

CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

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ALLIANCE FOR TECHNOLOGY ACCESS (ATA)

JANUARY 30, 2007

– ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT OVERVIEWS –

Name of Organization	ALLIANCE FOR TECHNOLOGY ACCESS (ATA)
Name(s) of Principal(s) and Complete Titles	Mary Lester, Executive Director, (707) 778-3013, marylester@ataaccess.org
Contact Information	1304 Southpoint Blvd. Ste. 240, Petaluma, CA 94954, P (707) 778-3011, www.ATAccess.org
Name of Program or Project	1. “Assistive Technology Network (AT Network)” and 2. “Connections for All”
Geographic Location or Focus of Program or Project	The Alliance for Technology Access (ATA) is a national network of grassroots organizations, companies and individuals improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities through technology. ATA has a strong California presence with ATA headquarters and 67 members in the state. The “Assistive Technology Network” operates specifically in California.
Demographic Overview of Focus Community or Population	ATA’s focus is people with disabilities and functional limitations (of all ages and all abilities, including seniors who do not identify as having a disability).
Description of Program or Project	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Actions, Outcomes 	<p>1. “Assistive Technology Network (AT Network)” is a collaborative project with ATA and the CA Independent Living Centers and community-based organizations throughout the state. It is funded by the CA Department of Rehabilitation. The goal of the network is to make sure that people with disabilities have access to the information and resources they need to find the critical technology tools for employment, education, civic participation and independent living. These tools include universally designed technologies as well as assistive technologies designed for people with disabilities. ATA coordinates the AT Network and manages a toll-free information and referral line (in all languages), a website, a database of assistive technology service providers. ATA also conducts training (online and in person) for community-based organizations and service providers, and produces an e-newsletter for statewide distribution. A primary goal this year is expanding the network to include assistive technology centers, senior centers, family support organizations, Regional Centers, community technology centers, and more.</p> <p>2. “Connections for All” is a joint project between ATA and the Community Technology Centers’ Network (CTCNet) with funding from the AT&T Foundation under the AccessAll initiative. ATA and CTCNet are conducting training for</p>

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	<p>Community Technology Centers across the country and in CA to help them build their capacity to serve people with disabilities and functional limitations. The project is providing grants to selected CTCs to purchase assistive technology, conduct staff training, and make modifications to their programs and facilities to accommodate people with disabilities. This project builds on work that ATA has been doing in CA and nationwide for the last 8 years with CTCs to make sure that people with disabilities have opportunities to access and learn how to use the conventional, assistive and broadband technologies they need to live, learn, work and participate in their communities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brief History (when founded or launched) 	<p>ATA was created in 1987, as a joint project of the Disabled Children’s Computer Group (now the Center for Accessible Technology) and Apple Computer. It started with 11 community-based, consumer-directed assistive technology centers and 40 technology developers. It was and is an innovative collaboration of consumers with disabilities, families, teachers, service providers, employers and technology professionals. ATA was a pioneer in creating a virtual community using telecommunications, starting with a listserv in 1986 provided by Apple. In 1989, ATA was incorporated separately as a 501(c)(3) in California. The ATA network now consists of over 160 members.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Size or Magnitude of Program or Project 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of People Served, Involved, Impacted 	<p>Since inception, ATA has had an impact on the lives of millions of people with disabilities nationwide by providing support, information, and technology resources to consumers and their families, plus teachers, therapists and other service providers working with people with disabilities nationwide. In California, ATA’s work has involved well over a hundred community-based organizations and the people they serve with all types of disabilities from urban, rural and other underserved communities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget and Staff 	<p>ATA’s 2007 budget is \$784,000.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding Sources and Partners 	<p>Funding sources and partners include: foundations; corporations; government; partnerships with nonprofit organizations; individual donors; membership fees; revenues from publications; fees for service; etc.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results and Evidence of Success 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrics for Evaluation Progress 	<p>ATA measures the numbers of organizations and consumers served through information and referral services, visitors to the ATA web site, active participation on the ATA listserves, readers of the ATA book “Computer Resources for People with Disabilities (now in its 4th edition)” and the people visiting ATA Centers nationwide. ATA also measures the attendance at training events and collects evaluations from participants. The Connections for All project is employing an outside evaluator to measure the value of training and technical assistance provided as well as progress made by participating organizations.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results and Evidence of Success 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in Outcomes or Metrics Over Time (How long does it take to secure results?) 	<p>The technology universe in which ATA operates has changed dramatically since 1987. The growth of the assistive technology industry and advances in universal design and the accessibility of mainstream products means that people have far more options in terms of tools and are also inundated by information sources. Results are happening more quickly in many cases, but the challenge is still in finding the right information about the most appropriate tools and gaining access to them. The services provided through ATA, the AT Network and Connections for All are designed to assist people in navigating this constantly changing landscape of information and communication technologies so they do not get left further and further behind and have increasing opportunities to benefit from the deployment of advanced technologies.</p>