



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
400 NORTH STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120

October 2, 2017

GLADYS M. BROWN  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
Room 225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

In accordance with 35 P.S. § 6701.4(e),<sup>1</sup> the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) respectfully submits this Annual Report pursuant to the Universal Telecommunications and Print Media Access Act (UTPMAA), which relates to the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDD Program) and the Print Media Access System Program (PMAS Program, also known as “Newline”). The TDD Program and PMAS Program are operated by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) pursuant to Sections 6701.3 and 6701.3(a) of UTPMAA, respectively. 35 P.S. §§ 6701.3 and 6701.3(a). Both the TDD Program and the PMAS Program are currently funded by the Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS) surcharge. The Commission administers the TRS surcharge fund pursuant to Section 6701.4(c) of UTPMAA. 35 P.S. § 6701.4(c).

The attached report discusses the following aspects of the programs: 1) Calculation and Statement of the TRS surcharge level established pursuant to Section 6701.4(c); 2) TDD Program, account balances, revenues, disbursements, and expenses; 3) PMAS Program, account balances, revenues, disbursements, and expenses; 4) OVR reported information; and 5) Commission Conclusion. An electronic version of this report is available on the Commission’s website.<sup>2</sup>

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gladys M. Brown".

Gladys M. Brown  
Chairman

Enclosure

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<sup>1</sup> Section 5(e) of Act 34 of 1995, as amended by Act 174 of 2004.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility\\_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications\\_relay\\_service.aspx](http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications_relay_service.aspx), scroll down to “2017 Legislative Report on the TDD Program.”



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October 2, 2017

GLADYS M. BROWN  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Mike Stack  
Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania  
Room 200 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Lieutenant Governor Stack:

In accordance with 35 P.S. § 6701.4(e),<sup>1</sup> the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) respectfully submits this Annual Report pursuant to the Universal Telecommunications and Print Media Access Act (UTPMAA), which relates to the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDD Program) and the Print Media Access System Program (PMAS Program, also known as “Newsline”). The TDD Program and PMAS Program are operated by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) pursuant to Sections 6701.3 and 6701.3(a) of UTPMAA, respectively. 35 P.S. §§ 6701.3 and 6701.3(a). Both the TDD Program and the PMAS Program are currently funded by the Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS) surcharge. The Commission administers the TRS surcharge fund pursuant to Section 6701.4(c) of UTPMAA. 35 P.S. § 6701.4(c).

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Gladys M. Brown  
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Enclosure

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GLADYS M. BROWN  
CHAIRMAN

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

In accordance with 35 P.S. § 6701.4(e),<sup>1</sup> the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) respectfully submits this Annual Report pursuant to the Universal Telecommunications and Print Media Access Act (UTPMAA), which relates to the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDD Program) and the Print Media Access System Program (PMAS Program, also known as “Newsline”). The TDD Program and PMAS Program are operated by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) pursuant to Sections 6701.3 and 6701.3(a) of UTPMAA, respectively. 35 P.S. §§ 6701.3 and 6701.3(a). Both the TDD Program and the PMAS Program are currently funded by the Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS) surcharge. The Commission administers the TRS surcharge fund pursuant to Section 6701.4(c) of UTPMAA. 35 P.S. § 6701.4(c).

The attached report discusses the following aspects of the programs: 1) Calculation and Statement of the TRS surcharge level established pursuant to Section 6701.4(c); 2) TDD Program, account balances, revenues, disbursements, and expenses; 3) PMAS Program, account balances, revenues, disbursements, and expenses; 4) OVR reported information; and 5) Commission Conclusion. An electronic version of this report is available on the Commission’s website.<sup>2</sup>

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Chairman

Enclosure

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility\\_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications\\_relay\\_service.aspx](http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications_relay_service.aspx), scroll down to “2017 Legislative Report on the TDD Program.”

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
FISCAL STATUS AND OPERATIONS OF THE  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM  
AND  
THE PRINT MEDIA ACCESS SYSTEM PROGRAM**

**SUBMITTED BY  
THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**OCTOBER 1, 2017**

In compliance with Section 6701.4(e),<sup>1</sup> of the Universal Telecommunications and Print Media Access Act (UTPMAA),<sup>2</sup> the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission or PUC) respectfully submits this Annual Report<sup>3</sup> relating to the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDD Program) and the Print Media Access System Program (PMAS Program).

Both the TDD Program and the PMAS Program are currently funded by the Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS) surcharge.<sup>4</sup> The PMAS Program provides access to the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) reading service, known as “NFB Newsline.”

The TDD Program is operated by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Department of Labor and Industry (L&I), pursuant to Section 6701.3 of the UTPMAA. 35 P.S. § 6701.3. The PMAS Program is operated by the Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS), Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), in the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) pursuant to Section 6701.3(a) of the UTPMAA. Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT), Institute on Disabilities at Temple University (IDT), located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is the current TDD Program manager under contract to OVR. The Commission provides assistance to OVR, BBVS, and PIAT in accordance with the UTPMAA. The Commission administers the TRS Surcharge funds pursuant to Section 6701.4(c) of UTPMAA. 35 P.S. § 6701.4(c).

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<sup>1</sup> Section 5(e) of Act 34 of 1995, as amended by Act 174 of 2004.

<sup>2</sup> 35 P.S. §§ 6701.1 – 6701.4; Act 34 of 1995, as amended by Act 174 of 2004; (UTPMAA).

<sup>3</sup> An electronic version of this report is available on the Commission’s website:  
[http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility\\_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications\\_relay\\_service.aspx](http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications_relay_service.aspx); scroll down to “2017 Legislative Report on the TDD Program.”

<sup>4</sup> 35 P.S. § 6701.4(c) provides that the TDD Program *shall* be funded by the TRS surcharge and that the PMAS Program *may* be funded by the TRS surcharge. Initially, the PMAS Program was funded through special grants; however, beginning in July 2006, it has been funded entirely from the TRS surcharge funds.

On May 25, 2015, at Docket No. P-2015-2484229, OVR filed a petition with the Commission seeking funding from the TRS surcharge to fund a two-year wireless pilot program entitled “Wireless Expansion Initiative: Promoting Telecommunications Equity for People with Disabilities in Pennsylvania” (WEI Pilot). OVR believes the WEI Pilot will provide needed data for a potential expansion of the TDD Program involving the availability, distribution, and funding of adaptive wireless equipment devices to eligible end-users on a permanent and statewide basis consistent with applicable statutory law. By order entered July 8, 2015, the Commission granted the petition at Docket No. P-2015-2484229, allowing the WEI Pilot to proceed with funding from the TRS fund. On January 11, 2016, Temple University’s Institutional Review Board approved the Institute on Disabilities WEI Pilot.

On May 3, 2016, the first eligible individuals with disabilities received devices from the TDD Program WEI Pilot.

### **CALCULATION AND USE OF THE TRS SURCHARGE FUND FOR THE TDD PROGRAM AND THE PMAS PROGRAM**

The TRS surcharge rate is reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary based on the number of wireline telephone lines in service as of December 31 of the prior year and the combined expenses of the TRS, TDD Program, and the PMAS Program. Local exchange carriers (LECs) report their respective wireline access line counts by filing an Annual Access Line Summary Report with the Commission. Based on the total number of access lines submitted by the LECs and the estimated expenses and financial status of the TRS, TDD Program, and PMAS Program fund accounts, the Commission sets the residential and business monthly access line TRS surcharges. The current rate is set at \$0.08 per access line per month effective from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

35 P.S. § 6701.4(c) provides, in pertinent part, that:

(c) Additional use of [TRS] surcharge. – The Telecommunications Device Distribution Program shall be funded and the Print Media Access System program may be funded by the Telecommunication Relay Service Program surcharge, as calculated by the commission on an annual basis under the methodology established by the commission in order entered May 29, 1990, and July 9, 1990, at Docket Number M-00900239, and as subsequently modified by the commission.

The Commission calculates the TRS surcharge component for each program separately on a per wireline access line percentage basis. A copy of the Commission’s Opinion & Order entered June 27, 2017, at Docket No. M-2017-2582552, approving the TRS surcharge and TDD Program and PMAS Program allocation percentages of the surcharge rate, is attached as Public Utility Commission Attachment A.

### **TDD PROGRAM**

On April 10, 2017, OVR filed a budget with the Commission for the TDD Program for the ensuing year. The TDD Program budget for July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, as submitted by OVR, is \$349,899, as compared to \$347,148 for the budget year 2016-2017.

OVR's 2017-2018 budget proposal estimated that the costs for the TDD Program will be \$87,962 for equipment, \$169,137 for consumer education and outreach services and the WEI pilot program will be \$45,000 for wireless equipment and \$47,800 for wireless education and outreach. In addition, the budget calculations showed the quantity, unit cost, and total cost by type of telecommunications device.

**TDD Program Fund**  
For the period of July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017

<b>Beginning Balance on July 1, 2016</b>	<b>\$793,508.52</b>
TRs Surcharge net revenue	\$223,220.10
Earned net investment income	\$2,212.41
Distributed equipment costs	(\$74,506.12)
Consumer education and outreach	(\$253,152.51)
WEI pilot program (no revenue or expense)	(\$11,791.69)
Fiduciary fees (US Bank Institutional Trust & Custody)	(\$3,327.25)
<b>Ending Balance on June 30, 2017</b>	<b>\$676,163.46</b>

The TDD Program fund balance of \$676,163.46 has a sufficient surplus to provide for program elements and maintain an adequate cash flow reserve. The Commission has included 10 percent of the total TRS surcharge revenues to be allocated to the TDD Program Fund for the 2017-2018 TRS Surcharge recalculation year. (See Public Utility Commission Attachment A)

**PMAS PROGRAM**

On April 10, 2017, OVR, BBVS filed a budget with the Commission for the PMAS Program for the ensuing year. The PMAS Program budget for July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, as submitted by BBVS, is \$178,801, as compared to \$189,203 for the budget year 2016-2017. BBVS' 2017-2018 budget proposal estimated that the costs will include twenty-five participating newspapers, annual service fee, annual newspaper maintenance and distribution fee, Pennsylvania Specific Alerts service, marketing and outreach, and a one-year telecommunications subscription fee.

**PMAS Program Fund**  
For the period of July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017

<b>Beginning Balance on July 1, 2016</b>	<b>\$436,647.24</b>
Surcharge net revenue	\$223,001.25
Earned net investment income	\$1,578.29
NFB Newslines annual element costs	(\$168,282.25)
Fiduciary fees (US Bank Institutional Trust & Custody)	(\$2,340.28)
<b>Ending Balance at June 30, 2017</b>	<b>\$490,604.25</b>

The PMAS Program fund balance of \$490,604.25 has a sufficient surplus to provide for program elements and maintain an adequate cash flow reserve. The NFB Newslines invoice payment historically was made annually in October for the entire contract year. The BBVS now

has a quarterly invoice and payment arrangement with NFB Newsline. This new payment arrangement spreads the expense over the contract year which allows for a lower fund balance at the start of the year. The Commission has included 5 percent of the total TRS surcharge revenues to be allocated to the PMAS Program Fund for the 2017-2018 TRS Surcharge recalculation year. (See Public Utility Commission Attachment A)

### **OVR INFORMATION**

Pursuant to 35 P.S. § 6701.4(e)(2), OVR submitted to the Commission information on the TDD Program and the PMAS Program. The report submitted to the Commission by OVR is attached as Public Utility Commission Attachment B.

### **PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION CONCLUSION**

The Commission has been responsive to the needs of the residents of Pennsylvania who depend upon the TDD Program and the PMAS Program and is compliant with the directives of the UTPMAA. The Commission will continue to be attentive to OVR's implementation of the TDD Program and PMAS Program and the Commission's funding oversight and responsibilities relative to the TDD Program and PMAS Program.

The Commission, with the assistance of OVR, conducts an annual audit of the TDD Program and the PMAS Program. The objectives and scope of the audit are to determine that only qualified individuals received TDD Program equipment; that the consumer educator properly and accurately charged the fund for services provided; that only qualified bidders were awarded contracts through the RFP process; that equipment and service contractors properly invoiced the funds; and that all monies withdrawn from the TDD Program fund and PMAS Program fund were only used for qualifying TDD Program and PMAS Program services and equipment.

On July 8, 2015, at Docket No. D-2014-2406981, the Commission approved the release of the audit report of the TDD Program and PMAS Program activity for the two fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2012. This information was reported in the 2016 Legislative Report. The Bureau of Audits has not initiated the next audit of the programs.

### **ATTACHMENTS (2):**

**Public Utility Commission Attachment A:** Commission's Order Approving New Surcharge Rates

**Public Utility Commission Attachment B:** TDD Program Information Submitted by OVR and PMAS Program Information Submitted by OVR/BBVS

**PENNSYLVANIA  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265**

Public Meeting held May 18, 2017

**Commissioners Present:**

Gladys M. Brown, Chairman  
Andrew G. Place, Vice Chairman  
John F. Coleman, Jr., Joint Statement, dissenting  
Robert F. Powelson, Joint Statement, dissenting  
David W. Sweet

Recalculation of the Pennsylvania  
Telecommunications Relay Service Surcharge

M-2017-2582552  
M-00900239

**OPINION AND ORDER**

**BY THE COMMISSION:**

Before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) for consideration and disposition is the annual recalculation of the Pennsylvania Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS or Relay)<sup>1</sup> and surcharge funding mechanism (TRS surcharge) as it will apply to residential and business wireline access lines for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. This recalculation is made in accordance with our May 29, 1990 Order at Docket No. M-00900239 (*May 1990 Order*) and subsequent

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information on TRS may be found at [http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility\\_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications\\_relay\\_service.aspx](http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/telecommunications/telecommunications_relay_service.aspx).



Commission orders and legislation.<sup>2</sup> For the reasons stated herein, the monthly residential and monthly business access line surcharge will remain at \$0.08.

## **Background**

TRS provides telephone transmission services that allow for qualified persons with a hearing or visual impairment who require appropriate technology in order to access telecommunications services to communicate by wire or radio in a functionally equivalent manner as non-disabled persons. The Commission is charged with designing and implementing the TRS program to meet, at a minimum, the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 225 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. § 225 (*TA96*). In *TA96*, Congress addressed common carrier obligations to provide service to hearing or speech impaired individuals in compliance with federal mandates governing interstate and intrastate telecommunications and state certification that their programs comply with federal mandates.

In addition to providing equipment at no charge to qualified individuals that allows them to engage in telecommunications access on a functionally equivalent basis as non-impaired individuals, the program provides public education so that consumers are more familiar with, and can use, TRS to access the Public Switched Network (PSN), a network that provides telecommunications and broadband access, and other

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<sup>2</sup> See Act 34 of 1995, 35 P.S. §§ 6701.1 – 6701.4 (the statutory provisions were amended by Act 181 of 2002 to be more inclusive of persons with disabilities), establishing the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDDP) to be funded by the TRS surcharge and which codified Relay and use of the TRS surcharge funding mechanism; and Act 174 of 2004, 35 P.S. § 6701.3a, which established the Print Media Access System Program (PMASP). PMASP is a reading service for persons with certain vision-related physical disabilities. The law is now called the “Universal Telecommunications and Print Media Access Act” (UTPMAA).

telecommunications services. Currently the TRS surcharge funds three individual programs: Relay (TTY style, Speech-to-Speech, Spanish Relay, and Captioned Telephone Relay Service (CTRS)); TDDP; and the Wireless Equipment Initiative (WEI) two-year pilot program. Additionally, the surcharge funds the PMASP, the TRS Advisory Board activities, and Fund administration costs. Administration of the TRS program is tasked to the Executive Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) of the Department of Labor and Industry.

By statute the Commission is charged with annually calculating the TRS program surcharge based on an annual budget. The surcharge in its present form is assessed at \$0.08 per wireline residential and business access line per month, or generally \$0.96 per year for a typical residential customer. The annual TRS surcharge recalculation is dependent on data from several sources. Local Exchange Carriers (LECs)<sup>3</sup> submit annual wireline access line counts pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 63.37. The traditional relay provider, Hamilton Relay, Inc.,<sup>4</sup> submitted the estimated minutes of use and charges for July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. Hamilton Telephone Company d/b/a Hamilton Telecommunications submitted the estimated minutes-of-use report for CTRS. OVR submitted the 2017-2018 TDDP budget and the 2017-2018 PMASP budget.

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<sup>3</sup> LECs include both incumbent and competitive local exchange carriers.

<sup>4</sup> Hamilton Relay, Inc. (Hamilton) holds the TRS Certificate of Public Convenience to provide TRS throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Commission approved Hamilton's Application filed at A-2014-2447601 by order entered December 4, 2014.

U.S. Bank,<sup>5</sup> the Fund Administrator, provided a statement of the financial status of the Fund.<sup>6</sup>

## Discussion

### Surcharge for 2017 – 2018

As noted above, the WEI is a two-year pilot program. This program was initiated by an order of this Commission in *Petition of Department of Labor & Industry Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for a Proposed Pilot for Distribution of Telecommunications Relay Service Wireless Equipment to People with Disabilities in Pennsylvania, et al.*, Docket No. P-2015-2484229, *et al.* (Order entered July 8, 2015)(*July 2015 Order*), and pursuant to the UTPMAA. Because the UTPMAA includes communications service by wire or radio, we authorized this pilot to acknowledge the evolving landscape of telecommunications services from exclusively traditional landline based wireline facilities to multiple technology-based communications services, including but not limited to wireless and Voice over Internet Protocol services, and to test our need to further our obligations under federal and state law to provide services to the disabled under an increasingly changing technological construct.

Under the pilot WEI, we authorized the conduct and funding of a project designed to test the availability and use of wireless devices by a limited number of

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<sup>5</sup> As a result of mergers, acquisitions, and name changes, Fund administration has been handled by Hamilton Bank (1990), CoreStates Bank N.A. (1995), First Union National Bank (1999), Wachovia Bank, N.A. (2002), and U.S. Bank Institutional Trust & Custody (2006).

<sup>6</sup> Separate accounts are maintained for the portions of the surcharge allocated to Relay, TDDP, and PMASP. TRS Advisory Board expenses, CTRS, and outreach activities are funded from the Relay account; TRS Fund administration costs are drawn from each respective account.

eligible Pennsylvanians with disabilities for a limited period. Specifically this test involved the participation of thirty individuals in the first test year, and sixty in the second and final test year. The related wireless devices and education are supported from and distributed to eligible end-users through the existing TDDP. The first thirty eligible individuals received their wireless devices on May 3, 2016. Accordingly, the program will not have completed its two-year pilot until May of 2018.

Further, under the WEI pilot, we built in reporting requirements meant to assess the program. No later than eighteen months after the commencement of the WEI pilot, or by November 2017, the OVR is required to file an interim report with the Commission evaluating the pilot and making recommendations for actions to be taken at the end of the two-year pilot. Sixty days thereafter our Staff is required to submit a report to the Commission including its own recommendations and any recommendations proposed by the OVR on what, if any, action is appropriate.

The estimated and actual access lines assessed to support this TRS program, including the WEI pilot, have declined markedly from 2011 through 2016, from approximately 6.1 million as of December 31, 2011, to approximately 4.7 million 5 years later. Further, the current WEI is funded exclusively by wireline assessments with no contribution from the wireless providers who provide service to WEI consumers, an issue we recognized in authorizing the pilot but for which we then deferred, and continue to defer, action through at least the full conduct of the pilot.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> As we stated in our *July 2015 Order*: “Certain commenting parties have addressed issues pertaining to the future funding of TDDP wireless device availability on a permanent and statewide basis from the TRS Fund. We are fully cognizant of these issues but will not address them at this time. Rather, we will address them in due course in collaboration with OVR and Temple University [which serves as administrator of the TDDP on behalf of OVR].” *July 2015 Order* at 14.

Moreover, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has initiated a proposed rulemaking where it contemplates the shifting of certain federal TRS program costs associated with the Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service ((IP CTS) – currently considered a jurisdictionally interstate service even though it also has an intrastate component) to the states. Although the FCC has not yet acted on this proposed rulemaking, as recently as May 10, 2017, the FCC issued a Public Notice seeking comments on federal TRS-related rates, including the interstate/intrastate IP CTS. As long as this matter remains open before the FCC, there is a substantial risk for Pennsylvania that the FCC may effectuate a jurisdictional cost shift from the federal to the state level because of the observable growth in IP CTS use.<sup>8</sup>

Given the uncertainties that exist with respect to the nature of the program going forward, the desire to evaluate the carrier assessment pool, and potential cost changes at the federal level, we prefer to take a cautious approach today in setting the TRS surcharge for next year, and for that reason we shall make no change to the current \$0.08 per line per month charge. Retention of the current surcharge pending further resolution of these uncertainties ensures that the program will have sufficient resources to support whatever decisions we may make to WEI after the WEI pilot program has been completed, and that we are able to respond to potential significant cost increases to the program should the FCC ultimately allocate certain IP CTS costs currently borne by the federal TRS program to the states.

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<sup>8</sup> See *In re Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service, et al.*, CG Docket No. 13-24 *et al.*, (FCC Rel. August 26, 2013), Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, *slip op.* FCC 13-118, ¶¶ 131-40, at 62-65. See also FCC Public Notice, Rolka Loubé Associates Submits Payment Formulas and Funding Requirement for the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Services Fund for the 2017-18 Fund Year, CG Docket Nos. 03-123 & 10-51, DA 17-445, May 10, 2017, at 1, 4.

All TRS surcharge revenues shall continue to be remitted to the Fund Administrator.<sup>9</sup> Because the 2017-18 surcharge will remain at the same monthly rate of \$0.08 that was previously approved for the 2016-17 period for each residence and business access line, it will not be necessary for telephone companies to file tariff revisions or supplements as a result of today’s decision. Effective July 1, 2017, the monthly surcharge allocation for each fund account will be as follows:<sup>10</sup>

TRS Component	2017-2018 Percentage of Monthly Surcharge	
	<u>Residence</u> (%)	<u>Business</u> (%)
Relay	85.0	85.0
TDDP	10.0	10.0
PMASP	5.0	5.0
Total Percentage	100.0	100.0

### Operations for 2017 – 2018

We shall continue our active oversight of the operations of the Pennsylvania Telecommunications Relay Service. In accordance with 35 P.S. §§ 6701.3a & 4, we shall continue to collaborate with OVR and its TDDP administrator<sup>11</sup> to ensure adequate funding for distribution of TDDP equipment to qualified Pennsylvanians.

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<sup>9</sup> U.S. Bank Institutional Trust & Custody, Attn: Dina Buccieri, 50 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2000, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Remittances are payable to the “PA Relay Service Fund” and designated for Relay. Bank wire instructions can be found on the remittance form.

<sup>10</sup> The TRS surcharge appears as a single line item on customers’ bills but actually has three components (Relay, TDDP, and PMASP).

<sup>11</sup> Since January 1, 2007, the TDD program has been administered by Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology, Institute on Disabilities, Temple University.

Further, we shall continue to assist OVR in its mission to ensure adequate funding for PMASP.

### **Audits**

On July 7, 2015, the Commission's Bureau of Audits (Audits) issued the audit report for TDDP and PMASP covering the twelve-month periods ended June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2012, at Docket No. D-2014-2406981.

Audits has also completed the audit of the TRS Program (collection and disbursement of the TRS funds) for the twelve-month periods ended February 29, 2016, February 28, 2015, February 28, 2014, and February 28, 2013, and the audit report is in the final stages of preparation.

### **Service of Paper Copies**

In the past, our practice has been to serve the annual TRS surcharge recalculation order on every LEC in the Commonwealth, in addition to the service providers, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of Consumer Advocate, Office of Small Business Advocate, Pennsylvania Telephone Association, and the Fund Administrator. As proposed in the TRS Surcharge Recalculation order at Docket No M 2013-2341301, entered May 23, 2013, service of paper copies of the recalculation orders on the LECs will only henceforth be served if there is a change in the TRS surcharge or other provision in the order requiring that the LECs file a tariff change or take other action. As this order does not change the set surcharge rate or require any other tariff changes in response to this order, paper copies will not be served. Additionally, we will continue to publish the recalculation orders in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and on the Commission's website.

## Conclusion

We have completed the annual recalculation of the TRS Surcharge. The surcharge to be applied beginning July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, will remain at \$0.08 per month for residential and business access lines. We also note that paper copies of this order will not be served on the LECs as there is no change in the set surcharge rate or to impose new requirements on the LECs requiring tariff changes in response to this Order; **THEREFORE,**

### **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That for the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, the monthly TRS surcharge rate shall be \$0.08 for residence and business, unless we take further action to revise the TRS surcharge prior to June 30, 2018.

2. That all local exchange carriers are directed to use the attached blank form, which contains the new mailing address, to remit the monthly TRS surcharge collections to U.S. Bank, Institutional Trust & Custody. The entered Order and blank remittance form shall be posted to the PUC web site <http://www.puc.pa.gov>. All local exchange carriers are required to collect and remit the TRS surcharge revenue with the completed remittance form monthly by the 20th of each month.

3. That a copy of this Order be published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.



4. That a copy of this Order be posted to the Commission's website.

**BY THE COMMISSION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosemary Chiavetta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary Chiavetta  
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: May 18, 2017

ORDER ENTERED: June 27, 2017

**REMITTANCE FORM FOR MONTHLY TRS SURCHARGE COLLECTIONS**

Effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

M-2017-2582552

All local exchange carriers are required to collect and remit the TRS surcharge revenue monthly, by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month using the following format for the monthly remittance:

**Pennsylvania TRS Surcharge**

For the Month Ending \_\_\_\_\_

Number of **Residential** access lines \_\_\_\_\_  
X \$0.08 per line \_\_\_\_\_

Allocated:  
TRs Relay 85.0 percent \_\_\_\_\_  
TDDP 10.0 percent \_\_\_\_\_  
PMASP 5.0 percent \_\_\_\_\_

Number of **Business** access lines \_\_\_\_\_  
X \$0.08 per line \_\_\_\_\_

Allocated:  
TRs Relay 85.0 percent \_\_\_\_\_  
TDDP 10.0 percent \_\_\_\_\_  
PMASP 5.0 percent \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Remittance** \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **Pennsylvania TRS Fund**

<b>Mail Report and payment to:</b>	<b>Wire Instructions:</b>
U.S. Bank Institutional Trust & Custody Attn: Dina Buccieri 50 S. 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2000 Philadelphia, PA 19102	<b>BANK</b> U.S. Bank N.A <b>ADDRESS</b> 60 Livingston Avenue, St Paul MN 55107-2292 <b>ABA</b> 091 000 022 <b>BNF</b> ITC Depository South & East <b>ACCOUNT</b> 173 103 781 832 <b>OBI</b> PA Relay <b>ATTN:</b> Dina Buccieri

**Remittance for:**  
Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Utility Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Voice Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

*Authorized Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct any questions regarding the TRS Surcharge remittance to Mr. Eric Jeschke at (717) 783-3850 or [ejeschke@pa.gov](mailto:ejeschke@pa.gov).



August 15, 2016 ~~2017~~

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: **Docket Number M-2017-2582556**  
2017 Annual Legislative Report to the General Assembly

- Telecommunications Device Distribution Program (TDDP)
- Wireless Expansion Initiative
- Print Media Access System Program (PMASP)

Dear Ms. Chiavetta:

Attached is the information requested by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) for inclusion in the Annual Report to the Governor and Pennsylvania Legislature.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Howard Albrecht at (717) 783-3882 or [halbrecht@pa.gov](mailto:halbrecht@pa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David J. De Notaris".

David J. De Notaris, Executive Director  
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

JB

Attachments: Temple University TDDP Annual Report 2016-2017  
NFB Annual Newsline Report 2016-2017

cc: Kim Singleton, Temple University TDDP  
Lisa Troy, Temple University TDDP  
Eric Jeschke, PUC  
Joseph Strechay, BBVS Director  
Susan Neff, BBVS  
Jennifer Wertz  
Jill Moriconi, HGAC  
Temple University TDDP File - Year 2 (Document #400019493)  
National Federation of the Blind LOU File

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Department of Labor & Industry | Office of Vocational Rehabilitation | Executive Office  
1521 North Sixth Street | Harrisburg, PA 17102  
717-787-7312 | Fax: 717-772-1629  
[www.dli.state.pa.us](http://www.dli.state.pa.us)

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.  
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*

### Print Media Access System Program (PMASP)

NFB-NEWSLINE®, offered by the National Federation of the Blind, provides the Print Media Access System Program to those who cannot read regular newsprint. Anyone who cannot read conventional newsprint can qualify for this service that is free to its subscribers.

**This service is available in forty-six states and the District of Columbia, providing:**

1. 400 local and national newspapers
2. Spanish-language newspapers available to all subscribers
3. 61 magazines including AARP
4. Associated Press (National & State) and United Press newswire service updated every hour
5. The capability of delivering a newspaper via e-mail directly to a subscriber's Inbox
6. Local TV listings
7. Jobs Listings (Career Builder added in 2010, USA Jobs in 2016)
8. Retail ads (Target added in 2011, Walmart added in 2016)
9. Emergency weather alerts, including weather forecast
10. Available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week with local as well as toll-free access
11. Service is available on NFB-NEWSLINE® Mobile, iPhone app

Through the Commonwealth's partnership with NFB-NEWSLINE®, a subscriber can choose that day's, the previous day, or the previous Sunday's issue of any newspaper in the service and choose a section and article using a standard touch-tone telephone. Pennsylvania's participating newspapers provide the subscriber with access to all content when traveling throughout the United States.

**NFB-NEWSLINE® Pennsylvania participating newspapers include:**

- *Allentown Morning Call*
- *Altoona Mirror*
- *Bucks County Courier Times*
- *Butler Eagle*
- *Centre Daily Times*
- *Citizens' Voice*
- *Daily American*
- *Erie Times News*
- *Hanover Evening Sun*
- *Lebanon Daily News*
- *LNP Always Lancaster Online*
- *Patriot News*
- *Philadelphia Daily News*
- *Philadelphia Inquirer*
- *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
- *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*
- *Pocono Record*

- *Reading Eagle*
- *Times Tribune*
- *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*
- *Williamsport Sun Gazette*
- *York Dispatch*

As of June 30, 2017, there are 3,874 subscribers to this service throughout the Commonwealth. All customers of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Bureau of Blindness & Visual Services are offered the opportunity to subscribe to this service. In addition, individuals are offered the opportunity to subscribe when enrolling in the Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Program, administered by the Library of Congress and cooperating network libraries.

For the fourth year in a row, during the 2016 holiday season, NFB-NEWSLINE® presented circulars for a number of national chains, allowing subscribers to take advantage of holiday sales. The sales circulars of the additional twelve retailers were from Ace Hardware, Babies R Us, Toys R Us, Joann Fabrics, Lowes, Home Depot, Petco, Publix, Staples, Office Depot, Walgreens, and Kohls, in addition to the always available Target and Walmart retail ads. As with last year, the access to sales circulars for these retailers was very popular.

The system was programmed to provide articles based on search terms for both major candidates under a special 2016 Presidential Election section during the election. Additionally, NFB-NEWSLINE® provided transcripts of the three presidential debates, the vice-presidential debate, and materials from both major candidates' websites.



00- -M -F -TG -187-01  
0139315-00-00612-01

ACCOUNT NUMBER:  
PA RELAY SERVICE TDD FUND  
DOCKET NO. M-00900239

This statement is for the period from  
June 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017

000000444 02 SP 000638673821942 P

INSTITUTE ON DISABILITIES AT TEMPLE  
ATTN SANDRA MCNALLY  
1755 N 13TH ST STE 411  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19122-6011

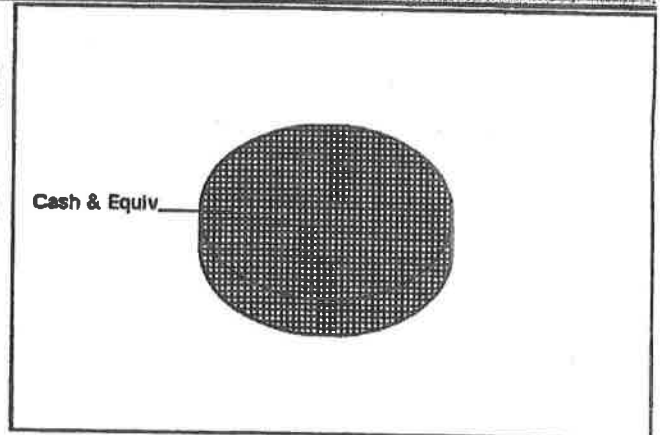
**QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions regarding  
your account or this statement, please  
contact your Account Manager.

**KAREN HUMPHREY**  
EX-DE-WDAW  
TWO LIBERTY PLACE  
50 SOUTH 16TH STREET, SUITE 2000  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19102  
Phone 302-576-3712  
E-mail karen.humphrey@usbank.com

**ASSET SUMMARY AS OF 06/30/17**

Assets	Current Period Market Value	% of Total	Est Annual Income
Cash & Equivalents	876,163.46	99.90	5,135.20
Accrued Income	419.81	.10	.00
<b>Total Market Value</b>	<b>\$676,583.27</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>\$5,135.20</b>



**ASSET DETAIL**

Shares or Face Amount	Security Description	Market Value/ Price	Tax Cost/ Unrealized Gain(Loss)	Yield at Market	Est Annual Inc/ Accrued Inc
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>					
<b>Cash/Money Market</b>					
876,163.460	Wells Fargo Treasury Plus Mm Inst 94975H286	876,163.46 1.0000	676,163.46 0.00	0.76	5,135.20 419.81
<b>Total Cash/Money Market</b>		<b>\$876,163.46</b>	<b>\$676,163.46</b> \$0.00		<b>\$5,135.20</b> <b>\$419.81</b>
<b>Total Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>		<b>\$876,163.46</b>	<b>\$676,163.46</b> \$0.00		<b>\$5,135.20</b> <b>\$419.81</b>



ACCOUNT NUMBER:  
PA RELAY SERVICE TDD FUND  
DOCKET NO. M-00900239

This statement is for the period from  
June 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017

### ASSET DETAIL (continued)

Shares or Face Amount	Security Description	Market Value/ Price	Tax Cost/ Unrealized Gain(Loss)	Yield at Market	Est Annual Inc/ Accrued Inc
<b>Total Assets</b>		\$676,163.46	\$676,163.46 \$ .00		\$5,135.20 \$419.81
<b>Accrued Income</b>		\$419.81	\$419.81		
<b>Grand Total</b>		\$676,583.27	\$676,583.27		

### ASSET DETAIL MESSAGES

Time of trade execution and trading party (if not disclosed) will be provided upon request.

Publicly traded assets are valued in accordance with market quotations or valuation methodologies from financial industry services believed by us to be reliable. Assets that are not publicly traded may be reflected at values from other external sources. Assets for which a current value is not available may be reflected at a previous value or as not valued, at par value, or at a nominal value. Values shown do not necessarily reflect prices at which assets could be bought or sold. Values are updated based on internal policy and may be updated less frequently than statement generation.

For further information, please contact your account manager or relationship manager.



**Activity Detail During the Period:  
July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017**

**Call Frequency: 4.38 minutes**

Our statistics indicate that a subscriber from Pennsylvania called into the NFB-NEWSLINE® telephone service every 4.38 minutes during FY2016.

**Content Access Frequency: 48 seconds**

Our statistics also indicate that a subscriber from Pennsylvania accessed NFB-NEWSLINE® to obtain a piece of information every 48 seconds during the year.

Category	First Quarter FY2016	Second Quarter FY2016	Third Quarter FY2016	Fourth Quarter FY2016	Year To Date (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016)
Users:	3684	3742	3,820	3874	3,874
New applications:	68	56	75	59	258
E-mail Newspapers Delivered:	28474	34510	38,353	38,103	139,440
Calls Received:	31832	29367	29,780	29,116	120,095
Web Accesses:	48,093	52,778	53,257	49,686	203,814
iDevice Accesses:	5,255	5,194	5,333	5,424	21,206
In Your Pocket Deliveries:	56,680	122,585	88,640	106,759	374,664
State Newspapers Accessed:	78968	90723	81,963	85,981	337,635
Television Listings Accessed:	6831	6866	6,942	6,241	26,880
Number of Minutes:	490442	446345	451,568	416,116	1,804,471
Local Call Percentage:	66.65	65.50	66.36	68.98	66.87



## Newspaper Usage Report

Please find below a chart containing the names of the Pennsylvania publications along with the number of times that they were accessed between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

Content Name	First Quarter FY2016	Second Quarter FY2016	Third Quarter FY2016	Fourth Quarter FY2016	Year To Date (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)
Local Weather and Emergency Alerts	7265	6322	6441	7554	27582
<i>Pennsylvania Local Channel</i>	323	474	391	301	1489
<i>Allentown Morning Call</i>	4181	4463	4450	5551	18645
<i>Altoona Mirror</i>	5281	2746	2075	2048	12150
<i>Associated Press Pennsylvania</i>	7637	10443	11029	10877	39986
<i>Bucks County Courier Times</i>	1662	1266	1453	1757	6138
<i>The Butler Eagle</i>	1212	1152	878	983	4225
<i>Centre Daily Times</i>	4386	3835	3540	4130	15891
<i>Citizens Voice</i>	566	783	901	740	2990
<i>Daily American</i>	NA	265	329	327	921
<i>Erie Times News</i>	7857	7034	6423	6462	27776
<i>Hanover Evening Sun</i>	1060	1695	758	579	4092
<i>LNP Always Lancaster Online</i>	3946	3829	3831	4197	15803
<i>Lebanon Daily News</i>	1613	2781	1837	1376	7607
<i>Patriot-News</i>	1858	1973	1329	1269	6429
<i>Philadelphia Daily News</i>	3808	4624	4158	5494	18084
<i>Philadelphia Grocery Ads</i>	2800	3037	4297	3641	13775
<i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i>	8307	11758	11054	12355	43474
<i>Pittsburgh Post-Gazette</i>	7054	9021	7923	8814	32812
<i>Pittsburgh Tribune Review</i>	9533	12710	9978	9974	42195
<i>Pocono Record</i>	215	282	175	126	798
<i>Reading Eagle</i>	1408	1476	1269	1510	5663
<i>Times Tribune</i>	417	446	481	335	1679
<i>Wilkes-Barre Times Leader</i>	653	1594	1145	938	4330
<i>Williamsport Sun Gazette</i>	2064	1734	1354	1165	6317
<i>York Dispatch</i>	1449	1776	1296	1333	5854

**Actual costs incurred during the period (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017) Please refer to the four quarterly invoices for this period for detail:**

**FEES**

**NFB-NEWSLINE® annual service fee for July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017: \$40,000**

**The Newspapers included with the annual service fee are:**

- *Philadelphia Inquirer*: Knight Ridder paper
- *Philadelphia Daily News*: Knight Ridder paper
- *Centre Daily Times*: Knight Ridder paper
- *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*: Knight Ridder paper
- *Hanover Evening Sun*: Media News Group paper
- *Lebanon Daily News*: Media News Group paper
- *York Dispatch*: Media News Group paper
- *LNP Lancaster Always Online*: Base paper
- *Patriot News*: Base paper

**Annual newspaper maintenance and distribution fee: \$68,332 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017).**

**This includes thirteen newspapers at \$5,000 each, plus the set-up fee and pro-rated fee for the Daily American which was added during the October-December 2016 quarter.**

1. *Allentown Morning Call*
2. *Altoona Mirror*
3. *Bucks County Courier Times*
4. *Butler Eagle*
5. *Citizens Voice*
6. *Daily American* (added during October-December 2016 quarter)
7. *Erie Times News*
8. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
9. *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*
10. *Pocono Record*
11. *Reading Eagle*
12. *Times Tribune*
13. *Williamsport Sun Gazette*

**Marketing and Outreach: \$45,000 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017).**

**Marketing and Outreach tasks will consist of the following: subscriber registration and follow-up, including the distribution of materials needed for instruction for new subscribers in print, Braille, or audio format; distribution of brochures and other promotional materials at community events and exhibits; and the staffing of a help desk to answer calls from subscribers and those requesting NFB-NEWSLINE® information and materials. Additionally, administration of the state specific channel for Pennsylvania and posting of items of interest to the blindness community in the commonwealth will be included in this fee.**

**1-year Pennsylvania telecommunications fee: \$11,803 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017).**

**A pro-rated fee assessed to each state based on usage for the contract period for NFB-NEWSLINE® telecommunications service.**

**Total invoice: \$165,135 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)**

Submitted by:

Scott A. White  
Director of Sponsored Technology Programs  
National Federation of the Blind  
[Swhite@nfb.org](mailto:Swhite@nfb.org)  
(410) 659-9314 extension 2231  
August 7, 2017

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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ACT 181-2002:  
TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM  
Docket Number M-2017-2582556

IN OVERSEEING THE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (TDDP), THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (OVR) REPORTS THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR ACTIVITIES BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017:

**Background:**

Act 181-2002 provided for the creation of the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program. The Act authorizes the collection of funds as calculated by the PA Public Utility Commission on an annual basis in order to pay for telecommunication equipment for eligible applicants. The Act identifies OVR in the Department of Labor and Industry as responsible for the oversight of the TDDP, but does not allow for administrative costs to be levied against the surcharge funds.

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, as designated by OVR, continues to administer the TDDP. Administrative activities are funded by OVR, with supplemental funds contributed by Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (federal dollars).

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TDDP:**

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania.
- Qualify as a person with a disability or disabilities that prevents him/her from making or receiving telephone calls independently. A licensed physician, audiologist, speech pathologist or a representative of a qualified state agency (e.g. OVR Counselor, Department of Human Services (DHS) or Social Security Case Worker) must certify the disability.
- Have current landline telephone service and be capable of using the requested device(s).
- Be six years of age or older.
- Have an individual (not including family/household income) gross income of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or less (currently \$24,120 per year for a single individual).

#### OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM:

- During the fiscal year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 the Institute on Disabilities provided the day-to-day operations of the TDDP. The Institute on Disabilities has a proven track record of providing assistive technology devices and services to Pennsylvanians with disabilities of all ages, as the lead agency for the implementation of the federal Assistive Technology Act in Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology [PIAT]) and since 2012, as the certifying entity in Pennsylvania for the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program, funded through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Telecommunications Act. The Institute also serves as OVR's contractor for the implementation of the state-funded program, Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library.
- The cross-disability Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) for Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology serves in an advisory capacity for the TDDP program. The ATAC is established by statute under the federal Assistive Technology Act.

#### APPLICATION FORMS:

- Applications are distributed by request through the US Mail, as well as through email and in person. Applications can also be downloaded from the Institute on Disabilities' website: <http://disabilities.temple.edu/tddp>. Applications are distributed through the statewide network of Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) and TDDP Volunteer Centers created by PIAT. During this program year the Institute on Disabilities/PIAT received and reviewed a total of 356 individual applications. Of these, a total of 300 were determined eligible, and 9 were determined ineligible or were withdrawn by applicant. As of June 30, 2017, eligibility determinations were still in process on approximately 9 incomplete applications and one application was in process. Also, 79 applicants who submitted incomplete applications and did not respond to repeated requests for information were marked inactive; this number included people from the end of the previous program year. An application is deemed inactive when the applicant does not respond to repeated contact attempts from TDDP to provide missing documentation or other information.

#### EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTED TO APPLICANTS:

- Equipment distributed to 375 eligible applicants between July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 is detailed in Attachment 1.

#### FUNDING:

- The market value of the TDDP fund as of June 30, 2017 was \$676,583.27 The US-Bank Account Summary for the period ending June 30, 2017 is attached and referenced as Attachment 2.

**VENDORS:**

- From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 the program used the following two (2) vendors to supply equipment for the TDDP:
  - Teltex, Inc., Kearney, MO
  - WCI - Weitbrecht Communications, Inc., Santa Monica, CA
- These vendors supplied equipment from the pre-approved list as well as devices approved through the Exceptions Process, as applicable. The agreements with these vendors extend until June 30, 2017.

In addition, 1 device was approved through the Exceptions process and supplied through Prentke Romich Company (PRC): GEWA TEL 200. An equipment price list is included in this report as Attachment 3.

Fund disbursements to vendors during the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 are as follows:

Teltex, Inc.	\$33,086.74
Wireless	\$48,369.96
WCI	\$5,054.00
Prentke Romich Company	\$1,135.00
Total vendor disbursements:	<u>\$87,645.70</u>

These disbursements also include payments for equipment ordered toward the end of the previous program year (July 1, 2016 -June 30, 2017).

**CONSUMER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:**

Subcontracts with eight regional Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs) to provide "local" activities related to consumer outreach, education and training began on July 1, 2017. In addition to coordinating statewide consumer education and outreach efforts, the Institute/PIAT serves as an ATRC for southeastern Pennsylvania. Between July 2016 and June 2017 Institute/PIAT staff (including but not limited to, the Consumer Educator), and ATRCs participated in 87 outreach activities, including 3 statewide events, held in 45 counties, and reaching over 6,709 Pennsylvanians. The list of activities is included in this report as Attachment 4.

Total fund disbursements (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.) to Temple University for Consumer Education and Outreach activities were \$105,811.05. This figure includes remaining amounts due for July 2015 to June 2016. These disbursements also include payments for the Wireless Expansion Initiative.

**CONTINUING AND EMERGING BARRIERS TO ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:**

- TDDP limitation on distributing cellular phones and wireless devices.

- Significant barrier to the program is the required certification of disability. Many consumers applying to the program are unable to get this form completed without a financial burden, as authorized "certifiers" (e.g. primary care physicians) may charge a fee to complete the form. Due to transportation or other barriers, consumers may not be able to travel to a "certifier" and when faced with these challenges, abandon the application process. Ultimately, changes to the enabling legislation may be required to allow other qualified providers, e.g. a relevant Pennsylvania-licensed professional, employee of a Center for Independent Living, or credentialed Assistive Technology Professionals (ATP) to provide disability certification.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017):

- All policies and procedures were reviewed.
- The application (attached) was revised, reformatted and reprinted to include new financial eligibility. The application was translated into Chinese (traditional) based on consumer demand. All routine correspondence (letters, follow-up postcards) used throughout the application process were translated into Chinese (traditional) and Spanish.
- A new ATRC region serving Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean and Potter counties was created and will be served by, Life and Independence for Today (LIFT). LIFT began serving as an ATRC on October 1, 2016.
- A competitive RFP for the Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC) region previously served by Good Shepherd Rehab Hospital was issued and the contract was awarded to the Arc of Luzerne County, effective January 3, 2017.
- Fifteen organizations joined as Volunteer Centers. There are currently 57 Volunteer Centers over 40 counties. Efforts continue to recruit new Volunteer Centers.
- During this program year, all of the recipients (23 consumers from 14 different counties) who requested assistance with their TDDP equipment received support from ATRCs. Of those consumers requesting assistance, 17 received help in-person. Altogether, over 20.5 hours of device support, in person and over the phone, were provided. All but 3 of the consumers receiving additional assistance said they had received enough support to be able to use the equipment on their own. Those 3 consumers were referred to the vendor for more assistance, and in one case the consumer also needed to contact his telephone company.
- Increased statewide outreach to the following underrepresented populations: Asian, Chinese and Latino.
- Satisfaction surveys were mailed to equipment recipients. Overall satisfaction rate is 98% (satisfied or highly satisfied).
- Articles were published in 5 newsletters. Press releases were sent to 11 newspapers, 2 local news stations and social media articles were posted to Facebook. Mailings

containing TDDP information were sent to senior centers, audiologists, providers, state legislators, and ATRC mailing lists. In total, these mailings and publications potentially reached nearly 194,189 Pennsylvanians.

- During this program year, recruitment began for Phase Two of the Wireless Pilot began on January 29, 2017, and closed in March 2017. A total of thirty-nine (39) individuals with cross-disabilities participated in the study. In addition, a partnership with Friendship Circle Center, located in Delaware County, was established to provide offsite training options for eligible wireless participants from that center.
- Wireless equipment orders for approved pilot participants during Phase-One and Phase-Two of the Wireless Pilot included: iPad Air 2, iPad Mini 4, Jitterbug Flip Phone, Jitterbug Smart Phone, Sesame Smart Phone, and Apple iPhone 7. Each participant was provided one device, along with a protective case and appropriate apps for telecommunication. Devices provided were "locked," that is, during the pilot users were not able to add unapproved apps to the device. All administrative functions (e.g. system and app updates) was managed remotely through the equipment administrator (Teltext).
- Wireless Pilot Phase-One participants have completed all four required surveys, in-person interviews, and the six month follow up evaluations with our research team. Two Wireless Pilot Phase-Two participants completed all four surveys and in-person interviews. A full report of the pilot study outcomes will be prepared by the research team and submitted to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) by November 3, 2017.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1 - Equipment July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
- Attachment 2 - Activity Summary Report (US Bank)
- Attachment 3 - Equipment Price List
- Attachment 4 - Outreach Events – July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
- Referenced Attachment - TDDP Application Form



## ATTACHMENT 1

1

### TDDP Equipment Ordered July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Device Name	Unit Price	Equipment Ordered	Value of Equipment Ordered
Amplified Large Button Phone HD-60J	\$85.00	7	\$595.00
Amplified Phone Clarity Alto	\$115.00	21	\$2,415.00
Amplified Phone Clarity Alto Plus	\$125.00	33	\$4,125.00
Amplified Talking, Ameriphone Dialogue JV35	\$ 80.00	16	\$1,280.00
Amplified Photo Phone HD-40P	\$40.00	3	\$120.00
Captioned Telephone Model 840	\$90.25	34	\$3,068.50
Captioned Telephone Model 840i	\$90.25	6	\$541.50
Captioned Telephone Model 880i	\$90.25	8	\$722.00
Captioned Telephone Model 2400i	90.25	8	\$722.00
Clarity XLC2 Amplified Cordless Phone	\$92.00	21	\$1,932.00
Geemarc BDP4000	\$130.68	13	\$1,698.84
Serene Innovations CL60A	\$113.90	91	\$10,364.90
Clarity BT914 Amplified Cordless Phone /w Bluetooth	\$98.00	2	\$196.00
Serene Innovations RCX1000	\$425.00	6	\$2,550.00
Hearing Carryover TTY, Q90D/w speakers (1)	\$100.00	2	\$200.00
Loud Ring Signaler-Crystal Tone Ringer	\$35.00	1	\$35.00
Clearsounds CR200 Ringer	\$39.00	40	\$1,560.00
Reizen Big Button Phone Speakerphone	\$25.00	8	\$200.00
Sonic Alert TR75VR Flashing Light Signaler	\$30.00	26	\$780.00
TTY Superprint 4425	\$350.00	4	\$1,400.00
VCO TTY, Uniphone 1140	\$210.00	5	\$1,050.00
Vibrating Signaler, Omnipage Kit	\$125.00	7	\$875.00
Voice Activated Dialer, AblePhone 5000	\$175.00	9	\$1,575.00
Lapel Microphone	\$45.00	3	\$135.00
<b>Exceptions Equipment</b>			
GEWA TEL 100	\$1,135.00	1	\$1,135.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>375</b>	<b>\$39,275.74</b>

(1) Discontinued by manufacturer and removed from program 1/15/17

**TDDP Wireless Equipment Ordered  
April 2016**

<b>Invoice Date</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
4/27/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,150.00	1.00	\$1,150.00
4/27/2016	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
4/27/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,170.00	1.00	\$1,170.00
4/27/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,150.00	1.00	\$1,150.00
4/27/2016	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
4/27/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,150.00	1.00	\$1,150.00
4/27/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,150.00	1.00	\$1,150.00
4/27/2016	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
4/27/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,150.00	1.00	\$1,150.00
4/27/2016	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
4/27/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,170.00	1.00	\$1,170.00
4/27/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,150.00	1.00	\$1,150.00
4/27/2016	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
4/27/2016	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
4/27/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,150.00	1.00	\$1,150.00
4/28/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,170.00	1.00	\$1,170.00
4/28/2016	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
4/28/2016	iPad Air 2	\$1,170.00	1.00	\$1,170.00
4/28/2016	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$13,010.00</b>

January 2017				
Invoice Date	Item Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount
1/25/2017	iPhone 7 Plus	\$1,540.00	1.00	\$1,540.00
1/25/2017	iPhone 7 Plus	\$1,520.00	1.00	\$1,520.00
1/25/2017	Specialty Apps	\$119.99	1.00	\$119.99
1/25/2017	iPhone 7 Plus	\$1,370.00	1.00	\$1,370.00
1/26/2017	iPhone 7 Plus	\$1,540.00	1.00	\$1,540.00
1/26/2017	iPhone 7 Plus	\$1,540.00	1.00	\$1,540.00
1/26/2017	iPhone 7 Plus	\$1,540.00	1.00	\$1,540.00
1/26/2017	iPhone 7	\$1,370.00	1.00	\$1,370.00
1/26/2017	iPhone 7 Plus	\$1,520.00	1.00	\$1,520.00
1/26/2017	iPad Mini 4	\$1,180.00	1.00	\$1,180.00
1/26/2017	Specialty Apps	\$299.99	1.00	\$299.99
1/26/2017	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
1/26/2017	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
1/26/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,180.00	1.00	\$1,180.00
1/26/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,180.00	1.00	\$1,180.00
1/26/2017	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
1/26/2017	Specialty Apps	\$299.99	1.00	\$299.99
1/31/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,070.00	1.00	\$1,070.00
1/31/2017	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
1/31/2017	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
1/31/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,050.00	1.00	\$1,050.00
1/31/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,180.00	1.00	\$1,180.00
1/31/2017	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
1/31/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,050.00	1.00	\$1,050.00
1/31/2017	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
1/31/2017	Apple Ear Pods	\$35.00	1.00	\$35.00
1/31/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,050.00	1.00	\$1,050.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$21,879.97</b>

March 2017				
Invoice Date	Item Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount
3/9/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,050.00	1.00	\$1,050.00
3/9/2017	iPad Mini 4	\$1,050.00	1.00	\$1,050.00
3/16/2017	Google Nexus 5X	\$1,400.00	1.00	\$1,400.00
3/16/2017	Sesame Mounting Kit	\$250.00	1.00	\$250.00
3/16/2017	iPhone 7	\$1,350.00	1.00	\$1,350.00
3/16/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,180.00	1.00	\$1,180.00
3/16/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,180.00	1.00	\$1,180.00
3/17/2017	Specialty Apps	\$299.99	1.00	\$299.99
3/22/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,200.00	1.00	\$1,200.00
3/22/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,070.00	1.00	\$1,070.00
3/22/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,180.00	1.00	\$1,180.00
3/22/2017	iPad Air 2	\$1,180.00	1.00	\$1,180.00
3/22/2017	iPad Mini 4	\$1,070.00	1.00	\$1,070.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$13,459.99</b>

May 2017				
Invoice Date	Item Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount
5/17/2017	Specialty Apps	\$20.00	1.00	\$20.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$20.00</b>

**WIRELESS EQUIPMENT  
GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL  
EQUIPMENT**

**\$48,369.96**

**\$87,645.70**

### ATTACHMENT 3

#### Equipment Price List July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Device Name	Unit Price
Amplified Large Button Phone-HD-60J	\$85.00
Amplified Phone Clarity Alto	\$115.00
Amplified Phone Clarity Alto Plus	\$125.00
Amplified Talking, Ameriphone Dialogue JV35	\$ 80.00
Amplified Photo Phone HD-40P	\$40.00
Captioned Telephone Model 840	\$90.25
Captioned Telephone Model 840i	\$90.25
Captioned Telephone Model 880i	\$90.25
Captioned Telephone Model 2400i	90.25
Clarity XLC2 Amplified Cordless Phone	\$92.00
Geemarc BDP4000	\$130.68
Serene Innovations Cordless Phone CL60A	\$113.90
Clarity BT914 Amplified Cordless Phone w/ Bluetooth	\$98.00
Serene Innovations RCX1000	\$425.00
Voice Activated Dialer, Able Phone 5000	\$175.00
Hearing Carryover TTY, Q90D/w speakers (1)	\$100.00
TTY Superprint 4425	\$350.00
VCO TTY, Uniphone 1140	\$210.00
Reizen Big Button Phone Speakerphone	\$25.00
Sonic Alert TR75VR Flashing Light Signaler	\$30.00
Lapel Microphone	\$45.00
Loud Ring Signaler-Crystal Tone Ringer (2)	\$35.00
Clearsounds CR200 Ringer	\$39.00
Vibrating Signaler, Omnipage Kit	\$125.00
<b>Exceptions Equipment</b>	
GEWA TEL 100	\$1,135.00

(1)Discontinued by manufacturer and removed from program 1/15/17

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**TDDP Consumer Education and Outreach Events**  
**July 1 2016 –June 30, 2017**

Type of Consumer Outreach Event (ATRC)	Date(s) Held	Event Name / Sponsor	Estimated Attendance	County of Event
Presentation (TRIPIL)	7/6/2016	Jefferson Senior Center. Satellite Office	42	Greene
Presentation (TRIPIL)	7/11/2016	Boswell Senior Center	40	Somerset
Presentation (TRIPIL)	7/19/2016	Carmichaels Activity Center	19	Green
Presentation (CLASS)	7/25/2016	Holocaust Survivors Meeting	23	Allegheny
Presentation (PIAT)	7/25/2016	ACES Presentation	16	Philadelphia
Exhibit (UCP Central)	7/29/2016	Disability Empowerment Center	85	Lancaster
Exhibit (UCP Central)	8/3/2016	Senior Expo	350	Wyoming
Presentation (TRIPIL)	8/3/2016	Canon House	26	Washington
Presentation (TRIPIL)	8/9/2016	Bobtown Satellite	20	Greene
Presentation (CLASS)	8/10/2016	Parker Senior Center	18	Armstrong
Presentation (PIAT)	8/30/2016	Friendship Circle Senior Center	20	Delaware
Exhibit (UCP NE PA)	8/31/2016	Wyoming County Active Aging Day Care	125	Wyoming
Exhibit (UCP NE PA)	9/2/2016	Pike County Senior Expo	375	Pike
Presentation (UCP NE PA)	9/12/2016	Quality Employment Services & Training	26	Lebanon
Presentation (PIAT)	9/12/2016	Hearing Loss Association of America Philadelphia Chapter (HLAA-PA)	15	Montgomery
Presentation (PIAT)	9/13/2016	Philadelphia Corporation of Aging (PCA)	100	Philadelphia
Presentation (PIAT)	9/15/2016	Everyday Lives	30	Dauphin

Type of Consumer Outreach Event (ATRC)	Date(s) Held	Event Name / Sponsor	Estimated Attendance	County
Presentation (CLASS)	9/16/2016	South Greengate Commons	12	Westmoreland
Exhibit (RTF)	10/5/2016	Riverwood's Health Fair	200	Union
Exhibit (PIAT)	10/6/2016	NHS Health Fair	150	Montgomery
Presentation (UCP Central)	10/6/2016	Homewood at Plum Creek	38	York
Exhibit (UCP NE. PA)	10/6/2016	Falls Active Living	35	Wyoming
Presentation (TRIPIL)	10/7/2016	Greene County Senior Expo	147	Greene
Exhibit (LIFT)	10/7/2016	Martin Causer Expo	206	Potter
Exhibit (PIAT)	10/9/2016	Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Walk 4 Hearing	300	Philadelphia
Exhibit (RTF)	10/11/2016	Prep for Success	30	Lycoming
Exhibit (PIAT)	10/15/2016	Health Fair and Family Festival	300	Philadelphia
Presentation (UCP NE PA)	10/19/2016	Warren Senior Center	18	Bradford
Exhibit (RTF)	10/20/2016	HCQU Danville Health and Wellness Fair	130	Montour
Presentation (TRIPIL)	10/21/2016	Rep. Tim Mahoney Senior Veteran's Fair	107	Fayette
Presentation (LIFT)	10/26/2016	Pitt Bradford – Promoting Partnerships for Successful Transition to Adulthood	22	McKean
Exhibit (UCP NE PA)	10/27/2016	Wayne County Ladore Senior Expo	150	Wayne
Exhibit (UCP Central)	11/2/2016	Hearing Loss Expo (statewide)	150	Cumberland
Exhibit (UCP Central)	11/3/2016	Hearing Loss Expo	225	Cumberland
Exhibit (RTF)	11/4/2016	Fall Festival	84	Lycoming
Exhibit (LIFT)	11/9/2016	OVR DuBois – AT Awareness Day	57	Clearfield

Exhibit (PIAT)	11/13/2016	Saint Andrews Health Fair	75	Delaware
Exhibit (PIAT)	11/14/2016	Temple University Expo	30	Philadelphia
Presentation (UCP NE PA)	11/16/2016	Heritage Point	6	Pike
Presentation (GSRH)	11/17/2016	Luzerne County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Group	85	Luzerne
Exhibit (PIAT)	11/19/2016	Philadelphia Black Clergy Health & Resource Fair (underserved group)	250	Philadelphia
Presentation (LIFT)	11/22/2016	LIFT AT Open House	62	Elk
Exhibit (PIAT)	11/26/2016	Aramingo Adult Day Care Meet & Greet (underrepresented group)	50	Philadelphia
Exhibit (PIAT)	12/01/2016	Philadelphia Corporation of Aging (PCA) Triple Advisory Meeting	150	Philadelphia (multicultural)
Presentation (TRIPIL)	1/5/2017	Bullskin Senior Center	44	Fayette
Presentation (CLASS)	1/11/2017	DON TBI Support Group	15	Lawrence
Exhibit (LIFT)	1/18/2017	McKean County Veterans	100	McKean
Presentation (TRIPIL)	2/2/2017	Republic Senior Center	11	Fayette
Presentation (CLASS)	2/6/2017	Nazareth Senior High-rise	7	Allegheny
Presentation (PIAT)	2/8/2017	Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Chester Chapter	13	Chester
Presentation (CLASS)	2/10/2017	Sweetbriar High-rise	11	Allegheny
Presentation (PIAT)	2/15/2017	The Community at Rockhill	7	Bucks
Exhibit (LIFT)	2/18/2017	St. Mary's Business Expo	65	Jefferson
Presentation (TRIPIL)	2/21/2017	Uniontown Adult Recreation Center	21	Fayette
Exhibit (RTF)	2/22/2017	CILNCP/ TDDP device and info table	20	Lycoming
Exhibit (RTF)	2/24/2017	CILNCP/ TDDP Info and device table	20	Lycoming



Type of Consumer Outreach Event (ATRC)	Date(s) Held	Event Name / Sponsor	Estimated Attendance	County of Event
Presentation (TRIPIL)	3/8/2016	Brownfield Community Center	22	Fayette
Exhibit (RTF)	3/9/2017	CILNCP/ TDDP info and device table	30	Lycoming
Presentation (TRIPIL)	3/9/2017	Southern Blair Senior Center	26	Blair
Exhibit (PIAT)	3/11/2017	Pennsylvania School for the Deaf	150	Philadelphia
Presentation (CLASS)	3/17/2017	Area Agency on Aging (AAA)	22	Butler
Presentation (PIAT)	3/24/2017	Foster Grandparent Program	100	Philadelphia
Exhibit (RTF)	3/25/2017	Wheelchair Basket Event	200	Lycoming
Presentation (LIFT)	3/26/2017	Mulberry Square Nursing Home	45	Jefferson
Presentation (RTF)	3/28/2017	Challenges Options in Aging	17	Lawrence
Exhibit (PIAT)	3/29/2017	Moving Agencies Towards Excellence Conference	200	Montgomery
Exhibit (UCP Central)	3/30-3/31 /2017	PSHA Conference (statewide)	310	Dauphin
Presentation (AOLC)	4/4/2017	Association for the Blind	5	Luzerne
Presentation (LIFT)	4/7/2017	North Central Luncheon	12	Elk
Presentation (TRIPIL)	4/13/2017	Ebensburg Senior Center	29	Cambria
Presentation (PIAT)	4/24/2017	Penn Asian Senior Services (underrepresented )	70	Philadelphia
Exhibit (PIAT)	4/26/2017	Promoting Health in our Community Fair	125	Philadelphia
Exhibit (PIAT)	4/29/2017	Aramingo Adult Day Care Spring Festival (underrepresented group)	75	Philadelphia
Exhibit (PIAT)	4/30/2017	HLAA-PA Annual Lunch and Learn (statewide)	100	Montgomery

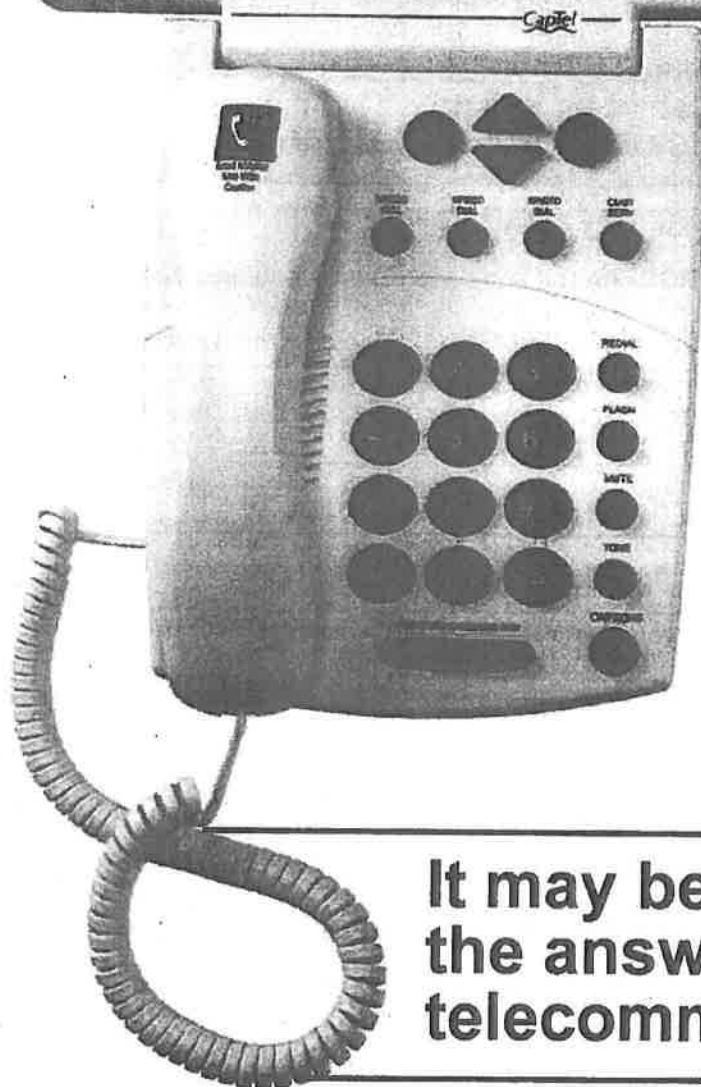
Type of Consumer Outreach Event (ATRC)	Date(s) Held	Event Name / Sponsor	Estimated Attendance	County of Event
Presentation (CLASS)	5/10/2017	Penn Hills Baptist Church	25	Allegheny
Exhibit (RTF)	5/12/2017	Penns Creek Senior Center	25	Snyder
Presentation (UCP, NE))	5/16/2017	Susquehanna County IAC	9	Susquehanna
Exhibit (UCP Central)	5/17/2017	Latino Hispanic American Community Center (underserved group)	25	Dauphin
Exhibit (PIAT)	5/25/2017	Phillip Murray House Senior Health Fair	50	Philadelphia
Exhibit (RTF)	5/30/2017	Beaver Springs Senior Center	11	Snyder
Presentation (RTF)	5/31/2017	Elder & Special Needs Resource Center	5	Lycoming
Presentation (UCP Central)	6/2/2017	Fulton County Medical	6	Fulton
Presentation (AOLC)	6/2/2017	Senior Citizens High Rise	25	Schuylkill
Exhibit (PIAT)	6/3/2017	Fellowship Christian Church Health and Wellness Fair	100	Philadelphia
Exhibit (AOLC)	6/9/2017	Aging ID Conference	130	Luzerne
Presentation (AOLC_	6/15/2017	Senior Citizens	20	Carbon/Monroe
Presentation (UCP Central)	6/16/2017	Four Seasons Senior Center	7	Juniata

Number of events	Counties reached	Total Estimated Attendance	Statewide events
87	42	6709	3

# TDDP

## Pennsylvania's Telecommunication Device Distribution Program

### Application Packet



**It may be  
the answer to your  
telecommunication needs.**

TDDP is implemented by Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT), a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, in conjunction with the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC).

rvsd. Jan.31, 2017

PENNSYLVANIA'S INITIATIVE  
**PIAT**  
ON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

**TEMPLE**  
UNIVERSITY  
Institute on Disabilities

**OTHER APPLICANT INFORMATION**

My primary reason for using the TDDP is (check one):

- I cannot afford equipment    Equipment is available to me only through TDDP  
 I could use other programs, but the system is too complex and the wait is too long

OPTIONAL Race:    Caucasian    African-American    Asian    Latino  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_    Prefer not to answer

OPTIONAL Gender:    Male    Female

Please tell us how you heard about the TDDP:    friend/relative    support person    web  
 brochure/flyer    presentation/exhibit by \_\_\_\_\_    other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT'S STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE**

**IMPORTANT:** Submit application no later than 30 days after you have signed and dated it.

I certify that all information provided on this application is true, complete and correct.  
 I understand that if I purposely provide false information I may be subjected to legal action. Program officials have my permission to verify the information provided. I certify that I have read, understand and accept all conditions set forth in this application and have the ability to learn to use the equipment I selected.

Applicant signature

Date

Parent or legal guardian signature

Date

**SECTION 3: CERTIFICATION OF DISABILITY BY PROFESSIONAL**

**IMPORTANT:** This section must be completed by a licensed physician, audiologist, or speech-language pathologist, or a representative of a qualified agency, such as an Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Counselor, or Department of Human Services (DHS) Case Worker. Complete all lines in this section.

**ABOUT THE APPLICANT**

Last name

First name

Middle  
initial

Check the type of disability being certified

- cognitive    deaf    deaf blind    hard of hearing    low vision/blind    physical    speech  
 I am a:    licensed audiologist    licensed speech-language pathologist    licensed physician  
 representative of a qualified state agency

**CERTIFYING PROFESSIONAL**

Full Name

Title

Agency

PA Professional License Number (if applicable)

Phone

Fax

Email

I certify that the applicant named above has the disability indicated, and that s/he requires technology to independently access telecommunications services.

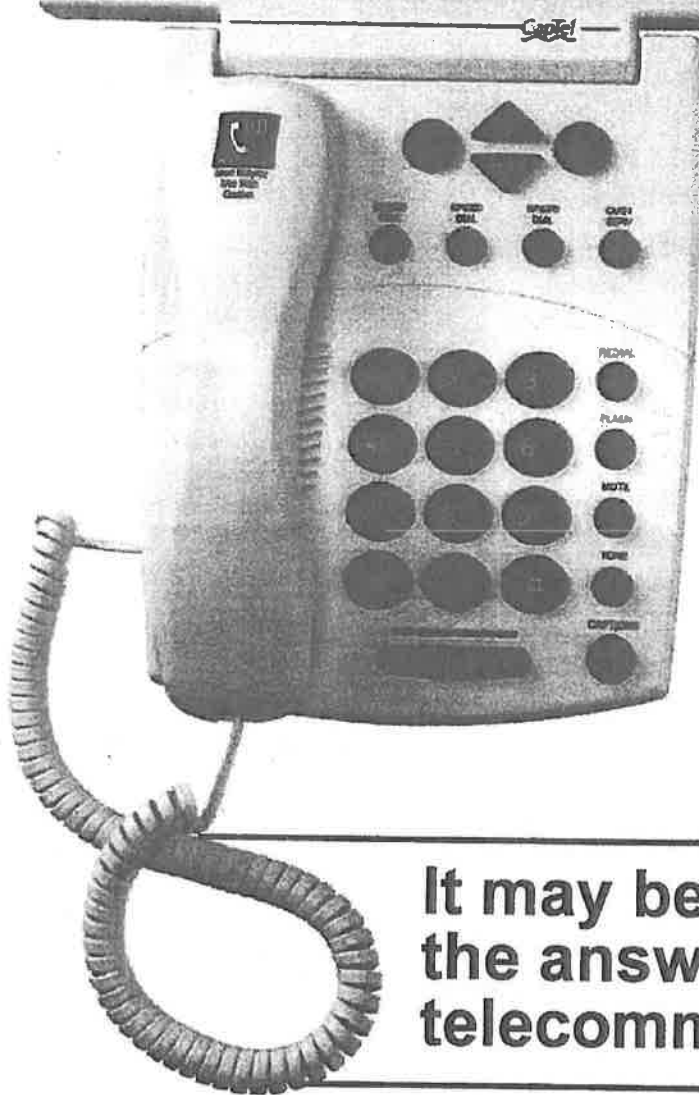
Signature of professional

Date

# TDDP

**Pennsylvania's  
Telecommunication  
Device Distribution  
Program**

## **Application Packet**



**It may be  
the answer to your  
telecommunication needs.**

TDDP is implemented by Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT), a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, in conjunction with the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC).

rvsd. Jan.31, 2017

PENNSYLVANIA'S INITIATIVE  
**PIAT**  
ON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

**TEMPLE**  
UNIVERSITY  
Institute on Disabilities

## TDDP Application Form

Your eligibility will be determined when you have submitted a completed application and all documentation. To avoid delay, please type or print clearly and make sure all sections of the application have been completed. If questions do not pertain to you, write "N/A" in the space provided.



**We strongly encourage you to try equipment first.**  
**Have you had a phone demonstration or borrowed a phone to try?**  
**You CANNOT exchange TDDP equipment after you receive it.**



Please contact your Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC) (see ATRC list) to schedule an equipment demonstration or to request a short-term loan.

Please check one:  YES. I will call to schedule an equipment demonstration or loan.

NO. I do not want an equipment demonstration or loan. I acknowledge that TDDP has a no exchange policy and I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXCHANGE EQUIPMENT I receive from TDDP.

**DO NOT SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION UNTIL YOU HAVE DECIDED ON EQUIPMENT THAT WILL MEET YOUR NEEDS.**

### SECTION 1: APPLICANT EQUIPMENT INFORMATION

Do you already own telecommunication equipment like what you are requesting from TDDP?

YES       NO

If YES, please check the correct answer below (**IMPORTANT:** If you have working equipment that meets your needs you are not eligible for the program.)

My equipment     is broken or only works sometimes     is borrowed     does not meet my needs

### SECTION 2: APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### APPLICANT

Last name	First name	Middle initial
-----------	------------	----------------

Date of birth (month/day/year)

Street address **IMPORTANT:** No deliveries to PO Box; you must provide a street address.

City	State	Zip	County (e.g. Allegheny, Snyder)
------	-------	-----	---------------------------------

Name of person assisting applicant with this application, if any and their relationship to you.

Phone	Email
-------	-------

Name of parent or guardian (for applicant under age 18)	Phone
---	-------

#### APPLICANT ANNUAL INCOME AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Applicant's gross annual income only, including Social Security and/or pension income if applicable and <b>excluding</b> family/household income. If applicant has no income, please write NONE.	\$
---	----

Number of family members (excluding applicant)	
--	--

Applicant counted as family member	+ 1
------------------------------------	-----

Total members in family unit (including applicant)	=
--	---

**OTHER APPLICANT INFORMATION**

My primary reason for using the TDDP is (check one):

- I cannot afford equipment    Equipment is available to me only through TDDP  
 I could use other programs, but the system is too complex and the wait is too long

OPTIONAL Race:    Caucasian    African-American    Asian    Latino  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_    Prefer not to answer

OPTIONAL Gender:    Male    Female

Please tell us how you heard about the TDDP:    friend/relative    support person    web  
 brochure/flyer    presentation/exhibit by \_\_\_\_\_    other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT'S STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE**

**IMPORTANT:** Submit application no later than 30 days after you have signed and dated it.

I certify that all information provided on this application is true, complete and correct.  
 I understand that if I purposely provide false information I may be subjected to legal action. Program officials have my permission to verify the information provided. I certify that I have read, understand and accept all conditions set forth in this application and have the ability to learn to use the equipment I selected.

Applicant signature

Date

Parent or legal guardian signature

Date

**SECTION 3: CERTIFICATION OF DISABILITY BY PROFESSIONAL**

**IMPORTANT:** This section must be completed by a licensed physician, audiologist, or speech-language pathologist, or a representative of a qualified agency, such as an Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Counselor, or Department of Human Services (DHS) Case Worker. Complete all lines in this section.

**ABOUT THE APPLICANT**

Last name

First name

Middle  
initial

Check the type of disability being certified

- cognitive    deaf    deaf blind    hard of hearing    low vision/blind    physical    speech  
 I am a:    licensed audiologist    licensed speech-language pathologist    licensed physician  
 representative of a qualified state agency

**CERTIFYING PROFESSIONAL**

Full Name

Title

Agency

PA Professional License Number (if applicable)

Phone

Fax

Email

I certify that the applicant named above has the disability indicated, and that s/he requires technology to independently access telecommunications services.

Signature of professional

Date

## FINAL CHECKLIST

Read this list and check the boxes to ensure your application is complete.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete Applicant Equipment Information (Section 1).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Answer all of the Applicant Information and sign the Applicant's Statement (Section 2).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have the Certification of Disability (Section 3) completed and signed by a qualified professional: physician, audiologist, speech pathologist, or representative of a qualified state agency (e.g. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, or Department of Human Services Case Worker).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit photocopies (originals cannot be returned) of documents with the following information:
	<p>1. <b>Proof of applicant's (including minors) residence in Pennsylvania.</b> Submit ONE of the following: copy of <u>current</u> driver's license, non-driver I.D., utility bill, dated Social Security correspondence, copies of W-2's, school report card, or other documentation pre-printed with the applicant's name and current street address.</p>
	<p>2. <b>Proof of applicant's income.</b> Submit a copy of each item of the <u>current tax year</u> that applies to you: Income statements including W-2's, 1099s or award letters for retirement and/or Social Security income. If you do not have a copy of your Social Security income statement you can call 1-800-772-1213 and request a "Benefits Verification Letter". Bank statements, pay stubs or checks cannot be accepted. If applicant has no income write "NONE". Note: If the applicant is a minor child, income requirements are based on the child's income only, not family or household income.</p>
	<p>3. <b>Proof of telephone service.</b> Submit a copy of ONE page of your most recent telephone bill with your telephone number appearing on it. If phone service is shared in a residential facility, submit a statement about your access to phone service on facility letterhead signed by the Administrator or Social Worker and include the applicant's name and phone number.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Select ONE piece of equipment and/or ONE signaler that is right for you on the Equipment Selection sheet.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make and keep a photocopy of your completed application (including Equipment Selection sheet) for your records.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Detach and return your completed application. Send the completed ORIGINAL application (including Equipment Selection sheet and copies of required documentation) to TDDP at the address below.

### RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

TDDP Program Coordinator  
 Institute on Disabilities  
 at Temple University  
 1755 N. 13th Street  
 Student Center Room 411 S  
 Philadelphia, PA 19122

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: 800-204-7428 voice  
 866-268-0579 TTY  
 Fax: 215-204-6336  
 Email: [tddp@temple.edu](mailto:tddp@temple.edu)

[www.disabilities.temple.edu/tddp](http://www.disabilities.temple.edu/tddp)



