

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 , Kyle Corbin, Vice-chair, kcorbin@safeinhome.com Casey Gartland, Secretary, cgartland@westbayri.org , Kim W. Fisher, Webinars, kcwolow@ilstu.edu	
Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination: Chair and Vice-Chair, May 2027	
2025-2026 Report Over the past year, we advanced our foundation (established in 2024–2025) by focusing on three priorities: 1. Expand Technology Content Dissemination 2. Strengthening community engagement around technology 3. Advancing advocacy for digital inclusion Objective 1: Expand Technology Content Dissemination • Continued hosting Tech Connect meetings throughout the year, shifting from a monthly to a bimonthly schedule midway through the year. • Continued sharing event announcements, research, and other relevant content through the network’s LinkedIn page. • Invited guest speakers to present on technology topics relevant to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Objective 2: Strengthening Community Engagement Around Technology • Expanded the network to 112 members who received invitations to Tech Connect meetings, with an average attendance of approximately 10 members per meeting. • Conducted a survey with people with lived experience to explore how they use technology, why it is important to them, and what they want from technology in the future. The findings were presented as a poster at the 2026 AAIDD Annual Meeting and generated considerable interest among attendees. • Our Communications lead resigned, due to conflicting work priorities. • In addition, we presented a poster at the conference highlighting the Technology Interest Network’s activities and priorities, prompting additional conversations and opportunities for engagement. • Collaborated with two other AAIDD interest networks: ○ Student and Early Career Professionals: Discussed opportunities at the intersection of technology and IDD. ○ Education: Participated in a panel discussion on artificial intelligence and special education. • The Chair represented the Technology Interest Network by moderating the plenary session, “Real-World Insights on Working with AI and Technology to Elevate Human Potential.” Objective 3: Advance Advocacy for Digital Inclusion • Developed an initial strategy for advocating greater digital inclusion for people with IDD. • Increased the involvement of self-advocates and incorporated their perspectives across the network’s activities.	

Due July 31, 2026

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- Began engaging potential advocacy partners and supporting policy comments focused on improving equitable access to technology, connectivity, training, and ongoing support.

Funds used: Tech IN awarded a \$310 scholarship to a self-advocate for attending the 2026 conference, however they had to decline since they could not afford the overall costs to attend. We plan to use these funds in 2026 to update our website.

2026-2027 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

In the upcoming year, we will carry this momentum of 2025–2026 forward through three continuing priorities:

1. Expanding the dissemination of technology-related information
2. Strengthening community engagement around technology
3. Advancing advocacy for digital inclusion

Objective 1: Expanding the dissemination of technology-related information

- Host at least one webinar featuring technology researchers from outside the Technology Interest Network.
- Publish one to three Technology Spotlights based on findings from the self-advocate technology survey and other relevant topics.
- Recruit a Communications Lead to coordinate social media engagement and expand the network's presence on LinkedIn and other platforms.
- Continue sharing relevant research, resources, events, and member contributions.

Objective 2: Strengthen Community Engagement Around Technology

- Continue holding Tech Connect meetings every two months and regularly evaluate opportunities to improve participation and engagement.
- Introduce participant-led, themed discussions in which members and self-advocates share information about topics that interest them and facilitate group conversations.
- Survey members to identify barriers to participation, factors that support engagement, and preferred meeting formats.
- Continue educating the broader AAIDD community about the Technology Interest Network's purpose, activities, and resources.
- Update the TIN conference poster to include current contact and participation information.

Objective 3: Advance Advocacy for Digital Inclusion

- Assess advocacy needs and opportunities through Tech Connect discussions, member surveys, and input from self-advocates.
- Develop an advocacy agenda with clearly defined and prioritized focus areas.
- Increase the meaningful inclusion of self-advocates in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of Technology Interest Network projects.
- Sponsor a self-advocate to participate in the 2027 AAIDD Annual Meeting.
- Collaborate with at least one advocacy partner to promote policies and practices that improve equitable access to technology, connectivity, training, and ongoing support for people with IDD.