



**KENTUCKY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN CORPORATION**

*Building Independence Through Technology*

# **Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation**

## **Annual Report**

**State Fiscal Year 2006**



## 2006 a Solid Year for the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation

Although not nearly as impressive as 2005, the 2006 state fiscal year was a solid one for the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC). In 2006, KATLC received 133 applications and approved 75 for a total of \$576,578. In terms of the total of applications, approved applications and dollar amount of approved loans, it was the second most active year for KATLC, behind only last year's figures. The slight decrease in applications this year is probably indicative of less activity in the lending industry overall. The following table shows how 2006 compares to previous years:

State Fiscal Year	Applications	Loans	Amount of Loans*
2006	133	75	\$576,578
2005	146	97	\$840,673
2004	98	48	\$341,886
2003	126	70	\$458,607
2002	97	49	\$343,810
2001	44	13	\$120,153
2000	59	27	\$273,590

\* Some individuals did not accept the loans after being approved so the total amount loaned was less.

Staff from the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Sarah Richardson and Nanci Shelden, continued to provide the staff support for KATLC. Their efficient operation of the program has continued to keep operating costs down.

Hearing aids remained the most requested piece of equipment in 2006 with 37 approved loans (49.3%) for hearing aids. Vehicle modifications remained the second most requested assistive technology with 31 loans (41.3%). Four loans (5.3%) were for computers, while there was one loan (1.3%) each for a CCTV (closed caption television device to assist the visually impaired reader), a home modification and a hospital bed.

KATLC is in the middle of a two-year agreement with its lending partner, Fifth Third Bank of Kentucky. The attractive interest rate of 5.5% will remain in effect until June 30, 2008.

Dave Matheis, KATLC Board member as designee for Laura E. Owens, Education Cabinet Secretary, was part of a panel for a national teleconference by the RESNA Alternative Financing Technical Assistance Project (AFTAP) on April 16, 2007. The teleconference provided information to alternative financing programs around the nation concerning vehicle and vehicle modification loans. Kentucky was asked to provide one of the four panelists for the teleconference because it remains one of the most active assistive technology loan programs in the country in terms of this type of loan. It is another indication that KATLC maintains a national reputation for its alternative financing programs. For the second consecutive year, Mr. Matheis served on the steering committee for RESNA's National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP). Sarah Richardson represented KATLC at NATTAP's Annual Conference of AT Act Programs in Denver, Colorado, in April.

KATLC staff exhibited at the following events: the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services, the Kentucky Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Kentucky Autism Institute and the Kentucky Convention on Communication Disorders to name a few.

## **2006 a Solid Year for the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation**

KATLC provided presentations to various support groups, professionals in the field of rehabilitation, advocacy groups and senior services providers.

The newsletter, Assistive Technology Update, was distributed to individuals and interested groups from across the state four times during the year. Information was provided about upcoming events, new types of assistive technology, blending of resources to purchase assistive technology and other topics of interest for individuals.

This spring, KATLC began discussions with the state's six independent living centers about jointly developing a financial literacy training program for individuals with disabilities. Because of low employment rates, generally low pay, high poverty rates and a high rate of dependence upon government benefit programs, among other factors, individuals with disabilities often do not have the same opportunities as the general population to participate in the financial mainstream of society. In the loan applications it receives, KATLC has repeatedly seen the results of this: little or no credit history, bad credit, charge-offs, bankruptcies and more. Individuals with disabilities, young and old, need access to financial institutions. This pilot training program will be designed to raise the financial literacy of the participants, especially in regards to consumer credit transactions, and will hopefully facilitate financial independence through asset accumulation and the responsible use of credit.

Plans are to conduct an initial training in Louisville through the Center for Accessible Living. After the planned four-part training, the curriculum will be modified and adapted as needed and the training will be replicated at the state's other five independent living centers. Those centers are in Bowling Green, Covington, Harlan, Lexington and Murray. One expected result of this program will be to build the capacity among the independent living centers to assist individuals with disabilities on personal finance issues.

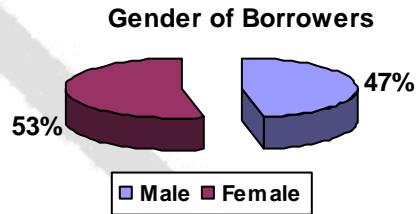
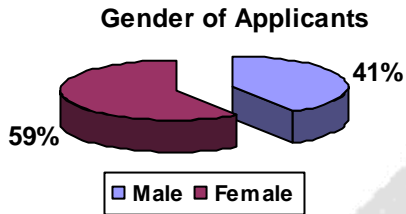
### **Comments Received From Customers**

In January, KATLC began using Stay in Touch, LLC to conduct six-month surveys of applicants to determine their satisfaction with services. Here are a few of the comments that have been received from applicants to date.

- ▶ "My attendant no longer has to help me transfer in and out of a car and she doesn't have to load my chair anymore."
- ▶ "Thanks to AT – I now have hearing aids – I can hear much, much better now my work isn't affected by my hearing loss."
- ▶ "Allowed me to make the purchase of my van and making it possible to have independence doing necessary things like doctor visits, grocery shopping, etc."
- ▶ "My friends and neighbors don't have to do so much for me."
- ▶ "Payments are what I can afford."
- ▶ "It gave me independence at a finance I could afford."
- ▶ "I purchased a wheelchair van accessible, now I have a job and can go anywhere I want with no one helping me. I am paying taxes and off SSI. I go to the grocery store and other places, where in the past I couldn't get out of my house. (FREEDOM!)"
- ▶ "Interest rate was awesome."

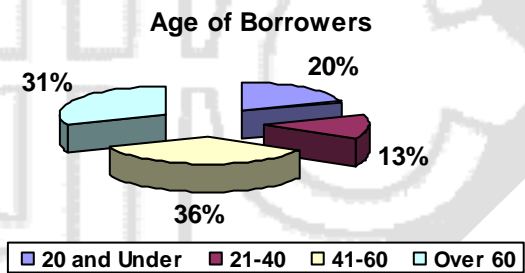
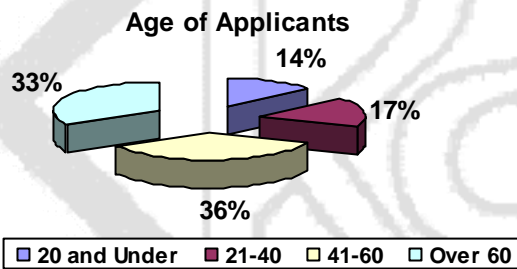
## Demographics of Borrowers and Applicants

### Gender:

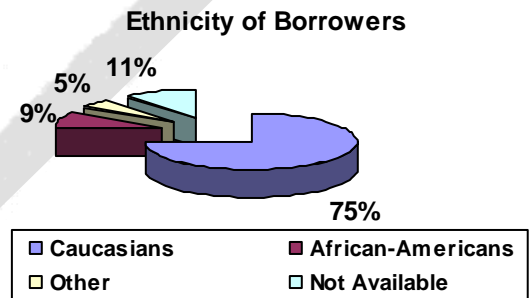
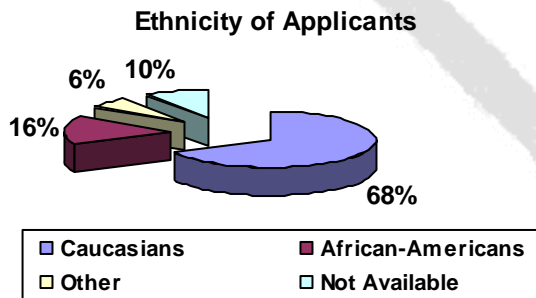


### Age

The age of the individuals who would benefit from the assistive technology contained in the loan applications ranged from 8 months to 90 years. The average age of all applicants was 49.



### Ethnicity





**Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation  
Annual Financial Report**

**July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007**

**Income**

State general fund allotment	\$100,000.00
Interest income on deposits for guarantees	\$34,991.91
<b>Total Program Income</b>	<b>\$134,991.91</b>

**Expenses**

Operating expenses	\$58,617.48
Bank Fees	\$308.97
Defaults (8)	\$17,432.08
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$76,358.53</b>

**Bank Accounts Available for Loan Guarantees**

As of June 30, 2007

Savings account	\$165,779.67
Certificate of Deposit	\$1,656,991.98
<b>Total available for loan guarantees</b>	<b>\$1,822,771.65</b>

**KATLC Loan History**

July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2007

Loans repaid in state FY 2005	38
\$ Amount of loans repaid in state FY 2005	\$203,168.64
Number of current loans outstanding	183
\$ Amount of outstanding loans	\$1,827,170.30
\$ Amount of outstanding loan balances	\$1,196,158.38

## The KATLC Board of Directors

**Jessica Hunt**  
Tompkinsville

**Kelly Knoop**  
Louisville

**Dave Matheis**  
Frankfort

**Steve Moore**  
Louisville

**Travis Scott**  
Leander

**Mike Surrey**  
Fort Mitchell

**Danny Williams**  
Frankfort



The Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or marital status in employment, or provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all program activities.