

Office of Developmental Programs

Supportive Technology Resources

What is Supportive Technology?

Supportive Technology (ST) is defined as any piece of equipment, device, or product that is used to acquire, improve, or maintain functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. ST includes Assistive Technology (AT) and Remote Supports (RS).

ST solutions support people with varying abilities and help them live independent, productive, and dignified lives.

In plain language, *supportive technology* is something that **helps people complete tasks**, like using your voice to turn on lights or using a screen reader to read an article on the internet. ST can provide **more independence**, by providing on demand support from staff or caregivers that are available by video. Devices can be purchased from a company that designs and sells supportive technology or from any retail store. It could also be an item custom-made for the person, or an everyday item that has been modified such as adaptive utensils and customized wheelchairs. If the item **helps the person be more independent**, it likely fits the definition of ST.

Two types of Supportive Technology that ODP waivers can fund:

Type	Definition
Assistive Technology (AT)	Assistive Technology is technology used by individuals with disabilities in order to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible.
Remote Supports (RS)	Remote Supports allows an off-site direct service provider to monitor and respond to a person's health, safety, and other needs using live communication, while offering the person more independence in their home.



Questions and Comments:

Please contact ra-PWODP_Outreach@pa.gov.

For more information, please visit - <https://home.myodp.org/resources/supportive-technology>.

