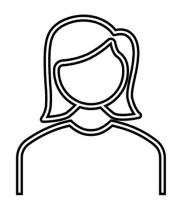
Technology Throughout the Employment Process: A Webinar Series

Technology Strategies for Employment Professionals

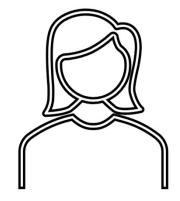


This webinar is offered by the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

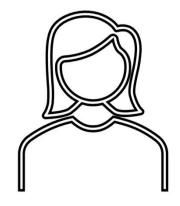
Instructors



Jill Eastman, M.A., CESP
Program Coordinator
Employment & Training
Institute for Community Inclusion
Jill.Eastman@umb.edu



Jennifer Petersen, MPA
Director
Supportive Technology
Department of Developmental
Services (DDS)
Jennifer.Petersen@mass.gov



Kelly Wanzer, M.S., CCC/SLP
Training Associate
Speech Language Pathologist
Institute for Community Inclusion
Kelly.Wanzer@umb.edu

Agenda

- Review importance of assistive technology for people with disabilities
- Consider ways to engage with stakeholders virtually, using best practices
- Discuss uses of technology across the different stages of the employment process
- Build familiarity with high, low, and no technology options for self-management and independence
- Learn practical strategies and applications for assistive technology in the workplace
- Identify relevant assistive technology resources
- Question and Answer session (optional)

Domains of Technology

There are many domains of technology. The domains we will primarily cover today are:

Assistive Technology

Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Educational Technology

A combination of computer hardware, software, and educational practices that facilitate learning.

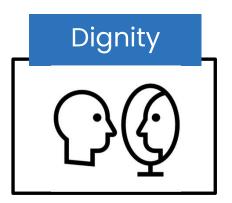
Virtual Meeting Technology

Technology that enables people in different physical locations to use their mobile or internet connected devices to meet and communicate in the same virtual room; can be referred to as a component of telehealth in some settings.

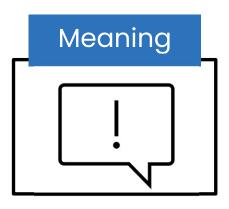
Assistive technology (AT) is a mediator for people with intellectual disabilities to attain not just their rights but also, the highest possible quality of life and sense of participation and belonging in society.

Leaving No-One Behind: Using Assistive Technology to Enhance Community Living for People with Intellectual Disability, Owuor, Larkan & MacLachlan, 2017

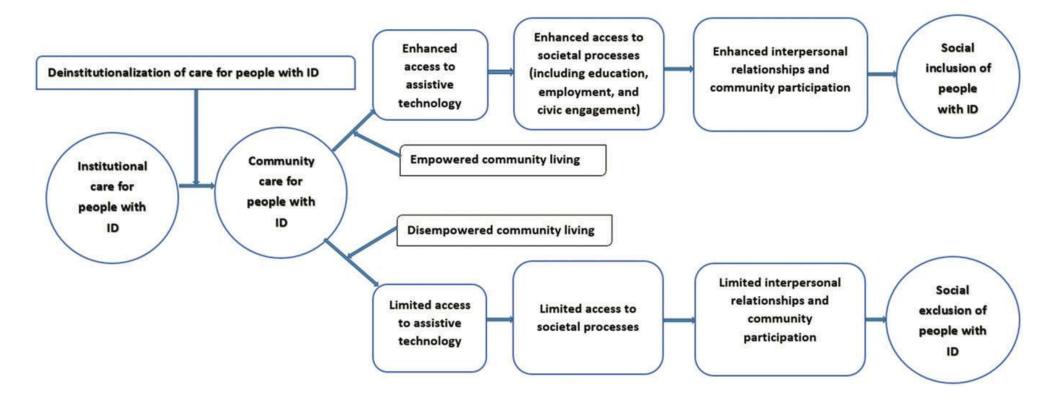
Importance of Assistive Technology







Assistive Technology as a Catalyst for Social Inclusion



Leaving No-One Behind: Using Assistive Technology to Enhance Community Living for People with Intellectual Disability, Owuor, Larkan & MacLachlan, 2017

Use of technology
enables, enhances or extends
the functional capabilities of people
with IDD, potentially resulting in more
positive employment-related outcomes

The Employment Process



When does technology make sense?



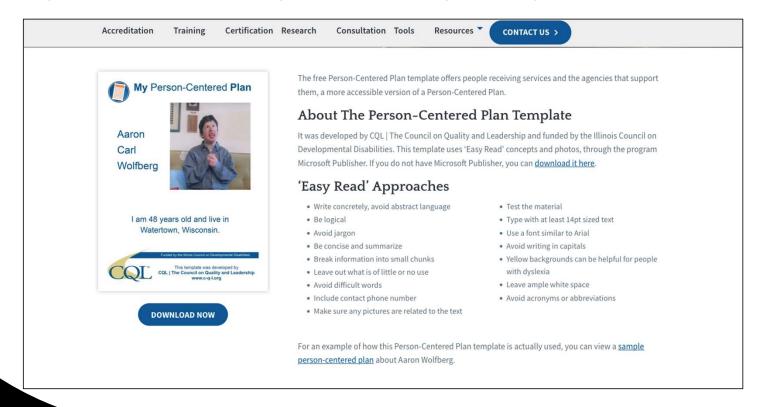
Does the job seeker and/or employment professional have:

- a reliable way to communicate?
- avenues for collaboration with the individual's support network?
- access to accessible materials to facilitate the planning and exploration processes?
- physical, cognitive, or other barriers that restrict participation?

The Person-Centered Plan Template

A more accessible version of a Person-Centered Plan developed in Microsoft Publisher

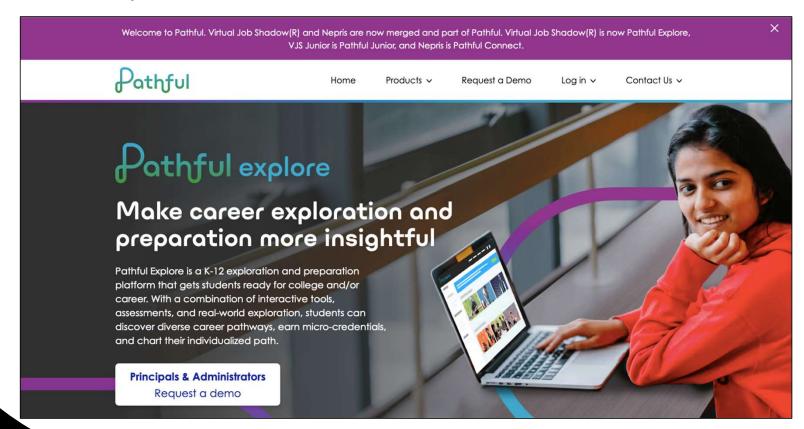
https://www.c-q-l.org/resources/guides/person-centered-plan-template/



Pathful Explore

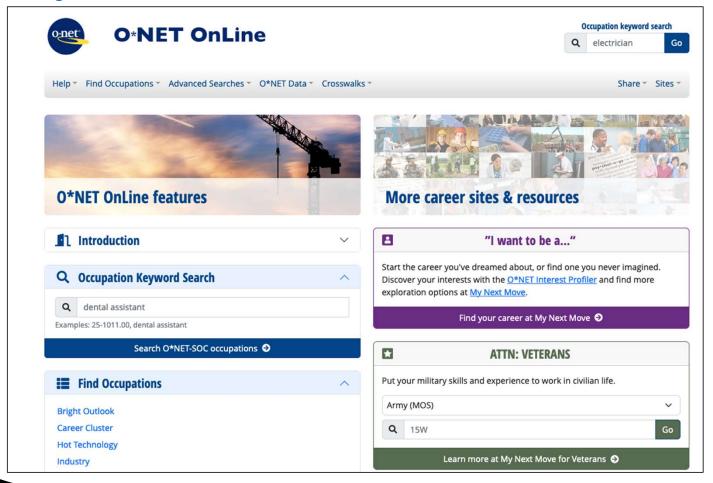
Formerly Virtual Job Shadow

https://pathful.com/explore

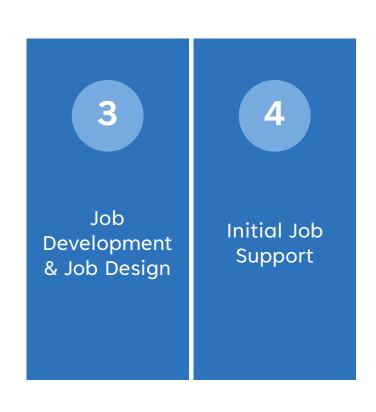


O*NET

https://www.onetonline.org/



When does technology make sense?



Does the job seeker and/or employment professional have:

- a reliable way to express opinions?
- ways to demonstrate strengths and capabilities in meaningful ways?
- an understanding of physical or environmental accommodations needed?
- strategies for new skill development that work in other areas of life?
- the ability to meet in-person?

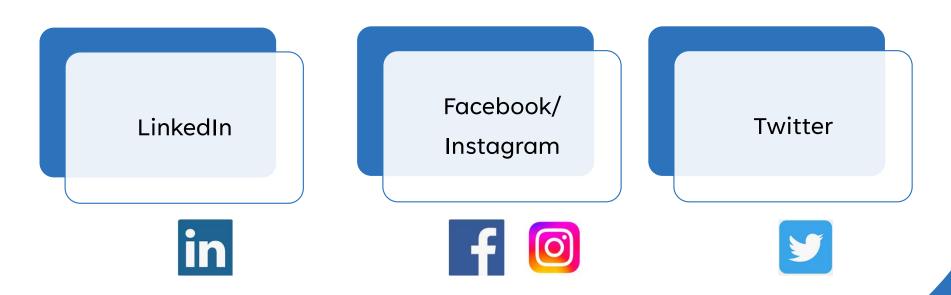
Self-Advocacy Online

http://selfadvocacyonline.org/

Explore videos related to self-advocacy and employment



Social Media Networking for Employment Specialists & Job Seekers



Video Resumes

WHAT: A short video created by a jobseeker, sharing pertinent information about skills and experiences, and often footage of them performing certain job tasks.

WHEN: Job seekers wanting to highlight valuable performance-based work skills and/or sought-after personality traits should consider supplementing their traditional resume with a video resume.

WHY: Video resumes can be powerful tools to demonstrate a job seeker's skills, attributes, personality, and work ethic to prospective employers.

More About Video Resumes

When creating a video resume, ask these questions:

- . Is It Useful?
- . Is It Professional?
- . Has It Been Reviewed?

DO...

- Ensure job seeker dresses and acts professionally
- Confirm the space remains well-lit and tidy with no distractions
- ✓ Help create a pitch expressing what value the job seeker would bring
- Use visuals showcasing the job seeker's skills and talents
- Keep it brief

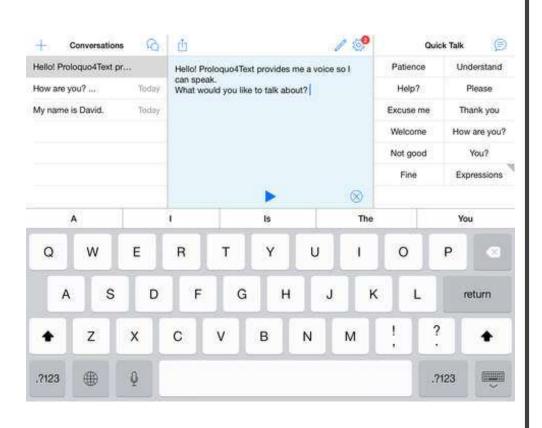
Don't...

- Link the video resume to social media platforms
- Expect the video resume to replace a traditional resume
- Forget to show the video and ask for feedback prior to using it

Common Ways Assistive Technology Can Support Employment

- 1 Communication Supports
- 2 Task Instructions
- 3 Reminders
- 4 Time Management Strategies
- Checklists
- 6 Behavior Management
- 7 Navigation Supports
- 8 Accessibility tools

Communication Supports



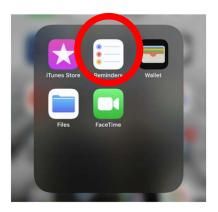
Proloquo4Text iPad Screenshot

2 Task Instruction Examples



Task instructions with digital pictures

3 Reminder Examples





Apple iOs Reminders App

4 Time Management Strategies



Smart or Vibrating Watch

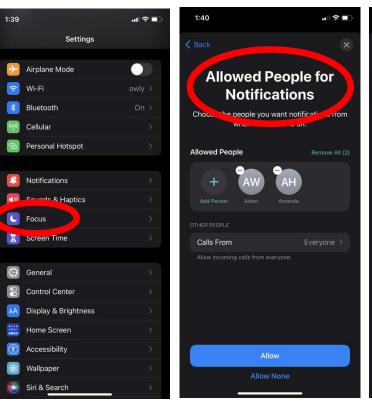


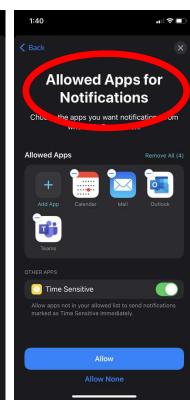
Visual Timer

5 Checklist Examples



6 Behavior Management Examples





Customized task list with pictures

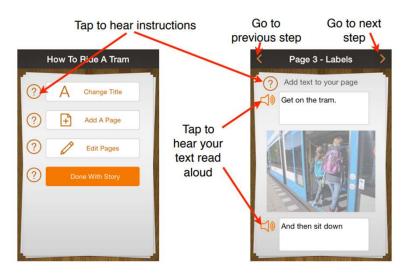
7

Navigation Supports



Victor Reader Trek (Talking GPS)





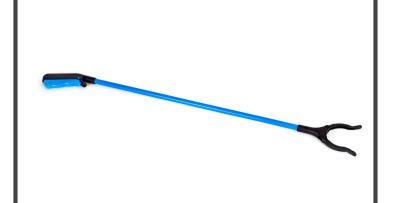
Pictello (app for using personalized text and photos to create stories or event sequences)

8

Accessibility Tool Examples



Flexible Device Holder with Clamp



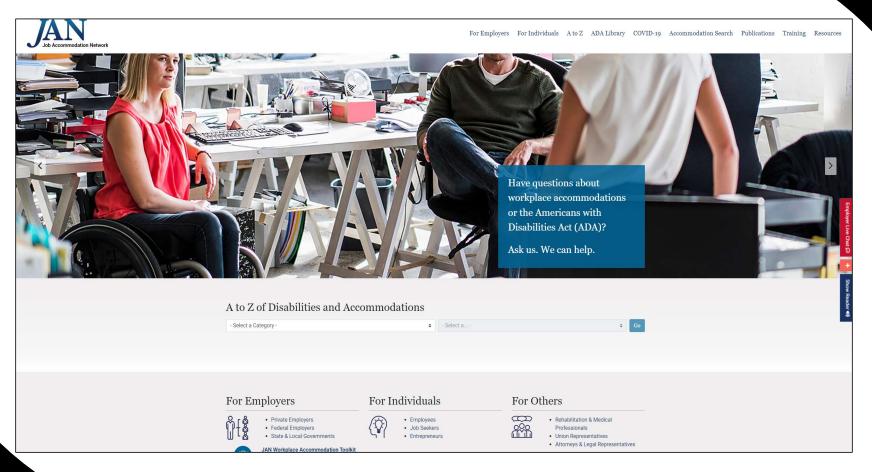
Reach Tool/Grabber



Type Aid - Computer Keyboard Aid

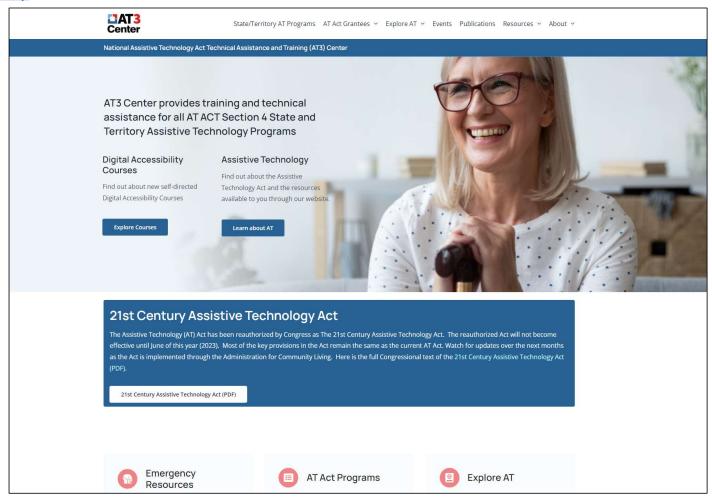
JAN

https://askjan.org/



AT3 Center

https://at3center.net/



Common Ways Educational Technology Can Support Employment

- Exploration
- 2 New skill development
- 3 Expanding on existing learning
- 4 Video modeling
- 5 Fading
- 6 Setting Expectations



FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ID, USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESULTS IN:

 Increased independence and correct responding to work-related tasks

 Reduction in the level of external prompting required for participants to successfully complete tasks

From: Portable Electronic Assistive Technology to Improve Vocational Task Completion in Young Adults with an Intellectual Disability: A Review of the Literature, Collins & Collet-Klingenbert, 2016

Video Modeling

Basic Video Modeling:

Employee reviews video examples before engaging in tasks.

Simultaneous Video Modeling:

Video of task being performed is played one time from beginning to end; individual follows along to complete tasks.

Continuous Video Modeling:

Video is played on a loop.

Video Prompting or Cueing:

While performing task, individual watches short video segments of each step needed to complete task. After performing each step, moves on to next video clip.



More Uses for Video

Error Correction Video Feedback:

When individual makes error, they review video of task being performed correctly.

Video Feedback: Individual is videotaped as they engage in tasks, then evaluates their performance.

Video Stories: Filming an individual telling a story about their routines at work or in the community, which they regularly view.



When does technology make sense?



Follow-Up Supports Does the job seeker and/or employment professional have:

- a reliable way to stay connected?
- avenues to seek help on-the-job and with the employment specialist?
- strategies for self-management and self-monitoring that work in other areas of life?
- the ability to accept feedback?
- effective plans for maintaining technology?

Common Ways Virtual Meeting Technology Can Support Employment

- 1 Connect with job seeker
- 2 Connect with support network
- 3 Connect with employer
- 4 Provide support across geographic areas
- 5 Facilitates responsiveness and flexibility

Best Practices for Online Meetings

- Keep meeting goal in mind when scheduling and choosing whom to invite
- ☐ Have clear service objective(s); set and distribute agenda ahead of time
- Select appropriate platform (Zoom, Teams, WebEx, Skype)
- Consider cybersecurity; check privacy settings
- Use both audio (headphones and external microphone) and video, when possible
- Place light source to the front or side avoid backlighting
- Understand your audience (access, ease of use with the tech, accessibility needs, etc.)
- Create room for all attendees to participate (round robin, roll call, chat, polls, whiteboards, breakout rooms)
- Use participants' names

Online Meeting Etiquette

Do

- ✓ Mute when not talking
- ✓ Silence background noises such as phones, email notifications, etc.
- Minimize open tabs on your screen and other background distractions
- ✓ Look at the camera rather than your screen
- State your name before you speak

Do Not

- **○** Multitask
- Have sidebar conversations
- **⊘** Text

Guidelines for Conducting Online Meetings

- ✓ Treat everyone's time as valuable.
- ✓ Be prepared (technology, settings, assistance)
- ✓ Send a calendar invite with meeting login information; consider time zones
- ✓ Use an agenda, shared in advance
- ✓ Consider utilizing a facilitator and/or note taker
- ✓ Have a roll call/introductions; state who is in the meeting space
- ✓ Take notes to be distributed after the meeting.
- ✓ Summarize meeting content and outcomes
- Clarify action items and next steps, including responsibilities and deadlines
- ✓ Consider using surveys to collect feedback and input

Engaging with Stakeholders Virtually

- Keep a strong focus on core values
- ✓ Understand individual's technology access, knowledge, skill level
- ✓ Respect individual's preferences (communication method, device type, meeting length)
- Allow time to connect prior to diving into agenda items
- ✓ State a clear meeting purpose and direction, though remain flexible
- ✓ Maintain privacy and confidentiality; demonstrate positive regard
- ✓ Utilize active listening principles to ensure all feel heard and understood
- ✓ Create space for multiple perspectives
- ✓ Provide multiple avenues for participation
- ✓ Pay attention to non-verbal communication
- ✓ Encourage brainstorming, idea sharing, and collaboration
- ✓ Summarize, check-in regularly, follow-up
- ✓ Use humor (when appropriate)
- ✓ Abide by state/funder guidance on remote support provision

Emerging Technologies

- Virtual Reality
 - Example: https://floreovr.com/
- Augmented Reality
 - Example: https://www.holopundits.com/
- Wearable
 - Example: https://strapsco.com/wearable-tech-for-people-with-disability/
- Video Task Analysis

Accessibility allows us to tap into everyone's potential.

-Debra Ruh

A Word from Jennifer Petersen

Indicators an AT assessment is appropriate?

- Lack of reliable communication system
- Not able to generalize skill(s) from home/other environment without equipment
- Former use of technology in educational or vocational environment
- Change in disability
- Per DDS Technology Forward Initiative:
 - "Supportive Technology should be considered when authorizing services for a person with disabilities, before utilizing direct support professional services to assist a person in an area that they could potentially be self-sufficient with appropriate assistive technology."

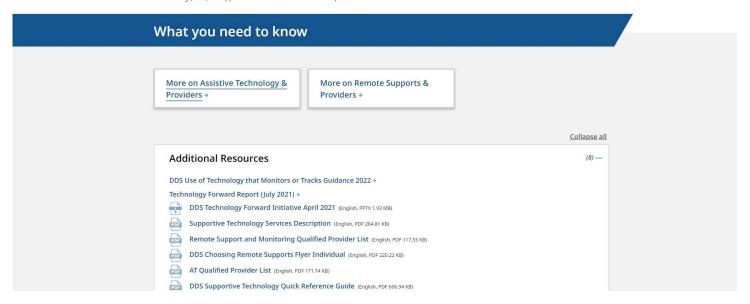
Department of Developmental Services:

https://www.mass.gov/supportive-technology



Through the Technology Forward Initiative, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will promote and develop the use of Supportive Technology as an opportunity for more inclusive and independent lives for people with disabilities.

Supportive Technology is the use of Assistive Technology (AT) exclusively or in combination with Remote Supports & Monitoring (RSM) to support individuals to maximize their potential.



Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission:

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mrc-il-assistive-technology-program

MRC IL Assistive Technology Program

The Assistive Technology Independent Living Program (AT-IL) is a program of MRC's Community Living services.

What is the Assistive Technology Program?

Our goal is to improve the ability of people with significant disabilities to live independently through the use of assistive technology. Assistive technology can help a person with a disability have control over their environment and achieve personal goals. AT makes check or letter writing, money management, shopping, controlling the home environment and communication easier. Individuals served under this program are those with independent living goals. Those with vocational or work goals receive services through the MRC's vocational rehabilitation program.

MRC contracts with two organizations to provide AT assessments, buy and set-up equipment, train and follow-up. These providers; MA Easterseals and United Cerebral Palsy of western MA provide services on a regional basis and have on-site AT devices for evaluation and training.

Who is Eligible?

Any person who:

- Has a severe physical or mental impairment whose ability to function independently in the family or community is greatly limited, and
- The delivery of AT services and training will improve the ability to function, keep functioning
 or more towards functioning independently in the family and community
- Meets financial eligibility requirements

Individuals with vocational goals will be referred to the local MRC-VR office. Individuals with disabilities who are eligible to receive services from other EOHHS agencies should be referred to those agencies for AT services.

There are no age restrictions, although school age children with disabilities eligible for Special Education services will apply through the local LEA for school related AT equipment needs.

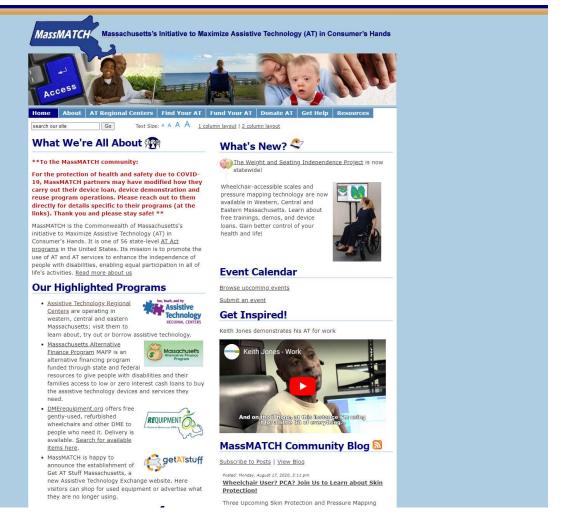
How to Apply

RELATED

Vocational Rehabilitation

Mass MATCH

https://www.massmatch.org/index.php



National Assistive Technology Resources

ASKJan

Closing the Gap: Computer Technology in Special Education

and Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation Engineering And Assistive Technology

Society Of North America (RESNA)

Assistive Technology Industry Association

Northeast ADA Center

MA Assistive Technology Resources

MassMATCH

MRC AT-IL Program

MA DESE AT Accessibility

CAST

DDS Learning AT Assessment and Resources

DDS AT Services and Provider List

Affordable Connectivity Program

How to Apply for Discounted Communication Services

Remote Services Resources

Using Technology to Provide Quality Remote Services

Person Centered Planning
Template

Career Planning Tools

Virtual Discovery Resources

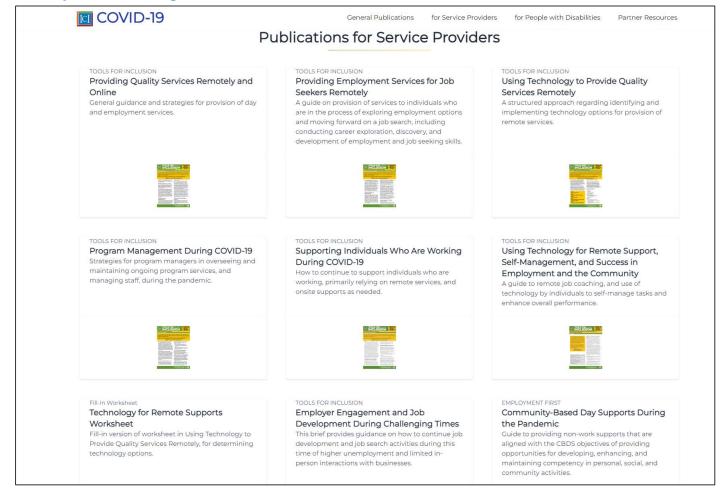
Video Resume Creation Tool

Advocacy

- https://covid19.communityinclusion.org/pdf/TO36_COVI D_F.pdf
- https://www.c-q-l.org/resources/guides/personcentered-plan-template/
- https://employmentfirstma.org/pages/qualityemployment-practices.html#cp
- https://www.onetonline.org/
- https://www.griffinhammis.com/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/GHA-Virtual-CE-Discovery-Service-Delivery-Guidance.pdf
- https://pathful.com/explore
- https://biteable.com/
- http://selfadvocacyonline.org/

ICI Covid Publications

https://covid19.communityinclusion.org/



In Summary

For employment, the goal is to creatively utilize available technology resources to:

- teach and learn skills more efficiently
- rapidly increase independence and decrease reliance on support staff
- expand provision of services in terms of number and location of potential employees

Thank you!

Survey:

https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6EhSwr bTG3273YG

Stick Around for Q & A Session (optional)