



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF
OHIO

Executive Order 2018-06K

The Establishment of the Technology First Initiative
and the Ohio Technology First Council to Expand the
Use of Supportive Technology for Individuals with
Developmental Disabilities

WHEREAS, many Ohioans with developmental disabilities encounter obstacles in their lives that can be overcome with technology; and

WHEREAS, innovative supportive technology positively impacts the lives of Ohioans with developmental disabilities at home and in our communities; and

WHEREAS, “supportive technology” includes any product, device, or equipment that may be used to maintain, increase, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, with continuing technological advancements, Ohioans with developmental disabilities increasingly have more opportunities to access innovative supportive technology that lowers barriers that people with disabilities encounter in their daily lives and that promotes their independence, confidence, and abilities; and

WHEREAS, Ohio recognizes that supportive technology in the workplace can enable individuals with disabilities to perform job tasks in order to seek or maintain employment to achieve independence; and

WHEREAS, the demand for direct support staff who assist people with developmental disabilities is projected to increase and technology is one tool that can help to supplement and assist those who do the important work of caring for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, while Ohio recognizes that human relationships are an essential part of all our lives, supportive technology can connect people with disabilities with additional assistance to supplement and enhance the care that they receive; and

WHEREAS, Ohio aims to ensure supportive technology solutions are considered when determining the appropriate services and supports to be provided for people with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Ohio commits to a statewide initiative, *Technology First*, led by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (“DODD”), which will coordinate efforts to expand access to supportive technology designed to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities;

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order and direct that:

1. Ohio, through its *Technology First* initiative, is committed to the goal that citizens with developmental disabilities be afforded the opportunity to improve their lives through supportive technology.
2. Supportive technology that is intended to address an individual’s assessed needs shall be prioritized when considering services and support needs.
3. The Ohio Technology First Council (the “Council”) is created to advise regarding ways to expand the use of supportive technology for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The Council shall consist of ten members, including the director of the DODD or the director’s designee, the director of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities or the director’s designee, and other members to be designated by the director of the DODD, consisting of the following:
 - a) One member who is a representative of an organization that works with or advocates on behalf of persons with autism and related

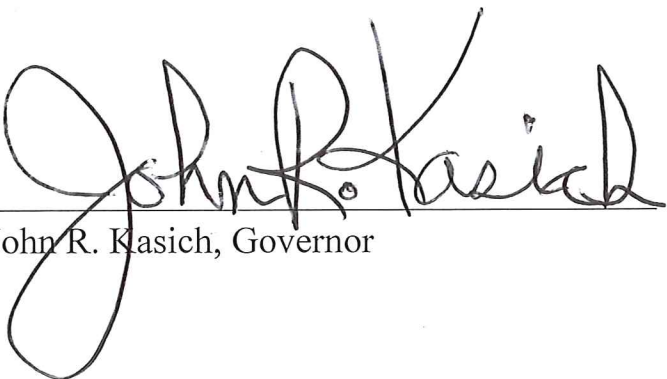
conditions;

- b) One member who represents the county boards of developmental disabilities and who has significant experience using supportive technology to provide services to people with developmental disabilities;
 - c) One member who is a representative of an intellectual or developmental disability advocacy organization;
 - d) One member who is familiar with supportive technology research and who represents an Ohio institution of higher learning;
 - e) Two members representing service providers who have significant experience using supportive technology to provide services to people with developmental disabilities;
 - f) One member who is the parent or guardian of a child with a developmental disability and who has significant experience with the use of supportive technology; and
 - g) One member who is a person with a developmental disability and who has significant experience with the use of supportive technology.
4. Council members shall serve without compensation. The DODD shall provide administrative support to the Council. The director of DODD or the director's designee shall serve as the chair of the Council.
 5. All Cabinet Agencies, Boards and Commissions shall comply with requests issued by the Council, subject to the supervision of their respective agency directors.
 6. In the first six months following the effective date of this Executive Order, the Council shall do the following:
 - a) Make recommendations to develop state policy to encourage the use of supportive technology and to align Ohio Administrative Code waiver service rules with that policy;
 - b) Identify and address areas where sufficient support is not currently available or where additional options may be needed to assist those with developmental disabilities to gain access to supportive technology;
 - c) Identify best practices, effective partnerships, and opportunities for shared services among existing providers and county boards of developmental disabilities to increase supportive technology opportunities for those with developmental disabilities;

- d) Recommend ways to integrate supportive technology into existing programs to move with children as they grow into adulthood, with a focus on transition-age youth;
- e) Develop educational materials for county boards, providers, and families about how supportive technology can have a positive impact on the independence, skills, and abilities of persons with developmental disabilities;
- f) Recommend system-level benchmarks for monitoring use of supportive technology and person-centered outcomes that demonstrate increased quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities; and
- g) Submit to the director of DODD and the Governor by December 31st, 2018, a report setting forth recommendations for the use of supportive technology for services to persons with developmental disabilities.

I signed this Executive Order on 5-24, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio, and it will not expire unless rescinded.




John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State