Technology and Disability Policy Highlights

June 2015

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# Overview

This June, the **Broadband Adoption Act of 2015** [**S. 1472**] was introduced with the goal of reforming and modernizing the Universal Service Fund (USF) Lifeline Assistance Program. If passed, the legislation would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) to 1) establish a national database to determine consumer eligibility for Lifeline and to prevent duplication, and (2) establish a broadband Lifeline Assistance program that provides low-income Americans living in rural and urban areas with assistance in subscribing to affordable broadband service. Incorporating the provision of broadband into the Lifeline Program could potentially increase adoption by some people with disabilities who have cited affordability as their main barrier to becoming a broadband subscriber.

The FCC was also a matter of consideration for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) who conducted a review of the Commission’s efforts to implement provisions of the **Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA)** [**PL111-260**]. After conducting a survey of stakeholders, of which the Wireless RERC was included as a respondent, the GAO suggested that the FCC evaluate the “quality, quantity, and timeliness of the outreach program.” In June, the FCC initiated more action regarding the CVAA when they released a **Request for Comment - Petition for Partial Extension of Class Waiver of Commission's Rules for Access to Advanced Communications Services and Equipment by People with Disabilities**[**CG Docket No. 10-213**]. The Entertainment Software Association (ESA) asked the FCC for continued exemption from CVAA rules requiring video game equipment and software to be accessible. The ESA requests the extension of this waiver because of the technical issues in making assistive technology for video games. By October 8th, the FCC will decide if they will grant the extension.

In Wireless RERC news, the App Factory [2015-2016 Call for Proposals](HTTP://WWW.WIRELESSRERC.GATECH.EDU/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/CONTENT/NEWROOM/APP%20FACTORY_RFP_2015_DEADLINE%20EXTENDED.PDF) is still seeking developers based in the U.S. to submit proposals for financial support to develop assistive and/or accessibility apps for mobile platforms (e.g., Android, Blackberry, iOS, Windows). Additionally, the Wireless RERC's research team is pleased to announce the launch of the [2015 Survey of User Needs (SUN) for Wireless Technologies](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==). Please consider participating in the Survey of User Needs. You can participate on the web, on the phone, or we can send you a paper copy with a postage paid return envelope.

**Click the headings below to link directly to a particular section.**

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# Legislative Activities

**New Legislation Modernizes Lifeline Assistance Program**

June 1, 2015 – Legislation has been introduced to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) Lifeline Assistance Program. This program supports basic phone services for low-income Americans by making grants for broadband Internet services available to eligible families. The legislation is intended to help bridge the digital divide by making in-home online services affordable to more citizens. Some of the key provisions of the **Broadband Adoption Act of 2015** [**S. 1472**] (1) require the FCC to establish a national database to determine consumer eligibility for Lifeline and to prevent duplication, and (2) directs the FCC to establish a broadband Lifeline Assistance program that provides low-income Americans living in rural and urban areas with assistance in subscribing to affordable broadband service.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Broadband Adoption Act of 2015 [S. 1472]](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1472)

[<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1472>]

# Regulatory Activities

**GAO wants the FCC to evaluate its Public Outreach Efforts**

June 25, 2015 – According to a review conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess the FCC’s implementation of the provisions of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA), the FCC has taken many efforts to inform the public about the CCVA’s protections and remedies but the GAO believes that the FCC can improve their public outreach efforts. After conducting a survey, the GAO suggested that the FCC evaluate the “quality, quantity, and timeliness of the outreach program.”

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Accessible Communications: FCC Should Evaluate the Effectiveness of Its Public Outreach Efforts](http://www.gao.gov/prerelease/KC4H)

[<http://www.gao.gov/prerelease/KC4H>]

**Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC)**

June 24, 2015 – The FCC’s CSRIC held a meeting to provide recommendations to the FCC regarding best practices to ensure the security, reliability, and interoperability of the communications system. Presentations were heard from working groups on Emergency Alerting Platforms, Evolving 911 Services, Cybersecurity Workforce, Priority Services, and more. The FCC provided audio/video coverage with closed captioning. You can view the archived video at <http://www.fcc.gov/live>.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[CSRIC Federal Advisory Committee Meeting](https://www.fcc.gov/events/communications-security-reliability-and-interoperability-council-v-meeting)

[<https://www.fcc.gov/events/communications-security-reliability-and-interoperability-council-v-meeting>]

Link to the meeting’s coverage: [<http://www.fcc.gov/live>]

**New Requirements for Video Game Accessibility May start In The Fall**

June 9, 2015 – Video game equipment, software, and related services are now required by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA) to be accessible and usable to users with disabilities. The FCC is permitted to provide waivers to the accessibility requirements only when the equipment is designed primarily for purposes other than communication. Unlike the other consoles and online game play services, the Entertainment Software Association (ESA) asked the FCC to extend a waiver for the CVAA that was supposed to expire on October 8th. The 15 month waiver would only cover the Class III video game software. The original waiver, previously granted by the FCC, covered the following categories of video gaming service and equipment [verbatim]:

* Class I – Game consoles, both home and handheld, and their peripherals and integrated online networks, which are designed for multiple entertainment purposes but with a primary purpose of playing games.
* Class II – Game distribution and online game play services designed for the primary purpose of distributing online game software or enabling online game play across a network.
* Class III – Software designed for the primary purpose of game play. Game software means playable games on any hardware or online platform, including, but not limited to, dedicated game consoles, PCs, mobile devices, and the Internet (i.e. browser based games).

The ESA requests the extension of this waiver because of the technical issues in making assistive technology for video games. By October 8th, the FCC will decide if they will grant the extension.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REQUEST FOR COMMENT PETITION FOR PARTIAL EXTENSION OF CLASS WAIVER OF COMMISSION’S RULES FOR ACCESS TO ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

[<http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db0609/DA-15-675A1.pdf>]

[ESA Petition for Waiver](http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001049004)

[<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001049004>]

**Accessibility Innovators honored by the FCC**

June 1, 2015 – FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, announced the winners of the Fourth Annual Awards for Advancement in Accessibility (Chairman’s AAA). These awards are given to recognize and honor innovative achievements in communications technology that benefits people with disabilities. The Chairman’s AAA is a program within the FCC’s Accessibility and Innovation Initiative and it recognizes outstanding private and public sector ventures in communications technology accessibility and innovation. And the winners are…

* [Blind Square](http://blindsquare.com/)
* [Google’s no CAPTCHA reCAPTCHA](https://www.google.com/recaptcha/intro/index.html)
* [Convo Lights](http://www.convorelay.com/blog/the-unveiling-of-convo-lights)
* [Beam Messenger](http://www.beammessenger.com/)
* [AT&T Video Meetings with Blue Jeans](http://www.business.att.com/enterprise/Service/unified-communications/conferencing-services/video-conferencing/video-meetings/#fbid=kK0WibsT7oa)
* [Comcast’s Talking Guide](http://corporate.comcast.com/comcast-voices/emilys-oz-blog)
* [OpenAIR, by KNowbility](http://www.knowbility.org/v/open-air/)

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[FCC Chairman Wheeler Honors Innovators in Accessibility Communications Technology With Annual Awards](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333719A1.pdf)

[<https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-333719A1.pdf>]

# Publications & Reports

**Americans with Disabilities Act Update Primer**

June 2015 – The U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, released *ADA Update:   
A Primer for State and Local Governments* to facilitate understanding of how to implement the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It reviews the revised regulations the Department of Justice made in September 2010 and addresses who is protected by the ADA and who has responsibilities under the ADA. It also explains the basic principles, policies and procedures of the ADA. The Primer is a step-by-step manual of information on how to make public places accessible to people with disabilities.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[ADA Update: A Primer for State and Local Governments](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/title_ii_primer.html)

[<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/title_ii_primer.html>]

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# Other Items of Interest

**Workspace Limitations: How to logically approach them**

June 2015 – The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) funds the Job Accommodation Network (JAN) who has recently released a new feature on its website. JAN’s new tool is called Accommodation Information by Limitation A-Z. It allows employers to find accommodation ideas by searching for an employee’s limitation that they are experiencing. This tool helps employers find an accommodation solution, in order to help the employee perform to their fullest capabilities. "Sometimes it's necessary to know the type of disability involved in order to come up with effective accommodations," Linda Carter Batiste, one of JAN principal consultants, writes. "But when it's not necessary, you can save time by just focusing on the limitation." According to JAN, it is the most logical way to forge a constructive workplace solution.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Logical Approach to Solving Workplace Limitations

[<http://www.dol.gov/odep/BusinessSense/2015/bsense0615.htm>]

**Apple: Winner of the Helen Keller Achievement Award**

June 2015 – When Apple unveiled the VoiceOver for iOS in 2009, they opened a door of accessibility for consumers that are blind. It took eight years for iPods, two years for the iPhone, but when the first iPad model was released, it was accessible for people who are blind with a built-in VoiceOver screen reader. Now, Apple has released the Apple Watch, which “talks” with no sighted setup assistance required. According to the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), Apple has made a commitment to accessibility, not only to its users but also to their employees. They have made their products accessible with screen readers and low-vision features as well as making accommodations for employees with disabilities. These actions contributed to Apple’s receiving the Helen Keller Achievement Award at a special gala in New York City. The AFB is awarding Apple for its prominent breakthroughs in accessible technology.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Apple Receives AFB's Prestigious Helen Keller Achievement Award](http://www.afb.org/afbpress/pub.asp?DocID=aw160602)

[<http://www.afb.org/afbpress/pub.asp?DocID=aw160602>]

**Harvard and MIT violated the ADA**

June 25, 2015 – Two cases have been filed by the Department of Justice, now pending in the United States Court for the District of Massachusetts. In these two cases, National Association of the Deaf v. Harvard University and National Association of the Deaf v. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the plaintiffs are accusing Harvard and MIT of violating the ADA. Harvard and MIT are allegedly in violation of Section 504 of the ADA ‘by denying equal access to free online courses and lectures to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.’ According to the dockets, the universities failed to provide auxiliary aids, benefits and services, including captioning. The U.S. Department of Education is a signatory to the Statements of Interest and is an enforcer of Section 504 against post-secondary institutions.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[<http://www.ada.gov/briefs/harvard_soi.pdf>]

[<http://www.ada.gov/briefs/mit_soi.pdf>]

**BARD app now available for Android Users**

June 18, 2015 – If registered with the Library of Congress’ National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, individuals who are blind, visually impaired or have a physical disability can now download talking books to their Android phone. BARD, also known as the Braille and Audio Reading Download, is now available to Android OS 4.1 or later for download on Google Play. BARD is a free app that allows users to access to over 65,000 books, magazines and music scores in audio and Braille from their NLS BARD accounts. The app is also available on iTunes for iPhone users. "The BARD Mobile app allows searching, downloading, and reading books and magazines on one fully accessible, mainstream device," NLS director Karen Keninger said. "It’s a library in your pocket."

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Library Braille and Talking Book Program Releases App for Android Devices](http://loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-098.html?loclr=rssloc)

[<http://loc.gov/today/pr/2015/15-098.html?loclr=rssloc>]

**American Association of People with Disabilities Seeking New Leadership**

June 17, 2015 – The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is currently seeking a new President and CEO to advance attainment of the organization’s vision, “to develop the inherent power of people with disabilities to be both a political and economic force.” While they are looking for a new leader, the AAPD Board of Directors is temporarily relying on long-time disability rights advocate and former Executive Vice President, Helena Berger, as the Acting President and CEO of the organization. As the AAPD approaches their 25th anniversary, they are seeking feedback to take the organization to the next level. You can email them at [communications@aapd.com](mailto:communications@aapd.com) with your questions or comments. As well as improving the organization, the AAPD is hosting *A Celebration of Pride, Power, and Promise* on July 27th in Washington, D.C. with their partner, the National Disability Leadership Alliance (NDLA). Not only do they want you to come out and celebrate with them, they also have open positions in their organization so if anyone wants more information, they can visit <http://www.aapd.com/jobs> on how to apply.

**U.S. Dept. of Education Puts Money Towards Disability Services**

June 16, 2015 – The U.S. Department of Education has awarded over $12.8 million in grants to advance inclusive education environments and improve academic outcomes for students with disabilities. "We must ensure that students with disabilities receive a world-class education and that their teachers are equipped to help them be successful," said U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "These grants support important projects in schools across the country to help students with disabilities reach their full academic potential."

One of the grant programs, called the Special Education-Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities/Preparation of Leadership Personnel Program, is donating $3.6 million to prepare graduate students for leadership positions in special education and related services.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[U.S. Department of Education Awards $12.8 Million in Grants to Improve Services, Outcomes for Children with Disabilities](http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-awards-128-million-grants-improve-services-outcomes-children-disabilities)

[<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-awards-128-million-grants-improve-services-outcomes-children-disabilities>]

**The Results of the First Disability Equality Index (DEI) Released**

June 11, 2015 – The first annual Disability Equality Index (DEI) survey results were announced by The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN). The DEI is “a national, transparent benchmarking tool that offers businesses an opportunity to receive an objective assessment of their overall disability inclusion policies and practices.” The survey was completed in early 2015 by 80 Fortune 1000-size companies. There were four major categories included in the Index: Culture & Leadership, Enterprise-wide Access, Employment Practices, and Community Engagement & Support Services. Nineteen companies received 100 out of 100 on the DEI survey, including Sprint Corporation and AT&T.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Inaugural Disability Equality Index Survey Results Released](http://www.aapd.com/resources/press-room/dei-survey-results.html)

[<http://www.aapd.com/resources/press-room/dei-survey-results.html>]

**PEAT Talks**

June 9, 2015 – The Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) has announced a new speaker series called PEAT Talks. The speaker series will exhibit organizations and individuals who work on the advancement of accessible technology in the workplace. PEAT Talks will be held every third Thursday every month at 2:00 p.m. ET. The format of PEAT Talks includes a 10-15 minute presentation, followed by questions from the attendees. Upcoming Talks include:

* **Tuesday, August 18th**: Adam Streets, GettingHired, Inc.
* **Thursday, September 17th**: Consortium of State [Accessibility](http://peatworks.org/glossary#Accessibility) CIOs
* **Thursday, October 15th**: Dana Marlowe, Accessibility Partners, L.L.C.
* **Thursday, November 19th**: Ted Drake, Intuit

Register at: [<https://events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1285741125/en/events/event/shared/1367282639/event_registration.html?sco-id=1367273063&_charset_=utf-8>]

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Introducing PEAT Talks: Innovation at the Intersection of Accessibility and Employment](http://peatworks.org/news/2015/jun/introducing-peat-talks-innovation-intersection-accessibility-and-employment)

[<http://peatworks.org/news/2015/jun/introducing-peat-talks-innovation-intersection-accessibility-and-employment>]

**NFB vs. Scribd, Case Will Not Be Dismissed**

The plaintiffs, the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) filed a suit against the defendant, Scribd, Inc., a California-based digital library that runs reading subscription services through their website and mobile apps. NFB filed the suit, claiming Scribd is inaccessible to the blind. Scribd’s programming is incompatible to screen reader software, an assistive technology that converts visual information (text and images) to a non-visual format (audio). The defendant argued to dismiss the case on the grounds that they are not a public place as outlined in Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Title II of the ADA “prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the activities of places of public accommodations to comply with the ADA Standards.” Scribd’s request to dismiss the case was denied because the Court must decide whether the services Scribd provides fall within any of the general categories of public accommodations listed in the statute.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[National Federation of the Blind et al v. Scribd, Inc., No. 2:2014cv00162 - Document 30 (D. Vt. 2015)](http://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/vermont/vtdce/2:2014cv00162/24384/30/)

[<http://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/vermont/vtdce/2:2014cv00162/24384/30/>]

# Wireless RERC Updates

**Reaching People with Disabilities: Wireless Emergency Alerting & Accessibility**

June 30, 2015 – Salimah LaForce and DeeDee Bennett, PhD presented results of the 2014 Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Survey and a Survey of Alert Originators Use of WEA at a webinar hosted by the [Georgia Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Adults](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaPrepare?ref=hl). WEAs are a component of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an agency of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). During an emergency, alert and warning officials need to provide the public with life-saving information quickly. IPAWS provides public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies. However, research has shown that WEAs are not always effective for people with disabilities.  This webinar shared information about awareness of and access to WEAs by people with disabilities.

The webinar, produced by the [Alternative Media Access Center](http://www.amacusg.org/) (AMAC) at Georgia Tech, is one of few to ever provide both captions and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting for the audience.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[PowerPoint Slides (PDF)](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/content/newroom/Wireless%20Emergency%20Alerting%20and%20Accessibility%20%282%29.pdf)

[<http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/content/newroom/Wireless%20Emergency%20Alerting%20and%20Accessibility%20%282%29.pdf>]

**New Survey of User Needs (SUN) just launched!**

The Wireless RERC's research team is pleased to announce the launch of the 2015 Survey of User Needs (SUN) for Wireless Technologies. The SUN is our cornerstone survey of wireless technology use and usability by people with all types of disabilities. First launched in 2002, the SUN is the only national source of comprehensive information and insight into the wireless technology needs of people with disabilities.

SUN data are used by the wireless industry, regulatory agencies, advocacy organizations and other researchers to inform their work. Over the years, more than 6000 people with disabilities have completed the SUN, and more than half have joined our national Consumer Advisory Network (CAN).

Please consider participating in the Survey of User Needs. You can participate on the web, on the phone, or we can send you a paper copy with a postage paid return envelope.

On the web, please go to this address: [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-2015**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==)

To complete the survey over the phone or to request a paper copy, contact John Morris at:[**john\_morris@shepherd.org**](mailto:john_morris@shepherd.org)or 404-367-1348

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[2015 Survey of User Needs (SUN) for Wireless Technologies](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==)

[[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-2015**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==)**]**

**App Factory 2015-2016 Call for Proposals**

Each year, the Wireless RERC’s App Factory invites experienced organizations or individual developers based in the U.S. to submit proposals for financial support to develop assistive and/or accessibility apps for mobile platforms (e.g., Android, Blackberry, iOS, Windows).

Apps developed through this program include AccessNote by the American Foundation for the Blind, BrailleTouch by BrailleTech, LLC, Smart Steps Mobile by Smart Steps, LLC, ZyroSky by Zyrobotics, LLC, and Sprint ID Accessibility Packs, Currency Identifier, and IDEAL Group Reader by Apps4Android.

**Proposals for 2015-16 are due on July 31, 2015**. Selection of proposals for funding will be on October 15th. More information can be found in the PDF of the Call for Proposals below.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Assistive and Accessible Mobile Applications Call for Proposals](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/content/newroom/App%20Factory_RFP_2015_Deadline%20Extended.pdf)

[<http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/content/newroom/App%20Factory_RFP_2015_Deadline%20Extended.pdf>]

# Upcoming Events

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**Generation ADA Rise Up! 2015 Annual Conference**

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) is hosting their 2015 Annual Conference on Independent Living on July 27-30, 2015. The conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C. During this conference, the NCIL will celebrate their past accomplishments during the ADA’s 25th Anniversary while also jumpstarting a new generation of young advocates. This conference will feature many workshops tracks including the SILC Track, the ILA Track, the Youth Track, and the General Track.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[2015 Annual Conference on Independent Living](http://www.ncil.org/2015-annual-conference-on-independent-living/)

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**The Abilities Expo in Houston**

In Houston, Texas from July 31st to August 2, 2015, there will be an Abilities Expo, located in the NRG Center (Formerly Reliant Center) in Hall E. This expo will include the latest technology, workshops, dance and sports activities and more for the community of people with disabilities, their families, seniors, veterans, and healthcare professionals. Registration is free so sign up today.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Houston, We Have an Expo!](http://www.abilities.com/houston/)

[<http://www.abilities.com/houston/>]

**Disability Research Consortium (DRC) Annual Meeting**

Register today for the DRC Annual Meeting, a two-day conference where the latest research findings on the future of disability policies will be highlighted. Representative from federal agencies will provide insight on directing programs for people with disabilities. The dates of this conference are August 5-6, 2015. The time is 8:00am-4:30pm at the National Press Club on 529 14th Street, NW, 13th Floor in Washington, D.C. This conference is free and registration closes on July 23rd.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Meeting Registration](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/disability-research-consortium-annual-meeting-registration-16903851876)

[<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/disability-research-consortium-annual-meeting-registration-16903851876>]

[Learn More about the Meeting](http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/events/drc-annual-meeting-august-2015?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DRC%20Annual%20Meeting%202015%20Invitation%20(1)&utm_content=&spMailingID=11659179&spUserID=MTQ0MDEwOTk5NDY5S0&spJobID=561187133&spReportId=NTYxMTg3MTMzS0)

[<http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/events/drc-annual-meeting-august-2015?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DRC%20Annual%20Meeting%202015%20Invitation%20(1)&utm_content=&spMailingID=11659179&spUserID=MTQ0MDEwOTk5NDY5S0&spJobID=561187133&spReportId=NTYxMTg3MTMzS0>]

**Technology and Disability Policy Highlights,** June 2015

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The Technology and Disability Policy Highlights (TDPH) reports on national public policy events and tracks emerging issues of interest to individuals with disabilities, researchers, policymakers, industry, and advocacy professionals. The TDPH is published monthly by the Wireless RERC. The Wireless RERC is a research center that promotes universal access to wireless technologies and explores their innovative applications in addressing the needs of people with disabilities. For more information on the Wireless RERC, please visit our web site at [<http://www.wirelessrerc.org>].

For further information on items summarized in this report, or if you have items of interest that you would like included in future editions, please contact this edition’s editors Jamaya Powell [Jamaya@cacp.gatech.edu] or Salimah LaForce [salimah@cacp.gatech.edu].

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