

Chapter 306: Rehabilitation Technology Services

Vermont Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Policy and Procedures Manual

Revision Date:

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Section I. Definitions

- A. **"Rehabilitation engineering"** means the systematic application of engineering sciences to design, develop, adapt, test, evaluate, apply, and distribute technological solutions to problems confronted by individuals with disabilities in functional areas, such as mobility, communication, hearing, vision, and cognition, and in activities associated with employment, independent living, education, and integration into the community.
- B. **"Rehabilitation technology"** means the systematic application of technologies, engineering methodologies, or scientific principles to meet the needs of and address the barriers confronted by individuals with disabilities in areas that include education, rehabilitation, employment, transportation, independent living, and recreation. The term includes rehabilitation engineering, assistive technology devices, and assistive technology services. *Rehabilitation technology also includes home modifications which are covered in Chapter 315 of this policy manual.*

Section II. General Policy

- A. Rehabilitation technology services may be provided for a person at any stage in the rehabilitation process: during determination of eligibility and priority for services under the Division's order of selection for services; plan development (including worksite assessment); as a service in an IPE to reach a vocational goal; and as a post-employment service.
- B. The Vermont Assistive Technology Program (VATP) is housed within DVR. VATP Assistive Technology Specialists are available to vocational counselors to consult about potential technological supports for a participant's IPE. After the consultation regarding the participant's goals and challenges are discussed and explored, the AT Consultant will research potential solutions and will produce a written report for the consumer and the vocational counselor. The report will generally contain multiple proposed AT devices and strategies that could be beneficial to the participant with costs and vendors to procure the items.

Section III. Spending and Related Guidelines

- A. Although rehabilitation technology services are exempt from the determination of the availability of comparable services and benefits, such comparable services and benefits shall be used if such a determination will not interfere with the person's progress toward employment and if the person agrees. (See Chapter 103, "Comparable Services and Benefits")
- B. DVR does not have specific spending guidelines for technology. This is because the technology evolves so quickly that any guidelines would quickly become redundant. Counselors are strongly encouraged to consult with an AT specialist for any AT equipment purchase no matter how inexpensive. This is because, we want to be certain it is the right solution. Therefore, DVR requires counselors to use the following procedures when purchasing assistive technology.

- C. For AT purchases that are less than \$200 counselors are encouraged but not required to consult with an AT specialist.
- D. For AT purchases \$200 to \$999 the counselor must have consulted with an AT specialist who must agree the equipment is appropriate for the need.
- E. For AT purchases that exceed \$1,000 the counselor must have consulted with an AT specialist who must agree the equipment is appropriate for the need. Also, the DVR Regional Manager must review and approve the purchase,