



Massachusetts Employment First COVID-19 Resource List

Employment First Massachusetts and the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) have developed a [series of products](#) on providing day and employment services during the COVID-19 pandemic. In conjunction with that effort, this list of additional resources has been created. It includes a variety of resources to assist day and employment service providers, service systems, school system personnel, individuals, families, and others, during the pandemic. The focus is on employment and related services and supports, and includes links to helpful websites, presentations, materials, and articles. Items listed have been sorted into categories to make it easy to find those resources for specific needs. In order to keep this list to a manageable size, we recognize that there may be useful resources that are not included. If there are items that should be added, or if you have any feedback, please contact David Hoff at the Institute for Community Inclusion – david.hoff@umb.edu.

COVID-19 – General Resource Sites

The following sites have a variety of information and links to various topics related to COVID-19.

1. [American Association on Health and Disability](#)
 2. [Association for People Supporting Employment First \(APSE\)](#)
 3. [Southeast ADA Center](#)
 4. [State Employment Leadership Network \(SELN\)](#)
 5. [Tech Soup](#) – variety of resources for non-profits
 6. [WIOA Technical Assistance Center \(WINTAC\)](#)
 7. [Vera Institute of Justice](#)
-

COVID-19 – Plain Language Information

1. [SARTAC: Self-Advocacy and Beyond](#) - Variety of materials including webinars and plain language guides in multiple languages
2. [COVID-19 in Plain Language](#) – 1 page flyer in multiple languages (NY OPDD)
3. [Coronavirus Guide for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) (Alliance Center for Independence)
4. [COVID-19: What in the World is Going On](#) - booklet in multiple languages and video, and [My COVID-19 Plan](#) - [booklet](#) in multiple languages and [video](#) (Informing Families)
5. [A Community Health Guide to Understanding the Coronavirus](#) - booklet and video in multiple languages (Equality Labs)
6. VIDEOS: [Self-Determination Channel](#) (Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities)
7. VIDEO: [Virus Safety for People with Disabilities](#) (TRN)
8. VIDEO: [What is Coronavirus?](#) (Rooted in Rights)

MASSACHUSETTS SPECIFIC RESOURCES



General Information

1. [Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 Information](#)
2. [Department of Developmental Services \(DDS\)](#) – COVID-19 information at bottom of page
 - o [DDS Day Programs – Summary Guidelines and Approved Remote Service Delivery](#)
3. [Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council COVID-19 Resources](#)
4. [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\) – COVID-19 Information and Resources for Special Educators](#)
5. [Department of Mental Health \(DMH\) COVID-19 Resources](#)
6. [Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission \(MRC\)](#)
7. [Massachusetts Commission for the Blind – COVID-19 Resources](#)

Workforce Development Agencies

1. [Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development](#)
2. [Unemployment Information - Department of Unemployment Assistance](#)
3. [Commonwealth Corporation – Resources for individuals and communities](#)

Advocacy Organizations

1. [The Arc of Massachusetts COVID-19 Resources](#)
2. [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\) Massachusetts COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

Employment and Transition Services:

Materials and Resources FOR PROVIDING SERVICES REMOTELY AND ONLINE



Employment Curriculums and Materials For Adults and Youth

These are a variety of materials available online that can be used with adults and youth, as part of employment preparation and services. The materials specifically for youth have information they may also be useful for adults.

1. [Explore Work Curriculum](#) (Florida Developmental Disabilities Council)
2. Materials from Project STIR in Ohio: a) [General site](#) b) [Leadership Training](#) c) [Road to Work Manual](#)
3. [SCILS Group Materials](#) - Wide variety of materials on self-advocacy with support from the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Materials specific to employment include
 - o VIDEOS: a) [Everybody Can Work](#); b) [Work is for All](#)
 - o BOOKLETS: a) [My Choice, My Future](#) b) [How I Want to Spend My Time](#)
4. [Work Resource Kit](#)
5. [Youthhood](#)

6. INFORMATION BRIEF: [Start with Me: A Guide to Person-Centered Planning For Job Seekers](#) (Institute for Community Inclusion)
7. VIDEO: [Explore – Prepare - Act](#) (Massachusetts self-advocates)

Online Employment Exploration

These sites have a variety of videos and other resources that can be used to explore various jobs and occupations.



1. [Able Eyes Virtual Employer Tours](#)
2. [AG Explorer](#)
3. [CareerOneStop Virtual Career Tours](#)
4. [ONET Interest Profiler with Career Videos to Supplement](#)
5. [The Career Index](#)
6. [Virtual Job Shadow](#)

Transition and Educator Resources

1. [Designing an Accessible Online Course](#) (Explore Access)
2. National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)
 - o [Transition Resources During COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
 - o [NTACT Webinars](#)
3. [Pre-ETS Resources Facebook Group](#) - for delivering Pre-Employment Transition Services during COVID-19
4. [Resources for Educators & Families Adjusting to Online and At-Home Learning](#) (ThinkCollege)

Providing Services and Supports Remotely

1. [Resources for Distance Service Delivery](#) (WINTAC)
2. WEBINAR: [Strategies for Providing Remote Employment Supports](#) (APSE)
3. HANDOUT: [Conducting Discovery Virtually](#) (Griffin-Hammis Associates)
4. PRESENTATION: [Using technology and apps for person-centered planning and transition supports](#) (Arc of Winchester)
5. HANDOUT: [Working with Support Staff During COVID-19](#) (Green Mountain Self-Advocates) - Information for people with disabilities

Healthy Mind, Body, Spirit Activities

1. ARTICLE AND WEBINAR: [Keeping Connected While Staying Apart](#) (Temple Collaborative on Community Inclusion)
2. ARTICLE: [14 Best Sites for Taking Online Classes That'll Boost Your Skills and Get You Ahead](#) (The Muse)

Employer and Accommodation Information Specific to COVID-19

1. [Job Accommodation Network](#)
2. [Information from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#)

Staff Resources

Direct Support Professional Resources for Dealing with COVID-19

1. [COVID-19 Toolkit for DSPs](#) (National Association of Direct Support Professionals)

Staff Training Resources on Employment

Staff and organizations may find it is a good time to expand staff skills and competencies. These organizations have online training available, either live or recorded. Many of these trainings and resources are offered at no cost.

1. [Employment First Massachusetts](#) (presented by the Institute for Community Inclusion)
2. Institute for Community Inclusion: In addition to the offerings via Employment First Massachusetts, ICI has training and resources available via its [main website](#), as well as [ThinkWork](#) and other ICI initiatives, including live and archived webinars –
3. [AbilityNet – Technology and Disability](#)
4. [APSE](#)
5. [College of Employment Services](#)
6. [Griffin-Hammis Associates](#)
7. [Job Accommodation Network](#)
8. [Training Resource Network](#)
9. [US Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy](#) - Click on Topics tab to find resources on Customized Employment, Employment First, Accommodations, and many other subjects.
10. [Virginia Commonwealth University](#)



Benefits and Finances

These resources can assist with the economic impact of COVID-19, management of public benefits, and government assistance.

Internal Revenue Service

1. [Economic Impact Payments](#)
2. [Economic Impact Payments What You Need to Know](#)
3. [For Non-Filers of Taxes – Site to Enter Payment Information](#)

Social Security Administration

1. [Social Security and COVID-19](#)
2. [Social Security Administration Blog](#)

National Disability Institute

1. [Financial Resilience Resources](#) - Wide variety of resources on dealing with the financial impact of the pandemic. Noteworthy articles: a) *Promoting Financial Health and Resiliency for People with Disabilities*; b) *Impact on the Disability Community – Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Family First Response Act*



Yag Tan Institute on Employment and Disability – Cornell University

1. [COVID-19 Resources](#) - Resources include: *COVID-19 and Social Insurance and Benefit Programs* (handout), and COVID-19, Public Benefits, and the CARES Act (webinar)

Transportation and COVID-19

1. [Community Transportation Association of America COVID-19 Resources](#)
2. HANDOUT: [Disability Coalition Guidance for Transportation Providers](#)
3. VIDEO: [Know Your Transportation Rights During COVID-19](#) (NDRN)



Travel Instruction Materials to Continue Instruction Remotely

General skills:

1. [A Chance to Ride Curriculum](#) (The Kennedy Center)
2. [Curriculum resources compiled by the MBTA travel trainers](#)
3. [Galludet University Travel Instruction Curriculum](#) – While some content is specific to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, much is fairly general and can be used for a wide range of individuals with a bit of modification.
4. [Travel instruction curriculum from TriMet](#)

Tools specific to a transit authority:

1. [Berkshire Regional Transit Authority \(BRTA\)](#) - Videos on paying with a Charlie Card & using with the fare vending machine
 2. [Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority \(CCRTA\)](#) - Videos
 3. Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) - Guide to Ride & customized tools for each bus route available upon request. Contact pwaitkevich@gatra.org
 4. [MBTA Access Guides](#)
 5. MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) – [Online 30-Minute Pre-Travel Classes](#)
 6. Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) - [Videos](#) (also available in [Spanish](#))
 7. Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) – [Videos](#)
 8. Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA) - stay up to date on remote learning opportunities with the [PVRTA Travel Trainer's new newsletter](#)
-



Technology

The following resources have a wide variety of ideas, guidance, and resources in use of technology that can help in providing services, supports, and classes remotely and online.

Organizations

1. [AbilityNet](#) - Organization focused on accessible technology for people with disabilities
2. [AdaptTech Research Network](#) - Information on built-in accessibility features for various technology, as well as database of free and inexpensive adaptive technology
3. [Tech Soup](#) - Technology resources for non-profit organizations
4. [National Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training \(AT3\) Center](#) – General information about assistive technology and links to state assistive technology programs
5. Pacer Center
 - [Simon Technology Center](#) - Wide variety of information and resources on AT for adults and children, including videos and publications
 - [Webinars](#) - Includes webinars on AT
7. [Arc of Westchester – Tech Supports](#) Variety of resources on AT, including listing of apps and instructional webinars
8. [Tech Goes Home](#) – Organization focused on bridging digital divide
9. [EveryoneOn](#) – Organization focused on finding low cost internet and computers

Articles

1. [Accessible Web Conferences and Webinar Best Practices](#) (FDA)
2. [Accessibility in Video Conferencing and Remote Meetings](#) (Drake Music)
3. [Guide to low-income internet options and affordable internet plans](#) (AllConnect)
4. [Keeping the ME in Media: Thoughts, Ideas and Tips for Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities to Use Social Media](#) (Vita Community Services)

Video Platform Articles

1. [Best Video Conferencing Software 2020: Free and Paid Solutions for Business](#) (TechRadar)
2. [The Best Video Conferencing Software for 2020 \(PC Magazine\)](#) (PC Magazine)
3. [How to Choose a Free Videoconferencing APP](#) (The Verge)
4. [Best Video Conferencing Apps and Software for Accessibility](#) (The Big Hack)

Staying Safe Online

1. [Internet and Mobile Device Safety Tips](#) (Youth Organizing! Disabled & Proud)
2. [Online Safety and Social Media](#) - includes video on internet safety (ConnectAbility Canada)
3. [Staying Safe on Social Media and Online](#) – guide for download (Mental Health Foundation)
4. WEBINAR: [Staying Safe Online: Tips for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Their Loved Ones](#) - for Professionals and Families (Arc of NJ)

HIPPA – Health Insurance Protection and Portability Act

With services being provided online, there may be questions regarding HIPPA, whether it applies, and how to manage it. These resources can provide guidance.



1. [Letter from CMS on application of HIPPA to Medicaid Funded HCBS \(Home and Community Based Services\)](#)
2. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) - [HIPPA: CMS \(COVID-19\) Partner Toolkit](#)
3. [HIPPA Journal](#)



*This publication was developed by the
Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston,
and funded by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
as part of the Employment First Initiative.*

www.communityinclusion.org

COVID-19 Publications and Resources: <https://covid19.communityinclusion.org>
