefits Planning and Outreach, the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, the University of Georgia's Institute on Human Development and Disability, the Shepherd Center, waiver programs, housing authorities, public transportation authorities, local school systems and governments, and colleges and universities throughout the state. Tools for Life also participates in initiatives with organizations such as the Georgia Employer Committee, Easy Living Homes, All Special needs People Included in Recreational Experiences in Rockdale County (ASPIRE), the ARC, Goodwill, the Center for Assistive Technology & Environmental Access, the local and national Learning Disabilities Association, the Huntington's Disease Society of America, the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, Habitat for Humanity, the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund, United Cerebral Palsy, BlazeSports, the local and national Muscular Dystrophy Associations, the local Multiple Sclerosis Society, Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, and the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association to increase available assistive technology for the consumers they serve.

Tools for Life will continue these activities, and provide training and technical assistance to the above agencies and other entities within Georgia. Tools for Life will also work with these agencies and others on new and ongoing state initiatives to address the AT needs of individuals with disabilities. These initiatives are described in more detail as a part of "Coordination and Collaboration" in attachment 8.

Tools for Life has conducted many of its activities via contractors throughout Georgia for fourteen years. We will continue this approach of service dissemination, ensuring that programs are available to individuals with disabilities in their communities. Tools for Life will continue contracting for ATRC services, including: 1) AT loan library programs, 2) AT device demonstration programs, and 3) computer/AT device reutilization programs with the following entities:

- Disability Connections – Independent Living Center and ATRC
- Friends of Disabled Adults and Children – AT and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Reuse Center
- Tech-Able – ATRC
- Touch the Future – ReBoot and ATRC
- Walton Options – Independent Living Center and ATRC

These entities specialize in various, specific disability areas, which will help ensure Tools for Life can meet individuals' needs regardless of their disability type.

Tools for Life will continue to collaborate through contract with Touch the Future for computer reutilization and small AT device reutilization through ReBoot and the ATRC. TFL will also continue to directly operate the web-based G-Trade equipment exchange and re-use program on the gatfl.org website. Both programs provide opportunities for all Georgians to access computer and AT equipment.

Tools for Life will continue collaborating and contracting with the GettingAhead Association and Tech-Able to operate Credit-Able, Georgia's Alternative Financing Program. This activity is further described in attachment 5 of this plan.

In addition to the Advisory Council described in attachment 3 of this plan, Tools for Life will continue ensuring that its program remains consumer responsive by seeking direct feedback from those who access the program. Feedback will come through on-site interviews, online surveys, and/or follow-up surveys with participants. In year one of this plan, Tools for Life will utilize consumer and agency focus groups to seek specific guidance on improving its programs and services.

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

Not applicable

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.

Not applicable

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 redesignation.

Not applicable

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.

The Tools for Life Advisory Council will provide consumer-driven, consumer-responsive advice to the state for planning, implementation, evaluation and setting measurable goals for the Statewide AT Program activities throughout the three years of this state plan.

The Tools for Life Advisory Council (TFL AC) has thirteen members. Seven members, 58% of the TFL AC, are individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology or family members of individuals with disabilities who use AT. Five members of the council represent agencies, including Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Aging Services, Statewide Centers for Independent Living, the Department of Education, and the State Workforce Investment Board. One member of the TFL AC serves ex-officio and represents the Georgia Advocacy Office, the State Protection and Advocacy program. Although several agency representatives have disabilities, they will not be counted toward the majority membership of people with disabilities and family members. The Tools for Life Advisory Council is geographically representative of Georgia and reflects the diversity of the state with respect to age, race, ethnicity and types of disabilities. Advisory Council members use a range of AT, including alternative augmentative communication, vehicle modifications, mobility devices, aids for daily living, assistive technology for low vision/blindness, AT for hearing loss and computer hardware/software adaptations. The AT users who are Advisory Council members also represent available services that an individual with a disability may receive.

Members of the Advisory Council

Individuals with Disabilities:

Judy Bearden (Chairperson) – Fort Oglethorpe
William K. Blanchard - Albany
Minna Hong – Alpharetta
Tina Ivey-Baker - Macon
John Weber – Athens
Anne Warley – Atlanta

Family Members:

Stephanie King (Advocacy and Education Chair) – Newton
Beth Tumlin – Marietta

State Agency Representatives:

Perry Andrews, Department of Education
Peggy Chavis, Center for Independent Living
Norris Curtis, (Membership/Nomination Chair) GDOL/Vocational Rehabilitation
Allan Goldman, (Vice-Chairperson) Division of Aging Services
Starla Steinman, Workforce Investment

Ex-Officio Members:

Connie Freier (ex-officio member) GDOL/VR/AT Unit/Tools for Life

Joy Kniskern (ex-officio member) GDOL/VR/AT Unit

Carolyn Phillips (ex-officio member) GDOL/VR/AT Unit/Tools for Life

Naomi Walker (ex-officio member) Georgia Advocacy Office – Protection and Advocacy

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

The Tools for Life Advisory Council has been active in its purpose: “To serve in an advisory capacity in assisting Tools for Life, Georgia’s Tech-Act Project, in accomplishing its goals and mission with measurable outcomes” since its creation in 1991. They have established by-laws, revised in 2005 to reflect the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004. Contact information for Advisory Council members, by-laws, and meeting minutes are all available to the general public on the Tools for Life website: www.gatfl.org.

Tools for Life’s Advisory Council members become part of the council in two ways. Agency representatives are appointed by their respective agencies. Consumer representatives are volunteers solicited through established networks of Assistive Technology Resource Centers, disability organizations and councils throughout the state... All members are expected to serve a three-year term, concurrent with the goals of Georgia’s State Plan for Assistive Technology.

Advisory Council leadership rests with a chairperson elected by the other Advisory Council members. A similarly elected vice-chair serves in the chairperson’s absence. The Advisory Council bylaws also identified the need for an Advocacy and Education Chairperson and a Committee and Membership/Nomination Chairperson. Subcommittees are created on an ad hoc basis to address needs dynamically. Council decisions are made either through consensus or by member vote, at the chairperson’s discretion. A quorum consists of a simple majority of the members in attendance.

The Advisory Council meets quarterly (four times per year) in barrier-free meeting sites throughout Georgia. Dates, times and locations are determined by consensus. Tools for Life staff makes the meeting room arrangements, develops informational materials for member, and ensures site and material accessibility. Council members requiring reimbursement for travel, lodging, personal care assistance, or other meeting related assistive technology may request reimbursement at state allowable rates from Tools for Life. The Advisory Council chairperson and TFL director set the agenda cooperatively for council meetings and ensure that council members are informed about state AT issues. Meetings may feature presentations and guest speakers selected based on council members’ input. Tools for Life staff will update the Advisory Council on the program activities, share recent data, and present any planned initiatives so the Advisory Council can provide input. The chairperson facilitates discussion throughout the meeting to gain input and provide guidance in planning program activities. Meeting minutes are recorded by TFL staff and approved by the Advisory Council.

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

Tools for Life 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 identifying the long term goal and short-term goals set to improve upon this baseline during Year Three and subsequent years of the State Plan. This baseline will be established by using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA after the State plan process has been completed.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - 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 educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A - data collection system not established.**

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - 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 employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A - data collection system not established.**

4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - 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 community living as a result of the assistance they received.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A - data collection system not established.**

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - 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 that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A - data collection system not established.**

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities and/or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A - data collection system not established.**

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities and/or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A - data collection system not established.**

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percentage 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.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A - data collection system not established.**

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.

Not applicable

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 of this State Plan, Tools for Life will conduct two state financing activities: (1) continue to support Credit-Able, an Alternative Financing Program (AFP) specifically designed for the purpose of allowing people with disabilities to borrow funds for purchasing assistive technology that they otherwise would not be able to access; and (2) begin research into and possibly develop an AT Co-Operative buying program (AT Co-Op). An Assistive Technology Co-operative buying program would allow state ATRCs and possibly other state or private entities to pool their resources to purchase high-tech and/or high-cost AT for the statewide AT Loan Library programs, making leading-edge assistive technology available for device demonstrations and device loans, and would also allow consumers to share resources and ownership of high-tech AT devices.

1. Alternative Financing Program (AFP).

Georgia's AFP will continue to provide loans to individuals with disabilities and their families for the purchase of AT devices and services. This AFP began in 2004 using funds provided to Tools for Life under Title III of the AT Act of 1998 and is called Credit-Able.

Tools for Life also will continue to work closely with Tech-Able, a community-based organization and partner of the Credit-Able program and the GettingAhead Association, a partnership organization connected to the Georgia Credit Union Association that provides preliminary screening for Credit-Able, and other participating organizations; the ATRCs; and other funding entities such as the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission and, tentatively, the Department of Community Affairs, to ensure that individuals with disabilities are referred appropriately between programs. Tools for Life will coordinate its activities so that loan applicants will access device loan or device demonstration programs from the ATRCs (described later in this attachment) to try out devices before they take out loans to purchase them. The ATRCs will refer those who access AT loan library programs and/or AT device demonstration programs and are interested in taking out a loan to purchase AT, to Credit-Able. Each applicant will also benefit from the services of the Tools for Life AT Funding Specialist to assure that each individual is aware of other agencies and entities that may be able to fund all or part of the cost of AT devices and services they wish to acquire.

Credit-Able will continue to assist individuals with disabilities obtain AT devices in many ways. Unlike other traditional lending entities, Credit-Able has more liberal terms and conditions for borrowers. Credit-Able will continue to provide loans for a variety of AT devices, such as hearing aids, home or vehicle modifications, computers, and other AT. The loan application and approval process under Credit-Able is efficient, so that individuals can often receive loans and purchase AT sooner than if they waited for funding from public or private sources. Because Credit-Able guarantees loans, individuals with disabilities who would not be able to receive conventional bank loans, or affordable rates and terms will be able to borrow money to purchase AT.

Over the next three years of this State Plan, Tools for Life will work with Tech-Able and the GettingAhead Association to expand and improve Credit-Able as follows:

- Expanding credit union participation from those interested in working with Tech-Able and the GettingAhead Association. Currently, the MACO Federal Credit Union and Gwinnett Federal Credit Union serve all of Georgia through a network of shared services and computer access.
- Reviewing and making recommendations to each new participating financial entity about physical and information/web access modifications to increase access to assistive technology through Credit-Able services.
- Increasing access for Georgians with disabilities, their family members and employers of individuals with disabilities to assistive technology loan guarantees by increasing the loan fund to \$5,000,000 by 2008.
- Marketing program information to targeted minority populations to increase use of Credit-Able services.

2. Co-Operative Buying Program for Assistive Technology

During Year One of this State Plan, , Tools for Life worked with the TFL Advisory Council, and the ATRCs to utilize consumer and agency focus groups, seeking specific guidance on the development of an AT Cooperative Buying Program and to expand resources for our loan library and device demonstration initiatives. This new service would be mindful of consumer choice and technology, balanced by a need to offer discounts on purchases of AT offered by participating vendors. In a co-operative such as the one proposed, all partners will share joint ownership of goods and/or services purchased. In this case, the goods purchased would be assistive technology devices. ReBoot and the ATRC and Tech-Able have already developed several strong relationships with AT vendors that allow for a slight reduction in the cost or tax-free purchases of some AT devices and software. The AT Cooperative Buying Program will build upon these established relationships. Once a detailed plan is in place for this activity, it will be submitted to RSA. The concept of an AT Co-Op or AT Buying Group was also embraced and stimulated positive discussion at many of the TFL Town Hall Meetings throughout Georgia. Participants affirmed they believe Georgians would acquire more AT if there was an organized way to lower the cost of AT and AT services. In Year Two, TFL will work with the AT Co-Op Task Group to develop the AT Co-Op or AT Buying Group. In Year Three this project will begin operation.

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.

During Year One of this State Plan, Tools for Life conducted two Device Reutilization Program activities: (1) continue to support the ReBoot Computer Reutilization Project (AFP), and (2) continue to support G-Trade, online AT equipment exchange program. After feedback from the first three of the nine Town Hall Meetings in Georgia, TFL established a formal relationship with (3) Friends of Disabled Adults and Children to meet the DME needs of Georgians with disabilities. This relationship will continue grow over Year Two and Year Three.

1. ReBoot Computer Reutilization Program

Tools for Life will continue to contract with Touch the Future, Inc. to strengthen and increase the capacity of the ReBoot computer reutilization project. For many people with disabilities, having access to an adapted computer greatly expands their horizons and opportunities for independence. Computers can provide support in a number of ways, ranging from alternative access, to organization, communication, and others. For example, an AT computer user with a learning disability might use a screen reader to make comprehension easier. ReBoot is a statewide, collaborative effort “dedicated to actively promoting independence for people with disabilities through assistive technology & computer reutilization.” ReBoot has placed over 5,850 recycled computer systems with people throughout Georgia. ReBoot acquires the equipment, evaluates it, repairs it (if needed), loads licensed software, distributes the equipment to people with disabilities, and trains the person on the equipment. ReBoot has developed a strong relationship with Microsoft and is able to put Windows software on each ReBoot system. ReBoot is operated 85% by dedicated volunteers - by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. Every region in Georgia is served by ReBoot and individuals from most counties have participated in the program.

ReBoot and the ATRC will continue to manage the day-to-day operations of the ReBoot program, as well as collect program data. They will accept applications for ReBoot computer systems from a person with a disability, family members, advocates, or service providers (e.g. Assistive Work Technologist, teacher, rehabilitation counselor, occupational therapist, physical therapist and/or speech therapist). ReBoot applications can be obtained at each ATRC, on line at www.gatfl.org/reboot or by calling 770-934-8432. Each applicant is required to give back to the community 20 hours of volunteer service to the organization of his/her choice in exchange for the ReBoot computer. Each applicant is also asked to select the ReBoot Computer Package that best fits their specific needs. A Package A costs \$0 and is a Pentium I desktop with a monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables and Windows 98 operating system. A Package A+ costs \$35 and includes a CD-Drive and sound card. A Package B costs \$150 and is Pentium II or III desktop with a monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables, Windows 2000, CD ROM Drive, sound card, speakers and modem. A Package C allows the applicant to design his/her own ReBoot System from reutilized or new computer parts. Applicants can also purchase a new computer system through ReBoot. There is not usually a waiting list to receive a ReBoot computer.

ReBoot works closely with the network of ATRCs to serve all Georgians, regardless of the applicant’s age, race, type of disability, income, or location in the state. An application to receive a ReBoot computer would only be denied if the computer specifications requested are not currently in the ReBoot inventory or if the person has significantly violated the program guidelines. ReBoot will transfer the computer to the ATRC that is closest to the applicant or ship the computer to any location in the state. The participant is responsible for shipping costs. However, a participant may choose to pick up the computer from an ATRC or ReBoot in order to eliminate shipping fees.

ReBoot and the ATRCs understand that the success of the ReBoot program is linked to effective training at the time of receiving the equipment. ReBoot participants are asked to identify individuals who will assist them with computer technical support within their communities. Support persons may include family members, PC User Groups, Assistive Technology Practitioners, Assistive Work Technology staff, vocational rehabilitation counselors, teachers,

centers for independent living staff, etc. The participant may request one computer a year. The participant must also sign a letter of agreement that he/she will not violate software licensing agreements nor sell, give away or throw away the computer.

Over the next three years, ReBoot plans to develop relationships with assistive technology software companies so that adaptive software can be included as necessary on reutilized systems, providing a more comprehensive, yet low-cost solution for Georgians with disabilities participating in the program. ReBoot currently reutilizes some small AT devices. They have plans to put more structure around the small AT reutilization process and market this activity to further develop this program. ReBoot also plans to improve outreach efforts to public school systems and independent living centers to increase AT acquisition in the educational environments and community living environments.

2. G-Trade

Tools for Life will continue to directly administer G-Trade, a program that allows individuals to buy, sell, or give away used AT through “want ads.” G-Trade has been operating since 2000.

If an individual has an AT device he or she no longer needs and would like to either sell or give away (a “seller”), he or she will contact G-Trade through its accessible website or a toll-free line and request to post an ad. Tools for Life will respond to all requests by letter to the seller explaining the terms of the listing, which include that:

- TFL does not warrant the condition of the device
- TFL accepts no liability that may result from any buyer/seller transaction.
- The seller agrees to provide TFL with the original price and the sold price of the item and the contact information of the buyer
- The seller provides TFL with a description of the device along with any special features.
- No personal information is listed on the G-Trade except for first name, city and county.
- The seller must renew the listing every 90 days or the item will automatically be removed from the list.

Once the seller has provided the appropriate information, the device is listed in the area of TFL’s website that is dedicated to G-Trade. Used AT devices will be listed by category and be accompanied by a brief description of the device, including asking price. If an individual with a disability or family member is looking for a used device (a “buyer”), he or she will contact G-Trade using the same methods as the seller. If a buyer locates a device to purchase, he or she will e-mail TFL through its G-Trade website or call TFL directly. TFL will then connect buyer and seller. Buyer and seller will negotiate the terms of exchanging the device, including price and shipping, between themselves without any TFL involvement. However, TFL will contact both parties for a follow-up survey regarding the G-Trade service.

Anyone in the state will be able to sell or buy an AT device through G-Trade, and there will be no limitations on the type of AT device that can be listed in want ads. The program will only be limited by what devices the sellers themselves choose to make available.

G-Trade already expands Tools for Life’s reutilization efforts, and increases device accessibility in several ways. Because the devices are used, sellers usually offer them for free or at a low

price, making them more affordable. Individuals with disabilities do not need to meet eligibility criteria to obtain devices from G-Trade. G-Trade often makes available devices that are not covered by other private or public funding. Some devices are no longer on the market, so G-Trade provides a source for devices with limited or no availability. Individuals with disabilities often get devices sooner through the want ads than if they waited for funding from public or private sources.

Over the next three years of this State Plan, TFL will work to expand and improve G-Trade as follows:

1. During Year One, Tools for Life revamped the G-Trade website in order to collect more accurate data from consumers and provide more information about devices listed. G-Trade now offers a photo feature. Rather than using the website only to create an initial contact between seller and buyer, the website was changed to require that the seller and buyer register and conduct their transaction using the website.
2. During Year One, Tools for Life had several meetings with the Accessibility Plaza and other Medical Services Providers on a campaign to encourage the thousands of individuals with disabilities who have received durable medical equipment through these providers to recycle this equipment through G-Trade. During Year Two, Tools for Life will work with some of these providers to develop a method to attach a message to each piece of DME distributed that directs the consumer to contact FODAC or an ATRC when the DME no longer is needed. During Year Three, efforts will be made to educate and make aware professionals, vendors, and repair services who work with DME. This will increase the selection of equipment available through G-Trade.

3. Friends of Disabled Adults and Children

Tools for Life will continue to contract with Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) to develop the DME reutilization project. FODAC is a statewide, collaborative program and has placed over 15,000 reutilized wheelchairs with people. FODAC acquires the equipment, evaluates it, repairs it (if needed) and distributes the equipment to people with disabilities.

FODAC will continue to manage the day-to-day operations of the program, as well as collect program data. They will accept applications for DME and AT from a person with a disability, family members, advocates, or service providers (e.g. Assistive Work Technologist, teacher, rehabilitation counselor, occupational therapist, physical therapist and/or speech therapist). FODAC applications can be obtained at each ATRC, on line at www.fodac.org or by calling 770-491-9014.

FODAC works closely with the network of ATRCs to serve all Georgians, regardless of the applicant's age, race, type of disability, income, or location in the state. An application to receive equipment from FODAC would only be denied if the equipment requested is not currently in the FODAC inventory or if the person has significantly violated the program guidelines. FODAC will transfer the equipment to the ATRC that is closest to the applicant or ship the equipment to any location in the state. The participant is responsible for shipping costs. However, a participant may choose to pick up the equipment from an ATRC or FODAC in order to eliminate shipping fees.

Over the next two years, FODAC plans to develop relationships with DME companies in order to provide a more complete DME and AT solution for Georgians with disabilities. FODAC also plans to improve outreach efforts to public school systems and independent living centers to increase DME and AT acquisition in the educational environments and community living environments.

During year one of this State Plan, Tools for Life worked with the Advisory Council and ATRCs and utilize consumer and agency focus groups to seek specific guidance on further development of these AT Device Reutilization Programs. TFL participated in the first National AT Reuse Conference held in Atlanta in May 2006. Many reuse programs shared best practices in this area and TFL is incorporating some of these ideas into G-Trade and ReBoot to provide the best AT programs to Georgians. In Year Two, TFL will apply for one of the RSA AT Reuse Grants to increase acquisition of AT in underserved areas of Georgia. Additionally, TFL Town Hall participants emphasized their need for reused AT and DME. As a result of these stated needs, TFL is contracting with Friends of Disabled Adults and Children to increase access to reutilized AT and DME. In Year Two, ReBoot-ATRC and the ATRCs will conduct a needs analysis to identify gaps in AT reuse services in Georgia. This information will be used in Year Three to increase reutilization of more AT.

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.

The concept of consumer choice is woven throughout the TFL AT loan library program. By allowing individuals with disabilities and professionals to borrow AT devices, TFL offers Georgians an opportunity to try out a device before they buy it and allows service providers to assess clients with a specific device. It also meets the needs of individuals with disabilities whose own devices are being repaired by providing a loaner device.

Over the next three years, TFL will continue contracting ATRC services, including AT loan libraries, AT device demonstration and computer/AT device reutilization programs with the following entities:

- Disability Connections – Independent Living Center and ATRC, located in Macon, offers loan library services to Georgians in the central part of the state.
- Friends of Disabled Adults and Children – DME and AT Reuse Center, located in Stone Mountain, providing DME device loans, and training to Georgians throughout the state.
- Tech-Able – ATRC, located in Conyers, offers loan library services to Georgians in north and western parts of the state.
- Touch the Future – ReBoot and ATRC, located in Tucker, offers loan library services and device reutilization (through ReBoot) to Georgians in north and eastern parts of the state.
- Walton Options – Independent Living Center and ATRC, located in Augusta, offers loan library services to Georgians in the south and eastern parts of the state.

These entities have expertise in specific areas of disability, such as vision, hearing loss, mobility, sensory, and cognitive disabilities, which will ensure Tools for Life can meet the needs of

individuals regardless of their disability. The disability areas listed here are not intended as limits, only examples of the most common incidence disabilities served.

The ATRCs will continue to manage the day-to-day operations of the AT loan library, as well as collect program data. They will accept applications for equipment loans from a person with a disability, family members, advocates, or service providers (e.g. Assistive Technology Practitioners, Assistive Work Technologist, teacher, rehabilitation counselor, occupational therapist, physical therapist and/or speech therapist). The network of ATRCs serves all Georgians, regardless of the applicant's age, race, type of disability, income, or location in the state. An AT loan is only denied when the device requested is not in inventory or when the person requesting the loan has significantly violated the guidelines of the AT Loan Library. If the device is currently in inventory – meaning one of the ATRCs has the device in its inventory and it is not currently being loaned - the ATRC will ship that device to any location in the state. The participant is responsible for shipping costs. If the device is not in inventory, the requestor will be put on a waiting list; or, if none of the partners has the device in its inventory, the requestor will be referred to the appropriate vendor. The ATRCs will also consider purchasing frequently requested AT devices that are not in AT loan library inventory.

Some devices available for loan may require specialized support for use. In these cases, the person requesting the loan will be asked to identify who recommended the device and who will provide support during the loan period. Support persons may include Assistive Technology Practitioners, Assistive Work Technology staff, vocational rehabilitation counselors, teachers, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, physical therapists, home health staff, centers for independent living staff, etc. The participant may request a maximum of three (3) devices at any one time. The length of the device loan is two to four weeks with the possibility of extension. Some ATRCs will charge a rental fee for some items on a sliding scale. Rental fees will allow the ATRCs to maintain the AT equipment in the AT loan library as needed. The participants will pay for shipping costs. A participant may choose to pick up and return the device from an ATRC in order to eliminate shipping fees. The ATRCs will exchange devices from one location to another, when convenient, so that a participant can pick up the device at the nearest location to their home. Each of the ATRCs have similar AT devices in their inventory, serve the same basic functions and perform the same basic operations of their AT loan library as explained above. However, each ATRC has areas of specific interest that promotes specialization in a particular kind of AT or AT for a particular disability type. This does not mean that all ATRCs do not serve all clients; it simply means that each ATRC's loan library has a particular type of equipment that they specialize in (examples: blind/low vision; hearing; cognitive; learning; mobility).

Tools for Life is committed to increasing AT access. Tools for Life believes that when individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers borrow AT devices and try them out in their natural environments, they will learn more about what devices meet their needs or the needs of those they are serving. This firsthand experience will help them make informed choices about what device to purchase or whether to purchase a device at all.

Over the next three years, TFL will grow the AT Loan Libraries by strengthening its partnerships with the following agencies:

- The Georgia Department of Labor, Department of Rehabilitation Services, to expand outreach for GDOL/RS/VR clients and increase awareness of AT and the program

- Centers for Independent Living; to expand outreach for CIL clients and increase awareness of AT and the program
- the Early Intervention Program, Babies Can't Wait; to expand outreach for Babies Can't Wait families, including assessment, and increase awareness of AT and the program
- the Department of Aging Services, Disability and Aging Regional Centers; to expand outreach for Department of Aging Services clients, and increase awareness of AT and the program

Tools for Life will continue collaborating with the ATRCs to expand and update the AT loan library program. The current loan libraries have over 4,000 devices and have made over 2,050 AT loans October 2004 through May 2005. If the loan library programs strengthened outreach to and buy-in from the above agencies, our service capacity to Georgians with disabilities across the lifespan would be greatly increased.

Tools for Life will also make AT loan library equipment available statewide through the gatfl.org web site. Tools for Life will also work on improving marketing of the AT Loan Libraries on its fully accessible website, including this program in publications and include outreach efforts to increase AT access in educational, workplace and community living environments.

ReBoot and the ATRC has collaborated with disAbility Link to develop an ATRC Satellite Center in Rome to provide AT Loan Library services in this community. The other ATRCs have expressed an interest in learning from the ATRC Satellite Center concept and explore the viability of establishing similar relationships within their Service Regions in Year Two of this State Plan. The TFL AC supports this concept also. TFL will provide technical assistance to the ATRCs in researching and developing satellite centers in their regions in order to provide more direct AT services to Georgians with disabilities in their own communities.

The Tools for Life staff, ATRC staff, and TFL Advisory Council are actively evaluating the program comprehensiveness with regard to type of equipment and audiences reached to determine whether the program should be modified. The State Plan will be amended at the end of Year Two to describe the results of this evaluation and any actions taken to modify the program to better serve Georgians.

In Year One of this State Plan, Tools for Life worked with the TFL Advisory Council, ATRCs and utilized consumer and agency focus groups to seek specific guidance on the further development of the AT Loan Library. Of the nine TFL Town Hall Meetings conducted in Year One, five took place in communities where there is no AT Loan Library serving Georgians of all ages and abilities. The TFL Town Hall participants in these communities strongly expressed the need for AT Loan Libraries in their community. TFL is actively discussing the possibility of developing an AT Loan Library with the independent living centers in each of these communities. In Year Two, TFL will work with the ATRCs, the SILC and IL Centers to develop a plan for funding and implementing an AT Loan Library in selected IL Centers. The AT Loan Library will start operating within these IL Centers in Year Three.

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.

Over the next three years, TFL will continue to contract for ATRC services, including the AT Device Demonstration Programs with the following entities:

- Disability Connections – Independent Living Center and ATRC, located in Macon, providing device demonstrations and training to Georgians in the central part of the state.
- Friends of Disabled Adults and Children – DME and AT Reuse Center, located in Stone Mountain, providing DME device demonstrations, and training to Georgians throughout the state.
- Tech-Able – ATRC, located in Conyers, providing device demonstrations and training to Georgians in the north and eastern parts of the state.
- Touch the Future – ReBoot and ATRC, located in Tucker, providing device demonstrations, and training to Georgians in the north and western parts of the state.
- Walton Options – Independent Living Center and ATRC located in Augusta, providing device demonstrations, and training to Georgians in the south and eastern parts of the state.

These entities have expertise in various specific areas of disability, such as sensory, learning, mobility, cognitive, and communication, which will help to ensure Tools for Life can meet the needs of individuals regardless of their type of disability.

The ATRCs will continue to manage the day-to-day operations of the AT Device Demonstration Program, as well as collect program data. They will accept appointments for AT equipment demonstrations from a person with a disability, family members, advocates, or service providers (e.g. ATP, Assistive Work Technologist, teacher, rehabilitation counselor, occupational therapist, physical therapist and/or speech therapist). The network of ATRCs serves all Georgians, regardless of the age, race, type of disability, income, or location in the state of the participant. The only reason a request for AT demonstration is be denied is if the device is not in inventory. The ATRCs will consider purchasing frequently requested AT devices that are not in the inventory for the AT Device Demonstration Program. The ATRCs will exchange devices from one location to another, when convenient, so that a participant can have a device demonstrated at the nearest location. Each of the ATRCs have similar AT devices in their inventory, serve the same basic functions and perform the same basic operations of their AT Device Demonstration Program as explained above. However, each ATRC has areas of specific interest that promotes some specialization in a particular kind of AT Device Demonstration, according to the types of devices in their individual libraries.

Tools for Life is committed to increasing AT access. TFL believes that when individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals are able to interact with AT devices through AT device demonstration, they will learn more about what devices meet their needs or the needs of those they are serving. This experience will help them make informed choices about what device to purchase or whether to purchase a device at all.

Over the next three years, TFL will continue to collaborate with the ATRCs to expand the AT Device Demonstration Program by strengthening partnerships with the following agencies:

- the Georgia Department of Labor, Department of Rehabilitation Services; to increase knowledge and awareness of AT devices among GDOL/RS staff, VR counselors, and their clients
- Centers for Independent Living; to increase knowledge and awareness of AT devices among CIL staff and clients
- the Early Intervention Program, Babies Can't Wait; to increase knowledge and awareness of AT devices among Babies Can't Wait families and participants, and program staff
- the Department of Aging Services, Disability and Aging Regional Centers; to increase knowledge and awareness of AT devices among Department of Aging Services staff and clients

ReBoot and the ATRC has collaborated with disAbility Link to develop an ATRC Satellite Center in Rome to provide AT Device Demonstration services in this community. The other ATRCs have expressed an interest in learning from the ATRC Satellite Center concept and explore the viability of establishing similar relationships within their Service Regions in Year Two of this State Plan. The TFL AC supports this concept also. TFL will provide technical assistance to the ATRCs in researching and developing satellite centers in their regions in order to provide more direct AT services to Georgians with disabilities in their own communities.

The Tools for Life staff, ATRC staff, and TFL Advisory Council are actively evaluating the comprehensiveness of the AT device demonstration program with regard to type of equipment and audiences reached to determine whether the program should be modified. The State Plan will be amended at the end of Year Two to describe the results of this evaluation and any actions taken to modify the program to better serve Georgians.

In Year One of this State Plan, Tools for Life worked with the TFL Advisory Council, ATRCs, the SILC and utilize consumer and agency focus groups to seek specific guidance on the further development of the AT Device Demonstration Program. Of the nine TFL Town Hall Meetings conducted in Year One, five took place in communities where there is no AT Device Demonstration Program serving Georgians of all ages and abilities. The TFL Town Hall participants in these communities strongly expressed the need for AT Device Demonstration Programs in their community. TFL is actively discussing the possibility of developing an AT Device Demonstration Program with the independent living centers in each of these communities. In Year Two, TFL will work with the ATRCs, the SILC and IL Centers to develop a plan for funding and implementing an AT Device Demonstration Program in IL Centers. The AT Device Demonstration Program will start operating in these communities in Year Three.

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

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

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.

Training

During the three years of this State Plan, Tools for Life will continue to develop a number of training modules targeted for specific audiences and on specific topics, and anticipates delivering such trainings upon request. These include:

- Training for education professionals (special education teachers, regular education teachers, post-secondary disability service providers, speech therapists, occupational and physical therapists). A number of training sessions have been developed for education professionals including:
 - AT Strategies and Solutions for Students,
 - AT Basics for Success in the Classroom,
 - Know Your Rights and AT Solutions for High School/High Tech,
 - Advocating for AT in Educational Environments,
 - Public Access Solutions on Campus,
 - Funding for Assistive Technology,
 - AAC in the Classroom, and
 - Specific training on AT devices and software.

These trainings are developed to include information about TFL programs, AT resources and AT funding strategies. TFL staff will train educational professionals on-site at a school or conference on request. Similar training is provided to people with disabilities and parent groups. The ATRCs also provide in-depth training to individuals on specific AT devices and software for success in educational environments.

TFL also collaborates with the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Project for Assistive Technology on a bi-annual conference called “Touch the Future and Transition Conference” that conducts many focused trainings on education and AT related topics. In Year One of this plan, TFL researched the concept of developing an Alternative Augmentative Communication Conference with an emphasis on AAC in educational environments. It was determined that an AAC Track will be added to the Workforce Development and Touch the Future – Transition Conference in 2006 to raise awareness of AAC and increase professional skills of AAC in educational environments. If this is well attended and stimulates interests, TFL will develop an AAC Conference.

Training for employment professionals. (rehabilitation counselors, rehabilitation employment specialist, assistive work technology, career center staff, one-stop center staff, Benefits Planning and Outreach staff and employers) A number of training sessions have been developed for employment professionals including:

- AT Strategies and Solutions for the Workplace,

- AT Basics for Success in the Workplace,
- Funding for Assistive Technology,
- Public Access Solutions in Career Centers/One-Stops, and
- Specific training on AT devices and software.

These trainings are developed to include information about TFL programs, AT resources and AT funding strategies. Upon request, TFL staff will train employment professionals on-site or at a conference. Similar training is provided to people with disabilities, job clubs and support groups. The ATRCs also provide in-depth training to individuals on specific AT devices and software for success in employment environments.

TFL also collaborates with the Georgia Department of Labor on a bi-annual conference called “Touch the Future and Transition Conference” that conducts trainings and workshops on employment and AT-related topics. In Year One of this plan, TFL researched the concept of developing an Alternative Augmentative Communication Conference with an emphasis on AAC in the workplace. It was determined that an AAC Track will be added to the Workforce Development and Touch the Future – Transition Conference in 2006 to raise awareness of AAC and increase professional skills of AAC in workplace environments. If this is well attended and stimulates interests, TFL will develop an AAC Conference.

- Training for Community Living professionals (centers for independent living staff, area agency on aging staff, public library staff, community recreational staff, Housing Authority staff, construction contractors, Medicaid waiver case managers, personal attendant providers, nursing home staff, speech therapists, occupational and physical therapists). A number of training sessions have been developed for the education of professionals including:
 - AT Strategies and Solutions for Community Living,
 - Creating Accessible Communities for Everyone,
 - Aids for Daily Living,
 - Successfully Navigating Medicaid Waiver Provisions for AT,
 - Successfully using Medicaid provision for DME Assist Consumers in Nursing Homes Transitioning Out into the Community,
 - Funding Sources and Strategies for Obtaining AT,
 - Public Access Solutions, and
 - Specific training on AT devices and software.

These trainings are developed to include information about TFL programs, AT resources and AT funding strategies. Upon request, TFL staff will train community living professionals on-site or at conferences. Similar training is provided to people with disabilities and support groups. The ATRCs also provide in-depth training to individuals on specific AT devices and software for success in community living environments.

TFL also collaborates with some centers for independent living on a bi-annual conference called “Touch the Future and Transition Conference” that conducts a few focused trainings on community living and AT related topics. In Year One of this plan, TFL researched the concept of developing an Alternative Augmentative Communication Conference with an emphasis on AAC in community living environments. It was determined that an AAC Track will be added to the Workforce Development and Touch

the Future – Transition Conference in 2006 to raise awareness of AAC and increase professional skills of AAC in community living environments. If this is well attended and stimulates interests, TFL will develop an AAC Conference.

Tools for Life also will customize training for organizations that request training on specific topics or for specific audiences.

In Year Two, TFL will collaborate with the GDOL's Workforce Development Conference and other agencies/organizations on a bi-annual statewide AT conference called "The Workforce Development and Touch the Future/Transition Conference." This conference will be held in Athens, Georgia in order to increase AT knowledge and skills throughout the state. The conference will be open to the public and in the past has been attended by a wide range of professionals, parents, and consumers with disabilities. This conference will serve a dual role by providing both public awareness and training, and will be geared to serve the needs of experts and novices alike. At this conference:

- AT vendors will display, demonstrate, and provide information about a wide range of devices to serve the needs of many types of disabilities;
- Experts in areas such as education, recreation, vocational rehabilitation, and community living will provide training sessions on AT issues in their fields; and
- Keynote speakers will provide updates on important AT practices, policies and legislation.

The TFL Town Hall participants strongly expressed the need for the "Touch the Future and Transition Conference" to continue and to continue to be held in different regions of the state.

Technical Assistance

Because Tools for Life provides technical assistance (TA) to agencies and organizations by request, it is difficult to predict the type of technical assistance that will be provided during the three years of this State Plan.

In Year One, Tools for Life has provided technical assistance such as the following:

- Assisted the University of Georgia's Institute for Human Development and Disability, Statewide Independent Living Council of GA., Inc and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities with technical assistance on the Jobs for All customized employment grant initiative.
- Tools for Life assisted the library system of Columbus by making its computer systems even more accessible to patrons. This involved an assessment of their needs, assistance with their procurement of new systems, installation of some new devices, and training for staff on using the systems.
- Tools for Life provided guidance to Vocational Rehabilitation in development of assistive technology policies and procedures, and on-boarding and training new Assistive Work Technology staff.

- Tools for Life provided review of web sites for accessibility of information to public and private partners such as the Department of Labor and credit unions participating in the Credit-Able AFP.
- Tools for Life worked with AWT to provide assistance to the Department of Labor Career Centers in selecting and implementing appropriate information technologies so that all Career Centers can assist job seekers with disabilities.

TFL anticipates providing technical assistance in a similar manner over the next three years. TFL will provide technical assistance to the ATRCs in developing satellite centers in their regions in order to provide more direct AT services to Georgians with disabilities in their own communities.

Transition

The AT Act requires that Tools for Life focus on training and technical assistance for people with disabilities in transition from one environment to another. 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. Over the next three years, TFL will continue to collaborate with the Department of Education, Department of Labor and Centers for Independent Living on a bi-annual statewide AT conference called “Touch the Future and Transition Conference.” This conference will continue to act as a catalyst for increasing knowledge and skills for assisting Georgians with disabilities through smooth transitions from school to work, from school to college, or from institutions to community living. Tools for Life will also continue and expand its collaboration with the highly successful VR Program - High School High Tech (HSHT) of the Department of Labor. Currently Tools for Life has assisted with the annual HSHT Youth Leadership Forum to expose high school students with disabilities to assistive technology devices and resources. In Year One of this State Plan, Tools for Life exposed the HSHT State Leadership Team to educational adaptive software and identify areas of AT-related training and technical assistance to assist transitioning high school students. TFL will continue this AT-related training and technical assistance in Year Two and Year Three.

The TFL staff and ATRC staffs have a combined team of four certified Assistive Technology Practitioners through RESNA who provide one-on-one technical assistance to individuals. These AT Professionals assist students transitioning in educational environments with technical assistance in the IEP process and individuals transitioning from nursing homes into community living environments. These professionals provide valuable information and in depth knowledge of AT solutions that create opportunities in the community and can ultimately diminish some of the need for costly personal attendant services. These activities will continue over the next three years.

The Tools for Life staff, ATRC staff, and TFL Advisory Council are actively evaluating the comprehensiveness of the Training and Technical Assistance Activities with regard to the topics and audiences reached to determine whether the activities should be modified. The State Plan will be amended at the end of Year Two to describe the results of this evaluation and any actions taken to modify the Training and Technical Assistance Activities to better serve Georgians.

In Year One of this State Plan, Tools for Life worked with the TFL Advisory Council, ATRCs and utilize consumer and agency focus groups to seek specific guidance on the further development of the Training and Technical Assistance Activities. The TFL Town Hall participants that represented various agencies expressed the need for to continue providing technical assistance. In Year Two, TFL will provide technical assistance to: the GDOL Career Centers in the selection of AT, AMAC to develop stronger AT services in the College and University system, the public library system to increase public access to services and the SILC to develop a plan for funding and implementing AT services in IL Centers. TFL anticipates providing technical assistance in a similar manner in Year Three.

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, Tools for Life will use a multifaceted approach (mailings, Internet, exhibits, videos, presentations, and trainings) 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. Tools for Life will provide the following public awareness activities:

Information and Referral – The toll free Information line provides free information and referral services on AT for people of all ages with all disabilities. Family members, service providers and others who work in disability- or AT- related fields may also use this service. Tools for Life staff provides information to those who call on the availability, benefits, appropriateness and cost of AT devices and services. In addition, TFL staff mails AT resource and device information to consumers to enhance their decision-making process. A consumer satisfaction survey will be mailed to callers approximately six months following the call to determine if they are satisfied with the information provided or need additional information.

www.gatfl.org Website - The Tools for Life website features in-depth information on the four state level activities of the AT Act of 1998, as amended; a learning disabilities & AT guide; the Dollars and Sense AT funding guide; IT access resources; information and links to legislation; and AT information resources and links. The website also provides an opportunity for individuals to contact Tools for Life for feedback, information and referral, and listing “for sale” items on the G-Trade AT Exchange.

Training Materials and Publications – Tools for Life has developed and disseminated training materials and publications that cover a broad array of AT information for all types of audiences across the life span. These materials will be provided free of charge on the web site and are available in any requested alternative format.

Touch the Future and Transition Statewide AT Conference – As mentioned in item 8.1, Tools for Life will sponsor a bi-annual conference that provides both training and public awareness. The Touch the Future and Transition statewide conference provides training through workshop sessions and demonstrations, available to all conference participants. In year one of this plan, TFL will research the concept of developing an Alternative Augmentative

Communication Conference with an emphasis on AAC in educational, employment and community living environments.

TFL Online News Briefs – Tools for Life will develop and disseminate the TFL news brief both in hard copy and on the website on a quarterly basis. Regular sections will:

- include AT information on current events at TFL and the ATRCs;
- highlight AT (discuss features of a specific AT device, variable each quarter);
- website AT resources;
- and will update federal and Georgia disability-related legislation.

The Tools for Life staff, ATRC staff, and Advisory Council are actively evaluating the comprehensiveness of the Public Awareness Activities with regard to the topics and audiences reached to determine whether the activities should be modified. The State Plan will be amended at the end of Year Two to describe the results of this evaluation and any actions taken to modify the Public Awareness Activities to better serve Georgians.

In Year One of this State Plan, Tools for Life worked with the TFL Advisory Council, ATRCs and utilize consumer and agency focus groups to seek specific guidance on the further development of the Public Awareness Activities. The TFL Town Hall participants expressed the need for TFL to continue Public Awareness activities. Based on the feedback from the Town Hall Meetings, TFL will redesign the TFL Newsletter to provide access to those who do not have internet access. The TFL web site will also be redesigned in Year Two to provide even more solutions. TFL anticipates providing public awareness activities in a similar manner in Year Three.

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.

Over the next three years, Tools for Life will continue to participate in coordination and collaboration activities. Many times, coordination and collaboration with public and private entities is based on emerging, new, or changing policies and procedures, thus, it is difficult to anticipate all of the coordination and collaboration activities that Tools for Life will undertake during the three years of this State Plan. 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. TFL does this by participating on task forces sponsored by state agencies, by being a member of consumer groups, advocacy groups, and disability networks throughout the state, and through independent efforts.

During Year One, TFL is collaborated and coordinated with many state and local organizations some of which include:

- The Regents’ Centers for Learning Disabilities and the Georgia Association for Higher Education Access for people with Disabilities to develop E-Text legislation for post-secondary environments;
- The Georgia Advocacy Office on recommendations for Medicaid waivers for AT for people with disabilities;
- High School/High Tech, the State Rehabilitation Council, Tech Corps, ReBoot and the ATRC, in developing a plan for all High School/High Tech Students to receive computers for them to use in their home.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation Program and Assistive Work Technology about AT policies and procedures;
- The Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund, Tech-Able, and the Department of Community Affairs on policies and procedures concerning the provision of loan guarantees to purchase assistive technology;
- The Georgia Micro Enterprise Network and other groups on possible re-introduction of legislation to establish Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) that would include IDA savings accounts for assistive technology.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Assistive Work Technology, and the ATRC’s in working with individuals as they strive to accomplish their educational and employment goals.
- The University of Georgia - Institute on Human Development and Disability, Regional Extension Agents, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, Assistive Work Technology staff and the ATRCs to assist individuals with disabilities obtain employment or retain employment in the agribusiness field through the AgrAbility Grant.
- The Georgia Department of Labor, Career Center staff and Assistive Work Technology staff in identifying, selecting, setting up AT in every Career Center and training staff on the AT.
- The Department of Technical Adult Education, UGA’s Alternative Media Access Center, Assistive Work Technology staff and Georgia University and College Disability Student Service Providers with public access issues on campuses.
- The Georgia Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Department of Education, Department of Human Resources, Department of Developmental Disabilities, the University of Georgia - Institute on Human Development and Disability, Jobs for All, the Georgia State ADA Office, the Georgia Advocacy Office and the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities on developing and promoting an interagency “Employment First” policy that supports individuals with disabilities in accomplishing their goals to obtain gainful employment with the support of AT, if needed.

In Year One of this State Plan, Tools for Life worked with the TFL Advisory Council, ATRCs and utilize consumer and agency focus groups to seek specific guidance on the further development of the Coordination and Collaboration Activities. The TFL Town Hall participants expressed the need for TFL to continue Coordination and Collaboration activities. Based on the feedback from the Town Hall Meetings, TFL anticipates providing Coordination and Collaboration activities in a similar manner in Year Two and Year Three of this State Plan. The Tools for Life staff, ATRC staff, and Advisory Council will annually evaluate the comprehensiveness of the Coordination and Collaboration Activities to determine whether the activities should be modified.

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.

Over the next three years, as described in attachment 5, Tools for Life will continue to contract for ATRC services, including the AT loan library, AT Device Demonstration Program and Computer/AT Reutilization Program with the following entities:

- Disability Connections – Independent Living Center and ATRC, located in Macon, providing loan library services, device demonstration services, assessment, and training.
- Friends of Disabled Adults and Children – DME and AT Reuse Center, located in Stone Mountain, providing DME device demonstrations, DME loans and training to Georgians throughout the state.
- Tech-Able – ATRC, located in Conyers, providing loan library services, device demonstration services, assessment, and training.
- Touch the Future – ReBoot and ATRC, located in Tucker, providing assessment, loan library services, device demonstration services, device training, and device reutilization services.
- Walton Options – Independent Living Center and ATRC, located in Augusta, providing loan library services, device demonstration services, assessment, and training.

Each of these partners will provide storage space for AT devices and computer equipment as an in-kind contribution. They will also provide general administrative support to the program such as additional staff salary, travel, training costs, office supplies, telephone, printing, postage, as in-kind contributions. Volunteer labor and community funding are also garnered and coordinated to assist in the accomplishing of identified goals. Additionally, each center conducts various activities on an as-needed basis to develop additional supports for these activities.

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 State.

Not applicable

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 TFL Advisory Council met three times before the submittal of this plan in order review the AT Act of 1998 as amended, to set general goals, to establish objectives and to provide advice on how activities are to be carried out. Using consumer and agency focus groups to seek specific guidance on developing Tools for Life's program further, researching the concept of developing an AT Co-Op (attachment 5.1), researching the development of an AAC conference and focusing TFL's marketing strategy on targeted populations in education, employment and community

living in order to accomplish the goals of this State are all directly based on the suggestions of the TFL Advisory Council and other stakeholders involved in planning.

The TFL Advisory Council will meet on a quarterly basis to evaluate progress toward established goals and to offer suggestions for improvement and change. Measurable goals contained in this plan will be reviewed and evaluated on a quarterly basis and any adjustments necessary will be made in response to and under the guidance of the TFL Advisory Council.

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).

It is anticipated that each year, the Department of Labor will include funds in its budget that will be provided to TFL for the ATRCs and ReBoot that is appropriated by the Georgia Legislature. These funds will be provided to TFL for the ATRCs and ReBoot to support the AT loan library Programs, AT Device Demonstration Programs and AT Device/Computer Reutilization activities by covering AT equipment purchases, AT equipment maintenance, portions of salaries, as well as travel expenses for staff working on these activities. Additionally, the Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation program, will continue to pass through to Tools for Life approved state budget funds appropriated specifically for the ATRCs and ReBoot. These funds are earmarked for AT loan library programs, AT device demonstration programs, and AT device/computer reutilization programs. However, this funding is available based on the appropriation of state funds and is not guaranteed.

It is anticipated that each year, depending on performance outcomes, the Credit-Able program may apply and be considered for additional distributions for Credit-Able loan guarantees from the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission for people eligible for specific Trust Fund distributions. Matching federal funds for any distribution may be used to support loan guarantees of other non Trust-Fund eligible applicants to ensure that Credit-Able does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as required by the AT Act of 2004.

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.

It is anticipated that each year, the Department of Labor will include funds in its budget that will be provided to TFL. These funds will support training and technical assistance activities by covering at least a portion of salaries, fringe benefits, and travel expenses for Tools for Life staff. The Department of Labor will continue to provide routine administrative support such as office rent, utilities, management support, and land line and computer technical assistance at no cost to the project

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 Georgia Department of Labor assigns all departments a specific “Cost Center” code as well as clear budget line items to record and track income and expenditures. This elaborate coding system has been developed by GDOL to enable detailed accounting by Cost Center “Project,” “Activity,” year and type of expenditure. TFL will track income and expenditures for State Level and State Leadership Activities under this grant and will code expenditures accordingly. At any time, a report can be obtained to monitor expenditures to assure that TFL is in compliance with the percentages and budget amounts as per the State Plan. The TFL Director will monitor staff requests for expenditures based upon the approved grant plan and proposed budget allocations. Additionally, the AT Unit Manager will review procurement requests before approval to assure that all expenditures are made in accordance to the proposed budget as approved by RSA and in accordance with GDOL procurement policies.

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 2 of the project.

Proposed Allocation	Distribution	Total Award Amount	
		Year 1	Year 2
		\$444,411	\$469,294
State Level	61%	\$271,100	\$286,270
State Leadership	39%	\$173,311	\$183,024
<i>Leadership Activities</i>	95% (of 39%)	\$164,654	93% \$170,213
<i>Transition</i>	5% (of 39%)	\$ 8,667	7% \$12,811
TOTAL		\$444,411	\$469,294

Within the above budget, Tools for Life 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. The Lead Agency, Georgia Department of Labor, is currently taking indirect costs for Tools for Life, and this situation is expected to continue through Years 2 and 3.

State Level Activities	Proposed Allocation	
	Year 1	Year 2
State Financing Activities	\$20,000	\$30,000
Device Reutilization Program	\$50,220	\$65,000

Device Loan Program	\$100,440	\$95,635
Device Demonstration Program	\$100,440	\$95,635

State Leadership Activities**Proposed Allocation**

	Year 1	Year 2
Training and Technical Assistance Activities	\$98,401	\$117,000
Transition	\$ 8,667	\$12,811
Public Awareness Activities	\$59,043	\$45,013
Coordination and Collaboration	\$7,200	\$8,200