Technology First Systems Change Model: An Overview

Since 2017, the State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Project of National Significance has been tracking and supporting the advancement of Technology First efforts across the United States. To date, there are twenty-two states that are advancing Technology First initiatives ranging from coalition building to the adoption of statewide legislation (Tanis, 2022). Our engagement and partnerships with states, advocates, and legislators has led to the development of our *Technology First Systems Change Model* grounded in implementation science. Implementation science is the "scientific study of methods to promote the systemic uptake of research findings and evidence-based practices into routine practice to improve quality and effectiveness" of legacy systems (Eccles & Mittman, 2006). To realize systems change with in a legacy system of disability services and adoption of technology solutions, we have adapted Fixen and colleagues' model for implementation science from the National Implementation Research Network. Our model implementation process addresses each of the core systems change elements (Figure 1). Initial steps establish a statewide diverse planning council to guide statewide policy implementation and modernize polices that enable further the advancement of technology solutions. Throughout the process, regulatory structures and HCBS waiver definitions are modified to enable active implementation frameworks. The inclusion of *remote supports* as a new service category across relevant HCBS waivers within a state is an example of an activity realized through the implementation model. The implementation model follows the recommendations and promising practices identified by Technology First states and has emerged as a catalyst toward advancing technology solutions for high-quality community living for people with disabilities and their families.

STATE OF THE STATES
IN INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Project is a national longitudinal comparative study of financial and programmatic trends in spending on supports and services for people with IDD in the United States. The project is funded by the U.S. Administration on Community Living as a longitudinal data project of national significance.

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Eccles, M.P. and Mittman, B.S. (2006) Welcome to Implementation Science. http://www.implementationscience.com/content/1/1/1

Tanis, E.S., et al. (2022). The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Life Span Institute, University of Kansas. www.stateofthestates.org

Technology First Systems Change Model

Technology First began as a movement but has transformed to a "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." (Tanis, 2019) Through the advancement of Technology First Statewide efforts across the U.S. the State of the States Project of National Significance has developed the *Technology First Systems Change Model* to support states in their implementation.

Figure 1. Technology First Systems Change Model

Technology First Elements for Systemic Change

Statewide Policy or Initative
- Set of core values
- Implementation team
- Resource allocation

Active Implmentation Frameworks
- Policy enabled practice
- Sustainable resources
- Communications
- Leverage through collablrations
- Capacity building

→ Intended to Disrupt the Status Quo

Fidelity and Data Driven Decision-Making
- Practitioner data
- Individual and family data
- System data

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