Ohio Technology First Advisory Committee 7/17/2025: The Advisory Committee met to discuss the Remote Support and Assistive Technology services draft rules, as well as review the priorities from our 12/21/2024 meeting. 57 Advisory Committee members, including providers, county board staff, educators, people with lived experience, family members, and other partners from across the state split into groups of 4 and answered the questions below. The answers will inform the Ohio Technology First workplan, as well as the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities ongoing efforts to improve the quality of Remote Support and Assistive Technology services.

QUESTIONS

- Please define Remote Supports as a group, and how it differs from Assistive Tech...
- What are your thoughts on the Remote Support Draft Rule?
- What are your thoughts on the Assistive Tech Draft Rule?

- Do the priorities need updating since our 12/19/2024 meeting (see Priorities below)?
- What has changed around those priorities?
- What needs to be added/subtracted?

RS/AT Draft Rules

DODD has taken the information from your reviews of the Remote Support and Assistive Technology waiver rules and incorporated several requests. These updated draft rules will be published for review in the next few weeks through both rule and waiver amendment public comment period. We look forward to additional feedback during this process.

DODD will not include two major requests voiced at the 7/17/2025 meeting, as we need more time to do research and would also like to have more conversations with stakeholders. These two remaining issues are:

1. Remote Supports being provided in the community and
2. Remote Supports with paid back up to either have the Medicaid provider of record be the Homemaker Personal Care (HPC) provider or the Remote Support Provider. (In the revised Remote Support rule draft, we are returning to the original configuration: the paid back up provider (HPC) is authorized for the RS service and contracts with the RS provider.)

We will be hosting two in-person meetings in October at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus to work through the 2 issues with stakeholders. Each session will be limited to 25 people, without duplicate attendees.

- Register here for October 24, 2025, 9 – 10 am.
- Register here for October 28, 2025, 2 – 3 pm.

Ohio Technology First

PRIORITIES

Original 12/21/2024 Priorities:

1. Increase communication in more innovative and less conventional ways – short videos, regionally-based trainings, more focus on storytelling and Ohio Tech Ambassadors.
2. Education for everyone involved: SSAs and county board staff, ICF and DC staff, families, educators, providers of all kinds, taskforce members.
3. Language and materials that are simple and in plain language.
4. Collaboration and training that is effective and gets to the point, to the "why" without a lot of confusion.
5. Consultation and training for people and families, so they can have a better understanding of the tech they have and may access in the future.
6. Simplification of waiver rules around Remote Supports and Assistive Tech.
7. More conversations among Technology First Taskforce members around their local partnerships, and how we can leverage the connections among agencies to increase capacity and knowledge across all agencies and systems.

The attendees from the 7/17/2025 meeting voted on the top 3 priorities and revised to reflect current concerns.

7/17/2025 Revised Priorities:

1. Simplification of waiver rules around Remote Supports and Assistive Tech.
2. Education and training for everyone involved (SSAs and county board staff, ICF and DC staff, families, educators, providers of all kinds, taskforce members), with a focus on collaboration and simplification so that everyone can have a better understanding of supportive technology and its importance in people's lives.
3. Communication on a routine basis to everyone involved, concerning the impact of the Ohio Technology First Initiative, including data on progress of projects and how many people are utilizing technology services, and information concerning new innovative technology solutions.

Recommendations beyond the priorities:

- Communicating Inter-Agency collaboration better.
- Deeper and routine dives into data.
- Increase communication to increase utilization.
- Keeping pace with new technology solutions.

NEXT STEPS

- o Revise Remote Support and Assistive Tech rule drafts based on info from reviews (DODD Team)
- o Distribute the documents among Taskforce members and Advisory Committee members (Keith)
- o Share information with Taskforce members on 8/21/2025 (Keith and Anne)
- o Include "priorities" and "next steps" in the Technology First workplan (Keith)
- o Draft a White Paper concerning the Technology First Initiative (Keith and CLE Team)