

LINKING EMPLOYMENT, ABILITIES AND POTENTIAL (LEAP)

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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People with disabilities have the right to employ assistive technologies, strategies for implementation, and necessary training support to maximize their independence and productivity. The Assistive Technology Center provides this opportunity to consumers, through individual and group services.

GOAL: To increase the use of technology by persons with disabilities which will enable them to live, learn, work, and play in the community of their choice.

DESCRIPTION: The Assistive Technology Center offers persons with disabilities, employers, educators, family members, and rehabilitation providers a place to obtain information and participate in classes and workshops about a wide range of assistive technology including computers, telecommunication systems and adaptive devices for work, home or recreation. Utilizing this technology will empower individuals with various disabilities to achieve their highest level of independence as productive, integrated, responsible citizens participating in all aspects of society.

SERVICES:

- **Information and Referral:** Whether exploring new assistive technology items or looking for something to buy, we have experiences and information with many types of computer and independent living equipment. Feedback is provided on various items to help the individual reach a decision.
- **Workshops:** A workshop is an excellent way for a person to get an overview of assistive technology. Topics can include the accessibility features in Windows, special features in Microsoft Office, or an assistive technology overview.
- **Assessments:** Observation in the user's environment is critical when evaluating a piece of assistive technology. LEAP has selected items that can be brought to a person's home or workplace to assess whether or not the technology could be appropriate.
- **Training:** The program provides one-on-one training to users and necessary support personnel on selected pieces of technology. This can be done with the creation of modified user manuals and individual or small group instruction.
- **Classes:** People who are using or would like to use specific pieces of assistive technology can sign up for classes to learn more about the product and how to be a more effective user. The topics will vary according to need, but will include, for example, speech recognition, screen reading software, keyboard efficiency and basic skills.

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