



**Join Us for the Next DD Community Forum**

**Wednesday, August 17 at 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

**[Click Here to Register \(www.tinyurl.com/AugDDForum\)](http://www.tinyurl.com/AugDDForum)**



Join BHDDH for a DD Community Forum on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:30 PM to get the latest news from the BHDDH Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Everyone must register in advance. After you register, you will receive a confirmation email with your unique login details to join the forum.

When you register, you can enter your questions or comments about the RI DD System. Director Kevin Savage and the DD team will answer the questions and share other information and updates at this quarterly online event.

The forum will be hosted by Advocates in Action and will be held on Zoom. You will also be able to call in. If you can't join us, the forum will be recorded to watch later.

An ASL interpreter will be present at this event. For other accommodation requests, please email [MichelleWhite@AdvocatesinAction.org](mailto:MichelleWhite@AdvocatesinAction.org) no later than Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions or need assistance registering, call Advocates in Action toll-free: 1-877-532-5543, or email [aina@AdvocatesinAction.org](mailto:aina@AdvocatesinAction.org).

**Technology Fund Forum**

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 4:30 PM**

From Spring 2022 through Spring 2023, people receiving services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will be able to purchase technology through a limited-time initiative, funded by the State through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Technology funding will be in addition to each person's current authorized funding.

For more information, including ASL videos, see the [BHDDH Technology Fund webpage](#) or download the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

Join us on Zoom on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> to hear about what types of technology can be bought and how to request funding. Registration is not required. To join the information session, open Zoom then enter the meeting ID and passcode shown below.



**[Click here to go to Zoom](#)**  
**Meeting ID: 827 4658 6194**  
**Passcode: 346014**



**Or you can call in by dialing**  
**1-929- 436-2866**  
**Meeting ID: 827 4658 6194**

## **Financial Security for New Workers with Disabilities: Understanding ABLE Today and Future Opportunities for Advancement**

Watch an exciting and dynamic recorded conversation about the personal benefits of opening an ABLE savings account and how it connects to advancing job opportunities for people with disabilities. [Click Here to Watch Online](#)

### **BHDDH Offices Closed on Monday August 8**

BHDDH offices will be closed  
for Victory Day  
on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.



## **Employing People with IDD as a Way to Help with the Hiring Crisis**

*By Lorene Reagan, RN, Director of Public Relations, [IntellectAbility](#)*

According to a March 2022 report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment–population ratio—the percentage of the population that is employed—for people with a disability was only 19.1 percent in 2021, compared to 63.7 percent for people who do not have a disability. Sadly, the same report showed this rate has remained largely unchanged over the past 10 years. And for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD), finding and retaining employment can be even more challenging.

Best Buddies, an organization that matches skilled and qualified individuals with businesses seeking enthusiastic and dedicated employees, estimates up to 81% of adults (18+) with developmental disabilities do not have a paid job in the community.

### **Why is this?**

Even in the midst of a hiring crisis, many employers are hesitant to hire people with intellectual or developmental disabilities because of myths and stereotypes including:

- Concern about negative coworker reactions to hiring a person with IDD
- Assumptions that it will cost more to hire, train, and maintain employment for people with IDD
- Beliefs that people with IDD will not be as productive or will be unable to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to complete job tasks
- Fear of litigation associated with hiring and firing people with IDD
- Negative stereotypes about people with IDD
- Concern about negative customer reactions
- Lack of economic incentives, such as tax credits, for hiring people with IDD

According to recent estimates, the United States has about ten million job openings, yet over 8.4 million unemployed individuals are still looking for work. As business owners lament the challenges related to inadequate staffing and Americans are confronted with longer wait times for services, employing people with IDD is a way to help alleviate the labor shortage and increase the level of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.

People with IDD are valuable assets to our workforce and can:

- Address recruitment and training costs associated with routinely filling high turnover positions
- Demonstrate lower absenteeism and sick leave than other employees
- Promote a more diverse and inclusive workplace and enhance employee morale
- Foster a culture of corporate responsibility
- Provide the organization with access to potential federal tax incentives such as the Disabled Access Credit, Barrier Removal Tax Credit, and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit

To read the full article and learn ways that HR managers can attract and retain employees with IDD, [click here](#).

## **Building Relationships: Engaging with Employers to Elevate Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)**

**Tuesday, August 9 from 3:00-4:30 PM**

**[Click Here to Register](#)**

Join a discussion about how to strategically engage with employers to foster and promote an environment of shared trust aimed to enhance competitive, integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Webinar participants will learn about The Job Accommodation Network (JAN), a leading source of free, expert and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues. The webinar panel will also highlight innovative strategies to measure the level of current partnership engagement with employers and the impact of direct and indirect employment services.



### **ADA & Employment Resources from the U.S. Department of Labor**

The ADA underpins and inspires all of the work of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). Through policy development, outreach and education, and technical assistance, ODEP assists both workers with disabilities and employers in understanding their protections and obligations under the law.



- Through its [Job Accommodation Network \(JAN\)](#), ODEP provides extensive technical assistance on the reasonable accommodations provision of the ADA. Covered employers are required to provide "reasonable accommodations" to qualified job applicants and employees with disabilities. This is defined as any change or adjustment to a job, work environment, or the way things are usually done that would allow an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job functions, or enjoy equal access to benefits available to other employees. JAN provides expert guidance, training, and resources to individuals and employers on all aspects of accommodations at no cost. Also available are [JAN publications on the ADA and related laws](#).
- The [Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion \(EARN\)](#) is an ODEP technical assistance center that provides resources to help employers recruit, hire, retain, and advance individuals with disabilities and comply with their responsibilities under the ADA.
- The ODEP-funded [Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology \(PEAT\)](#) promotes the employment of people with disabilities through the development, adoption, and promotion of accessible technology policy.

## **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is now 988**

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is switching its 10-digit number to a three-digit phone number. **The new number to call is 988.**

It's easier to remember, and it's easier to use for people thinking about suicide or having a mental health crisis and their family members. This transition is an important step to strengthening and transforming the crisis care continuum in the U.S.

Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island was one of the co-authors of the bill behind the phone number switch. The senator said the transition will make it easier for those in need of help and for the behavioral health system offering the support.

"One of the critical issues we face, and it's not unique to the health care but is significant, is the lack of trained and qualified health care professionals," said Senator Reed. "One of the reasons I think this 988 number makes sense is because we can more efficiently use the people we have with this centralized coordination with these messages coming in."

Rhode Islanders in crisis currently use the [BH Link](#) hotline, which connects to a call center that's staffed 24/7. The hotline number is **401-414-LINK (5465)** or **855-KID(543)-LINK(5465)** for those



under age 18. The service has been judged the best in the nation when it comes to handling calls quickly. 988 calls placed in Rhode Island will be routed there.

**Who should call or text 988?** People experiencing mental health-related distress. That could be: thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.

**Who am I connected to when I call 988?** Crisis counselors stationed at BH Link, the 24-hour, 7-day triage center located in East Providence.

**Is 988 a substitute for 911?** No. In an emergency still call 911.

**Can someone concerned about a loved one call 988?** Yes.

**Does the Lifeline feature TTY services?** For TTY Users: Use your preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988.



## SignUp Extension for ASL on Disney+ and Netflix

The SignUp Google Chrome Extension overlays American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation on the streaming platforms, Disney+ and Netflix, for more accessible captioning. It is a media-accessibility tool as well as a learning tool for students of ASL. SignUp is a fun way for kids (and adults!) to enjoy mainstream movies.

Subtitles and closed captions make it possible for deaf people to enjoy films and television shows—but what about those who can't read, or whose reading isn't fast enough to keep up with the captions? How does a deaf person fully appreciate a movie if they can't understand what any of the characters are saying and can't read the captions?

Mariella Satow ran into that question when she was teaching herself American Sign Language.

According [to the BBC](#), 17-year-old Satow wanted to watch TV shows with sign language interpretation to help her learn ASL, but found very few that included signing. At first, that was the problem she wanted to solve, but as she learned more about deaf children, she realized an app that included sign language interpretation for kids' movies could also fill a gap in the deaf community.

Satow has dual citizenship in the U.S. and the U.K. and had been attending high school in England, but when she got stuck in New York during the summer of 2020 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, she used the pandemic downtime—and her \$3000 savings from dog walking—to create an app. It took her a year to develop the technology, and with the help of the deaf community and ASL teachers, the SignUp app was born.

SignUp is a free Google Chrome extension that provides sign language captioning over Disney+ videos. It puts a small box with a sign language interpreter in the corner of the screen while the movie plays—a surprisingly simple solution to the problem of not being able to hear or read captions.

Right now, the app is only available for a handful of Disney+ videos. Satow thought the site was a good place to start to have the most impact for kids, but she now has requests to add hundreds more films to the app and is planning a British Sign Language version of the app.

"There are more than 300 sign languages used worldwide, so it'll take a long time to get all of those versions out," she said.



Satow is surprised but thrilled with the reception SignUp has gotten. "I'm glad I could fill the gap in the small way I can," Satow told Sag Harbor Express. "I hope it sparks a movement of ASL captioning on everything."

To get the extension and use it to launch signing captions, go to the [Chrome Web Store](#). You can also [watch this video](#) to learn how to use SignUp.

## **Contacting DD Staff**

See the full Division Contact List attached to this newsletter.

Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00  
for questions or support  
**(401) 462-3421**

Para español, llame  
**(401) 462-3014**

Send general questions to the  
AskDD email address.

[BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:BHDDH.AskDD@bhddh.ri.gov)

Please do not email critical issues.

## **Sign Up for Our Email List**

If you aren't receiving email updates  
and newsletters from BHDDH, you can  
[sign up here](#) or on our website. Go to

<https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/events/newsandupdates/> to sign up or to see  
past quarterly newsletters and issues of DD News.



**SIGN UP FOR THE BHDDH NEWSLETTER**

## **If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, BH Link is here for you**

BH Link's mission is to ensure all Rhode Islanders experiencing mental health and substance use  
crises receive the appropriate services they need as quickly as possible in an environment that  
supports their recovery. Call 911 if there is risk of immediate danger. Visit the BH Link website  
at [www.bhlink.org](http://www.bhlink.org) or for confidential support and to get connected to care:

**CALL (401) 414-LINK (5465)** If under 18 CALL: **(855) KID(543)-LINK(5465)**

Visit the 24-HOUR/7-DAY TRIAGE CENTER at 975 Waterman Avenue, East Providence, RI

## **For Information on the Consent Decree**

For information on the Consent Decree and BHDDH, see <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/consent-decree>.

## **COVID-19 Information**

### **Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 Resources**

Hotline (401) 222-8022 or 211 after hours;  
Email [RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov](mailto:RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov)  
Website <https://health.ri.gov/covid/>  
*Includes a link to ASL videos*

### **RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)**

Website <https://ripin.org/covid-19-resources/>  
Call Center (401) 270-0101 or email [callcenter@ripin.org](mailto:callcenter@ripin.org)

### **Advocates in Action – for videos and easy to read materials**

Website <https://www.advocatesinaction.org/>  
*Website offers BrowseAloud, which will read the website to you*

## Division of Developmental Disabilities - All Staff Contacts

**Main Phone #:** (401) 462-3421    **TDD:** (401) 462-3226    **Website:** <https://bhddh.ri.gov/>  
**Fax:** (401) 462-2775    **Spanish Line:** (401) 462-3014    **BH Link:** 401-414-5465

**To report abuse/neglect:**  
 (401) 462-2629

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# TECHNOLOGY FUND GUIDANCE | SUMMER 2022

ASL TRANSLATION: <https://youtu.be/QVAPBv1wQTc> [youtu.be]

## What the Technology Fund is and how you can use it

From spring 2022 through spring 2023, people receiving services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will be able to purchase technology using a one-time Technology Fund. This fund will be in addition to your current funding.

**“Technology” includes hardware and software.**

**Hardware** is a computer or other electronic device, like:

- ✓ A tablet or cell phone
- ✓ A “smart home” appliance with automatic features
- ✓ An electronic watch

**Software** tells a computer what to do, like:

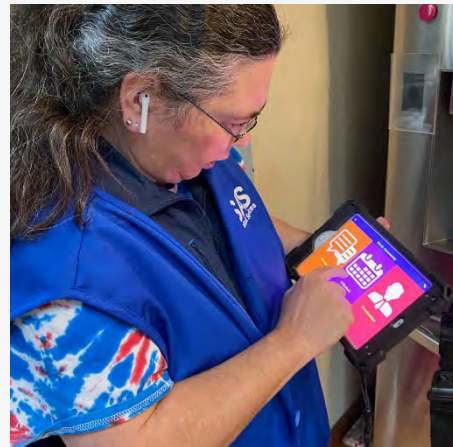
- ✓ An app that reminds you to stay on track at work
- ✓ An alarm to remind you to take your medication
- ✓ A screen reader that turns words into sound

## ❖ How technology can work for you

Technology can support your desire for more independence at home, in the community, and at work, and reduce reliance on others. Technology can help you with communicating, pursuing a passion, remembering, getting from one place to another, and many other things.



## Technology Meets Different Needs



*“My iPad, AirPods, and Work Autonomy App are important to me at work because they help to keep me organized, on time, and increase my independence.”*

— Diane



*“I’m really excited to use my community map through Google My Maps to visit all of the record stores in RI to see which one I like the best!”*

— Gloria


# TECHNOLOGY FUND GUIDANCE | SUMMER 2022

ASL TRANSLATION: <https://youtu.be/QVAPBv1wQTc> [youtu.be]

## ❖ How to get started

Think about what you want to do and how technology might help you. Talk about how technology will meet your needs during the person-centered planning process. You may also choose to update your Individual Support Plan (ISP) to include a new goal or expand upon an already existing goal.



**Virtual Informational Meeting**  
**August 10, 2022 @ 4:30 – 5:30pm**   
Meeting ID: 827 4658 6194 | Passcode: 346014

See recordings:

<https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/initiatives/technology-fund>

## ❖ How to make a purchase

**The Technology Request Form is available at:**

[www.bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/initiatives/technology-fund](http://www.bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/initiatives/technology-fund)

This form asks the following:

- ✓ Name of the technology you want to buy
- ✓ Cost of the technology you want to buy
- ✓ How the technology will help you with a barrier or challenge you're facing
- ✓ How the technology will help you meet your ISP goal

## ❖ Questions

For all questions, please contact your DDD Social Caseworker.

If you need help contacting your DDD Social Caseworker, call the DDD main phone line at (401) 462-3421.



## Technology Meets Different Needs



*"My iPad has helped me to do different types of art and I can communicate with my friends, family and even my doctor through video."*

— Alton



*"I enjoy using my iPad to film puppet shows. I also use technology to collaborate with writers and storytellers to create the content for my puppeteering."*

— Jillian

# Orientación del Fondo del Tecnología

TRADUCCIÓN ASL: <https://youtu.be/QVAPBv1wQTc> [youtu.be]

## Qué es el Fondo Tecnológico y cómo puedes usarlo

Desde la primavera de 2022 hasta la primavera de 2023, las personas que reciben servicios a través de la División de Discapacidades del Desarrollo (DDD) podrán comprar tecnología utilizando un Fondo de Tecnología de una sola vez. Este fondo será adicional a su financiación actual.

**“Tecnología” incluye hardware y software.**

**Hardware** es una computadora u otro dispositivo electrónico, como:

- ✓ Una tableta o celular
- ✓ Un electrodoméstico de “hogar inteligente” con funciones automáticas
- ✓ Un reloj electrónico

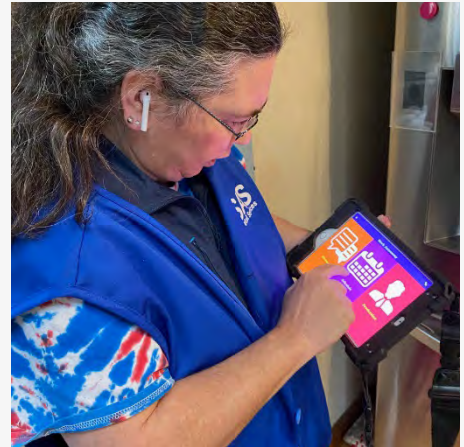
**Software** le dice a una computadora qué hacer, como:

- ✓ Una aplicación que le recuerda que se concentre en su tarea en el trabajo
- ✓ Una alarma para recordarle que tome su medicación
- ✓ Un lector de pantalla que convierte las palabras en sonido

## ❖ Cómo la tecnología puede funcionar para usted

La tecnología puede respaldar su deseo de tener más independencia en el hogar, en la comunidad y en el trabajo, y reducir la dependencia de los demás. La tecnología puede ayudarte a comunicarte, perseguir una pasión, recordar, ir de un lugar a otro y muchas otras cosas.

## La tecnología satisface diferentes necesidades



*“Mi iPad, AirPods y la aplicación Work Autonomy son importantes para mí en el trabajo porque me ayudan a mantenerme organizado, a tiempo y a aumentar mi independencia”.*

— Diane



*“¡Estoy muy emocionado de usar el mapa de mi comunidad a través de Google My Maps para visitar todas las tiendas de discos en RI y ver cuál me gusta más!”*

— Gloria

# Orientación del Fondo del Tecnología

TRADUCCIÓN ASL: <https://youtu.be/QVAPBv1wQTc> [youtu.be]

## ❖ Como empezar

Piense en lo que quiere y como la tecnología podría ayudarlo. Habla acerca de cómo la tecnología satisfará sus necesidades durante el proceso de planificación centrada en la persona. También puede optar por actualizar su Plan de Apoyo Individual (ISP) para incluir una nueva meta o ampliar una meta ya existente.



**Reunión Informativa Virtual**  
**August 10, 2022 @ 4:30 – 5:30pm**  
Meeting ID: 827 4658 6194 | Passcode: 346014



Ver una grabación:

[www.bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/initiatives/technology-fund](http://www.bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/initiatives/technology-fund)

## ❖ Como hacer una compra

El formulario de solicitud de tecnología está disponible  
<https://forms.office.com/g/29T6T376jq>

Este formulario le preguntará lo siguiente:

- ✓ Nombre de la tecnología que desea comprar
- ✓ Costo de la tecnología que desea comprar
- ✓ Cómo la tecnología te ayudará con una barrera o desafío que enfrentas.
- ✓ Cómo la tecnología le ayudará a alcanzar su objetivo de ISP.

## ❖ Preguntas

Para todas las preguntas, por favor comuníquese con el trabajador social del caso de la DDD de la persona.

Si necesita ayuda contactando su trabajador social de DDD, llame a la oficina principal de DDD línea telefónica al (401) 462-3421.

## La tecnología satisface diferentes necesidades



*“Mi iPad me ha ayudado a hacer diferentes tipos de arte y puedo comunicarme con mis amigos, familiares e incluso con mi médico a través de video”.*

— Alton



*“Disfruto usando mi iPad para filmar espectáculos de títeres. También uso la tecnología para colaborar con escritores y narradores para crear el contenido de mis títeres”.*

— Jillian



## AUGUST 2, 2022 ACCESS FOR ALL ABILITIES MINI-GRANT AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION

**4:30 – 6:30 PM FREE!**

Join the **Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities** at **The Steel Yard** to celebrate the 2022 Access for All Abilities Mini-Grant award recipients. Come and learn how each grant winner plans to make their activities more accessible for people with disabilities. Light refreshments will be available. Tours of The Steel Yard will be offered upon request.

**Please RSVP by Friday, July 29. All are welcome!**

**Grants are awarded for the purpose of increasing access for people with disabilities to social, leisure, recreational, and cultural activities. The 2022 award recipients include:**

- Biomes Marine Biology Center
- RIOT RI
- Shri Service Corps
- The Steel Yard

**Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities / RI College**  
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI 02908  
Voice: 401-456-8072  
TTY via RI Relay: 711 or 1-800-745-5555  
Spanish via RI Relay: 711 or 1-866-355-9214

### **Date:**

August 2, 2022  
4:30 – 6:30 PM

### **Location:**

The Steel Yard  
27 Sims Avenue  
Providence, RI 02908  
[www.thesteelyard.org](http://www.thesteelyard.org)

### **Accommodations:**

Please let us know if you need handicap parking or other accommodations (e.g. ASL or language interpreter) when you RSVP.



**RSVP BY JULY 29TH**

Online:

<https://bit.ly/3ygg08w>

Phone: 401-456-8072

Email: [esollecito@ric.edu](mailto:esollecito@ric.edu)

For questions, contact Elaine Sollecito by email at [esollecito@ric.edu](mailto:esollecito@ric.edu) or call 401-456-2764.

# Supporting Meaningful Employment Training Series

## *A Person-Centered Approach to Career Planning, Job Development and Retention*



### In-Person Training

All sessions will be held in person at the Sherlock Center on Disabilities, Providence, or Creative Works, Warwick. See SME Training Schedule for details. The Sherlock Center follows RI College in-person COVID guidance. Masks may be required. In the event of a COVID resurgence, training will revert to an online format.

### ACRE Certificate

To earn an ACRE Certificate, learners must attend an orientation session, 12 instructor-led modules, 3 mentor/fieldwork sessions and successfully complete fieldwork assignments. SME Training Schedule is below.

The Sherlock Center offers two paths to earn an ACRE Certificate. The recommended path is to register for the full ACRE series, which allow learners to complete the required modules and fieldwork assignments within 6 months.

**The alternative path** is to build an ACRE Certificate by completing three SME mini-series and required fieldwork assignments within a 24-month period. Complete details are available on the SME Training page of the Sherlock Center website [www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org).

### Learner Technology Requirements for Online Mentor/Fieldwork Sessions

Learners will participate in instructor-led sessions using Zoom. To participate, learners will need a computer, laptop or tablet with reliable internet access with sufficient bandwidth, and a camera. It is recommended that learners have dedicated time and space when attending sessions.

### Learner Time Commitment

Each training module is 3.5 hours. Learners are also required to participate remotely in an orientation session (1.5 hours) and three mentor/fieldwork sessions (1.5 hours each), in addition to satisfactory completion of fieldwork assignments.

*To support course completion, learners are expected to begin fieldwork during the course and meet projected assignment due dates. Learners are encouraged to access 1:1 fieldwork support offered through the Sherlock Center.*

## REGISTRATION

**Register Online:** <http://bit.ly/2Lt4vTP>

Registration and training schedule are also available on the Sherlock Center website [www.sherlockcenter.org](http://www.sherlockcenter.org). Register by **August 19**.

**Fees:** Sessions are offered free of charge to participants working for a RI organization/school, including Self-Directed Supports staff/representatives.

**Requests & Questions:** If you need a reasonable accommodation (e.g. ASL Interpreter, large print), please make your request known when you register. For registration questions, email Elaine Sollecito at [esollecito@ric.edu](mailto:esollecito@ric.edu) 401-456-2764. For training questions, email Vicki Ferrara at [vferrara@ric.edu](mailto:vferrara@ric.edu).



## Build an ACRE! SESSION MODULES

**Module 1:** Foundations in Community Employment Services and Supports

**Module 2:** Work Incentives to Support Employment and Retention

**Module 3:** Vocational Assessment I - Getting to Know the Job Seeker

**Module 4:** Vocational Assessment II - Person-Centered Employment Planning - the process

**Module 5:** Vocational Assessment III - Strategies for Community Exploration & Individualized Job Search Planning

**Module 6:** Employment Law, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Disability Disclosure

**Module 7:** Job Development I - Job Search Practices to Support Meaningful Employment

**Module 8:** Job Development II - Employer Assessment and Individualized Approach to a Job Match

**Module 9:** Job Development III - Employer Relationships and Negotiations

**Module 10:** Job Retention and Coaching I - Foundations in Job Retention Success

**Module 11:** Job Retention and Coaching II - Teaching the Job - Task Analysis and Systematic Instruction



**Module 12:** Job Retention and Coaching III - Fading Support, Quality Services and Career Development



# ADA and Accessibility Resources

1. ADA Anniversary Media Toolkit  
<https://adaanniversary.org/>
2. ADA Center for the Mid-Atlantic Region [www.adainfo.org](http://www.adainfo.org)
3. ADA Fact Sheet and Overview  
<https://adata.org/factsheet/ADA-overview>
4. ADA Materials in Spanish  
<http://www.southwestada.org/html/publications/Spanish/index.html>
5. ADA National Network <https://adata.org/>
6. ADA Publications <https://adata.org/national-product-search?keys=&type=All&tid=All>
7. Administration for Community Living (ACL) ADA Page  
<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/events-and-observances/celebrating-32nd-anniversary-americans-disabilities-act>
8. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/101st-congress/senate-bill/933>
9. Basics of the ADA Video in ASL  
<https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/americans-disabilities-act-ada-video>
10. Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center [www.adainfo.org](http://www.adainfo.org)
11. Facebook ADA National Network  
<https://www.facebook.com/adanetwork>
12. Federal Agencies and the ADA  
<https://adata.org/federal-agencies>
13. FCC Accessibility Page  
<https://www.fcc.gov/accessibility/program>
14. Free Readability Checker  
<https://readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-tests.php>
15. Great Lakes ADA Center  
<http://www.adagreatlakes.org/>
16. Great Plains ADA Center  
<http://www.gpadacenter.org/>
17. In Their Own Words: History of the ADA  
<https://acl.gov/ada/origins-of-the-ada>
18. New England ADA Center  
<http://www.newenglandada.org/>
19. Northeast ADA Center  
<http://www.northeastada.org/>
20. Northwest ADA Center <https://nwadacenter.org/>
21. Pacific ADA Center <https://www.adapacific.org/>
22. Plain Language Information  
<https://www.plainlanguage.gov/>
23. Presidential [Proclamation ADA](#)
24. Rocky Mountain ADA Center  
<http://www.rockymountainada.org/>
25. Self Advocates Guide to the ADA  
<https://autisticadvocacy.org/policy/toolkits/ada/>
26. Southeast ADA Center  
<http://www.adasoutheast.org/>
27. Southwest ADA Center  
<http://www.southwestada.org/>
28. US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division  
<https://www.ada.gov/index.html>
29. US Department of Labor Civil Rights Center  
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasam/centers-offices/civil-rights-center>
30. US Department of Transportation ADA Page  
<https://www.transit.dot.gov/ADA>
31. US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission <https://www.eeoc.gov/>
32. US Justice Department ADA Signing Video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gsGiszvyjQ>





**988**  
SUICIDE  
& CRISIS  
LIFELINE

**In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to operate through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.**

**The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** is the lead federal agency, in partnership with the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs, working to make the promise of 988 a reality for America. Moving to a 3-digit dialing code is a **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity** to strengthen and expand the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (the Lifeline).

Of course, 988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. Preparing for full 988 implementation requires a bold vision for **a crisis care system that provides direct, life-saving services to all in need.**

SAMHSA sees 988 as a first step towards a transformed crisis care system in much the same way as emergency medical services have expanded in the US.



In pursuit of this bold yet achievable vision, SAMHSA is first focused on strengthening and expanding the existing Lifeline network, providing life-saving service to all who call, text or chat via 988. Longer term, SAMHSA recognizes that linking those in crisis to community-based providers—who can deliver a full range of crisis care services—is **essential to meeting crisis needs across the nation.**





## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Lifeline and will 988 replace it?

**The Lifeline** is a national network of over 200 local, independent, and state-funded crisis centers equipped to help people in emotional distress or experiencing a suicidal crisis. **Moving to 988 will not replace the Lifeline**, rather it will be an easier way to access a strengthened and expanded network of crisis call centers. Beginning July 16, 2022, people can access the Lifeline via 988 or by the 10-digit number (which will not go away).

### When will 988 go live nationally?

**The 988 dialing code** will be available nationwide for call (multiple languages), text or chat (English only) on July 16, 2022. Until then, those experiencing a mental health or suicide-related crisis, or those helping a loved one through crisis, should continue to reach the Lifeline at its current number, **1-800-273-8255**.

### How is 988 different from 911?

**988 was established to improve access to crisis services** in a way that meets our country's growing suicide and mental health related crisis care needs. 988 will provide easier access to the Lifeline network and related crisis resources, which are distinct from 911 (where the focus is on dispatching Emergency Medical Services, fire and police as needed).

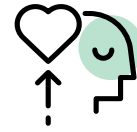
### How is 988 being funded?

**Congress has provided the Department of Health and Human Services workforce funding through the American Rescue Plan, some of which will support the 988 workforce.** At the state level, in addition to existing public/private sector funding streams, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 allows states to enact new state telecommunication fees to help support 988 operations.

### Is 988 available for substance use crisis?

**The Lifeline accepts calls from anyone who needs support** for a suicidal, mental health and/or substance use crisis.

## Urgent realities.



Too many Americans are experiencing suicide and mental health crises without the support and care they need. In 2020 alone, the US had one death by suicide about every 11 minutes — and for people aged 10-34 years, suicide is a leading cause of death.

## Easier access.



Moving to an easy-to-remember, 3-digit dialing code will provide greater access to life-saving services.

## There is hope.



Providing 24/7, free and confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress works! The Lifeline helps thousands of people overcome crisis situations every day.

Email 988 questions to:

**988Team@  
samhsa.hhs.gov**