

Technology First: Reimagining Community Living for People with Disabilities



State of the States
In Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

2025 Developmental Disabilities
Legislative Symposium
June 11 – 13
Seattle, WA

KU CENTER ON
DISABILITIES

Why Technology Solutions?

Why Now?



State of the States

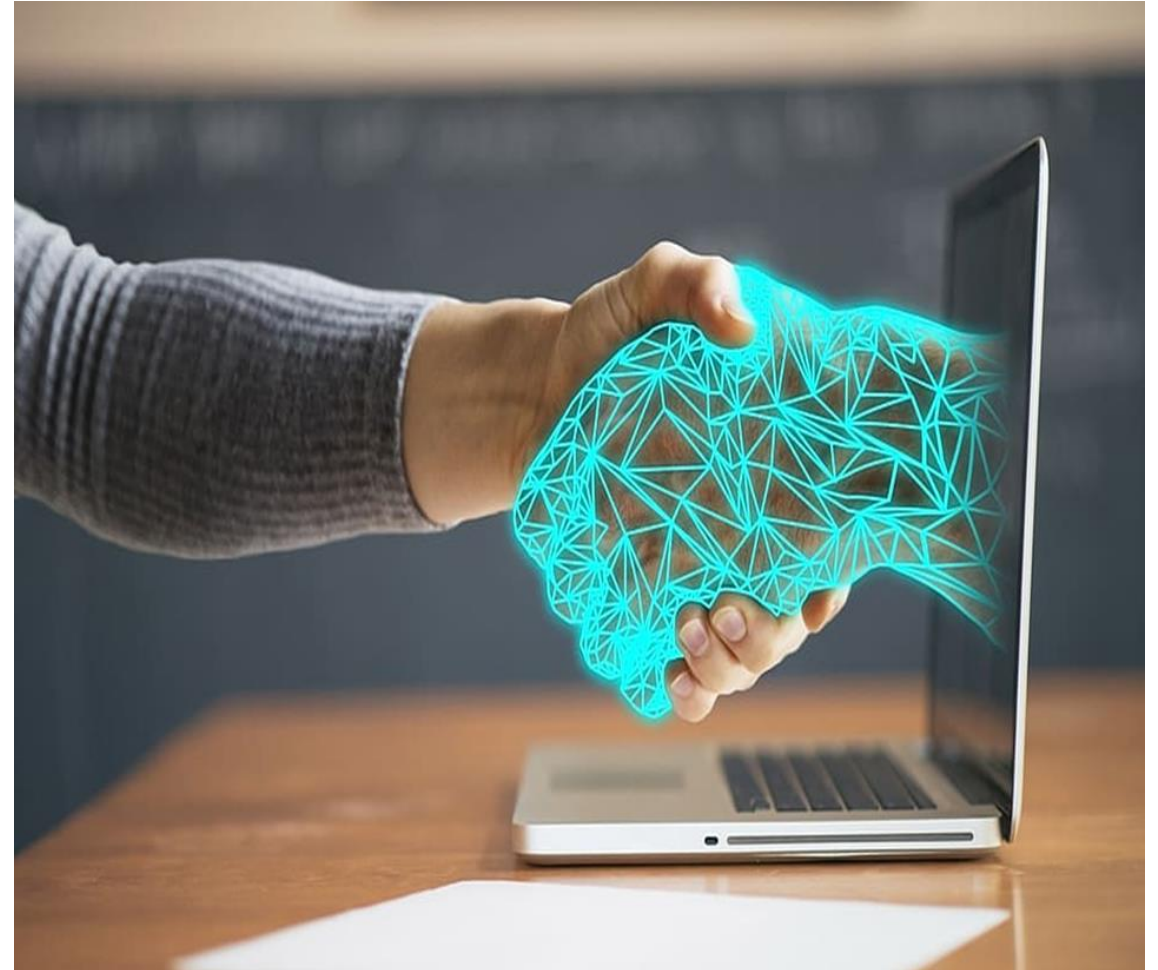
In Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



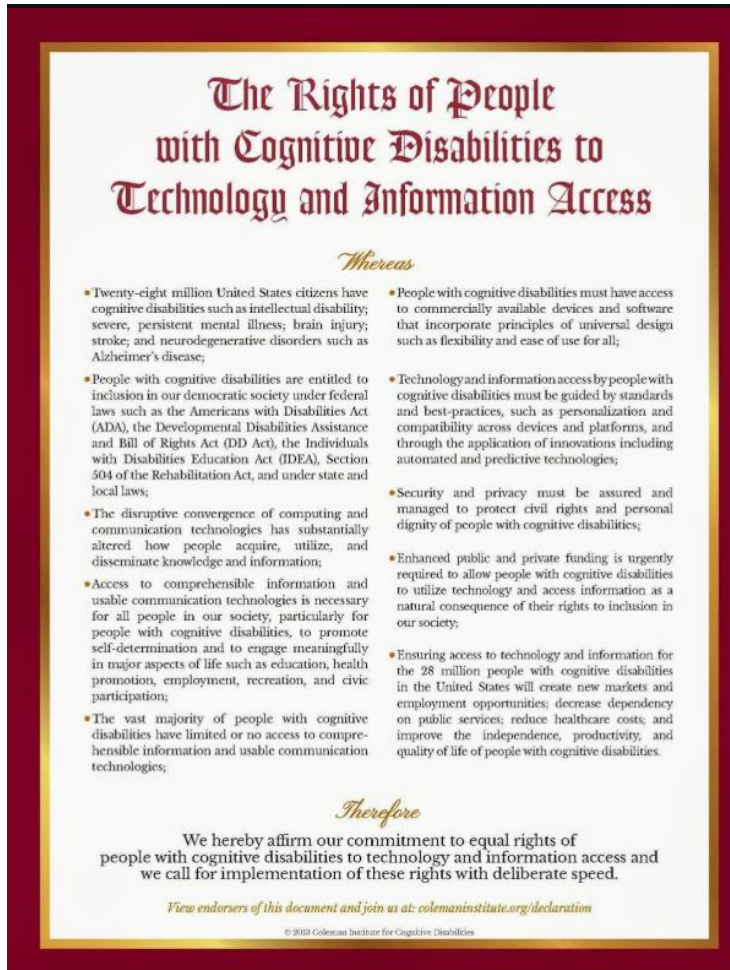
The ubiquity of technology is changing the world around us and how we must **interact, survive, and thrive** within that world.

Technology Divide for People with Disabilities

- Lack of inclusive design of technology
- Failure to address “useworthiness” alongside usability
- Lack of digital/technology literacy and resilience
- Gatekeepers that limit opportunities
- Lack of adequate supports
- Systemic barriers
- Economic barriers



The Rights of People with Cognitive Disabilities to Technology and Information Access



Endorsed by national advocacy organizations

Endorsed and cited by the

- President's Committee on People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Report in 2015
- The Federal Communications Committee Disability Advisory Committee

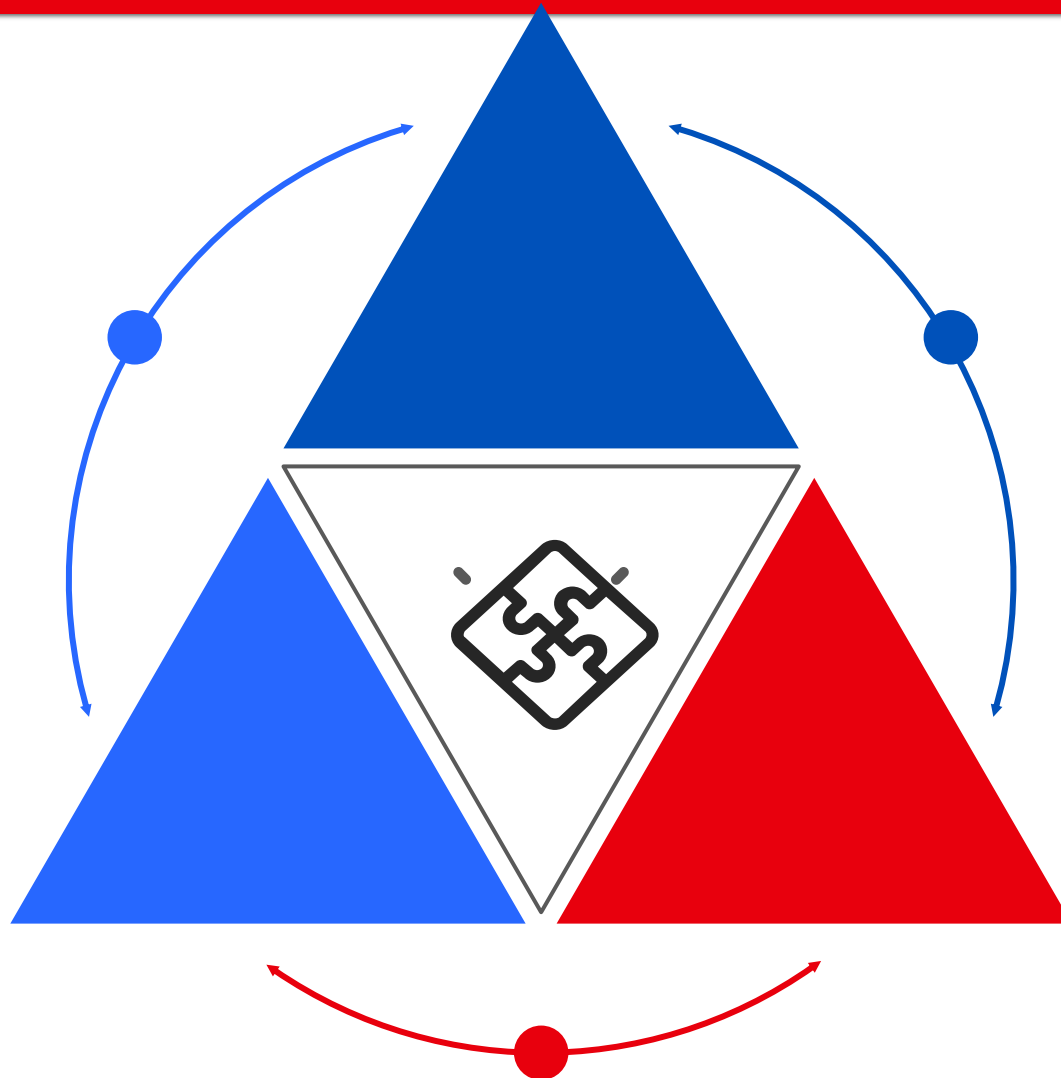
Systems Change Approach

- Systems change: shifting the conditions including structures, practices, policies, resource flows, power dynamics, and mindsets – that produce societal problems and hold them in place; typically involves cross-sector collaboration among stakeholders from public, nonprofit, philanthropic, or private institutions, as well as community constituents.”
- Mathematica
- It is a deliberate process designed to transform the system’s fundamental behavior so that new, sustainable patterns can emerge.

Integrated Systems Change Efforts

Technology First

Identifies tools for autonomy and goal attainment



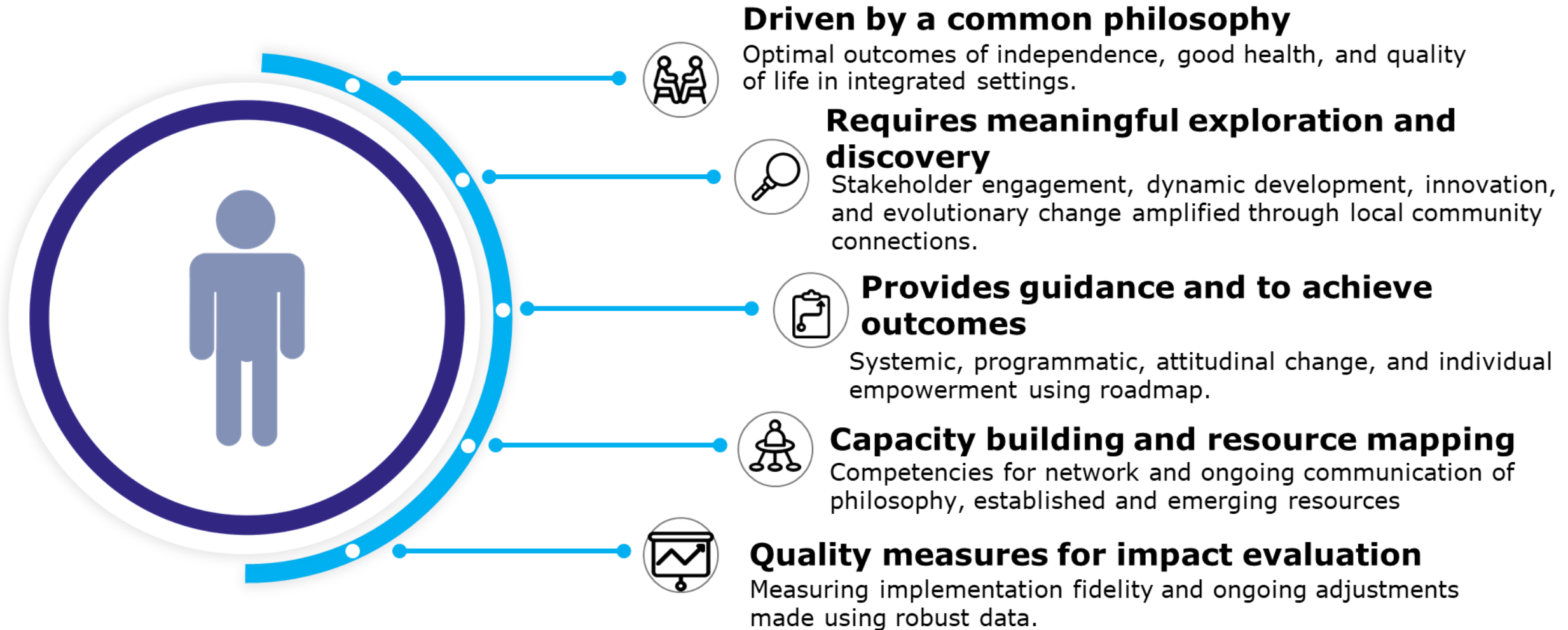
Person-Centered Practices

The foundation in increasing a person's autonomy through their goals, needs, preferences and values.

Employment First

Identifies employment as a priority outcome

Commonalities

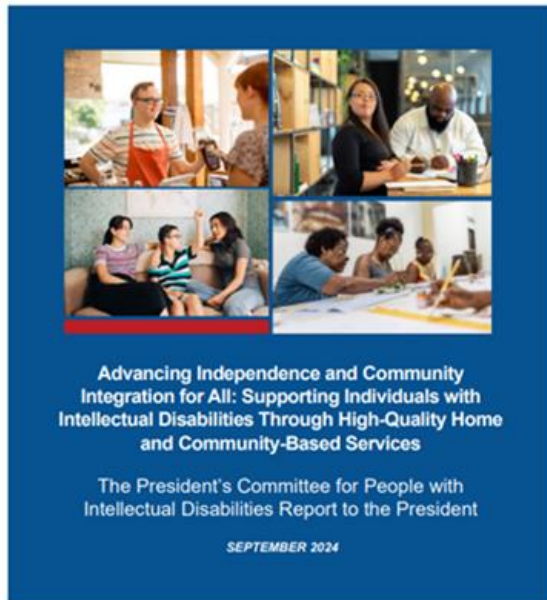


Technology First Systems Change

Framework for systems change where technology is considered first in the discussion of support options available to individuals and families through person-centered approaches to promote meaningful participation, social inclusion, self-determination, and quality of life.



President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) 2024

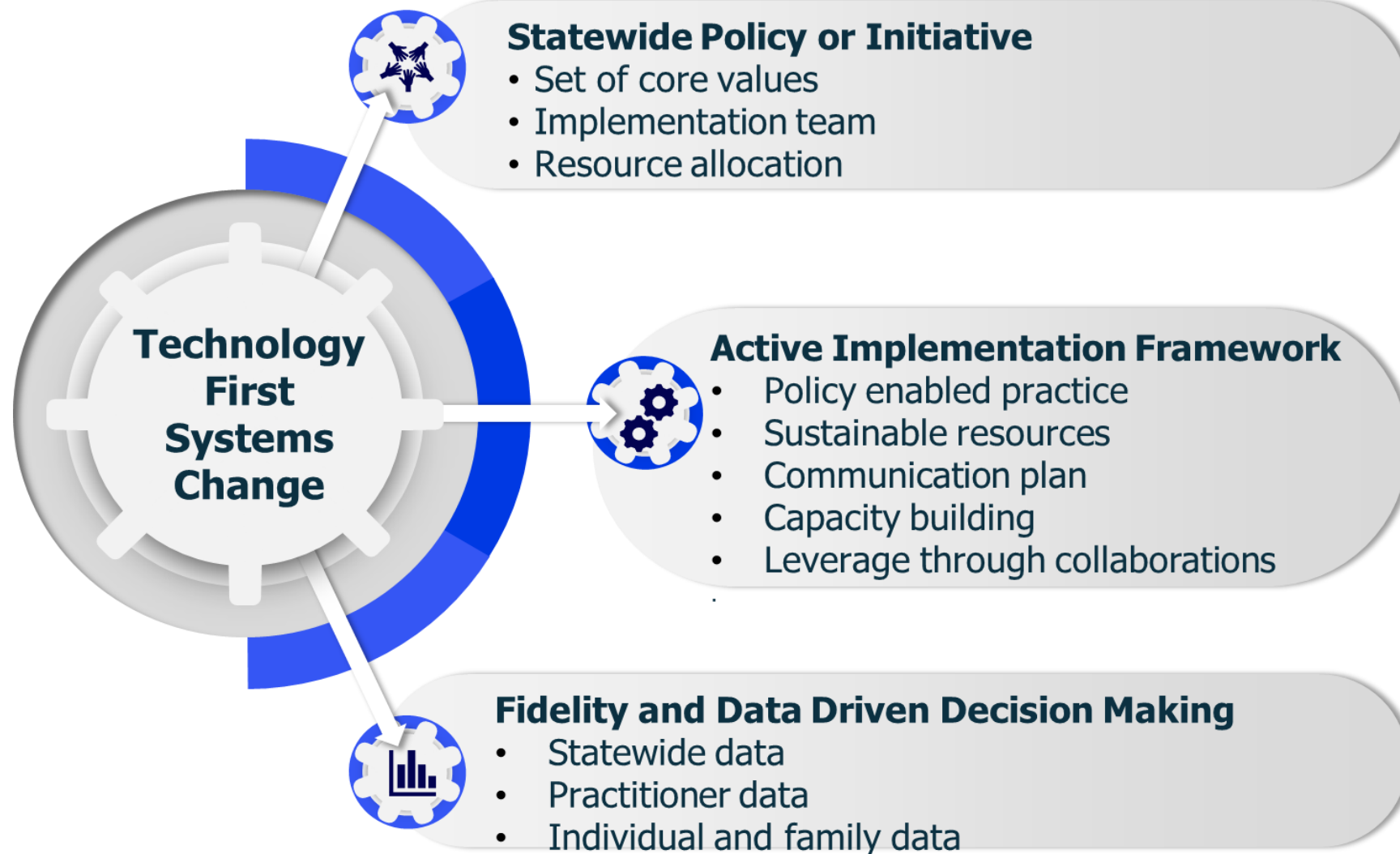


Report to the President 2024: Advancing Independence and Community Integration for All

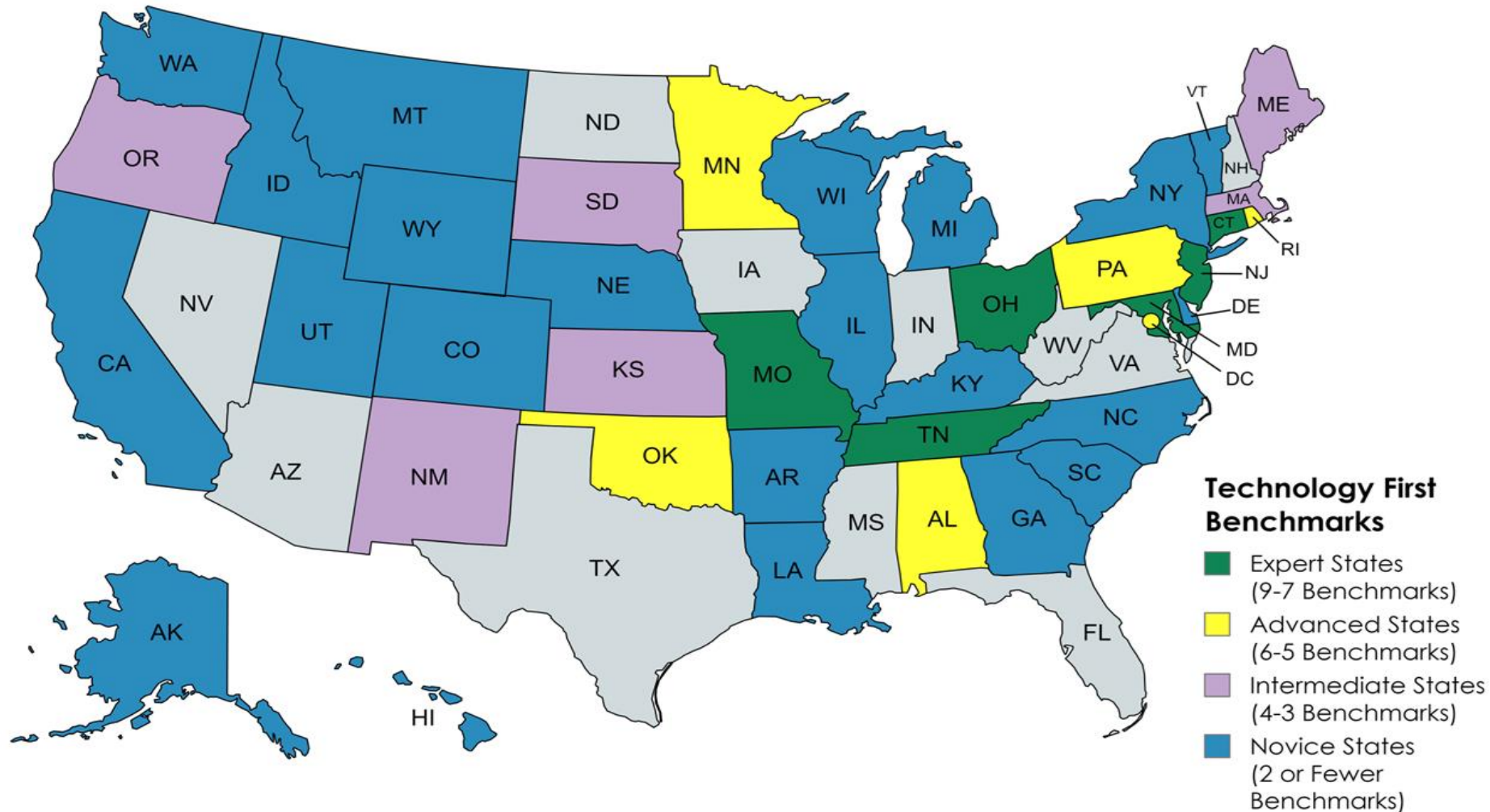
3

- *Advancing Independence and Community Integration for All: Supporting Individuals with ID Through High-Quality Home and Community Based Services*
- “Six principles considered pivotal to strengthening and sustaining the nation’s HCBS infrastructure...
- ...States can use the *Technology First* framework, which considers technology first in a discussion of available support options.”
- Link to the State of the States website stateofthestates.ku.edu

Technology First Systems Change Model

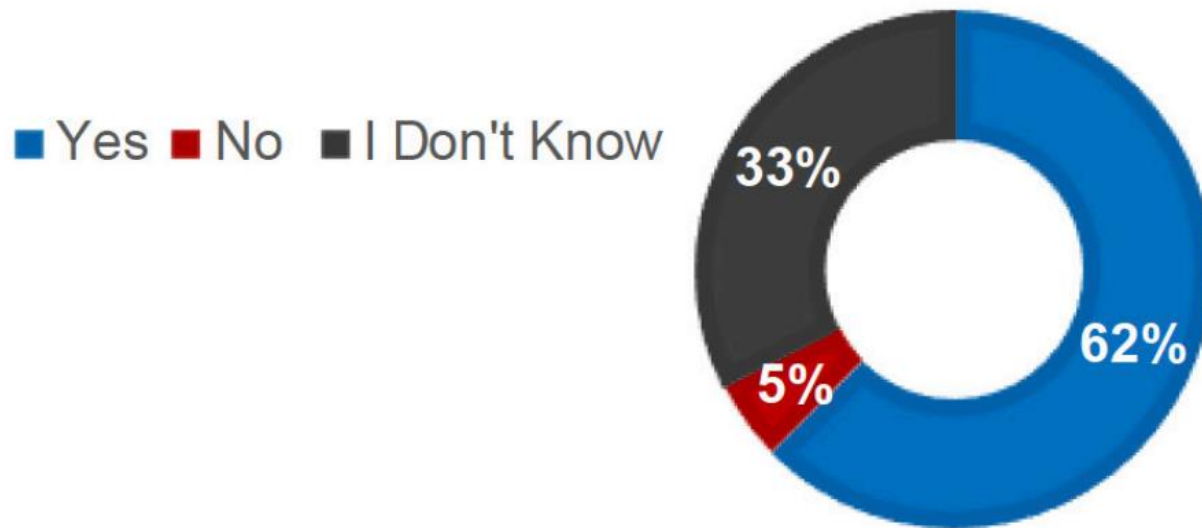


Technology First Systems Change Benchmarks



Why are States Investing in Technology First Systems Change?

62% of States identified a desire for technical assistance in Technology First Systems Change (N=40)



1. Implement creative ways to support people's independence, autonomy, and quality of life.
2. Identify strategies to help address the direct support professional workforce shortage.
3. Explores cost effective solutions.

Measuring Systems Change Success

1

National Policy

Policies and practices that align with access to technology solutions

2

Access Measurement

- Inclusion in goal setting as a support
- Acquisition, training, resilience, and maintenance

3

Reduction in Barriers

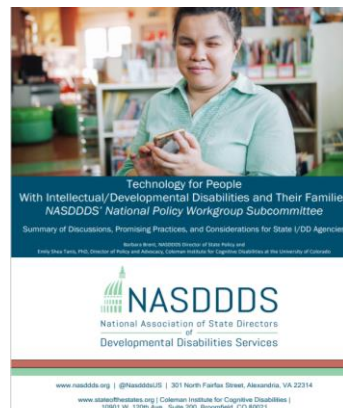
- Attitudinal
- Design access
- Financial access
- Policy parameters
- Identification of tech solutions

4

Maturity Model

Fidelity in model implementation

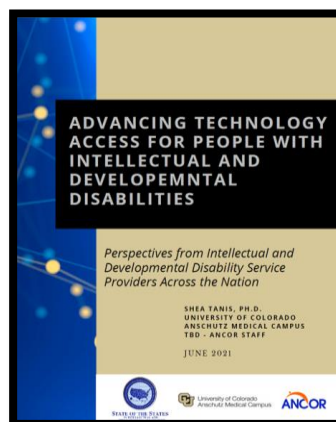
National Data Driving Change



2019

2023

National Data on Technology Solutions for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



2020

**2024
ANCOR
Technology Survey
*Preliminary Results**

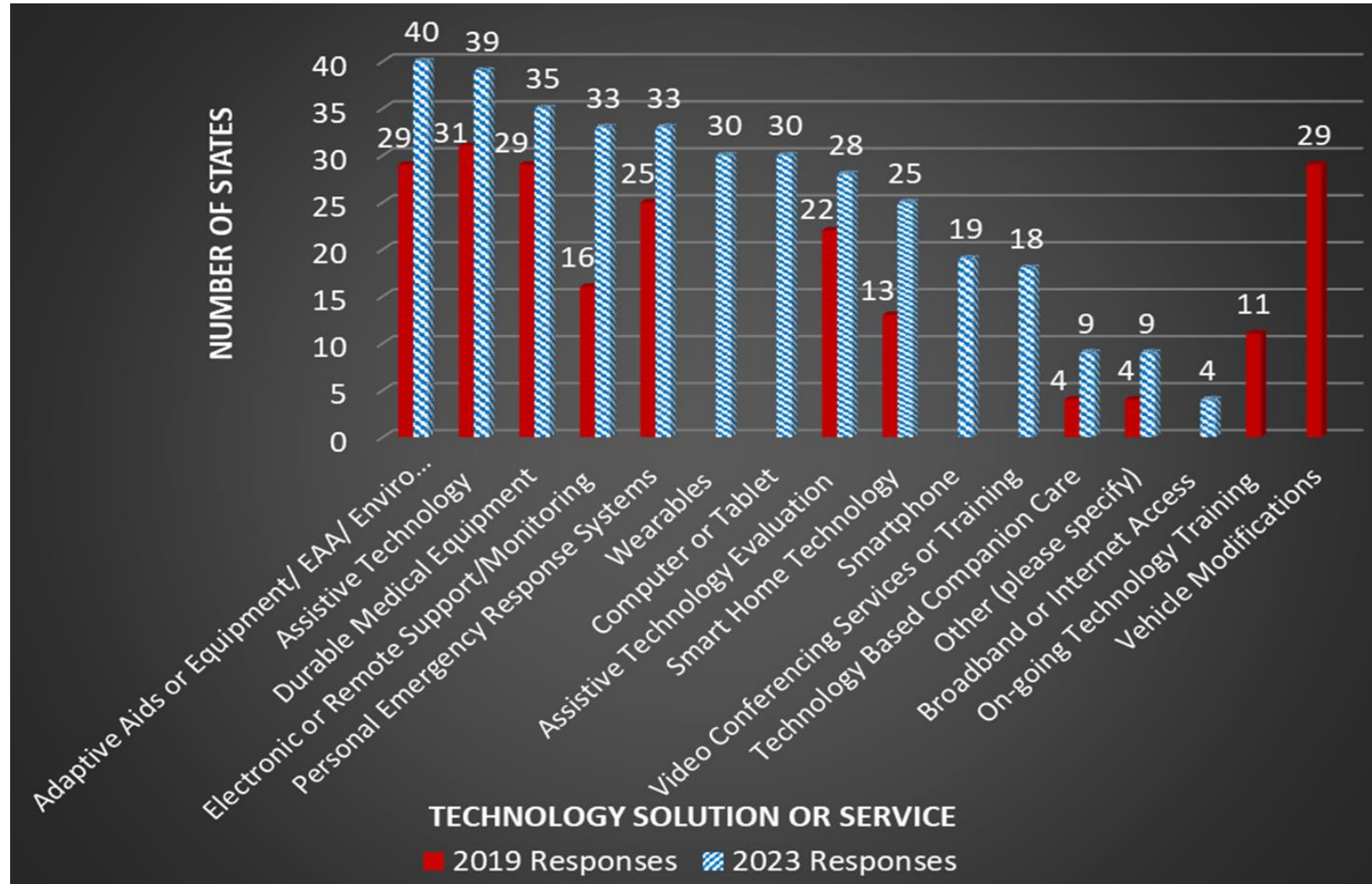
Key Questions



1. Do people with disabilities desire and need access to technology solutions?
2. Do people with disabilities have **Access** to technology solutions?
3. Does our society design for and build environments where people with disabilities can successfully use technology solutions in all major aspects of life?
4. How can we use technology solutions to support the workforce?
5. Can Technology First Systems Change advance access to technology solutions?
6. Do people with disabilities have the supports and knowledge needed to make decisions about and utilize technology solutions?
7. Do technology solutions improve quality of life for people with disabilities across all domains of living (ex. employment, civic engagement, social, etc.)?



What Technology Solutions are funded by States?



Research-Based Tools

- Technology First Systems Change Benchmarks and Maturity Model
- Cognitively accessible *Technology Needs and Barriers to Access Survey*
- *Technology Resilience, Agility, and Literacy Questionnaire (Tech RAL-Q)*
- *Technology Readiness Evaluation* for Providers – Customized in partnership with PA Dept. of Developmental Programs
- Technology Solution Specialist Training
- Case Manager Technology Solution Training

State of the States Projects



Accessibility of Wearables



Health Care
Wearable
Technologies



Tech First Systems
Change and Provider
Capacity



Accessible
Icons



Career
Advancement AI

What Can You Do?



State of the States

In Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Champion and Sponsor Technology First Legislation

- 7 states consider their state to be Technology First
- 23 States are interested in advancing Technology First Systems Change efforts identified in model benchmarks
- States do not feel they are a Technology First without legislation for progress and sustainability
- 13 states indicated current work on legislation
- Most legislation is through Executive Orders

Technology First Legislative Priorities

Advancement of Technology First legislation to address the following:

- Harmonize and modernize policies for flexible and agile practices
(ex. technology solutions)
- Cross-agency collaborations (ex. Medicaid office and Office of Innovation)
- User engagement and training in technology literacy, resilience, and agility
- Expanded, braided, and blended funding opportunities and sustainable resources
- Investments in hybrid models of care through innovation
- Accountability for accessibility of products and services (procurement)
- Impact measurement and benchmarking

National Technology Agenda for Disability and Aging



State of the States
In Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



ADvancing States and NASDDDS

**2025 ENABLING
TECHNOLOGY
ENGAGEMENT
NETWORK**



Email Us

Tanis@ku.edu
gloria.gantt@ku.edu
stateofthestates@ku.edu



Visit Our Website

stateofthestates.ku.edu

