

INFORMATION NOTICE

WORKFORCE SERVICES

Number: WSIN11-19

Date: December 2, 2011
Expiration Date: Permanent
69:175:af:15196

TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: AVAILABLE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The purpose of this Information Notice is to inform the Workforce Development Community about the availability of Assistive Technology (AT) resources for customers with disabilities. Each year, One-Stop Career Centers serve thousands of individuals with disabilities, many of whom could benefit from AT.

Assistive Technology is any type of technology used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. These resources and equipment assist individuals in accessing the full array of One-Stop services and performing the essential functions of their jobs. Examples of AT products include computer applications for voice recognition, transportation and mobility aids that help individuals move from one place to another, and architectural aids that help reduce physical barriers by making changes to an individual's home, school, or work place. Additional information on AT products can be found by visiting www.abledata.com/abledata.cfm?pageid=19327&ksectionid=19327.

There is a wide variety of funding and incentive information available for AT purchases. Key sources include the following:

- California Assistive Technology Systems (CATS)
The CATS Web site (www.atnet.org/) lists news/events on AT, how to access AT for a variety of purposes (e.g. Medicare, Medi-Cal, and Veterans programs), where to find funding, and how to develop a funding strategy.
- The Social Security Administration's (SSA) Ticket to Work Program
The SSA's Ticket to Work Program can be used by One-Stop Career Centers to provide funding for AT when One-Stop Career Centers are designated as an Employment Network (EN) by the SSA, and Social Security disability beneficiaries designate the One-Stop Career Center as their EN. For more information on the Ticket to Work Program, visit www.chooseworkttw.net/.
- Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)
A PASS allows individuals to set aside income (besides their Social Security Income) in order to purchase AT to pursue an employment goal.

For more information on PASS, visit

www.ssa.gov/redbook/eng/ssi-only-employment-supports.htm#3.

The EDD, an equal opportunity employer/program, is a partner in this publication. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Requests for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made by calling (916) 654-8055 (Voice). TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at 711.

- Medicare or Medicaid

Under certain conditions, AT may be funded through Medicare or Medicaid which can be combined with other private funding sources, including private health insurance. These sources can be found at the following:

- Information about public and private funding sources:
www.onestops.info/article
- General Information about Medicare:
www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/10050.pdf
- Information about Medicare coverage of durable medical equipment:
www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11045.pdf
- Information about Medicaid eligibility and a link to state Medicaid programs:
www.cms.gov/MedicaidEligibility/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act can fund AT resources for students receiving an education in a public, private, or home setting if the student's Individual Education Program includes the need for AT. State vocational rehabilitation agencies can also help eligible individuals attain the AT they need to meet the employment goals stated in their Individualized Plan for Employment. Local areas are encouraged to direct interested parties to the California Department of Rehabilitation Web site at www.rehab.cahwnet.gov/.

- Department of Defense's Computer/Electronic Accommodation Program

Injured service members transitioning to civilian employment may also take advantage of an AT assessment to assist in seeking and maintaining employment. For more information, visit cap.tricare.mil/.

- Tax Incentives

There are also tax incentives for employers purchasing AT for one or more employees. Additional details about these incentives can be found by visiting the Internal Revenue Service's Web site at www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=185704,00.html.

For additional information on how One-Stop Career Centers and businesses can help customers and employees with disabilities access and use AT to benefit their job search and performance, please visit either [The Job Accommodation Network](#), or [The Alliance for Technology Access](#) (see the section on California).

/S/ MICHAEL EVASHENK, Chief
Workforce Services Division