



Assistive Technology
& 24/7 TELEHEALTH
IN ARFS AND RCFES

Improving Independence, Safety, and Staff Support

6 Beds Advocacy Day 2026 - Dr. John W. Decker
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Key Challenges in Residential Care



Persistent Staff Shortages

Difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified caregivers leads to increased workload, burnout, and gaps in resident care coverage.



Resident Safety Concerns

Fall risks, medication errors, and delayed emergency response create ongoing safety vulnerabilities that require constant vigilance.



Maintaining Resident Independence

Balancing necessary supervision with residents' desire for autonomy and dignity remains a daily operational challenge.



After-Hours Care Needs

Limited overnight staffing and lack of immediate medical access create vulnerabilities during evenings, nights, and weekends.

Technology Pilot Program

The Department of Developmental Services is developing an exciting new pilot program that will explore the use of technology to deliver remote services and supports to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Technology services are intended to provide remote supports and services for individuals to meet the goals identified in their Individual Program Plans. Other goals of the program are to reduce the need for a direct support person and enable the participant greater independence, inclusion, and quality of life.

Initiated 1st Cohort March 2024.

> Eligibility and How to Participate

> FAQ and Additional Information

> Guidance to Regional Centers

> Authorizing Statute Information

> Tech Pilot Participants' Feedback and Testimonies

> Newsletters and Articles



Key outcomes so far:

- Independence rose from 58% before the pilot to 85% mid-pilot
- Feelings of safety increased from 52% to 84%
- 96% of participants felt they had choices about their assistive technology
- 91% were satisfied with their inclusion in deciding which devices would work best for them

Person Centered Planning & Consent



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What is Assistive Technology?

ACRC coordinated the State of California's Technology Pilot Program from 2022-2026. Assistive technology refers to devices, systems, and equipment designed to help individuals maintain independence, safety, and quality of life. In residential settings, these tools support residents with daily activities while reducing caregiver burden.

Examples include mobility aids, medication reminders, fall detection sensors, voice-activated devices, and remote monitoring systems that enable residents to live more independently.





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Types of Assistive Technology



Mobility Aids

Wheelchairs, walkers, grab bars, and transfer equipment that help residents maintain independence and move safely throughout the facility.



Monitoring Systems

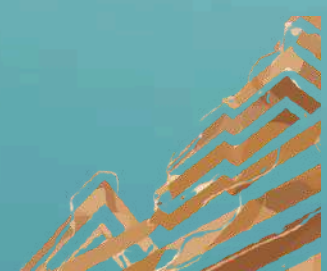
Fall detection sensors, medication reminders, and smart home devices that alert staff to potential safety concerns while preserving resident privacy and dignity.

Blue Moon Living Deaf Services



Communication Devices

Speech-generating devices, hearing aids, and visual aids that enable residents to express needs and stay connected with caregivers and loved ones.





AT Benefits

Assistive Technology transforms residential care by empowering residents to maintain their independence while ensuring safety. These solutions work seamlessly in the background, providing support without being intrusive or stigmatizing.

From smart medication dispensers to motion sensors and voice-activated devices, AT tools help residents manage daily activities confidently while giving staff peace of mind through automated monitoring.



Enhanced Independence

Voice-activated controls, automated lighting, and smart home features help residents perform daily tasks independently.



Fall Prevention

Motion sensors, bed alarms, and wearable devices detect risks early and alert staff before incidents occur.



Medication Safety

Automated dispensers and reminder systems ensure accurate dosing and timely administration for all residents.



ACRC Vendors StationMD

Vendor # PA2762

24/7

Telehealth Services



Round-the-clock access to licensed medical professionals for your residents. StationMD platform connects residential staff and residents with healthcare providers anytime, day or night, reducing unnecessary ER visits and ensuring timely medical guidance when it matters most.

Benefits include immediate access to nurses and physicians, medication consultations, symptom assessment, and care coordination—all without leaving the facility. Staff receive real-time support for clinical decisions.



Telehealth Advantages

08

Reduced ER Visits

24/7 telehealth access helps address medical concerns early, preventing unnecessary emergency room trips and reducing healthcare costs for residents and facilities.

02

Immediate Medical Guidance

Staff can connect with healthcare professionals instantly for real-time advice on resident concerns, medication questions, and symptom assessment any time of day.

03

Peace of Mind

Families and staff gain confidence knowing expert medical support is always available, improving care quality and reducing anxiety during health incidents.





Integrating AT & Telehealth

Assistive technology and 24/7 telehealth work together to create a comprehensive care ecosystem. AT devices monitor daily activities and detect changes, while telehealth provides immediate clinical response and ongoing support.

- ✓ AT monitors, telehealth responds
- ✓ Seamless data sharing between systems
- ✓ Staff supported at every step



Motion and Activity Sensors



Accelerometers
Activity recognition
step counting,
fall detection,
energy expenditure



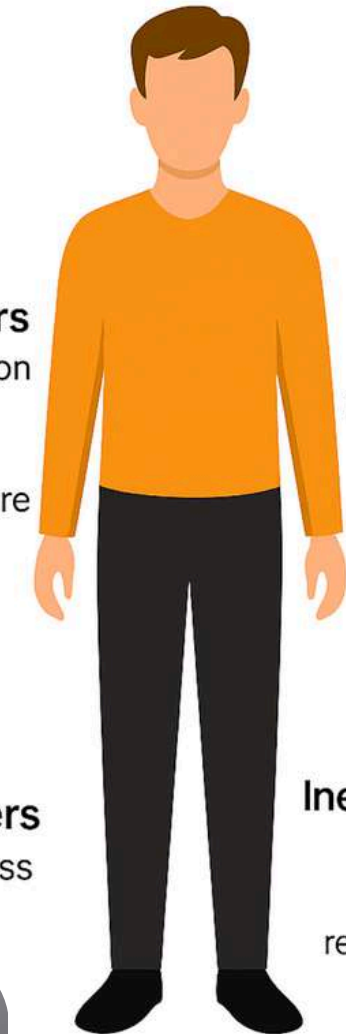
Gyroscopes
Motion tracking,
posture classification



Magnetometers
Spatial awareness



Inertial Measurement Units (IMUs)
Gait analysis,
rehabilitation monitoring





Staff Support Benefits



Reduced Workload

Automated monitoring and remote consultations reduce manual tasks, allowing staff to focus on meaningful resident interactions and quality care.



Better Decision-Making

Real-time health data and 24/7 telehealth access provide staff with actionable insights, enabling confident and informed care decisions for residents.



Improved Satisfaction

With better tools and support systems, staff experience less burnout, greater confidence, and higher overall job satisfaction in their caregiving roles.





Resident Independence & Dignity

Assistive technology empowers residents to maintain their independence while ensuring safety and quality of life. Smart devices and telehealth solutions provide residents with greater control over their daily activities, reducing reliance on staff for routine tasks while preserving dignity and autonomy.

By integrating voice-activated controls, medication reminders, and fall detection systems, residents can live more independently with confidence. These technologies support aging in place while giving families and staff peace of mind.



Personal Autonomy

Voice-controlled devices allow residents to manage lights, temperature, and entertainment independently, preserving their sense of control.



Enhanced Safety

Wearable sensors and smart monitoring provide 24/7 safety without intrusive supervision, maintaining resident privacy and dignity.



Quality of Life

Telehealth access reduces unnecessary hospital visits, keeping residents comfortable in familiar surroundings.



Safety Enhancements



Fall Detection Technology

AI-powered sensors detect falls instantly, alerting staff and telehealth providers for immediate response and intervention.



Emergency Response Systems

24/7 access to medical professionals ensures rapid emergency assessment and coordination with local emergency services.



Medication Reminders

Automated alerts and smart dispensers help residents maintain medication schedules, reducing errors and missed doses.



Wandering Prevention

GPS tracking and door sensors protect residents with cognitive impairments, alerting staff to unauthorized exits.





Assess Current Needs

Evaluate resident profiles, identify mobility, cognitive, and safety challenges. Review existing technology infrastructure and staff capabilities to determine gaps.

Select Appropriate Technologies

Choose assistive devices and telehealth solutions that match identified needs. Prioritize user-friendly, scalable options that integrate with current workflows.

Train Staff & Monitor Outcomes

Provide comprehensive training for all staff members. Establish metrics to track resident independence, safety incidents, and staff efficiency improvements.



Implementation Steps





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Key Takeaways

Assistive technology and 24/7 telehealth create meaningful improvements across your Residential Facility—enhancing resident independence, safety, and quality of life while providing essential support for your care staff.

- ✔ Better resident outcomes
- ✔ Enhanced staff support
- ✔ Improved quality of life



Thank You
**FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**



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