

Part I: Attachments
OMB Control Number: 1820-0664
Expiration Date: 12/31/2005

Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: **Office of Disability Services**

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency:
State of Nevada, Department of Health & Human Services

Address of Lead Agency: **3656 Research Way**
Suite #32
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency: **Todd Butterworth,**
Bureau Chief

Address for Certifying Representative: **3656 Research Way**
Suite #32
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Telephone for Certifying Representative: **(775) 687-4452**

E-mail for Certifying Representative: **tbutterworth@dhr.state.nv.us**

Name and Title of Program Director: **Kelleen Preston MS, CRC**
Social Services Program Specialist

Address for Program Director: **3656 Research Way**
Suite #32
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Telephone for Program Director: **(775) 687-4452**

E-mail for Program Director: **kpreston@dhr.state.nv.us**

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director): **N/A**

Address for Program Director:

Telephone for Program Director:

E-mail for Program Director:

Name of Implementing Entity: **N/A**

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

Address of Implementing Entity:

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

Nevada's lead agency for assistive technology (AT) services is the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as designated by the governor in 1990. ODS is a subdivision of the Department of Health and Human Services. Other programs within ODS include Independent Living, Housing, Personal Assistance Services, Developmental Disabilities, Money Follows the Person, Assistive Technology Loans, Telecommunications Relay Services, Traumatic Brain Injury Services, Deaf Advocacy and others.

The mission of Nevada's statewide AT program—the Nevada AT Collaborative (NATC) is to increase the provision of, access to, and funding for assistive technology for Nevadans of all ages and all disabilities through a variety of comprehensive activities and services available statewide. Over the next three years, under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended, ODS will continue to serve as the lead agency and the NATC will continue or begin programs to accomplish this mission.

Despite being a geographically large state, the NATC will make its programs available statewide through toll-free phone numbers, accessible websites, and a network of local offices through subcontracts with other agencies.

ODS employs, and will continue to employ, a diverse staff of educated and motivated professionals with personal and professional experience in the field of AT. Every NATC program employs at least one person with a disability and the NATC director herself has a disability. Our staff and partners have education and experience in the fields of speech and occupational therapy, rehabilitation engineering, computer technology, therapeutic recreation, telecommunications, home and vehicle modifications, and vocational rehabilitation. The program director currently holds an Assistive Technology Practitioner credential from RESNA.

ODS has a twenty-year history of established relationships with public and private entities in the state. ODS staff members participate on boards, advisory councils, workgroups, committees, and commissions that address the needs of Nevadans with disabilities across the life span. In fact, ODS is charged with coordinating and supporting the following boards and councils for the State:

- **Governor's Disabilities Strategic Plan Accountability Committee**

- **Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities**
- **Communications Access Council**
- **Traumatic Brain Injury Council**
- **Statewide Advisory Board on Transition Services**
- **Personal Assistance Services Council**
- **Statewide Independent Living Council**

With all of these boards and councils co-located with the NATC, Nevada’s AT program is well positioned to work cooperatively on a host of issues relevant to AT.

The NATC will conduct many of its activities via subcontracted nonprofit agencies throughout the state. This will ensure that programs are available locally to individuals with disabilities through local offices. Over 90% of Nevada’s population lives in the Reno and Las Vegas areas, and these communities will be well served through NATC partners.

The NATC may enter into contractual relationships with the following entities:

- **CARE Chest—a nonprofit entity which provides AT recycling and financing services for individuals of all ages and all disabilities**
- **University of Nevada—The University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities is a key stakeholder in Nevada’s AT service system**
- **Easter Seals of Southern Nevada—a nonprofit entity which currently provides AT services for individuals of all ages and all disabilities and which may assume an expanded role as a new partner of the NATC**
- **Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living—a nonprofit entity which provides AT assessment, training and funding services for individuals of all ages and all disabilities**
- **RAGE, Inc.—a nonprofit entity which provides AT assessment, training and funding services for individuals of all ages and all disabilities**
- **Nevada Association of the Deaf—a nonprofit entity which provides AT assessment, training and funding services for individuals of all ages with communication disabilities**
- **Sprint—a corporation which provides telecommunications access services to people with communication disabilities**

These entities will help to ensure the NATC can meet the needs of individuals regardless of their age or disability.

In addition to the advisory council described in attachment 3 of this plan, the NATC will ensure that its program is consumer responsive by seeking direct feedback from those who access the program, through both in-person interviews with participants and post-service surveys.

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 re-designation.

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 Nevada Assistive Technology Council was active in previous years, but has been reconvened in 2005 as a new body under the amended AT Act. Members are appointed by the Director of Health and Human Services (who is a member of the Governor's cabinet) and serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. Members are reimbursed for their expenses while on Council business, but are not compensated for their time. The Council elects a chair and vice-chair from the voting members.

During the three years of this state plan, Council will provide consumer-driven, consumer-responsive advice to the state for planning and implementation of the activities of Nevada's AT Program. The Council has 15 members. Eight members, 53%, are individuals with disabilities who use AT. The remaining seven members represent agencies, including: Vocational Rehabilitation, the University of Nevada, the Office of Disability Services, Centers for Independent Living (2), the Department of Education and the State Workforce Investment Board. Although some agency representatives have disabilities, they are not be counted toward the majority membership of people with disabilities and family members. Members of the Advisory Council include:

- **Individuals with Disabilities: 8**
- **Family Members: 0**
- **State Agency Representatives: 5**
- **Other Agency Representatives: 2**

Members of the council represent both rural and urban areas and reflect the racial makeup of the state. Members who use AT use a variety of devices, such as mobility devices, augmentative communication devices, and computer adaptations.

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

Members become part of the council in two ways: agency representatives are appointed by their respective agencies, while consumer representatives are volunteers solicited through the ODS network of disability organizations and councils throughout the state. All members are asked to serve a three-year term.

The Council is led by a chairperson elected by the members. A similarly elected vice-chair serves in the absence of the chairperson. The Council itself determines the need for subcommittees on an as-needed basis and elects members of any proposed subcommittees. At the chairperson's discretion, council decisions are made either through consensus or by member vote. The Council has adopted bylaws to guide its operation.

The Council generally meets at least four times per year, and these meetings are almost always in-person. NATC staff make meeting room arrangements, develop materials for handouts, and ensure site and material accessibility. The chairperson and the NATC director cooperatively set the agenda for meetings to ensure that council members are informed about AT issues. Meetings may feature presentations and guest speakers who are selected on the input of council members. Staff of the statewide AT program update the Council on activities of the program, share recent data, and present any planned initiatives for Council input. Meeting minutes are recorded and compiled by NATC staff.

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

The NATC 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 not establish.**

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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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.

4.8 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in IT and Telecommunications

- **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 IT and Telecommunications purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.**
 - **Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.**

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.

Nevada will implement two State Financing Activities: (1) An alternative financing program, and (2) an AT purchasing program.

Over the three years of this state plan, Nevada will offer a statewide financial loan program, called the Assistive Technology Loan Fund (ATLF) to help people with disabilities, and their families, to purchase assistive devices. These devices can include wheelchairs, roll-in vans, scooter lifts for cars, ramps, bathroom modifications, communication devices, remote control systems, computers, and just about anything that helps a person to live more independently with their disability.

To be eligible, a person must have:

- **A disability, or be the parent, spouse or guardian of a person with a disability**
- **An ability to repay the loan**
- **A credit rating that is reasonably good**

All ages and disabilities are served; interested parties are strongly encouraged to apply.

The ATLF will give people flexibility, by enabling them to purchase items that might not be offered or approved through funding programs like Vocational Rehabilitation, Education, Medicaid or insurance. It will also help people who are on a long waiting list, but cannot wait; the ATLF will help people to help themselves.

The loans will be offered at lower interest rates and often for more years than a typical bank loan—this makes the loans much more affordable. The credit criteria will also be more flexible, especially for those who have had credit problems because of medical issues.

The program will be available throughout the state and is operated as a partnership between the NATC, CARE Chest (a nonprofit agency) and Nevada State Bank, which has over 60 branch offices around Nevada. Individuals can begin the application process on the phone, by calling CARE Chest at 775-829-2273. CARE Chest staff will help the applicant through the whole process—including filling out the application, getting copies of needed documents, choosing the right device (through referrals for assessments, when needed), and finding the best deal.

The NATC will provide funding, technical assistance and oversight, and will act as a referral source to the program. A contract will be negotiated with CARE Chest to fund part of the operating expenses of the program. NATC staff will serve on the ATLF advisory board and will advise the program on policy and procedure issues. The program will be formally monitored at least twice each year for client satisfaction and progress against written objectives.

Over the three years of this state plan, Nevada will also offer a statewide AT purchasing program, called the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program (AT/IL), to provide people with disabilities assistive devices that are unavailable through other resources. These devices can include wheelchairs, van modifications, scooter lifts for cars, ramps, bathroom modifications, communication devices, remote control systems, computer accessibility items, and other devices that help a person to live more independently with their disability. The AT/IL program will give people and families a hand-up, by enabling them to care for themselves or be less dependent.

To be eligible, a person must have:

- **A disability**
- **A functional limitation that necessitates AT**
- **An expectation that the requested service will help to maintain or improve their independence**

Some individuals with higher incomes will be asked to share in the cost of their services, on a sliding scale. All ages and disabilities are served; interested parties are strongly encouraged to apply.

The services will be funded primarily with State dollars, but also with federal Independent Living monies, Tobacco Settlement funding and grants from private foundations. Federal AT funding will not be used to pay for direct services, but may fund operating expenses.

The program will look comprehensively at each person's AT needs, including the areas of self-care, mobility, transportation, employment, education, communication, home access and community access. The AT/IL program will give people flexibility, by providing devices that are not offered through funding sources like Medicaid, private insurance, Vocational Rehabilitation or Special Education. When it will benefit the client, device demonstrations will be arranged (see section 5.4) to ensure that the most ideal device is chosen and that the client is invested in the choice.

The program will be available throughout the state and operated as a partnership between the NATC, RAGE, Inc. (a nonprofit agency) and the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living (NNCIL). Individuals can

apply for the program on the phone and do not need to leave their home, by calling RAGE at 702-259-0789 or NNCIL 775-353-3599. RAGE and NNCIL staff will help the applicant through the whole process—including filling out the application, getting copies of needed documents, choosing the right device, and finding the best vendor.

The NATC will provide funding, technical assistance and oversight, and will act as a referral source to the program. Contracts will be made with RAGE and NNCIL to fund part of the operating expenses of the program. NATC staff will provide daily case management oversight, by offering general case direction, troubleshooting issues with program applicants, and authorizing services to be funded. The NATC will advise the program on policy and procedure issues. The program will be formally monitored at least twice each year for client satisfaction and progress against written objectives.

Over the term of the State Plan, Nevada will offer a comprehensive telecommunications equipment program for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired. The devices offered will include TTYs, Voice-Carry Over phones, amplified phones, large video displays, phone-ring flashers, and Captioned Telephone units. Recipients will have the opportunity to try out devices before making a final selection, and will be provided one-on-one training in their home to ensure they can successfully navigate the telephone system with their new AT device.

To be eligible, a person must have:

- **A documented communication disability**
- **A reasonable expectation that the requested item will meet their needs and abilities**

People of all ages with communication disabilities are served; interested parties are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Telecommunications Equipment Program (TEP) gives people freedom, by enabling them to independently communicate by telephone, using Relay Nevada. Relay services provide a telephone operator who acts as a go-between for a conversation between a person using special equipment, and someone using a standard telephone.

Individuals who are deaf can use a TTY (typewriter phone) or a camera on their computer to access a relay operator. Those with speech impairments can use a TTY or, if they have difficulty typing, can contact an operator who is specially trained to understand their speech impairment and who will “re-voice” their words. This is called Speech-to-Speech relay. People who are hard of hearing can use an amplified phone (with no need for a relay operator), a TTY, or the latest technology—a Captioned Telephone (CapTel).

A CapTel phone looks like a regular phone, except that it has a three-line text display. A CapTel user simply dials the number of the person they wish to call and carries on a normal conversation. The CapTel phone dials up the called party and also automatically dials a CapTel relay operator. The relay agent is involved in the call, but is “invisible” to both callers. The operator repeats everything the voice caller says, and special voice recognition software converts the operator’s words into text and transmits the text to the CapTel user’s phone display. The CapTel phone simultaneously functions as an amplified phone, allowing the user to rely on both their sight and limited hearing to receive communication. This makes CapTel useful for a person with almost any level of hearing loss.

A CapTel call occurs in almost real-time, does not require a TTY, and there are no special numbers to dial. This service is especially likely to open phone use to seniors who have avoided the telephone as their hearing has diminished.

The TEP is available throughout the state and is operated as a partnership between ODS and the Nevada Association of the Deaf (NVAD). Individuals can begin the application process on the phone, by calling 775-887-1060. NVAD staff will help the applicant through the whole process—including filling out the application, getting copies of needed documents, choosing the right device, installing the device and learning how to use it.

The program will be funded exclusively with state dollars. The NATC will provide funding, technical assistance and oversight, and will act as a referral source to the program. A contract will be made with NVAD to fund the operating expenses of the program. The NATC will advise the program on policy and procedure issues and will formally monitor the program at least twice each year for client satisfaction and progress against written objectives.

In addition to serving consumers, this program will also serve businesses, agencies and organizations that want to ensure their telecommunication is accessible to everyone, as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Free training will be offered to any entity interested in learning how to use Relay Nevada or any piece of adaptive phone equipment. Equipment will be offered to public and nonprofit agencies at no cost, and at a discount to private businesses. The NATC only recommends special equipment for those agencies that receive a high volume of calls from people with communication disabilities. For all others, Relay services are highly recommended as an inexpensive and effective means of talking on the phone with people who have communication disabilities.

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.

Throughout the three years of the State Plan, in cooperation with our community partner CARE Chest, the NATC will offer an extensive equipment-recycling program. Devices provided by this program include wheelchairs, scooters, shower chairs, hoist lifts, walkers, hospital beds, reachers, hand held shower attachments, and other devices that help a person to live more independently with their disability. The program is not limited to adaptive living and mobility devices—communication and environmental control devices can also be recycled—however, donations and demand have led the program in the direction of adaptive living and mobility equipment.

To be eligible, a person must have:

- **A disability**
- **No other program available to provide the needed items**

All ages and disabilities are served; interested parties are strongly encouraged to apply.

Individuals interested in donating a device can simply drop their item off at CARE Chest or, in some cases, can have the item picked up at their home. Those who need a device can apply over the telephone and find out what devices are available and in stock. When an item is not immediately available, the client is placed on a waiting list for that specific item. In the case of high-demand, low-cost items like shower chairs, sometimes CARE Chest will solicit money donations in order to purchase the items for inventory. But, most often items are donated by the community or returned by existing clients who no longer need them. If a client no longer needs an item, we ask that it be returned for use by someone else. All items are tested, repaired and sanitized before being offered for use. The program has a 5,000 square foot warehouse that is literally full of equipment.

These services are funded almost exclusively with private dollars, through fundraisers, corporate contributions and grants from private foundations. The program is available throughout most of northern and rural Nevada. Individuals can apply for the program on the phone by calling 775-829-2273. CARE Chest staff will help the applicant through the whole process—including filling out the application, getting copies of needed documents, choosing the right device (based upon staff experience or through referral for an assessment), and occasionally delivering the device to those who cannot arrange pick-up.

The NATC will provide funding, technical assistance and oversight, and will act as a referral source to the program. A contract will be made with CARE Chest to fund part of the operating expenses of the program. NATC staff will advise the program on policy and procedure issues and will formally monitor the program at least twice each year for client satisfaction and progress against written objectives.

While the CARE Chest recycling program has had a dramatic impact in northern Nevada, a similar program is not available in the southern part of the state. The NATC will partner with a local nonprofit agency to launch an equipment-recycling program in Clark County. It is anticipated that the program will serve individuals who lack other resources for the needed equipment. Recycled devices will likely include durable medical equipment, mobility devices, communication devices, adaptive computer equipment, and remote control devices. Paid and volunteer staff will be used to sanitize, test and repair donated equipment. If needed, outside funding will be sought for items in high demand.

Individuals will be referred by other NATC programs, as well as public and nonprofit agencies serving people with disabilities. The program may not initially have a delivery component, but it is hoped that this service will be added at a later date.

The NATC has had initial discussions with Easter Seals of Southern Nevada to serve as a partner agency in this endeavor. The current plan is to build an infrastructure and establish basic services in year one of the state plan. In year two, we plan to expand and refine services in response to community needs and, no later than year three, we intend to attract supplemental funding to help the program grow.

As with our other programs, the NATC will provide funding, technical assistance and oversight, and will act as a referral source to the program. A contract will be made with Easter Seals or another nonprofit agency to fund part of the operating expenses of the program. NATC staff will advise the program on policy and procedure issues and will formally monitor the program at least twice each year for client satisfaction and progress against written objectives.

In a further effort to conserve limited societal resources and ensure that people with disabilities get the AT they need through equipment recycling, the NATC will partner in the national ATMATCH.com website. This is an auction site where users can find specific AT devices at reasonable prices, post equipment for sale, and locate state AT resources. Medical equipment companies can also advertise equipment at the AT Store link.

All of these activities will be accessible from one web page. The website contains a personal, customizable resource section that automatically fills in the links or phone numbers to the user's home AT and loan program projects when the user registers. From this same personal page, the user can search items to buy or list items for sale.

ATMATCH.com will be publicized in all of the NATC's publications and in other communication with AT users and providers. Marketing letters will be sent to service recipients of all Office of Disability Services programs to inform them of this excellent service. Individuals who have unwanted items, but who are not able to donate them, will be encouraged to list the items on ATMATCH.com to increase the possibility of their being re-used.

Although NATC programs provide a variety of supports related to adapting computer equipment, there is no help available for individuals to acquire a computer itself. During the three-year plan, the NATC will explore possible partnerships to expand the use of computers among people with disabilities through recycling of used equipment.

It is anticipated that no action will be taken on this initiative during year one of the plan. In year two, we intend to contact agencies involved in general computer recycling to determine if a partnership to expand services to people with disabilities is possible and workable. By year-three, we will either amend this plan to include action items identified as necessary to create, expand or improve computer services, or will take no further action and report on the outcomes of our exploration.

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 NATC believes that device loans can go a long way toward ensuring that the correct AT devices are purchased, and that those devices are regularly used by the recipient. Oftentimes a device will be purchased, because it is the first one identified, or because it is the one that someone thinks is best. However, if the user of device does not like it, or does not have a role in choosing the device, there is a good chance the device will sit in a closet or on a shelf. A device loan program can help minimize this risk, saving money for the funding source and frustration for the user.

The NATC will offer a program that provides AT to individuals on a short-term basis, to enable them to try out a device before an investment is made. Our belief is that such a program would generally be most effective if the devices are loaned directly by product manufacturers or dealers, as long as multiple products are tried whenever possible, and as long as an independent professional is involved choosing the best device.

During the term of this state plan, the NATC will work to become a facilitator of device loans between AT companies and people with disabilities. We will build relationships with funding agencies like Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid, school districts and others, and will act as a liaison

between those agencies and providers of AT that are willing to loan their equipment on a trial basis. We intend to build a consumer feedback survey into the trial process as an inducement for companies to loan their equipment; the objective feedback will help in their future product improvement and development efforts.

This undertaking is in its initial planning stages and a concrete action plan still needs to be developed. Nevada plans to submit a state plan amendment at the end of year one to provide more specifics.

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.

Device demonstration begins with awareness. As technology changes come faster and faster, it is difficult even for experts to know what is available and what it can do. A device demonstration program gives consumers and service professionals (like Vocational Rehabilitation and Special Education staff) the chance to see what Assistive Technology is available and how it works. Demonstrations can be done in a group setting or on an individualized basis. They can be focused on one product, or on a number of competing products.

The NATC has found that device demonstration is most effective when it can be individualized and when multiple options are presented. The difficulty in offering this approach through a drop-in center is two-fold. First, in order to reach its target population, drop-in centers need to be located in every urban center and, ideally, to have a mobile unit available for rural communities. Second, these centers will be continually “chasing” technology. Every time they acquire the latest equipment for their clients to try, they can count on the technology being improved in a matter of months.

In order to maintain the integrity of individualized, multiple options but, at the same time, keep our device demonstration state-of-the-art, Nevada will seek to leverage its relationships with manufacturers, vendors and assessment professionals, as described in section 5.3 for the device loan program, to enable people to experience a variety of competing devices.

Under this model, an individual will be served through the AT/IL program. Once their plan of services is complete and a general category of needed device is identified, the program will facilitate a demonstration of multiple product options. When needed, an independent expert will be contracted to assist in evaluating the options or to do a formal assessment.

It is our intent that this process will ensure that each client is exposed to a variety of options, that they are given the flexibility to choose the device that best meets their needs, and that the device will regularly and effectively used.

In order to educate AT providers in the latest devices and applications, quarterly group demonstrations will be arranged, in person or via web-cast. Each event will typically focus on one category of product, with the intent of demonstrating several competing options within the category. The NATC will likely work with a subcontract agency to arrange for group demonstrations and will assist in marketing the events.

Our group demonstration initiative is in its initial planning stages and a concrete action plan still needs to be developed. Nevada intends to submit a state plan amendment at the end of year two to provide more specifics.

Despite the hurdles faced by a drop-in center, as described above, such a center would be a great asset in our largest community, Las Vegas. In cooperation with a local nonprofit agency, the NATC will seek to establish an AT center in Las Vegas to provide individual assessments, AT demonstrations, individual AT training, and group AT seminars.

Assessments and individual training will be offered for free and on a fee-for-service basis, depending on the availability of a payer source. AT demonstrations and seminars will be offered by center staff, or in cooperation with device manufacturers and vendors, with the intent of educating the community on the value and possibilities of AT.

The program will be funded primarily with federal AT dollars, but may be supplemented with other funds. The services will be available to anyone with a disability or to anyone who serves that population. Our Las Vegas device demonstration initiative is in its initial planning stages and a concrete action plan still needs to be developed. Nevada intends to submit a state plan amendment at the end of year two to provide more specifics.

With the advent of Captioned Telephone (CapTel), telecommunication for hard of hearing people, especially seniors, may be revolutionized. Nevada is now one of 20 states offering CapTel services, so our Telecommunications Equipment Program (TEP) will conduct CapTel demonstrations throughout the term of the State Plan and throughout the state.

These demonstrations will be coordinated with senior centers and organizations, local exchange carriers, audiologists, and other entities that serve seniors and those with hearing loss. The demonstrations will compare the current state-of-the-art, Voice Carry Over Relay, with CapTel and will show how CapTel can make using the telephone so much easier. Individuals who have speech disabilities, in addition to hearing loss, will be shown the features and benefits of traditional relay services.

Individuals interested in the technology will either be provided a needed device or, in the case of CapTel, might be put on a waiting list to receive one in the future. To be eligible, a person must have:

- **A documented moderate to severe hearing loss**
- **The ability to speak clearly and read the CapTel display**

All ages are served through this program; interested parties are strongly encouraged to apply.

This program will be funded exclusively with state dollars and services will be provided through a contract with the Nevada Association of the Deaf. The program can be accessed at 775-887-1060.

All NATC programs can be accessed toll-free by calling ODS at 888-337-3839.

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.

Nevada will not need to exercise its flexibility options.

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

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

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

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.

Education and training in Assistive Technology is essential for many reasons. For professionals working in a wide range of human service fields, a basic knowledge of AT allows them to identify, screen, refer, and follow-up with clients and patients within an appropriate and effective frame. It enables them to provide best practice service within their scope of practice, while knowing when and how to access collaborative services to address more complex needs. And, it provides them with critical information on standards of AT service delivery, including the differential roles of the AT service provider and the AT vendor, the changing requirements of funding agencies/programs, and the continuous technological developments within the field itself.

A comprehensive and effective Assistive Technology service delivery program begins with awareness; this in turn is the very foundation for training. During the first year of the project, the NATC will partner with the University of Nevada (U of N) to develop awareness materials appropriate for all targeted individuals and entities. These materials may include brochures, a website, introductory informational presentations, newspaper/magazine articles, booths at community fairs and expos, etc. The materials will address basic information on Assistive Technology devices and services, as well as contact and referral information for statewide programs.

It is anticipated that as awareness increases, the NATC will receive requests for additional educational information. In response, during the first year of the project, U of N will prepare workshop and presentation materials appropriate for delivery to a diverse range of targeted individuals and entities. The content of these materials will address core AT issues in more depth, including information on federal legislation, examples of AT applications across populations, funding options, device demonstration, and recommendations for the referral and service delivery processes. Information will be included that covers “low” tech and “high” tech devices, adapting everyday equipment, and principles of universal design. After development, project staff will be available to deliver up to two presentations per month to groups with interests across the lifespan and across disabilities. Potential audiences include:

- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

- **Office of Geriatric Medicine**
- **Bureau of Early Intervention Services**
- **Circle of Life Hospice**
- **Centers for Independent Living**
- **School District Offices**
- **Assisted Living Facilities**
- **Extended Health Care Facilities**
- **Retirement Communities**
- **Employers**
- **Private Practice medical groups**
- **Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, educator organizations and provider agencies/programs**
- **Learning Disability organizations and provider agencies/programs**
- **Autism support groups and organizations**
- **Other support groups**

Additionally, U of N will develop one formal continuing education workshop and one online 3-credit graduate course by the second year of the project. The continuing education workshop will address “Low Tech” Assistive Technology for Infants, Toddlers, and Young Children, and will include a “make and take” session. It will be offered once a year for Early Intervention and preschool service providers in Nevada.

The graduate online course, Introduction to Assistive Technology, will be developed using WebCT and is anticipated to be ready to offer for the first time during the summer of 2006. It will be available to both full time graduate students at the University of Nevada Reno, and to professionals throughout the state, through the U of N’s Office of Extended Studies.

During the second year of the project, U of N will adapt the graduate Introduction to Assistive Technology course for delivery to a consumer and family audience. Project staff will collect information from consumers and families regarding their preferred learning methods and styles, as well as suggested locations and times for training. It is anticipated that this training will be in a weekend workshop format, and be delivered face-to-face. An ideal format would be one weekend (e.g., Friday evening and all day Saturday) devoted to covering the basics of Assistive Technology, presenting case studies, and discussing options, culminating with the collaborative development of a “project” for each participant (or pair of participants) to implement. This would be followed, approximately one month later, with a second weekend that would include advanced information on AT, a “show and tell” project demonstration, and a “where to go from here” session.

U of N will also be in the position to offer undergraduate and graduate student work experiences, traineeships, research opportunities, and clinical

practicum/internship experiences to U of N students in related departments and disciplines.

In section 8.3, this plan outlines an objective to develop an AT service delivery process. In support of that endeavor, during the first year of the State Plan, the University of Nevada will also develop and disseminate an AT Screening Protocol, along with appropriate training and support, to professionals serving potential AT consumers.

The NATC may provide assistance in the design of the training and will help market the training through its relationships with various agencies. It is anticipated that the training sessions will begin in the second half of year one of the State Plan and be available on an ongoing basis.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for delivering Personal Assistance Services (PAS) to Nevadans who do not qualify for Medicaid, and for coordinating the state's PAS Advisory Council. In order to standardize and improve training for personal care attendants, ODS is developing a web-based training system that will be accessed by thousands of PAS providers who are employed by dozens of agencies around Nevada.

Recognizing that AT can be important to the safe and effective provision of PAS, ODS has engaged the NATC to develop a training module on AT for this web-based system. The module will explore the many assistive technologies that make care easier, like shower chairs, patient lifts, transfer boards, commode chairs, and grab bars, as well as communication devices and environmental controls.

The training will be made available to both caregivers and care recipients and will include information on AT funding sources. It is anticipated that the training module will be developed and available no later than year-two of the State Plan and that, other than NATC staff time, it will be funded outside of Nevada's federal AT budget.

Through the AT center planned in Las Vegas, the NATC will offer both training and technical assistance to a variety of entities. Training will be provided formally, through pre-planned events. Technical assistance will be generally offered on an as-requested basis and will typically be one-on-one. The center will provide training to public and private agencies including 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. One curriculum will focus on training service coordinators to authorize AT

through various funding programs, how AT services can make dollars go further, how to read AT reports, and when it is appropriate for AT to be purchased. The training will be practical and useful within service delivery systems and for counselors, special education teachers, therapists and others who deliver or should deliver AT services.

Trainees will also learn how to perform person and family-centered evaluations to ensure user buy-in when AT is purchased. This evaluation approach puts the person, their needs and their desires at the center of the process, rather than making the services or the professionals involved the center of the process. Trainees will also learn the value and importance of training the user of AT to use the device and how to access ongoing support, and the value of regular follow-up after the AT is provided to ensure the device is being used and that problems have been adequately addressed.

The NATC anticipates partnering with Easter Seals of Southern Nevada (ESSN) in this training program, although a final contract has yet to be negotiated. Should ESSN be the agency in charge of the southern Nevada AT program, their training will also include an AT evaluation course to be taught at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. The course will be funded by the university and will be available to students in relevant fields of study; ESSN staff will be compensated by the University on an adjunct basis.

The NATC may provide assistance in the design of the training, will help market the training through its relationships with various agencies, and may participate in the delivery of training. It is anticipated that the training sessions will begin in the second half of year one of the State Plan and be available on an ongoing basis.

The Telecommunications Equipment Program (TEP) will offer both training and technical assistance services. Training will be provided formally, through pre-planned sessions with individual consumers. Technical assistance will be generally offered on an as-requested basis. Training will be offered to individuals with disabilities as well as agencies needing to provide communication access. Training will include individual or group instruction in the use of AT equipment for telecommunications, or Telecommunications Relay Services (Relay). All individuals and entities receiving equipment from the program will be offered training, but the training will also be made available to anyone needing assistance, whether or not they received their equipment from the TEP. An example might be a business that purchased a TTY, but needs its staff trained in the use of the device.

The TEP will also provide technical assistance, mostly to public and private agencies, including State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions

of higher education and businesses. Technical assistance will be related to the fulfillment of obligations for telecommunications access under the Americans with Disabilities Act and maximizing customer service to people with communication disabilities.

Sometimes a small business will believe that they are out of compliance with the ADA because they do not have a TTY. TEP staff can train the business on the availability and use of Relay as an alternative to purchasing a separate phone line and a TTY. The training will also include information on the various types of devices that are used by people with communication disabilities, like TTYs, VCO phones, computer-based systems and hand-held devices.

These services will be funded with state dollars and will be made available throughout the term of the State Plan. The Office of Disability Services will contract with the Nevada Association of the Deaf (NVAD) to conduct the training and the NATC will coordinate with NVAD and Sprint on the content of the training. The NATC will also act as a referral source for the program and will provide technical assistance to individuals and agencies when they contact the NATC directly.

Nevada's Independent Living and Assistive Technology (IL/AT) program includes a training component for people who are newly disabled. A peer support group meets on a regular basis and attendees discuss their struggles and triumphs as they learn to live anew. Because AT is key to helping people regain their independence, meetings regularly feature AT.

Issues addressed include self-care, mobility, transportation, employment, education, communication, home access and community access. Attendees are not only given demonstrations in how they can use AT, they are also provided actual training in the use of some AT devices. The training is given by both professional trainers, like occupational or speech therapists, and by people with disabilities. When needed, the IL/AT program will fund more intensive on-on-one training to ensure client success.

The NATC will support the training by funding staff for the peer group and may participate as trainers on topics related to AT. It is anticipated that the trainings will take place quarterly throughout the term of the State Plan.

Nevada's Lead Agency for AT, the Office of Disability Services (ODS), is also its lead agency for Transition Services coordination. In the recent state legislative session, the NATC and ODS consulted with the legislature on the formation of a Statewide Advisory Board on Transition Services. The board

was memorialized in statute and will begin meeting in the last quarter of 2005.

Our strategy for transition is to recognize that students with disabilities have three major options upon high school graduation: work, school or independent living (or a combination thereof) and Assistive Technology can be a key ingredient to success in any of the three arenas. Nevada's Transition Board will bring together stakeholders from vocational, educational and independent living agencies, as well as parents, advocates and students. The NATC will be involved with the Transition Board as technical assistance support for all three areas of service.

The board will meet approximately four times per year and NATC representatives will attend all meetings. As the board develops transition policies, procedures, statutes or regulations, the NATC will consult to ensure that AT is a key component of the process and that all agencies are doing their part to ensure AT access for students being transitioned.

Because the board has yet to have its first meeting, it is difficult to determine the direction it will take and the outcomes that might be expected. By no later than the end of year two of the State Plan, Nevada will submit a State Plan amendment with projected outcomes for this initiative.

ODS is also the State's lead agency for Money Follows the Person, which is a federal initiative to help adults transition to community living. The NATC has been involved in this project from the beginning and helped to design an assessment tool to aid in the transition process. During the term of the State Plan, NATC staff and programs will offer technical assistance to the Money Follows the Person project, Nevada Medicaid and institutional service providers to ensure that AT resources are available and maximized in community living transition cases.

This technical assistance will focus on assistive technology as it can be deployed to serve the needs of a specific individual. The NATC may make recommendations related to the choice of AT, may refer the parties involved to AT specialists when needed, and may help identify funding sources for the needed AT.

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.

The provision of resources over the web has become imperative in recent years. During the term of this State Plan, the NATC will undertake a complete re-design of the ODS website, to improve its usability and to ensure accessibility. The website will include information on the AT Council and its activities, Nevada AT State Plan, the various AT programs offered in Nevada and links to relevant AT sites—like national research and policy, AT funding resources, and AT evaluation providers.

Additionally, NATC staff is involved in two other initiatives to provide information over the web. The first is a housing registry that will list accessible housing available for sale or rent around the state. It is anticipated that the registry will be available beginning in the first year of the state plan. Other than NATC staff time, the registry will be funded with other monies.

The second initiative is an online disability resource guide for the Las Vegas metropolitan area. The guide will feature a variety of disability services and resources and accessibility information for many public services. This project is a cooperative effort with the Office of Disability Services and will be complete during the first year of the State Plan. The resource guide will be funded with non-AT monies, but will include information on the various programs of the NATC.

The Office of Disability Services has found that awareness of Telecommunications Relay Services is very low among the general public. As a result, users of Relay Nevada often experience hang-ups when they call agencies or businesses that are unfamiliar with Relay. We like to say that there is one “constant” on every Relay call—an able-bodied person using a regular telephone. Given this, and given that there are over 400,000 relayed phone calls every year in Nevada, regular telephone users should better understand Relay.

Thus, we will run a mass media ad campaign in cooperation with the Nevada Broadcaster’s Association. The campaign will include both television and radio ads with messages highlighting “7-1-1” dialing and “don’t hang up” education. We expect the campaign to run for several months, and possibly over multiple years during the term of the State Plan. The campaign may also be expanded to include emerging issues like Captioned Telephone. The campaign will be funded by ODS with State dollars.

Our ultimate objective is to get AT into the hands of people who need it. An effective way to accomplish this is to seek out individuals who might have AT needs at community events and through targeted outreach work. Each of our programs will include an outreach and public awareness component.

For example, our Telecommunications Equipment Program will partner with Sprint to hold an annual “Taste of Technology” event to demonstrate the latest technologies and to show people how to get those items funded. This will be funded with state dollars and NATC staff will take part in the events.

The AT/IL program will offer monthly in-services to agencies like acute care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals and centers, outpatient clinics, non-hospital based programs and therapy providers. The primary purpose of these sessions will be to ensure that the agencies are aware of Nevada’s AT programs and the assistance that is available to serve their clients. This will be funded with federal AT dollars and the training will be delivered by our sub-contract partners.

In northern Nevada, the AT/IL device purchasing program will take part in an annual summer picnic to highlight the services offered and to recognize individuals and agencies that have contributed to their success. This event will be funded with private dollars. NATC and sub-contractor staff will all take part in the event.

CARE Chest will have an active public relations campaign to publicize its programs. This will include news articles about the agency, public service announcements related to its programs and supporters, and broadcast ads in support of major special events. Staff time for these initiatives will be funded with federal AT dollars and the advertising costs will be donated by media outlets.

We are very sensitive to our need to reach underserved populations. Therefore, we will track certain demographics—age, income, race, and rural location—and compare our service percentages to those groups, with their percentages in the census. Where our service levels fall short of the census percentages, we will formulate specific public awareness activities to target the underserved group. Therefore, the ultimate focus of our public awareness is not so much on how much awareness work we undertake, but rather how effective that work is at reaching people in need of AT.

One of the most common frustrations among people with disabilities, especially those who are newly disabled, is a lack of information. Virtually every disability program has an information and referral (I & R) component, and some are more effective than others. The NATC will provide information and referral through all its programs but, at the same time, will be working toward a more sweeping, long-term change in I & R services.

The 2-1-1 phone number has been set aside nationally as a way to access information on social services. Just as a person might call 4-1-1 for directory assistance, or 7-1-1 for relay services, or 9-1-1 for emergencies, they could dial 2-1-1 for information on programs that help people, including disability and AT services. 2-1-1 systems are developed on a state level and each state is at a different point in its 2-1-1 development.

The NATC worked closely with leadership of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and the Legislative Committee on People with Disabilities to get legislative support for a 2-1-1 system in Nevada. A \$200,000 appropriation has been secured and the United Way has signed on to be the coordinating agency. During the term of this State Plan, we hope to launch at least a pilot program, if not a statewide 2-1-1 service. In either case, we will ensure that 2-1-1 offers information on all the programs provided through the NATC and other sources of AT funding and support.

This program will be funded with dollars outside the federal AT budget, but NATC staff will be actively involved in the process as a consultant on telecommunications, AT and disability issues.

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.

The NATC has found that perhaps its most effective AT awareness efforts have come from building relationships with agencies that fund assistive technology. By establishing friendships and cooperative arrangements with key staff at agencies like Vocational Rehabilitation, Special Education, Medicaid, Aging Services and Early Intervention, the NATC is able to educate them in the applications of AT, show them the value of investing in AT and AT services, advise them on policies to expand their provision of AT, and assist them in serving people that they are not able to help.

NATC staff will work with these and other key agencies by establishing formal and informal cross-referral agreements, providing in-service training on AT in general and the AT programs offered in Nevada, and by joining these agencies as partners in bodies like the Statewide Independent Living Council, the Advisory Board on Transition Services, the Strategic Plan Accountability Committee and the Traumatic Brain Injury Council.

These activities will be undertaken during the full term of the State Plan and are expected to occur at least quarterly. Federal AT funding will directly support this work.

At the request of the Nevada Legislature in 2002, the Office of Disability Services (ODS) spearheaded the development of a state Strategic Plan for People with Disabilities. This plan included in-depth assessments of Nevada’s services to people with disabilities, the identification of barriers and impediments to meeting their needs, and recommendations for the steps needed to strengthen community services and supports for the state’s citizens with disabilities. The plan ensures the State’s compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision and the Americans with Disabilities Act by offering a plan for community based services. The Olmstead decision mandates that people with disabilities be offered services in the “least restrictive setting” which means that, whenever possible, services should be made available in community-based settings, rather than in institutional settings like nursing homes.

The Strategic Plan covers all ages and disabilities, and prominently recognizes the value of assistive technology. The following are five objectives from the plan that specifically relate to assistive technology:

#15- Require discharge plans for all people with disabilities being transferred from institutional care and group care which are paid from state resources, include at a minimum, advance provisions for: 1) personal/social adjustment; 2) special evaluations; 3) integrative therapies; 4) life skills training; 5) psychosocial interventions; 6) *assistive technology*; 7) drug and supply need; 8) medical care; 9) transportation; 10) in-home assistance; 11) environmental modification; 12) family counseling; 13) case management; 14) caregiver training, 15) employment and; 16) housing.

#30- Provide access for children with disabilities to medically necessary services, health care, specialized dental care, medications, medical equipment, and *assistive technology*.

#43- Develop an inter-local agreement between the Division for Aging Services, the Sanford Center on Aging, and the UNR School of Medicine to assure pre-service professionals in the senior service arena receive training in the underlying issues and potential resolutions to the pain management therapy, ventilator and *assistive technology* needs of seniors with disabilities, particularly those with spinal cord injury and polio survivors.

#60- Establish a “fast-track” system with priority coding for people with terminal disabilities and urgent health circumstances applying for services from publicly-funded programs, particularly when the condition is expected to rapidly deteriorate. Services needs include,

but are not limited to health care, rehabilitation, medication, *assistive technology* and medical equipment, personal assistance services, and respite.

#70- Develop and monitor written information designed to ensure children and adults with disabilities are given accurate eligibility criteria; are fully informed of all available service options in state programs to which they are being admitted, provided a full menu of the scope of services permitted by federal/state guidelines, and given an easily understandable guide to client rights and remedies associated with the program at application to the program; with appropriate *assistive technology* applied.

ODS has been designated as the State's lead agency for implementing the Strategic Plan and planning community services in accordance with the Olmstead decision. This relationship is vital to the NATC and will enhance its ability to coordinate with key agencies like Vocational Rehabilitation, Education, Medicaid, Early Intervention and Aging Services. The Strategic Plan Accountability Committee gives the NATC a forum to coordinate with all these agencies to ensure that AT is considered as programs are implemented, redesigned and expanded.

During the full term of the State Plan, the NATC will be actively engaged with the Strategic Plan Accountability Committee, by attending meetings and offering technical assistance and coordination related to AT issues. During the interim terms, between legislative sessions, the NATC will also work with the Legislative Committee on People with Disabilities by coordinating with them related to assistive technology. This legislative committee is tasked with presenting legislative and budgetary recommendations to the upcoming legislative session, on behalf of many different agencies and the disability community. For example, in advance of the 2005 legislative session, they recommended a 100% increase in state funding for the AT/IL program. This recommendation was ultimately endorsed by the governor and approved by the legislature.

In order to implement a state plan that is comprehensive and aligned with the standards of best practice, it is critical to have an AT service delivery process that consumers, service providers, and vendors understand, accept, and can easily navigate. It must take full advantage of what all partners have to offer, and must meet professional and funding standards and requirements. During the first year of the State Plan, U of N will work with a committee of consumers, service providers, and vendors to develop and disseminate an Assistive Technology service delivery process that takes these matters into account, and addresses other critical issues, including the appropriate assignment of responsibilities and the determination of

reasonable timelines for service delivery. The process will include the following components:

- **Assistive Technology Screening Protocol**
- **Assistive Technology Comprehensive Evaluation Protocol**
- **Assistive Technology Device Demonstration**
- **Assistive Technology Reports**
- **Assistive Technology Funding Requests**
- **Assistive Technology device set-up and training**
- **Assistive Technology follow-up services**
- **Assistive Technology Consultation**

Perhaps the NATC's closest partnership has been with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). For the past few years, the NATC and the SILC have worked together to expand AT programs around the state, because these programs are so important to helping people live independently. The two entities have jointly funded the operational costs of the AT/IL program, and have prevailed upon public policymakers and private foundations to join the effort by contributing service dollars. Over the past five years, this partnership has resulted in over \$1,000,000 in non-federal funding being allocated for the AT/IL program, and a doubling of state funding for the program in the years to come.

The NATC will continue to work closely with the SILC and is planning to coordinate the AT advisory council meetings with those of the SILC, to enable the members to attend one another's meetings and to communicate and share ideas.

In addition to working at the agency level to coordinate AT services around the state, Nevada will also undertake coordination on a more personal level. Individual members of the Nevada AT Council also sit on other advisory bodies and are thus able to interject AT issues when appropriate with those other groups, and to coordinate the work of the AT Council with those entities. Current members of the AT Council are also involved with:

- **Nevadans for Equal Access**
- **Personal Assistance Services Council**
- **Statewide Independent Living Council**
- **Governor's Committee on Rehabilitation and Employment of People with Disabilities**
- **Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities**
- **Traumatic Brain Injury Council**

- **Governor's Workforce Investment Board**
- **Communication Access Council**
- **Others**

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.

In past years, with the possibility of a Tech Act sunset by Congress, the NATC took steps to attract other sources of funding to our AT programs. Therefore, we have significant other public and private dollars supporting the work outlined in this State Plan.

Assistive Technology Loan Fund (ATLF)—Approximately \$400,000 of the \$1.4 million on deposit in the loan guarantee fund came from the Nevada tobacco settlement. Interest earned on these dollars is used to help support the operating costs of the ATLF. The entire fund has been doubled (to \$2.8 million) through a leveraging commitment from our bank partner, Nevada State Bank. Beyond the support provided by the NATC and the interest earned on deposit monies, CARE Chest uses its fundraising expertise to ensure that program operations are fully funded.

AT/IL Program—The AT/IL program has been very successful in diversifying its funding base. Beginning in July 2005, the State of Nevada has nearly doubled its annual contribution to the program, to nearly \$600,000. In year one of the State Plan, approximately \$140,000 in tobacco settlement dollars will be committed to the direct service costs of the program. Tobacco dollars may also be available in years two and three of the State Plan, but are not guaranteed. A private foundation has contributed \$120,000 for program services in the coming year and Community Development Block Grants will be leveraged each year to fund additional services. Furthermore, we have established a cooperative relationship with the Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired to receive free AT assessments for AT/IL applicants with visual impairments. All of these funding sources support the delivery of services. Program operations are funded cooperatively with federal AT and Independent Living dollars.

CARE Chest Equipment Recycling Program—The annual CARE Chest budget exceeds \$600,000 and the vast majority of it is privately funded. The funding from the NATC provides general staff and operating support for the recycling program, but CARE Chest does the hard work of raising the balance of funds needed. The CARE Chest facility, including its 5,000 square foot warehouse for the recycling program, has been fully paid for through a private foundation grant.

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 Advisory Council met three times before the submission of this plan. They helped in setting general goals and objectives and provided advice on how activities would be carried out. The State Plan was drafted by the Office of Disability Services, and members of the Council were given the opportunity to review the Plan on their own, and to discuss the Plan at a meeting of the full Council.

On an ongoing basis, the Council will provide regular input into the operations of all assistive technology programs in Nevada including planning, implementation and review of all statewide activities. The Council will meet on approximately 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 at Council meetings and any adjustments necessary will be made in response to, and under the guidance of, the 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).

As outlined in Attachment 5, the State of Nevada will commit substantial funding to the NATC’s state-level activities. It is anticipated that each year, the Office of Disability Services will include funds in its budget to:

- **Provide services under the Assistive Technology for Independent Living program—approximately \$380,000 annually, plus approximately \$140,000 in tobacco funds in year one of the plan**
- **Provide equipment distribution services under the Telecommunications Equipment Program —approximately \$160,000 annually**
- **Offer CapTel demonstrations—approximately \$20,000 annually**

Because this funding is available based upon state appropriations, it is not guaranteed.

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.

As outlined in Attachment 8, the State of Nevada will commit funding to the NATC’s state leadership activities. It is anticipated that each year, the State of Nevada will include funds in its budget to:

- **Provide training and technical assistance under the Telecommunications Equipment Program —approximately \$20,000 annually**
- **Support transition services planning activities—approximately \$25,000 annually**
- **Run broadcast media ads in support of AT for telecommunications—approximately \$32,000 annually**
- **Support the development of a 2-1-1 information and referral system**
- **Implement state Strategic Plan objectives related to assistive technology**

Because this funding is available based on state appropriations it is not guaranteed.

Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

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

All departments and units of the State of Nevada use the same web-based Fiscal Information System (FIS) to record and track income and expenditures. An elaborate coding system has been developed within FIS to enable detailed accounting by “business unit” and type of expenditure. The NATC maintains a spreadsheet log on all contracts. At the time a contract is issued the State Level and State Leadership Activities allocations will be pre-determined by the contract. This pre-determined allocation will be applied to the cumulative expenditures for each contract. At any time, a report can be obtained to monitor expenditures to assure that the NATC is in compliance with the percentages and budget amounts as per the State Plan. It will be the responsibility of the NATC Director to monitor expenditures on a monthly basis.

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

The following are proposed budget allocations for State Leadership and State Level Activities for Year 2 of the project.

Proposed Allocation	Distribution	Total Award
		\$331,000
State Level	60%	\$199,000
State Leadership	34%	\$113,000
<i>Leadership Activities</i>	<i>95% (of 34%)</i>	<i>\$107,000</i>
<i>Transition</i>	<i>5% (of 34%)</i>	<i>\$ 6,000</i>
Indirect Costs	6%	\$ 19,000
TOTAL		\$331,000

Within the above budget, the NATC proposes to appropriate funds for specific activities in the following manner.

State Level Activities	Proposed Allocation
State Financing Activities	\$100,000
Device Reutilization Program	\$38,000

Device Loan Program	\$26,000
Device Demonstration Program	\$35,000
State Leadership Activities	Proposed Allocation
Training and Technical Assistance Activities	\$27,000
Transition	\$6,000
Public Awareness Activities	\$40,000
Coordination and Collaboration	\$40,000