

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) Assistive Technology (AT) Resources.

Goal: To provide Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment with information about Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Service's (IVRS) Assistive Technology (AT) Resources; and improve the collaboration between our programs as it relates to assistive technology.

Let's work together!!!

How are people using AT during the Pandemic?

I am seeing, what at one time might have been termed an accommodation become universal usage?

What do I mean? We are utilizing technology such as computers, zoom meetings, smart phones, ear buds, headsets, computer cameras etc. for most staff where at one time it would have required an accommodation request to get.

Someone with a compromised immune system may have at one time requested to work from home. Now most of us are working from home. Is our equipment Assistive Technology, or simply technology. (Universal Design)

How is it working?

- Many organizations are finding they are doing quite well.
- Regarding IVRS, we continue to provide services, and at times, even better than we have in the past.
- We have increased our knowledge base as it relates to both Assistive Technology (AT) but also Information Technology (IT) and we learned it fast. How about your organization or even you personally?
- This happened across our nation in record time. Adversity caused us to react and to react fast. Do you think that would have happened under any other circumstance?
- Does it need to happen fast? For us? For our Job Candidates? Sense of urgency



Task, Limitation, Accommodation; or TLA

- What is the Vocationally Relevant Task?
- What is the Limitation?
- What are the Accommodation options? Is it Assistive Technology?

“Getting Started” or should I say “Who do we start with?” And can you listen?

- The Job Candidate or Student
- Their Natural Supports
- The employer
- The School
- The Individualized Education Plan (IEP) What does it say?
- Anyone or anywhere else?
- Remember TLA?
- What has worked in the past? Is there any chance the assistive technology or accommodations have already been identified or are already successfully in place? If so, then what?

The Search for Accommodations with Resources

- What has worked in the past? Is there a need to reinvent the wheel?
- Job Accommodation Network (JAN)
- Google
- YouTube
- Telecommunications Access Iowa
- Iowa Compass
- IVRS Assistive Technology Local Liaison... They are available to you, to employers, and employees or Job Candidates
- Statewide Assistive Technology Specialist Bob Hendrickson

Examples of Assistive Technology inquiries over the last 2 months

- Workstation Ergonomics related to working from home e.g. Set up, headsets, adjusting desks, chairs, voice to text software or voice commands
- Home modifications e.g. ramps, bathroom mods, grab bars, railings, doorway widening, and universal/accessible design for new construction
- Vehicle Modifications e.g. driver assessments, driver training, ramps, lowered floors, spinner knobs, and Electronic Mobility Control (EMC) AEVIT Systems. YouTube Margie Driving EMC AEVIT
- Computer and Software or App recommendations

Examples of AT Inquiries Cont.

- Modifications of Ag equipment such as a ladder with handrails for a combine
- John Deere, Polaris, and Can-Am side by side compare and contrast prior to acquisition
- An Action (sit/stand) Trackchair
- 2 GB Echo Smart Pen versus Notability
- Prosthetics
- Compare and Contrast Apple Watches
- Hearing Aid Acquisition

What does IVRS offer related to AT support(s)?

An Assistive Technology Local Liaison near you.

Ames/Marshaltown: Kristi Frohwein at 515 494 3302 or Rebekah Traver at 515 233 5753

Burlington: Melissa Boyd at 319 753 2231

Cedar Rapids: Sam Mostafa at 319 294 9308

Council Bluffs: Rehna Lensch at 712 243 5346

Davenport: Paul Vogt at 563 242 7914

Des Moines: Marsha Burrighat at 515 822 2925

Dubuque: James Sigwarth at 563 588 4697

Fort Dodge/Emmetsburg: Tacey Arens at 515 573 8175 or Molly Giddings at 712 362 7921

Iowa City: Katie Seydel at 319 354 4766

Mason City: Kelsey Oliver at 641 422 4836

Ottumwa: Melia Roberts at 641 682 7569

Sioux City: Angela Young at 712 255 8871

Waterloo: Genevieve Shafer at 319 234 9308

IVRS Statewide Assistive Technology Counselor Specialist Contact Information

Feel free to reach out to me Bob Hendrickson by phone/text at 563 880 1350; or email at robert.hendrickson@iowa.gov