

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 11-73

☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: George Moriarty, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: November 28, 2011

Subject: **Availability of Assistive Technology (AT) Resources for Persons with Disabilities**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and other local workforce investment partners of the availability of AT resources for customers with disabilities.

Background: On November 15, 2011, the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) published Training and Employment Notice No. 16-11, "Availability of Assistive Technology Resources for Persons with Disabilities".

Each year, the One-Stop Career Centers serve thousands of individuals with disabilities, many of whom could benefit from AT. AT, such as personal amplifiers, screen readers, and specially designed keyboards, assists persons with disabilities in accessing the full array of One-Stop services and helps individuals perform the essential functions of their jobs once employed. Access to AT can help reduce the disproportionately high unemployment and underemployment of persons with disabilities. AT can also bridge the gap between a person's physical and cognitive abilities and the job requirements

The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 defines AT as "any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities". The costs of AT vary greatly, most are inexpensive, and there is a wide range of resources to help pay for them. AT varies from no tech/low tech to high tech.

Employers report gains in productivity and cost savings when they provide accommodations to people with disabilities.

There are about 36,000 AT products available in 20 categories:

<http://www.abledata.com/abledata.cfm?pageid=19327&ksectionid=19327>

Funding is available through numerous Federal, State, Public and Private Sources:

<http://resnaprojects.org/nattap/scripts/nattapcontacts.html>

<http://www.chooseworkttw.net/>

<http://www.ssa.gov/redbook/eng/ssi-only-employment-supports.htm#3>

http://www.onestops.info/article.php?article_id=22&subcat_id=3

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/10050.pdf>

<http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11045.pdf>

http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidEligibility/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage

<http://www.atp.ne.gov/techassistdoc.html>

<http://askjan.org/cgi-win/TypeQuery.exe?902>

<http://cap.tricare.mil/>

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3966.pdf>

Two additional resources available to One-Stop Career Centers and businesses to learn more about how they can help customers and employees with disabilities access and use AT to benefit their job search and performance at the workplace:

<http://askjan.org/soar/index.htm>

http://www.ataccess.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=22

Inquiries: Questions should be directed to the appropriate Regional Office.