DDS

Department of Developmental Services

WHAT IS SUPPORTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Supportive technology refers to devices and technological methods used to increase independence and community integration of individuals with disabilities. These methods can be high tech or low tech, designed to be supportive technology or adapted to the role. Supportive technology can be used in the home, during the day, or at work.

Supportive technology comprises two main categories: assistive technology and remote support.

Assistive Technology

Technology used to aid individuals in the completion of tasks or increase the functional capabilities of an individual. They are used to enhance working, learning, or daily living.

Examples: Using a voice assistant to turn on lights, adjust the thermometer, or make phone calls. Using apps to guide the cooking process. Using a pen that aids in reading text.

Remote Support

Devices and services used to connect individuals with direct care providers or medical professionals without needing to be in the same physical space. Remote support includes telehealth, telepsychiatry, or telecare, in which individuals may contact physical or mental health professionals through video calls, allowing greater access and reducing the need to travel.

Examples: Using a video call to connect with direct care staff. Conducting an appointment with a psychologist or doctor remotely.

For more information about supportive technology, visit *mass.gov/supportive-technology*.

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