

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

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Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: University of Wyoming

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency:
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)

Address of Lead Agency: Department 4298
1000 E. University Avenue
Laramie, WY 82071

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency:

William A. Gern
Vice President,
Research & Economic Development

Address for Certifying Representative: Department 3355
1000 E. University Avenue
Laramie, WY 82071

Telephone for Certifying Representative: (307) 766-5353

E-mail for Certifying Representative: willger@uwyo.edu

Name and Title of Program Director: Sandy Root-Elledge
Coordinator, Community Education

Address for Program Director: Department 4298
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Laramie, WY 82071

Telephone for Program Director: (307) 766-2764

E-mail for Program Director: sre@uwyo.edu

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

Name of Implementing Entity: Same As Above

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

Address of Implementing Entity:

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Name and Title of Program Director: Not Applicable

Address for Program Director:

Telephone for Program Director:

E-mail for Program Director:

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

Address for Program Director:

Telephone for Program Director:

E-mail for Program Director:

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Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

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

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

In 1996, the Governor of Wyoming designated the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) as the lead agency to implement the Assistive Technology Act of 1988 and re-designated WIND in 1998 as the Lead agency for the Assistive Technology Act of 1998. Most recently, the Governor re-designated WIND as the Lead Agency for the state of Wyoming for the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 As Amended. Thus, WIND has been serving Wyoming citizens for nearly a decade by delivering all the services required and sanctioned by the two previous iterations of the Tech Act and will continue to serve the entire state by delivering all required activities of the AT Act of 1998 As Amended. Its mission will be to increase the access to assistive technology (AT) for Wyoming citizens of all ages and all disabilities through a variety of comprehensive activities and services available statewide.

Established in 1994, WIND is Wyoming's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), part of a national network of 61 disability centers with at least one in each state and territory. Each UCEDD is located in a major research university and delivers teaching, research, and community service programs serving individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians, advocates, service providers, and the general public. WIND is housed in the College of Health Sciences in the University of Wyoming (UW) and is located in Laramie in the southeast corner of the state. UW is the only public, four-year, nationally accredited, comprehensive institution of higher education in Wyoming. As such, UW has from its beginning been dedicated to delivering its programs throughout this large state to its sparse, frontier population. The Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) Program continues the tradition of the prior tech act project with the goals of delivering assistive technology services statewide through a toll-free number and accessible website.

Prior to 2005, the former Tech Act project (known as Wyoming New Options in Technology or WYNOT) began to downsize its operations in anticipation of the sunset of the Tech Act of 1998. Therefore, many of the veteran staff members have gone on to new pursuits and with the advent of the Tech Act of 1998 As Amended, WATR will have the opportunity to rebuild its capabilities. During the first year of WATR operations, the staff expertise was significantly enhanced, the loan bank was updated and expanded, and the capacity to deliver demonstrations was developed. Although the Project Director will change beginning October 1, 2006, the new Project Director has had the responsibility of daily program oversight and will continue in that capacity through the next year.

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Day-to-day overall supervision of the program, including meeting the program goals, guidance of the program through the state plan, development of the WIND AT Advisory Council, development of statewide programs, and budget adherence will be the responsibility of the Program Director, who has focused on developing a new assistive technology program for the state over the past year. With the completion of a study on assistive technology implementation, the Program Director will complete the requirements of a doctoral degree in Adult Education and Learning Technologies. The program has added the expertise of an Assistive Technology/Autism Specialist to guide the statewide demonstrations, trainings, and technical assistance, with a special emphasis in meeting the needs of education. She will also be responsible for expenditure tracking and the WIND AT Advisory Council meetings and activities. A WATR Project Coordinator, who has a research background and recently completed an assistive technology certificate program, will be responsible for managing the day-to-day information and referral operations and loan center operations as well as some trainings and technical assistance. She will also be responsible for data collection and program reporting. The program has two professional therapists to help provide program development with their individual areas of expertise. An Occupational Therapist (OT) who worked on the prior program will provide the needed expertise to continue the development of the device loan bank as well as statewide trainings, technical assistance, and demonstrations. To meet the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) needs, as determined by a 2005 needs assessment, a Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) was contracted by the WATR program. The program's SLP is an Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico but travels to Laramie to provide University of Wyoming instruction and training to the WATR staff. This therapist has an association with the University of Wyoming and will continue to teach an AAC graduate-level class for the Communication Disorders Division every summer. For WATR, the SLP will continue to develop the skills and expertise needed for WATR staff to provide demonstrations, trainings, and technical assistance. A University of Wyoming student or graduate student from a related field will work on the program each semester and help to coordinate information and referral as well as loan and demonstration center activities. In addition to WIND support staff, WATR will rely on the expertise of the Connect Wyoming Project Coordinator. Connect Wyoming is the only human services information database for the state. For the WATR Program, this Project Coordinator will be responsible for maintaining and further developing the WATR Assistive Technology Resources informational website.

WATR will provide Wyoming citizens with access to programs and expertise that addresses AT needs in all areas of life, with particular emphasis on education, employment, community living and information technology (IT) and telecommunications. This will give individuals and professionals the information to acquisition AT as needed.

Through its experience in the earlier AT Act project, WIND has well-established relationships with public and private entities in the state that address the needs of Wyoming citizens with disabilities across the life span such as: Department of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Developmental Disabilities Division,

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Division on Aging, Office of Medicaid, Department of Family Services, Department of Health, Adult Services providers, Developmental Preschools, Governor’s Planning Council on Disabilities, Protection & Advocacy System, Inc., and University of Wyoming Disability Supports and Services. WIND also partners with People First of Wyoming, Wyoming Arc, the major family support organizations (UPLIFT, WY Family Support Network, Parent Educational Network, Family Voices, and Parent Information Center), and the Wyoming adult and children’s waiver provider organizations. WATR will work with these and other entities on new and ongoing initiatives in the state to address the AT needs of individuals with disabilities. These activities are described in detail as a part of “Coordination and Collaboration” in attachment 8.

WIND is also the lead agency for the state’s Alternative Financing Program—the Wyoming Technology Access Program (WYTAP) thus will have the capability of not only helping citizens access information about AT but also help them finance it. The WYTAP program is described more fully in attachment 6 of this plan.

During the first year of the WATR project, WIND was awarded funding to implement an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and an AgrAbility Program. Both of these are avenues through which the WATR program can provide expertise to increase access to information about and acquisition of assistive technology.

In addition to the advisory council described in attachment 3 of this plan, WATR will ensure that its program is consumer-responsive by seeking direct feedback from those who access the program by devising methods to capture that feedback.

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

NA

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.

NA

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.

NA

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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 WIND Assistive Technology Advisory Council members who met and helped to develop the WATR plan include:

- Kendall Corbett, individual with a disability who uses mobility and other assistive technology
- George Garcia, individual with a developmental disability who uses assistive technology
- Kathy Emmons, Director of Workforce Services, Workforce Investment Board
- Alycia French, parent of a child with a disability who uses assistive technology
- Jackie Cornelius, person with a visual disability who uses assistive technology
- Trisha Mason, person with a disability who uses assistive technology
- Rick Skagen, parent of a child with a disability who uses assistive technology
- Ken Hoff, Executive Director, Wyoming Independent Living; person with a disability
- Jim McIntosh, Administrator, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Division; Board Member of Wyoming Workforce Investment Board
- Donna Thompson, Special Education Consultant and Director of Secondary Transition Coordinator, Wyoming Department of Education, Special Education Unit
- Gary Olson, Director of Services for the Visually Impaired, Wyoming Department of Education; person with a disability
- Ex-officio member: Keith Miller, Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities; guardian of two people with developmental disabilities who use assistive technology
- Ex-officio member: Sandy Root-Elledge, Assistive Technology Act Project Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities; parent of two children with developmental disabilities who use assistive technology

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

In compliance with the Assistive Technology Act as reauthorized in 2004, members of the WIND Assistive Technology Advisory Council were appointed by mid-February 2005. There were membership changes during the first year of the WATR project. One member, a secondary consumer of assistive technology, moved from the state and was replaced by Alycia French, also a secondary consumer of assistive technology. The representative for the Department of Education left that department and was replaced by Donna Thompson, the secondary transition council chairperson; she provides the council

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with the important perspective of transition. Kathy Emmons, Director of Workforce Services was appointed to the council in September 2005.

WIND held an Assistive Technology Advisory Council planning meeting during which WIND staff members suggested potential members. Some people were suggested based on their work throughout the state as self-advocates or parent/guardian advocates while others were named as representatives of State agencies or other entities. All names were given to the WIND Executive Director, who subsequently sent each of the potential members a letter of invitation to become a member of the council. All potential members agreed except one, for whom a replacement was appointed by the director of that state department. Once letters of acceptance were received the potential members were appointed and the WIND Assistive Technology Advisory Council was formed.

Prior to writing the initial state plan, the council had an introductory meeting on April 6, 2005 and then a two-day meeting on June 20 and 21, 2005 to discuss and provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to WIND for the planning and implementation of its Assistive Technology program components, the setting of measurable goals, and evaluation of activities carried out through the grant. Since the initiation of the program on October 1, 2005, three meetings have been held, two face-to-face meetings in November 2005 and May 2006 and an internet meeting in February 2005. Another meeting will be held prior to September 30, 2006.

Fifty-four percent of the members are solely on the council as individuals with disabilities who use AT or as a family member or guardian of such an individual. Of the entire council, including Ex-officio members, sixty-three percent of the council members are individuals with disabilities who use AT or a family member or guardian of such an individual.

The council determined that members will serve three year terms with the option for remaining on the council for a subsequent three year term. The council will meet no less than once every quarter with at least one of those being in person; other meetings will be held via teleconference. Council members determined that a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, both of those being people who are primary or secondary assistive technology consumers, would be named and serve a term of one year with the option of renewal for a second year. Council members determined that the council will listen to all voices, and then give general recommendations to the WATR program based on group consensus since the council, as outlined by the Assistive Technology Act as reauthorized in 2004, is an advisory council and not a governing body. New members will be nominated by existing or outgoing members with regard to the category of representation being vacated and a plan will later be devised so that the current members do not all vacate the council at the same time. The new Chairperson is Trisha Mason and Vice Chairperson is Alycia French.

As has been the case and will continue to be a part of all subsequent meetings, members will be provided with presentations and discussions about financing, past, current, and future activities, administrative updates, and information about assistive technology

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devices. In addition, invitations to trainings and demonstrations are and will continue to be extended to council members. Input will be sought about all reports and discussions and all advice will be considered as guiding instructions by the program staff.

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Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

The WATR program will provide Rehabilitation Services Administration with an amendment identifying Year 2 and Year 3 increase levels, once baseline for Year 1 has been established.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

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

Objectives for Device Loan and Demonstration Programs

Year 1 – N/A data collection not established.

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

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

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

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

Objectives for Device Loan and Demonstration Programs

Year 1 – N/A data collection not established.

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

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

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4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

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

Objectives for Device Loan and Demonstration Programs

Year 1 – N/A data collection not established.

Year 2 - Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.

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

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

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

Objectives for Device Loan and Demonstration Programs

Year 1 – N/A data collection not established.

Year 2 - Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.

Year 3 - Increase in percentage over year 2 (to be established later) of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed the device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

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

Objectives for State Financing Activities and Reutilization Programs

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Year 1 – N/A data collection not established.

Year 2 - Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices and services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

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

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

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

Objectives for State Financing Activities and Reutilization Programs

Year 1 – N/A data collection not established.

Year 2 - Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices and services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

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

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

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

Objectives for State Financing Activities and Reutilization Programs

Year 1 – N/A data collection not established.

Year 2 - Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices and services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

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

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

NA

Summary of Annual Objective Measures and To Be Determined (TBD) Increases

	Device Loan & Demo Programs			Financing & Recycling Programs		
	<i>Yr 1</i>	<i>Yr 2</i>	<i>Yr 3</i>	<i>Yr 1</i>	<i>Yr 2</i>	<i>Yr 3</i>
Education	N/A	Baseline	+TBD%	N/A	Baseline	+TBD%
Employment	N/A	Baseline	+TBD%	N/A	Baseline	+TBD%
Community Living	N/A	Baseline	+TBD%	N/A	Baseline	+TBD%
IT/Telecommunication	N/A	Baseline	+TBD%	NA	NA	NA

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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.

WIND is claiming comparable support and not including the state financing activities as part of the WATR. The other state level activities, recycling, loan center, and demonstration center, will be carried out by the WATR program.

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.

In order to provide a device reutilization program for Wyoming citizens, WATR is collaborating with the Kansas Tech Act project's ATMATCH.com, a nationwide, comprehensive auction site through which consumers and professionals may acquire or donate AT devices for reutilization.

The ATMATCH.com's website has recently been launched and offers several features. The users will have personal resource sections that are customizable and will automatically include links to the state's AFP and WATR. From this page, consumers can search for AT devices for purchase, look for donated items, or post AT devices for donation or sale.

The website captures information about each user, including the number of people registered within each state, the number of items registered for sale, and the number of devices that have been acquired by users. The data captured will be sent to WATR on a quarterly basis, which will allow WATR to report about the targeted population members who acquired or did not acquire AT devices as well as which targeted populations are or are not utilizing the website.

The use of ATMATCH.com is in many ways the ideal solution to the device reutilization problems in Wyoming. Given its large geographic size and small population, AT resources can be difficult to come by outside of the state Tech Act project. Because ATMATCH.com is a national auction site for device reutilization, consumers and professionals will have more variety and greater availability of AT than they otherwise might through a program operated only within Wyoming.

In order to create awareness of the website, WATR will perform targeted marketing of ATMATCH.com so that individuals, family members, and professionals in the domains of education, employment, and community living will learn about the existence of the website and how to access and use it.

In the domain of education, WATR will focus its marketing strategy on professional educators, including those in the area of early childhood education, K-12 education, and educators at community colleges, technical schools, and the University of Wyoming. WATR's marketing strategy with this population will include creating web links between

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WATR, ATMATCH.com, and entities such as the Wyoming Department of Education, Wyoming Child Development Centers, Wyoming community colleges, and Wyoming technical schools.

In the area of employment, WATR's marketing of ATMATCH.com will be directed at potential employees, small business employers, the University of Wyoming Human Resources Department, and employment counselors throughout the state. Web links between WATR, ATMATCH.com, and the Department of Workforce Services and the Division for Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) will be created to facilitate access to the ATMATCH.com site. WATR will also provide technical assistance to the staff of DVR offices to encourage the use of ATMATCH.com within the employment setting.

In the domain of community living, the marketing of ATMATCH.com will target independent living counselors, nursing home staff, social workers, case managers, and hospital discharge planners throughout the state. Web links will be created between WATR, ATMATCH.com, and Wyoming Independent Living Centers, hospice centers, and the children and adult developmental disability waiver providers and case managers.

Creating the web links to facilitate access is only the first step. Brochures have been developed to increase awareness of WATR and ATMATCH.com. These brochures were disseminated to education, employment, and community living professionals as well as individuals, service providers, and family members. During the second year, WATR will market ATMATCH.com to individuals and professionals at fairs, exhibitions, trainings, and conferences where assistive technology would be of interest.

WATR will also promote the use of ATMATCH.com in its device demonstrations, device loans, and AT trainings. This will target consumers, education, employment, and community living professionals and service providers, and family members in person, and will allow them the opportunity to access the site in person and ask questions with technical assistance being provided by the WATR professional. Targeted groups will be provided with an opportunity for hands-on experience with the website and the benefits of using ATMATCH.com to meet their AT device needs.

Because the success of ATMATCH.com will depend in part on the availability of AT items, WATR will encourage individuals and professionals within all target groups to donate or post items for sale as well as use the site for AT acquisition. WATR will also coordinate with Wyoming Independent Living and Rehabilitation to encourage the posting of items to ATMATCH.com and to seek out other possible sources of increasing ATMATCH.com's stock.

WATR intends to use the data collected by the website to determine trends in AT reutilization among Wyoming's professionals, consumers, and family members so that WATR gains a better understanding of the AT needs of the state. The data will also be used to determine the effectiveness of the marketing campaign and which group, if any, is not being reached by the current marketing efforts. Overall, the data will assist WATR in

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determining an effective course of marketing and if ATMATCH.com is meeting the device acquisition needs of Wyoming citizens.

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.

WATR will increase access to assistive technology by continuing the development of an AT device loan center and by doing so, will give consumers and professionals adequate information for making an informed decision regarding AT. Focuses for the loan center were determined from a variety of research: a statewide needs assessment as described in the state leadership activities attachment, consumer focus groups, and by looking at use patterns over the past ten years. The WIND AT Advisory Council helped WATR staff members develop priorities for the loan program and target populations beyond that required by the AT Act as amended in 2004.

The WATR device loan center is developing from the loan bank that is currently operated under the prior WIND assistive technology program. The device loan center offers 30-day loans to any Wyoming citizen who needs assistive technology with the option of extending the loan period. However, the WATR device loan center is beginning to emphasize the newly acquired Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices in addition to the range of other devices. Not only have AAC devices and information accounted for over one-third of inquiries to the prior program's loan bank and information and referral services, the Wyoming Department of Education, Wyoming Independent Living & Rehabilitation, Inc., and the Wyoming Division of Vocational Rehabilitation have asked for this to be the focus of loan center activities. Additionally, research was also done to ensure the availability of other types AT devices through other venues so that AT needs would not go unmet. By concentrating on AAC devices, the device loan center expects to be able to provide a higher quality and increased variety of the type of AT most requested by consumers and educational, employment, and community living specialists.

The device loan center will focus on serving the educational, employment, and community living needs of Wyoming professionals and consumers. The first year of the grant was dedicated to establishing the device loan center and enhancing the expertise of the program staff. In the second year of the grant, WATR will establish a baseline of data to determine the number of professional educators, employers and employment counselors, community living specialists, and hospital discharge planners who access the device loan center and as a result, were able to make a decision about AT.

To accomplish this goal in the education domain, informational materials regarding the device loan center will be developed and distributed to professional educators, therapists, related service providers, social workers, and counselors who serve persons across all age groups as well as to students and their families. The demonstration center will begin by targeting those educational districts with the most need as determined by the Assistive Technology Needs Assessment conducted in 2004 (see detailed description in the state leadership attachment). Eventually, the scope will become statewide.

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In addition to information dissemination, the device loan center will develop an education program about AT awareness, resources, services, equipment, and assessments with the goal of increasing people's ability to make an educational decision about AT. The device loan center expects to increase the percentage of education professionals who access the device loan center from year to year, and therefore to increase the percent of people who are capable of making a decision regarding AT for educational purposes.

The device loan center will address needs in the employment domain by targeting potential employees and their family members, employers, and employment counselors. Informational materials will be distributed to members of these targeted populations throughout the state regarding the WATR device loan center and pertinent collaborative efforts.

In addition to informational materials, the WATR device loan center will provide technical assistance to the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation offices so that the staff may become knowledgeable about the WATR device loan center and other WATR activities. WATR staff will start with the DVR office determined to have the most AT needs and then expand to include DVR offices across the state so as to enhance staff's capacity to provide AT assessments, implementations, and evaluations.

WATR will also develop and implement a strategy for introducing AT education and training about the WATR device loan center to members of Wyoming Corporate Partnerships. This is a program that's primary purpose is to build the capacity for and enhance career opportunities for people with disabilities by linking together or strengthening the links among potential employees, employers, and service providers in the communities. Technical assistance will be provided to employment counselors, individuals, and employers involved in the Wyoming Corporate Partnership programs about the device loan center and general AT knowledge.

The WATR device loan center will seek to increase the percent of access to the device loan center from year to year, thus increasing the percent of individuals who are able to obtain enough information on assistive technology to make a decision regarding AT for employment purposes.

In the domain of community living, the WATR device loan center will develop and disseminate informational materials about the device loan center and other services for community living specialists, nursing home staff, hospice counselors, and hospital discharge planners. WATR staff will also provide technical assistance to staff of Wyoming Independent Living and Rehabilitation, Inc. (WILR) on the device loan center and AT in general, starting with the office with the greatest need for AT information and training, and eventually spreading statewide. Hospital discharge planners, hospice workers, and nursing home staff members will be recruited to attend technical assistance and training sessions to further increase general awareness and knowledge of AT as well as the services provided by WATR.

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Through these efforts, WATR expects to increase the percent of individuals who access the device loan center and are thus able to make a decision regarding AT for community living purposes.

In order to monitor the effectiveness of the device loan center, AT trainings, and collaborations with other agencies, a data collection system will be set up to capture a variety of data. Such data will include the types of devices being loaned, who is borrowing them, and whether or not the interaction with the WATR device loan center proved helpful in allowing the individual to make a decision regarding AT. Data such as numbers and types of devices can be obtained at the point of contact, whereas follow-up calls to those who borrowed the devices will help to determine how helpful the loan was in making a decision regarding AT.

In addition to this information, the data will be analyzed regularly to detect trends, such as repeat borrowers, or whether a target group is not utilizing the device loan center as expected. This information will be used to make changes to the device loan center as necessary so that the services provided will continue to improve over time.

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.

There are extensive needs for AT device demonstrations throughout Wyoming. These needs were demonstrated by the results of the 2004 AT Needs Assessment and consumer focus groups (see state leadership attachment). The WIND AT Advisory Council suggested WATR develop a device demonstration program with two components. A device demonstration center will be established within the WATR offices. General assistive technology awareness demonstrations, what could be considered demonstration center outreach, will be presented throughout the state.

Device Demonstration Center

The device demonstration center has physical space within WIND on the first floor of the University of Wyoming's new College of Health Sciences building. This allows the center to benefit from pedestrian traffic in the building and for the WATR staff to coordinate demonstration center activities with other assistive technology education and training.

The objectives for the device demonstration center are consistent with the Assistive Technology Act of 2004, the advice of the advisory council, and are outlined in Long Term Goal 4. The prior assistive technology program at WIND focused on equipping the demonstration lab with a variety of devices and equipment for as many different types of disabilities as possible. This was successful in the early years to bring about awareness of assistive technology; however, by trying to meet so many expectations, the demonstration lab could not maintain its success.

There are other informal AT demonstration centers that focus on specific equipment. Wyoming Services for the Blind offers scanners, magnifiers, and other devices for people

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with visual disabilities. Similarly, the deaf community has numerous programs that meet the needs of that population. Wheelchair clinics are provided by the Wyoming Developmental Training School and are also available in Denver, Colorado and Salt Lake City, Utah. There has been little interest in the aids to daily living devices that have been in the prior WIND demonstration lab. Wyoming Independent Living & Rehabilitation, Inc. does supply aids to daily living from their statewide loan closets.

Based on these prior experiences, other equipment demonstrations that are available throughout the state, and advice from the advisory council, the WATR demonstration center will focus on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices. The Departments of Education as well as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Wyoming Independent Living & Rehabilitation, Inc. representatives all see this as a very high need in the domains of education, employment, and community living. Consumers have emphasized the need for AAC demonstrations and information. Also, AAC devices have been the most requested type of AT for loan and demonstration, and are the devices for which information is most often requested. The focus on AAC will provide the opportunity for WATR to be successful in increasing individuals' access to information about AT throughout the state. Access to information regarding other types of AT will remain available through WATR's information and referral services, which are available statewide.

All Wyoming residents will be welcomed to and served at the demonstration center. WIND used the first year of the program to increase the number of devices available for demonstration and enhance the staff expertise. During the second year of the grant, WATR will establish a baseline of data to determine the number of professional educators, employers and employment counselors, community living specialists, nursing home staff, and hospital discharge planners who access the device demonstration center and as a result, were able to make a decision about AT. Also in the first year, a brochure was created and disseminated throughout the state to individuals and professionals. Subsequent years will focus on marketing demonstrations to individuals in the geographic proximity of the University of Wyoming campus in Laramie or those who are willing to travel to Laramie. The university campus provides a location in which a variety of consumers and professionals can be targeted. To meet educational goals, the university offers early childhood, school-aged, and post-secondary programs and instruction. To meet employment goals, the demonstration center will target university human resources and potential employees. To meet community living goals, the demonstration center will target health care service professionals and students.

During the second year, WATR will target University of Wyoming faculty, staff, and students in several ways. Device and equipment demonstrations will be infused into education, health sciences, and social work courses. Open house demonstrations will be scheduled and promoted throughout the campus. WATR will develop demonstrations targeted for students with disabilities, with a focus on students who are transitioning into the university. Faculty and staff members from the university's disability support services as well as any of their student clients will be invited to attend. To address university employer and employee needs, targeted demonstrations will be developed and

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delivered the university's Human Resources Department's staff as well as opened to all interested faculty and staff members.

Education professionals will be targeted during the third year. Although all outreach efforts throughout the state will include the promotion of the demonstration center, early childhood, school-aged, and post-secondary educators from the area will be recruited to attend planned demonstrations.

Assistive Technology Demonstrations

The results of the 2005 WIND Assistive Technology Needs Assessment (see discussion in the state leadership attachment) indicate that education and employment professionals reported that most students and clients are receiving the assistive technology they need. However, the majority of respondents reported having little to no skills or knowledge about assistive technology. In focus groups with primary consumers, participants specifically suggested that WATR should provide: “. . . outreach instead of people with disabilities having to find [the assistive technology program], we find them” and “. . . presentations to schools to show them what's out there.” When asked what assistive technology needs existed in their communities and the state, participants responded, “Educators need more knowledge;” “Demonstrations of AT to wider audiences, not just special [education] and disability-focused groups;” “[people with disabilities] need to know what is current and available;” and “[general audiences] need more community demonstrations.” Based on these reports, the WIND AT Advisory Council suggested that WATR demonstrations focus on providing general assistive technology awareness to all audience types throughout the state.

The WIND AT Advisory Council members suggested that increased awareness about assistive technology is needed not only for the targeted populations but to general audiences throughout the state. From 1997 through 2003, WIND developed and completed a successful assistive technology recreation program, the Sports and Outdoor Accessible Recreation (SOAR) project. Project staff members worked with community organizations, companies, and recreation departments to implement accessible sports and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and received national recognition for the success of this project. Council members suggested that we help to promote the continued and renewed use of the community infrastructures that remain from SOAR: a ski area in the center of the state still has accessible equipment that is seldom used; a golf course in the Southeast corner of the state has an accessible golf cart; and staff members from a white water rafting company in the Northeast corner of the state have been trained to provide this experience to persons with developmental disabilities. Awareness of these options and others as well as awareness of the sports and recreational equipment that remain from the project will be part of statewide device demonstrations. Members also suggested WATR demonstrate some of the other recreational and sports equipment to participants in various state conferences, public health clinics, sporting events, and other large-audience gatherings. Among the many devices that remain are an adjustable gardening bench and several types of adaptive gardening tools, a bowling ramp with ball pusher and retractable-handled bowling ball, Braille playing cards, hand cycles, needle

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threaders, fishing pole holders, a sport wheelchair, and an adjustable height volleyball net.

WATR will provide demonstrations of recreational assistive technology devices to general as well as disability audiences to increase overall awareness about and interest in assistive technology among professionals and residents of Wyoming. The statewide disability conference, community health fairs, and University of Wyoming sports team fan club gatherings will be continually targeted throughout the three years of this plan with invitations and the dissemination of information. In addition, as frequently as appropriate, presentations and trainings about assistive technology will include demonstrations of the recreational or other devices that would be considered fun or participatory.

WATR will provide individual demonstrations of AT equipment and devices to help individuals make a decision about assistive technology. The Assistive Technology/Autism Specialist will coordinate multi-disciplinary teams to demonstrate devices as appropriate for individuals. The teams will consist of education, employment and community living specialists as well as Speech/Language Pathologists and Occupational and Physical Therapists.

The WATR device demonstration center will provide targeted population members with the information they need to will make a decision about assistive technology. The WATR device demonstration center will also increase awareness of assistive technology among Wyoming residents. The WATR device demonstration center will provide specific experiences with AAC for targeted and interested populations so that people can make decisions about assistive technology.

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Attachment 6: Comparable Support

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.

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) is claiming existing comparable support for the required state financing activities as described in the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 As Amended and therefore will not include the state financing activity as part of the WIND Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) project. The other state level activities, recycling, loan center, and demonstration center will be carried out by the WATR program.

WIND administers the existing Wyoming Technical Assistance Program (WYTAP) in accordance with the Title I and Title III program funding of the former Assistive Technology Act of 1998. On October 1, 2003 WIND was awarded \$167,769 in federal funds to be combined with \$55,923 in state matching funds and a \$40,000 contribution of Title I funds to establish the WYTAP. WYTAP partners with the Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation, Inc. (WILR) as the Community Based Organization (CBO) and the First Interstate Bank of Laramie as the financial institution making the loans. The project began on October 1, 2003 and is ongoing.

To date WYTAP is buying down the full interest on loans to individuals with disabilities or their families to obtain AT devices and/or services. With more than \$250,000 in capital with which to buy down the interest, this program should be solvent for many years in the future.

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

As stated above, the funding for this program comes from federal funding (\$167,769), state/private match (\$55,923), and contribution from the former Title I AT Act project (\$40,000) thus began with \$263,692 with which to establish the no/low interest AT loan program.

The following eligibility criteria are taken from the WYTAP Policy and Procedures Manual approved by the federal funding agency:

“The potential borrower must be a Wyoming resident or active duty military personnel stationed in Wyoming and a person with a disability or a family member or guardian of a person with a disability. This individual must have the legal capacity and/or ability to enter into a contractual relationship with the lending institution. He or she must demonstrate that a disability exists and the loan will be used to purchase AT devices and/or services/modifications.

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“Access to the AFP [Alternative Financing Program] shall be given to consumers regardless of type of disability, age, income level, location of residence in the state, or type of AT device or AT services for which financing is requested through the program....

“Loans may be used to purchase AT devices and services including, but not limited to:

- Computers and adaptive hardware/software
- Mobility items such as wheelchairs, scooters and walkers
- Environmental control devices such as voice activated appliance controls
- Augmentative communication devices
- Devices for activities of daily living
- Recreational/leisure items such as adaptive fishing equipment
- Modified vehicles
- Home modifications
- Used AT equipment
- Assessments
- Training on AT devices
- Device repair and warranties”

This program is currently marketed throughout the state and will benefit from also being marketed through the WATR programs and activities.

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.

Since WYTAP is already a program within WIND and overseen by the same staff members who will be working on the WATR program, coordination and collaboration will be ensured. WATR demonstrations, information and referrals, presentations, and trainings will include information about all assistive technology programs and services available, including loans available through the WYTAP program.

Coordination and collaboration is built into the former Title III program in that the lead agency (WIND) subcontracts with the Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation (WILR) to act as its Community-Based Organization to screen applications and to work directly with the lending partner, First Interstate Bank of Laramie, to process the loan applications. All three partners are ex-officio on the WYTAP Advisory Committee composed of a majority of persons with disabilities or family members of persons with disabilities who use AT.

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Attachment 7: State Flexibility

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

Wyoming is not choosing state flexibility for any state-level activity.

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

NA

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.

NA

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.

NA

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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.

A needs assessment was conducted through WIND by the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center in 2004-2005 to determine the degrees of awareness, understanding, use, and expertise that exist among Wyoming professionals who advise individuals about assistive technology. Seven hundred and thirty-two questionnaires were sent out to Child Development Center Directors, Special Educators, and Employment Counselors. With a forty-five percent return rate, seventy-seven percent reported having little to no knowledge of AT. Yet most reported they felt confident about recommending AT to meet client or student goals or needs, although most reported that AT is supplied due to client or family request and not through assessment avenues. Fifty-five percent requested general training about assistive technology that includes general awareness, use, and training.

Focus groups with primary consumers of AT were held in 2005 to gather consumer input about what might be needed from a statewide AT program. Participants identified AT as including “equipment, toys, software, wheelchairs, and things that enhance the lives of people who use it.” The consumers specifically requested more trainings and presentations about AT to consumers and professionals as well as more people trained who could do AT assessments. They reported wanting more outreach and marketing so that people who need to know about AT can easily find out about it. Participants mentioned that overall the state needs more general AT training as well as expertise for AT assessments and AT implementation and follow-up evaluations. Finally, several individuals offered stories about Wyoming residents who could benefit from AT but who could not find out about it or find the expertise to help them learn to use equipment they had purchased.

The needs assessment and the consumer focus groups indicated that there are statewide needs for AT expertise, awareness of benefits, training, technical assistance, assessments, implementation, and implementation evaluation. These findings corroborate the needs as described by administrators of the Wyoming Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Wyoming Department of Education, Special Education Unit, and Wyoming Independent Living & Rehabilitation, Inc.

WATR developed trainings about assistive technology for students, educators, professionals and individuals. Several of these trainings were successfully delivered during the first year of the program. Further trainings will be provided during subsequent years at which AT professionals provide conference-type presentations about the benefits of, access to, acquisition of, and assessment for AT to individuals, families, and

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professionals from the fields of health care, education, employment, and community living. Technical assistance will be provided in more explicit and targeted venues such as, but not limited to, school district professionals, that have the need to develop specific AT procedures or knowledge.

WATR added staff to the project with considerable knowledge about and experience with assistive technology. During the first year, the expertise of the WATR staff was enhanced to include state-of-the-art equipment and devices as well as extensive knowledge about Augmentative and Alternative Communication needs and devices. Considerable training was provided to all WATR staff members about augmentative and alternative communication devices. WATR will provide skills-development training in assessing the need for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services. WATR will provide training to ensure the appropriate application and use of assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible technology. WATR will provide technical assistance on integrating assistive technology into the development of and implementation of service plans. WATR will ensure comprehensive and statewide AT training and technical by providing education about the range of AT devices and by covering wide geographical areas throughout the state.

WATR will work with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide training and technical assistance that will increase the AT competencies of employment counselors in the areas of skills-development, assessments and implementation, and the integration of AT into service plans. Specifically, the administrator of DVR has requested that WATR provide trainings that would build employment counselor competencies workplace accommodations, AAC devices, and AT assessments. WATR will work with the WYCORN employment program at WIND to further increase the AT competencies of employers and potential employees throughout the state. Also in the area of employment, WATR will provide information and referrals at appropriate conferences and meetings. Through the training and technical assistance concentrations, WATR will provide increase the access to AT information as well as acquisition of AT equipment by people with disabilities for employment needs.

The Wyoming Department of Education, Special Education Unit administrator has requested assistance from WATR with the training of education professionals to enhance their capabilities to be knowledgeable about AT. WATR will provide trainings about the applications of AT to meet educational goals. In addition, focused technical assistance will be provided to Speech and Language Therapists and others in the education realm about AAC. This will not be to the exclusion of other AT devices; rather, this will be an initial area of concentration since there are few, if any, competencies for AAC assessment, implementation, and evaluation in Wyoming. These trainings and technical assistance offerings will increase the access to AT information as well as acquisition of AT equipment by people with disabilities for educational needs.

The Executive Director of Wyoming Independent Living and Rehabilitation has requested AT training and technical assistance for independent living counselors throughout the state to become more knowledgeable about AT. WATR will provide

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trainings about the applications of AT to meet independent living goals. In addition, focused technical assistance will be provided to about AAC. This will not be to the exclusion of other AT devices; rather, this will be an initial area of concentration since there are few, if any, competencies for AAC assessment, implementation, and evaluation in Wyoming. These trainings and technical assistance offerings will increase the access to AT information as well as acquisition of AT equipment by people with disabilities for community living needs.

Marketing will play an important role in soliciting the participation of individuals, family members, and professionals to meet employment, education, and community living goals. A marketing campaign or direct mail, flyers, and informational packets will be developed and distributed to people within these groups to announce local AT trainings, presentations, and demonstrations.

To comply with the requirement of addressing the needs of transition, WATR will produce a video series about the importance of AT during transitions. The WIND AT Advisory Council discussed this option and advised WATR staff that a video series would be more helpful than brochures. During the first year of the project, the initial video production, focusing on adult transitions, began. This video will be completed during the second year of the program. The second video of the series, preschool transition, will be initiated during the second year of the WATR project. The videos will each have interviews with individuals from Wyoming who use assistive technology about the importance of their devices during transitioning. The videos will be available to professionals as well as individuals and will be used by WATR staff for presentations, trainings, and demonstrations.

By working in collaboration with the Wyoming Department of Education, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Wyoming Independent Living & Rehabilitation, Inc., WATR will provide training and technical assistance to help people meet their education, employment, and community living goals.

One of the most frequently identified AT needs in Wyoming and a need for which many administrators have contacted WATR about meeting is AT assessments. Another state leadership activity that WATR is developing is the expertise and capacity to provide and then train others to provide multi-disciplinary AT assessments and implementation follow-up assessments. This expertise will be developed by the Assistive Technology/Autism Specialist, contracted Speech Language Pathologist and contracted Occupational and Physical Therapist who will train select WATR staff and potential assessment team members in identified geographic areas with high AT needs. During the first year, initial plans have been made for developing this capacity and staff expertise has been enhanced. Trained WATR staff and assessment teams will help train employment, community living, and education professionals to conduct AT assessments throughout the state. At that point, the professional expertise will be bought through the assessment program, thus lessening WATR's reliance on the highest-cost professionals over a long period of time. These activities will be conducted collaboratively with the Wyoming Department of Education, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the

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Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Developmental Disabilities and Wyoming Independent Living & Rehabilitation, agencies whose administrators have all contacted WIND to develop the capacity for statewide, multi-disciplinary AT assessments.

WATR developed a survey for Speech/Language Pathologists in the state and that survey is currently be administered. Pathologists are being asked about their need for assistive technology and augmentative and alternative communication information and training as well as their expertise. This will allow WATR staff to determine geographical areas to begin providing training and expertise that might be available to the project. Results of the survey will be disseminated to the WIND AT Advisory Committee and stakeholders.

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.

Public awareness activities were deemed by the WIND AT Advisory Council to be vital. The council and WIND staff determined that demonstrations should have two different focuses and that the public should have an information resource.

One set of demonstrations will be the WATR Demonstration Center as described in the state level activities section of this plan. These demonstrations will be financially supported by state level activities funds. Second will be the public demonstrations to provide information relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and cost of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services in order to increase general public awareness of AT. These will be financially supported by state leadership activities funds. During the first year of the program, WATR conducted several demonstrations and provided information at two conferences. In subsequent years, the number of demonstrations will increase significantly.

Along with the targeted audiences that would be interested in and benefit from AT to meet educational, employment, and community living goals and needs, the WIND AT Advisory Council determined that more residents and people with disabilities throughout the state need general AT information. It was suggested that the individuals and professionals over all population, regardless of their connection to disabilities, need to learn about AT and its availability and potential benefits. The WIND AT Advisory Council suggested that presentations be made to audiences at UW sporting events, conferences, health fairs, and appropriate public gatherings.

These general awareness demonstrations will be made through state leadership activities to increase overall awareness about AT throughout the state by introducing people to the concept and broad array of assistive technology. At the various venues, WATR staff will demonstrate recreation equipment and have information about all AT programs and services available. Many of the potential audience members may be learning about AT devices for the first time. This will allow them to see AT in a fun and friendly setting and

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then provide them with information about WATR and other statewide AT programs and services so that they will know how to access AT information or acquisition AT devices and services when they need to know about it for themselves or others.

The state level activities address targeted audiences for AAC information. These are described in the state levels attachment and are designed to address access goals for education, employment, and community living. As part of the state leadership activities, mailings and flyers will be distributed to wider audiences who may want to attend these targeted training activities.

To meet the AT informational and referral needs of Wyoming residents and professionals, WATR provides an information and referral service. The information collected from the years of that program was folded into a web site that is serviced through another program (Connect Wyoming) on the WIND website. It is crucial that Wyoming residents and professionals continue to have access to the information gathered: equipment and device, vendor, and price information. Therefore, as part of the state leadership activities, the WATR programs will continue to increase, update, and maintain the AT Resource information and referral website. The Connect Wyoming Project Coordinator will also be responsible for developing website links for the recycling program. Additionally, phone assistance that includes an 800 telephone number into the WATR program office will continue to be available for AT information and referral questions.

A brochure was created about WATR activities. This brochure was distributed to individuals, families, educators, community living specialists, and employment counselors. In subsequent years, WATR will distribute more brochures and develop communication information releases that will also be distributed. WATR state leadership activities will include public awareness activities that will increase the number of people in Wyoming who know about assistive technology. WATR state leadership activities will include general AT demonstrations and an information and referral service that can be accessed through a WIND website or by telephone, thus making it accessible to as many people as possible. Marketing through advertising, mailings, and flyers will increase public awareness of WATR activities and will direct Wyoming residents to the WATR information and referral service as well as WATR demonstrations and trainings.

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.

As discussed in several sections of this plan, WATR has very cooperative and collaborative relationships with state agencies and public entities. In addition, WIND has established relationships with family groups, individuals, disability groups, and service providers. Since there is currently no state funding for assistive technology, it will be

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crucial for WATR to establish even firmer relationships with all the public and private entities that have a stake in AT.

Initial discussions were held with the Wyoming Independent Living Center about coordinating all assistive technology loan bank item availability. Further collaborations for this will continue in subsequent years of the WATR program.

During the first year of the program, WATR coordinated with WIND staff to apply for and was awarded funding to initiate a state AgrAbility program. This program provides assistive technology assessments and implementations for families on Wyoming farms and ranches. This collaboration will allow expertise for the AgrAbility program to be available to the WATR program. Specifically, the AgrAbility program has contracted with a Rehabilitation Center that is located in the middle of the state to provide on-site assessments, implementation, and evaluations. In addition, the contracted Occupational Therapist for WATR will be available to provide consultation to the AgrAbility program through separate funding streams.

Also during the first year, the WATR Project Director met with the Wyoming Department of Education, Special Education Director to establish a clearinghouse of accessible text books in accordance with the NIMAS standards. These discussions have just been initiated; however, it is likely that WATR will play a major role in helping the Wyoming Department of Education meet these needs.

Further collaboration efforts during the first year include the WATR Project Director meeting with the Wyoming Department of Education, Special Education Director to develop the capacity to develop assistive technology trainings, assessments, and information specifically for school district personnel throughout the state. A proposal for this work will be submitted to the Wyoming Department of Education by the end of the first year of the WATR project.

WATR will continue to coordinate efforts with the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Wyoming Independent Living & Rehabilitation, Inc. WATR will provide trainings that enhance their staff capabilities but do not duplicate these agency efforts. WATR is already collaborating with these agencies to provide the statewide and comprehensive AT state leadership activities.

Some of the WIND AT Advisory Council members as well as other agency and organization administrators have already expressed interest in working with WATR staff to access funding for AT as a line item in the state budget. The WATR Project Director will work with agency and organization administrators to achieve this common and important goal. Initial discussions about proceeding to secure funding will take place in subsequent WIND AT Advisory Council meetings. Once a plan is formulated, action will be taken by those most appropriate for lobbying legislators and supported by WATR staff.

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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.

Wyoming is a vast area that is populated in pockets throughout the state; by census definition, the population is described as frontier and not even rural. Some of the prior AT Program's efforts were dedicated to provide training to groups that indicated a need. Although the trainings were well-received with high reported levels of satisfaction, a more targeted approach is needed so that WATR can help the most people with disabilities in Wyoming access and acquisition assistive technology. The enormous needs throughout the state for AT expertise, information, and training with few resources aside from WATR will ensure the commitment to and collaboration of public and private entities with WATR activities.

The Administrator of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Division (DVR) requested that WATR develop capacities to help meet DVR assistive technology needs. The Division is most in need of AAC devices for demonstration and trial as well as workplace assessments. The administrator requested that the WATR program help to build the capacity for employment counselors to be more knowledgeable about assistive technology devices, assessments, implementations, and evaluations. DVR is willing to enter into a fee-for-service contract with WIND for assessments and also for capacity building assistive technology trainings and technical assistance. WATR staff members have begun to develop and will continue to work to provide the trainings needed as well as demonstrations, loans and recycling that can help meet the access and acquisition needs of employers and potential employees and formalize a collaborative agreement with DVR.

WATR intends to collaborate with an ongoing employment program to increase access and acquisition of assistive technology. WIND has a grant through the Rehabilitation Services Administration entitled Wyoming Corporate Partnerships (WYCORP). The primary purpose of WYCORP is capacity building and enhancing career opportunities for people with disabilities by linking together or strengthening consumers, employers, and service providers in communities. Recent efforts involved creating Community Employment Opportunities (CEO) committees. People with disabilities learn about career opportunities, employers experience consumers on a first-hand basis and thereby discover the plentitude of myths associated with consumers, and service providers fine-tune their focus on both employer and consumer needs. Results of this approach have been impressive: from September 2004 to June 2005, over one hundred consumers have become employed in occupations of choice. As this program expands into other communities throughout the state, the WATR program will provide assistive technology technical assistance, loans, demonstrations, and education. This will allow employer, employees, and service providers to make assistive technology decisions and to acquire the assistive technology they need.

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The Wyoming Department of Education changed Superintendents and subsequently changed administrators of the Special Education Unit. Funding that was included in the line item budget for the 2005-2006 school year was not secured for assistive technology. However, discussions between the new Wyoming Director of Special Education and the WATR Project Director have determined three avenues that will be pursued in the upcoming year of the program. WATR will help to increase the expertise among school district personnel about assistive technology and about providing assessments, implementations, and evaluations. Also, WATR will increase the loan bank capacity to include items specifically requested by educators. Finally, WATR is investigating the possibility of becoming the state's clearinghouse for NIMAS standard materials. These three initiatives will be negotiated by the end of the first year of the WATR project.

Assistive technology was not included in the proposal for the next Wyoming Department of Education, Special Education Unit, State Improvement grant. This grant was mandated to focus on staff development. Administrators of the Special Education Unit did not elect to include assistive technology in this proposal.

Wyoming's current system for reimbursing school districts for the cost of special education remains at 100 percent. This allows WATR the opportunity to work directly with school districts to develop and enhance programs and services for student to improve access to and acquisition of assistive technology. WATR staff will pursue these opportunities during subsequent years of the program.

Wyoming Independent Living & Rehabilitation, Inc. (WILR) offices currently recycle some assistive technology devices and aids for daily living. The Executive Director of the Wyoming Independent Living & Rehabilitation, Inc. intends to collaborate with WATR to increase recycling through the ATMATCH.com assistive technology recycling web site for both posting and purchasing devices. WATR will work to formalize an agreement with WILR. Similar relationships with community hospice offices and hospital discharge planners will also be developed to coordinate and increase the use of the WATR recycling program.

Community public health offices will be contacted during the three years of this plan to coordinate assistive technology demonstrations with public health fairs. The WIND AT Advisory council suggested that the community health fairs draw large groups of people with differing demographic characteristics, are often held in areas of the state that are far from an urban center with resources, and can provide demonstration space for little or no charge. WATR will provide assistive technology awareness and device demonstrations at community health fairs to enhance access to and acquisition of AT by individuals with disabilities throughout the state.

The University of Wyoming is the state's only public, four-year, nationally accredited, comprehensive institution of higher education in Wyoming. As such, sports fans for the schools teams travel to Laramie on a regular basis. The WIND AT Advisory Council suggested that WATR coordinate with fan clubs and UW Athletics to provide assistive technology demonstrations to those attending these gatherings. This would provide an

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opportunity for WATR to increase assistive technology awareness and understanding among people who would represent the age, sex, race, and ethnic demographics of much of the state's population.

The Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities has requested that WATR develop the ability to provide fee-for-service assistive technology assessments to meet the statewide assistive technology employment and daily living needs, especially for employment and community living. In addition, the council hosts the state's annual Mega Conference, a conference for people with disabilities. WATR will develop the capacity for assessing assistive technology needs and for providing demonstrations and loans of assistive technology devices. WATR will be an active participant in the annual Mega conferences and will work to meet the AT needs of Wyoming's residents with developmental disabilities.

The Wyoming Department of Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities administers the Adult and Children's Long Term Care Waiver Program. Selecting and implementing assistive technology devices through this program has been cumbersome and inadequate since assistive technology assessments and AT expertise are minimally available in Wyoming. WATR staff has been asked to develop the capacity to provide fee-for-service assessments on behalf of clients who are on these waiver programs that is not tied to vendors or specific devices. In addition, WATR will provide targeted demonstrations and trainings for waiver service providers and case managers to increase their knowledge about assistive technology.

WIND was awarded funding to develop an Aging and Disability Resources Center, funded through a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the Administration on Aging. The purpose of this center is to provide seamless entry into coordinated long term care services that might include the reliance upon home care as opposed to nursing home care. Work on this project began on October 1, 2005 and two pilot centers will open by September 1, 2006. This provides WATR with an opportunity to include assistive technology information, referrals, and training when providing information about long term care.

During the first year of the project, WATR collaborated with five University of Wyoming, College of Engineering students to develop assistive technology for individuals in the state. Not only did the collaboration bring awareness about the senior design program to others in the state, this collaboration will allowed for individual needs to be met by students in Computer, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering. Collaboration with this project will continue in subsequent years.

The Connect Wyoming Project through WIND is a web-based database of human services information. This project serves as the website information and referral service for the WATR program. During the first year, programs and services have been identified and included in the website. In the second year of the program, this will be linked to other programs and state agencies to provide further information about assistive technology to individuals and professionals throughout the state.

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WIND also has outreach staff who can service and AT liaisons for the program. Although they have not received training about assistive technology, that will be provided in subsequent years. This will provide a WATR presence in each of Wyoming's geographic quadrants.

Specific state departmental, divisional, or private funding has not been allocated to the WATR program at this point. However, funding allocations will continue to be negotiated throughout the three years of this plan with a goal toward formalized agreements. Given the enormous needs for assistive technology in frontier Wyoming, the involvement of representatives from state and private entities on the WIND AT Advisory Council, the development groundwork that has been done in a short time for this plan, and minimal other funding for assistive technology, public and private entities will be collaborating with the WATR program to meet the AT needs of Wyoming residents. Collaborative efforts will increase the percentage of people who access and acquisition assistive technology through the WATR program.

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: WIND is the lead and implementing agency.

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).

Planning for the WATR program was largely directed by representatives of public and private entities through their participation as members of the WIND AT Advisory Council and directed by their organizations' and the state's needs. To determine an approach for WATR that would be effective in Wyoming and rooted in the legislation, advisory council members were asked to bring their knowledge about the assistive technology resources available throughout the state to the first meeting.

When members returned for the second meeting, they had many ideas about the scope of the WATR program and about the various directions it could take. Presentations were given about the state plan requirements, the results of the statewide assistive technology needs assessment and consumer focus groups, the comparative study of state AT programs that use mobile vans, and a comparative study of different types of recycling programs. Finally, considering a collaborative model with planning and implementation from public and private entities, WATR program ideas were planned so that corresponding goals could be written from the plans. The program parameters as presented in this state plan do not outline formal collaborations; however, there several collaborative undertakings, as outlined below, that will develop into formalized understandings.

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The WIND AT Advisory Council members have reviewed the goals and objectives and have not only given their endorsement of the plan but committed their associated agency's support of future activities. With quarterly meetings being the minimum required, the members will remain active in the ongoing development of the WATR programs and activities. Further, the members are interested stakeholders and plan to work cooperatively and collaboratively with WATR staff members to enhance the capacity for assistive technology expertise in Wyoming. The AT Advisory Council members are committed to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology to people in Wyoming.

During the first year of the program, council members have provided WATR staff with ongoing insight, feedback, and advice. Revisions to this plan to account for year one progress and subsequent year goals were also discussed with and approved by the council.

State: Wyoming

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).

Wyoming will not receive state support for any state-level activities.

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.

Wyoming will not receive state support for any state leadership activities.

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Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

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

For the University of Wyoming, WIND, and the WATR Program, the most effective way to track budget expenditures will be to maintain several separate budgets. For state level activities, Device Reutilization, Device Loan, and Device Demonstrations will each have a separate budget. For state level activities, separate budgets will be managed for training and technical assistance, coordination and collaboration, public relations, and transition. Since the WATR project is still initiating some activities and has spent the initial project year enhancing expertise and developing the loan and device centers, it is possible only to estimate where the money will likely be spent and for what. WATR will work with the University's Office of Sponsored Programs to set up these seven separate budgets. By tracking expenses over the second year, WATR will be able to determine which areas were over-budgeted for and which were under-budgeted. This will help to make budget adjustments and create a more accurate, effective budget in subsequent years.

Each budget will have the same possible line items: personnel, benefits, conferences and fees, travel, WIND AT Advisory Council expenses, supplies, and indirect costs. Since staff members will be following the state AT Plan to meet program goals, their time will be determined by the duties of their job descriptions. Each person will have an estimate percentage split calculated prior to the initiation of the program; staff members will track times without making that a major job duty; and considering a year-long average of time spent, budgets will be charged accordingly. The delineation of expenses to a specific activity and budget will be similar to how expenses at WIND are currently tracked among several different projects and programs; staff will be required to charge conference and fee costs, travel, and supplies to each of the specific AT budgets. Some supplies will be divided by estimated percentage splits similar to how personnel time will be estimated. Advisory Council expenses and indirect costs will be shared among the different activities and budgets.

WATR staff will be responsible for properly accounting for expenditures per budget. WIND accounting staff will oversee the budgeting and expenditure tracking. The University of Wyoming, Office of Sponsored Programs will oversee the seven different budgets for the University. As mentioned earlier, a review of the first year expenditures will be conducted to see what changes should be made for budgeting and expense tracking in subsequent years.

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

- This budget must:
 - (a) (i) show an allocation of at least 60 percent of funds to be used to carry out State-Level activities, or, in the case that the State exercises flexibility in

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accordance with section 4(e)(6) of the AT Act, at least 70 percent of funds to be used to carry out State-level activities;

(ii) show the distribution of funds used to carry out State-Level activities amongst the State-Level activities;

(b) (i) show an allocation of not more than 40 percent of funds are used to carry out State Leadership Activities as required under section 4(e)(3)(A) of the AT Act, or, in the case that the State exercises flexibility in accordance with section 4(e)(6) of the AT Act, that not more than 30 percent of funds are used to carry out State Leadership Activities;

(ii) show the distribution of funds used to carry out State-Leadership activities amongst the State Leadership activities;

(iii) show at least 5 percent of funds allocated for State Leadership Activities is used for Transition Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities as required under section 4(e)(3)(A) of the AT Act; and

(c) show an allocation of not more than 10 percent of the funds for indirect costs as required under section 4(e)(4) of the AT Act.

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

Proposed Amount Allocation	Distribution	Total Award	
		<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
State Level Activities:	60%	\$161,750	\$168,974
State Leadership Activities:	40%	\$107,833	\$112,649
Leadership Activities	95% (of 40%)	\$102,441	\$107,017
Transition	5% (of 40%)	\$ 5,392	\$ 5,632
Subtotal: Direct Costs – 90%		\$269,583	\$281,623
Indirect Costs – 10%		\$ 29,954	\$ 28,162
TOTAL		\$299,537	\$309,785

Within the above budget, WATR proposes to apportion funds for specific activities in the following manner:

State Level Activities

Device Reutilization Program	\$ 37,284	\$ 20,000
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Device Loan Program	\$ 39,479	\$ 41,574
Device Demonstration Program	\$ 84,987	\$107,400
State Leadership Activities		
Training and TA Activities	\$ 36,397	\$ 28,897
Public Awareness Activities	\$ 36,379	\$ 33,480
Coordination and Collaboration	\$ 29,665	\$ 44,640
Transition	\$ 5,392	\$ 5,632

From the line item budget, a framework for dividing the budget is formulated as mandated by the Act. Initially, the ten percent was dedicated to indirect costs. After that, the remaining ninety percent was divided into seven separate accounts, maintaining the sixty percent for state level activities and forty percent for state leadership activities.

The sixty percent sum dedicated to State-Level activities is divided into three separate budgets, one for each of the planned activities: device reutilization, device loan, and device demonstration. Likewise, the forty percent sum was divided into three separate budgets corresponding to training and technical assistance, public awareness, and coordinator and collaboration activities. Therefore, the splits will be managed as seven separate budgets, one each for Device Reutilization Program, Device Loan Program, Device Demonstration Program, Training and Technical Assistance, Public Awareness, Coordination and Collaboration, and Transition.