

Assistive Technology and Access Evaluations **“At a Glance”**

Assistive Technology and Access Evaluations are designed to identify tools and strategies for removing barriers across a person's environment. Their purpose is to maximize independence, assure the highest level of safety, and enhance the quality of life for an individual. They are strength based, centered on choice, and include elements that help assure that identified tools are an effective match for both the person and their settings.

Each evaluation identifies how an individual's disability impacts their daily functioning and considers factors such as mobility, cognition, and support systems in order to make practical recommendations that enable increased independence. They identify issues pertaining to home/community safety and accessibility; activities of daily living and self-care; access to communication; and factor in each individual's interests, preferences, and goals. The evaluation process then involves a careful matching of tools and strategies to address identified needs while considering the environment and supports around the individual. Equipment trials and demonstrations may be utilized in this process.

Examples of recommendations may include items such as entryway ramps, grab-bars or modifications; Durable Medical Equipment like transfer benches or lifts; adapted devices for eating, toileting, bathing, or dressing; environmental control for independently locking and opening doors or operating appliances; adapted computer equipment for accessing information; and tools for communication such as amplified or captioned telephones and communication devices.

The evaluation process involves three components: an initial evaluation, a follow up visit for installation and training for the individual and supports, and a final follow up to assure that recommendations are successfully implemented. The initial evaluation can take place prior to an individual's transition from a facility to an independent living environment. This will help assure that a location is appropriate for the transition. Recommendations from the evaluation are clearly outlined and include pricing and vendor information in order to assist case-managers and support staff in obtaining devices.

Assistive Technology and Access Evaluations will be provided for Money Follows the Person Recipient as part of their transition plan, based on the MFP Transition Coordinator's assessment of each participant's clinical needs. This will assist with assuring that an individual's living environment of choice is one where they will be able to thrive independently. Additionally, the evaluation will guide the use of MFP and CFC funds by prioritizing needs that reflect both the consumer's choice and elements that will support safety and access in the home for daily living.

1. Assistive Technology and Access Evaluations

Each evaluation is three-part:

- 1) Initial evaluation which includes necessary site visits, meetings with consumer and supports, and information gathering
- 2) A follow-up visit for installation of equipment and training for consumer and supports
- 3) A final visit to assure that recommendations are implemented and effective.

2. MFP Participants

- a. Each MFP recipient will have the opportunity to receive an Assistive Technology and Access Evaluation as part of their transition plan, based on the MFP Transition Coordinator's assessment of need.
- b. MFP participants will fully take part in prioritizing recommendations identified during the evaluation.

3. Vermont Assistive Technology Program (VATP)

- a. VATP will provide Technical Assistance to vendors providing the Assistive Technology and Access evaluations. This Technical Assistance will assist with the AT consideration process, identifying tools and strategies, locating equipment/service vendors, and identifying referral sources as needed.
- b. VATP's equipment demonstration and loan inventory as well as used equipment available through the AT Reuse Project Community Exchange will be available for vendor staff to access for the purpose of carrying out the evaluation, conducting equipment trials, and sourcing affordable equipment options.

4. Rate – The Assistive Technology and Access Evaluations will be paid for by MFP participant's Transition Funds.

- a. The service cost maximum is set at \$600 for the complete three-part evaluation.
- b. If only the initial evaluation occurs and the full three-part evaluation cannot be completed, the first evaluation service cost maximum is set at \$200.
- c. The service will be billable at a rate of \$25 per quarter hour.