

Informing Families

Building Trust

A Partnership for Better Communication
On Developmental Disability Issues in Washington State

Assistive Technology

Tips and Resources for Funding and Technical Assistance



Whether it's communication, recreation, employment, education, transportation or just plain daily living, technology levels the playing field for children and adults with disabilities. And, because technology is such a natural part of everyday life for everyone, the options for devices and apps are as numerous and diverse as the individuals who use them. Here are a few tips and resources to get you started:

{ TIPS }

Identify the task first. Device

Second. There are a lot of options out there, and no one device is right for every individual. For an extensive database of AT products, categorized by function, visit AbleData's product's page: abledata.com.

Get an AT Assessment

If your child is in school, ask for an AT evaluation as part of the IEP process (see inset below). For adults, contact one of the appropriate resources to the right.

Try Before You Buy

Make sure the device and/or apps are right for your son or daughter. The Washington Assistive Technology Alliance Program will loan devices for up to six weeks for a small fee.

{ RESOURCES }

Developmental Disabilities Administration

The Children's In-Home Intensive Behavior Support waiver and Individual & Family Services Program both include assistive technology in their covered services. dshs.wa.gov/ddd

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Short-term employment services for adults. In addition to adults with disabilities, high school transition students are eligible for services. dshs.wa.gov/dvr

Washington Assistive Technology Act Program

Information, referrals, training and device loans. watap.org

Northwest Access Fund

Low interest loans and matched savings accounts for low-income households.

washingtonaccessfund.org

Washington Initiative for Supported Employment

Technical assistance to adults and high school students with I/DD seeking employment and job training. go.wise.org

Work Incentive Programs The cost of work-related expenses, such as AT, may be offset by Social Security work incentive programs PASS and IRWE. Ask your DDA or DVR case manager for more information.

Assistive Technology in the School

- (1) Each school district *shall ensure* that assistive technology devices or assistive technology services, or both, are made available to a student eligible for special education if required as part of the student's:
 - (a) Special education;
 - (b) Related services; or
 - (c) Supplementary aids and services.
- (2) On a case-by-case basis, the use of school-purchased assistive technology devices in a student's home or in other settings is required if the student's IEP team determines that the student needs access to those devices in order to receive FAPE.

—WAC 392-172A-02015: Availability of Assistive Technology

