

AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfil their purpose.
(See the AAIDD *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.)

Interest Network:

Technology

Lead Contact Person(s):

Vincent Bemmell, Chair, vincent.bemmell@catalight.org
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Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination:

Chair and Vice-Chair, May 2027

2024-2025 Report

For the year that **just ended** (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. In addition, please note if/how any activities enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

For the past year, we expanded on the foundation that we have built during the 2023-2024 year.

1. Increase membership engagement and outreach.
2. Advance and publish technology research goals

Objective 1. Increase interest in network engagement and expand outreach.

- We continued to host monthly Tech Connect monthly meetings throughout the year. We used our Google account to host meetings using Google Meet. This year ended with 129 members receiving invites to monthly Tech Connect meetings with an average of 10 members at each meeting.
- We created a LinkedIn page and posted our events and research there. We have a new communications chair who will help us implement the social media plan.
- We post three times per month with posts for meeting announcements, Tech in the news and Technology Research.
- We created and published our website. We house our webinars and Technology Spotlights there. Technology Interest Network (aaiddtech.org)

Objective 2. Expand research dissemination.

- Our YouTube Channel was created to house our recordings and ensure consistency..
- We continue to post the latest technology and research related to IDD and technology in our running monthly Tech Connect! agendas.
- We have published one issue of the Spotlight in 2024. We have one in the editing stage. We are collaborating as a team to work to edit this. We plan to add a working Tech Connect meeting every quarter to work on writing/editing this.
- Technology Interest Network - Tech Spotlights (aaiddtech.org)
- The published Spotlight was well received and got re-published in Frontline Initiative
- We did a survey in order to gauge topic interest and priorities and created a roster of topics for

Due August 1, 2025

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upcoming Tech Connect!, Tech Spotlight, and webinars. Topics include: Benefits of technology, Attitudinal Barriers, Need of technology for people with IDD: What are the key needs that are unmet? and Political Engagement.

- Funds used: \$0
- DEIJ related: We continued to include members with lived experiences with ID/D in all of our initiatives, especially those related to publications, ensuring that our work is relevant to the target audience.

2025-2026 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. In addition, please note if/how any activities will address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

For the upcoming year, we will continue our objectives and expand on the foundation that we have built during the 2024-2025 year.

1. Increase technology content dissemination
2. Increase community engagement related to technology
3. Increase advocacy for digital inclusion

Objective 1. Plan to increase technology content dissemination

- Continue webinars
 - Host 2 researchers in technology to share their research (those who aren't in our network) separate from webinars. Potential topics may include digital literacy and digital citizenship, civic engagement using technology, and technology funding. Final topics will develop in collaboration with the membership.
- Publish content
 - Technology Spotlight
 - Publish 3 Spotlights based on our webinar series or Tech Connect meeting topics.
 - Social engagement
 - Share tailored, scheduled content weekly across platforms to maximize reach.
 - Actively engage from Interest Network pages
 - Drive traffic to aaiddtech.org and track engagement metrics regularly
- Host research talks twice per year
 - Invite a research team to speak to Tech Connect about their research.

Objective 2. Plan to increase community engagement related to technology

- Continue with Tech Connect monthly meetings but reformat for improved engagement.
- Create participant led themed discussions for Tech Connect Meetings. Invite participants to share information related to a topic they are interested in and lead a discussion.
- Dedicate one meeting per quarter as a working meeting to work through our technology spotlight.
- Determine effective structure for our meetings by survey participants about barriers/facilitators to participating.
- Develop targeted partnerships with other AAIDD Interest Networks throughout the year (e.g.,

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Creative Arts).

- Educate the organization about the content of our IN. Edit poster for the conference to include our contact information. Reach out to vendors at the conference about our interest network.
- Collaborate with other AAIDD interest networks.

Objective 3. Increase advocacy for digital inclusion

- Assess needs and opportunities for advocacy at Tech Connect meetings and through member surveys
- Develop an advocacy agenda with prioritized focus areas
- Include self-advocates
- Seek advocacy partners and support policy comments that focus on improved digital inclusion
- Share resources and training with members on meeting the ADA Title II regulations related to digital accessibility.