



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

FROM: Amy Blazawski, Director of Services Development & Support - Self Determination / Assistive Technology

CC: Jordan Scheff, Commissioner; Peter Mason, Deputy Commissioner; Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff; Scott McWilliams, Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services; Regional Directors; Assistant Regional Directors; Resource Administrators; The Alliance; The Arc CT; AT Steering Committee; Regional Advisory Councils; Wayne Seidel, Director of Case Management

DATE: December 11, 2020

SUBJECT: Notice of Opportunity – Assistive Technology Grants

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in conjunction with the Intellectual Disability Partnership is currently accepting proposals for stakeholders interested in receiving grants to support individuals living in a family home, community companion home (CCH) or receive individualized home supports (IHS) in the creative use of Active Technology (AT) to enhance independence and virtual interpersonal and community participation for individuals with intellectual disability. Stakeholders may include families or providers that support an individual in the aforementioned settings. Grants will assist with the procurement and utilization of Assistive Technology, hardware, software, equipment, general internal connectivity and the development of remote supports. The purpose of the grant is to connect an individual with AT technology and other similar resources to increase independence and community participation.

Remote Supports: *The provision of supports by staff at a remote location who is engaged with the individual through technology/devices with the capability for live two-way communication. Equipment used to meet this requirement may include: motion sensing systems, cellular equipment, radio frequency identification, live video feed, live audio feed, GPS tracking, web-based monitoring systems, or devices that otherwise meet the requirement for two-way communication. Individual interaction with the staff person may be scheduled, on-demand, or in response to an alert from a device in the remote support equipment system.*

AT Hardware/Software-*This may include: Equipment and/or devices dedicated to ensuring universal access; items to increase independence; goods related to fostering activities of daily living; technology gear related to or access to interpersonal / community based communications; or applications to foster communication, literacy, dexterity, safety, security, monitoring, and/or sensory related goals.*

Internet Connectivity- *This may include: Broadband /Internet or cellular services provided at fair market value for the purpose of access to activities related to achieving documented person-centered goals & objectives for a period of up to one year.*

Stakeholders interested in this opportunity should include the following information in their responses to the department:

- Type and location of program.
- Current assistive technology needs and hardship due to lack of AT.
- Proposed Assistive Technology.
- Cost of proposed Assistive Technology equipment or services.
- Rationale: How Assistive Technology will enhance independence for the individual(s) supported.
- Transition plan for introduction of Assistive Technology.
- Funding plan on how these supports will be maintained once the grant ends
- Fade plan for staff supports (if applicable).

Awardees will be expected to participate in follow up analysis sharing the use and impact of the products or services awarded. In addition, select awardees may be expected to act as ambassadors for the use of assistive technology.

Questions regarding this opportunity may be directed to Amy Blazawski at amy.blazawski@ct.gov . All questions must be received in writing by December 21, 2020. Answers will be posted to the DDS website in a Frequently Asked Questions document by December 28, 2020. Responses to this opportunity must be submitted electronically to Amy Blazawski at amy.blazawski@ct.gov by December 31st, 2020.

Funding will be awarded by January 8, 2021. Awardees must purchase equipment or subscribe to approved service no later than January 29, 2021.

Respectfully;



Amy M. Blazawski, MSW, LCSW, CESP

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