

E-Connect TABLET Project

Our goal is to increase participation in virtual social and recreation programs by placing Samsung tablets and internet connection into the hands of individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities who lack and cannot afford this technology.

During this pandemic individuals with developmental disabilities are feeling increasingly isolated from family and friends, are not participating in previously enjoyed activities, are experiencing a decrease in exercise and fitness, and have lost their social connections. Due to the lack of recreation programming, participant isolation and depression have become significant issues for many individuals who lack technology used by their peers on a regular basis.



HOW IT WORKS:

1. Agencies and Individuals complete an application found at www.recreationcouncil.org
2. Individual must have a developmental disability and be eligible for Senate Bill-40 board services in one of the following counties: St. Louis City, St. Louis County or St. Charles County
3. Application goes through an approval process.
4. Tablet is picked up by agency staff or individual along with training manual to teach the recipient how to connect to virtual recreation and social opportunities.
5. After the tablet has been in the person's home for a while, the Recreation Council staff will follow up with the recipient to ensure that virtual connections have been successful.

Information at www.recreationcouncil.org
For questions, contact the Recreation Council at 314-726-6044.
Susan Fleming, Executive Director – ext 101
Peggy Welker, St. Louis County – ext 103
Carol Callahan, St. Charles County – ext 104
Mindy Davis, St. Louis City – ext 105

COST: \$30 co-pay is required at pick up

This project is funded as one of the options within our CARE voucher program which is funded by DD Resources of St. Louis, DDRB of St. Charles County, and PLB of St. Louis County





Recreation Council E-CONNECT Tablet Initiative

Assisting Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities To Access Virtual Recreation Programming during the COVID-19 Pandemic

During this pandemic individuals with developmental disabilities are feeling increasingly isolated from family and friends, are not participating in previously enjoyed activities, are experiencing a decrease in exercise and fitness, and have lost their social connections. Due to the lack of recreation programming, participant isolation and depression have become significant issues for many individuals who lack technology used by their peers on a regular basis.

With the escalating concerns and incidents during this period of uncertainty, many leisure and recreation activities and programs have been or are being postponed or cancelled. However, many recreation providers have stepped up and are being creative in offering their programs virtually. These include virtual game nights, exercise and fitness programming, cooking classes, social hang-outs, art and crafts classes, book clubs, bingo, nature walks and education, and so much more. Many of the agencies stated that the number one barrier for many of their participants accessing their programs is lack of computers/tablets and internet to access their virtual programs.

To address this lack of resources, the Recreation Council has been approved to purchase tablets with internet access to assist participants access the variety of recreation programs being offered virtually, as well as to socialize with their friends and family to avoid the feeling of isolation. The tablets will be made available in 3 Phases:

Phase 1: April 23-April 30, 2020 - Applications open to SB-40 BOARD FUNDED AGENCIES to assist individuals age 18 and older who are LIVING IN THEIR NATURAL HOME who are lacking technology and cannot connect to their virtual recreation programs.

Phase 2: May 1-7, 2020 – Applications open to INDIVIDUALS ages 18 and older who are not affiliated with an agency and RECREATION PROVIDERS for individuals who lack necessary technology to connect to virtual recreation programs. Application will be posted on Friday, May 1.

Phase 3: May 8-June 30, 2020 – Applications open to ALL OTHER recreation providers, individuals and group homes AND to ages 0-5 for individuals who lack necessary technology to connect to virtual recreation programming. Application will be posted on Friday, May 8.

Applications can be found at <https://rec4scc.wordpress.com/e-connect-technology-initiative> or by contacting the Recreation Council at 314-726-6044. The tablets will remain the property of the participant for future access and participation in recreation programs and socialization opportunities. The Recreation Council will follow up by phone within 10-15 days of delivery to inquire on which virtual recreation programs or social connections have been made as a result of the placement of the tablet and internet access in the home of each participant.

Once approved, the recipient or agency representing the recipient receives an approval letter outlining the pick up procedure. *Tablet recipient pays a \$30 co-pay. This can be mailed with the application to 11 Worthington Access Drive, Maryland Heights, MO 63043.*

For questions, contact the Recreation Council at 314-726-6044.

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