NOTE: This is a rough/unedited, unofficial transcript of the proceedings.

>> LAURIE: Today's presentation is provided by the National Disability Institute.

And we think of a trade assistive technology telehealth and accessibility program for providing this presentation for us today.

My name is Lori and my contact information is provided here in this slide.

It will be posted again at the clothes of today's session.

>> LAURIE: National disability Institute or NDI we envision a society in which people who have a disability have the same opportunities to achieve financial stability and independence as people who do not have a disability.

Our mission is to collaborate and innovate to build a better financial future for people who have a disability.

And their family members as well.

So.

NDI assistive technology loan program is – has been available since 2015.

We received a grant for this program through the U.S. Department of Education, rehabilitation services administration.

And we partner with spring bank.

Who issues and services prequalified assistive technology loans to up to $45,000.

Helping residents of New Jersey and New York to get the assistive technology they need if we can't find a grant or other lines of funding that would help the person.

So.

The National disability Institute buys down the interest rate.

So that our borrower gets the loan at four percent interest.

Lending terms are very favorable.

For example,

A credit score is not needed.

And the MDI a T program verifies loan applicants have enough monthly income for their monthly expenses, address outstanding credit and afford the loan as well.

Our services include presentations on financial education.

And guidance on spending plan development that is putting together a budget.

We provide referrals to financial counseling and programs that can help people get the assistive technology that they need.

And we provide webinars that are posted at our website on different types of assistive technology helping people to see the newest devices and products that are available to help people.

We have prepared resource guides and the resource guides list grants, lending programs and other service providers who can help people select the best and most cost-effective assistive technology to meet their needs.

There are ET demonstration programs listed where you can try out or borrow assistive technology.

And sometimes the equipment is available indefinitely.

There are 18 assessment services that can help you evaluate the type of assistive technology that will best meet your needs, abilities and activity levels given the environment that you need that in.

So maybe it is your home.

Maybe it is commuting throughout your community or maybe it is within a workplace.

And

Links to those two resource guides are posted here in this slide.

We have separated out programs for New Yorkers, and different programs for New Jersey residents.

So you can find your local program.

So.

Today, one of those programs and Melinda is presenting for us today.

Talking about assistive technology accessibility and telehealth for the aging population.

And people who have disabilities.

So, Melinda, I would like to welcome you.

Could you please share with our audience how you came to this position.

And what services your sites can provide.

>> MELINDA: Absolutely.

Thank you so much Lori.

Good morning everybody.

My name is Melinda.

I'm the director of the technology-related assistance program for individuals with disabilities.

Trade is the designated assistive technology program in New York.

We are not the only game in town.

But I like to think we are the best.

I'm just going to say it.

We can and do what we do without partnerships throughout New York with other loan libraries.

With our 12 trade centers.

All of whom live information on our website.

We offer device loans.

Similar to a library.

People can come and try out things that they either want to know more about or might have a temporary or permanent need but they need to again know what their options are.

We do demonstrations so we can provide information on a variety of devices offering people a compare and contrast so they can have an informed choice about the options available to them.

We also do training, information and assistance and public awareness.

We will provide training to people in schools.

Residences.

Whether it is agencies.

Both state agencies, private agencies, you name it.

We have probably done some kind of outreach or would potentially be interested in it.

If I do talk or ask.

Let me know when I tend to do that when I am talking about a topic I am excited about.

We came on this topic as something that came from feedback from our partners at the developmental planning Council.

I know they have a new name.

I can't remember what is off the top of my head.

I apologize.

As well as our advisory Council.

This project is obviously geared towards people who might be aging and want to stay at home as long as possible.

They can also be hopefully useful to people with maybe a developmental disability who don't have a lot of experience using a tablet or a device or even somebody that wants to use a tablet for socialization.

For community outreach.

They might want to talk with their friends and family.

But might not be very familiar with a device like this.

It is more people than I think we realize sometimes.

Just to go over what we are going to talk about in this presentation.

Keep in the back of your mind this is hopefully some things you can use.

Even beyond that.

Addressing accessibility.

I don't know what exactly it is.

With as much information as we can also give you things in the back of your mind about what is going to be accessible for one person might not be as helpful to another.

We also have a telehealth project we did where we re-created two short videos that people can use as just reminders on some of those different topics we will be going over.

And then just some final thoughts.

This is geared towards people that might be working with somebody in the community.

That does not have a lot of experience with these matters.

But really, if it is applicable to you in any other setting, it is just as good with us as well.

So.

The aging population.

Don't we all love statistics and reading lots of numbers?

I do mean that very sarcastically.

But we want to use these two to paint a picture for you guys.

To help you understand again, the basics of accessibility.

Be able to assist older individuals but not exclusively with basic questions related to telehealth and iPad use.

We are going to focus on iPads in this presentation.

Obviously there's other options out there.

There is android, there are tablets that people use along with their cell phones for different purposes.

But for this we focus on iPads because in trade this will be used the most when it comes to telehealth.

We will also provide you with some resources and some information on not just iPad types but accessories as well.

At the end of the day we want to provide options for people regardless of whether it is different mobility options.

If they are going to use a walker or if they are going to use a device with a keyboard.

With different types of cases.

Whatever that looks like for them.

These are the stats I mentioned.

A lot of this is going to sound familiar.

What are the benefits?

You can connect to medical care from anywhere.

Even I don't want to say we are out of the pedal wilderness quite yet.

There are spikes going on all over the place even within New York.

And even outside of covid.

The flu has been around forever.

Pneumonia has been around forever.

All of these other ailments that can keep people in their homes away from obviously from other people where it could be contracted.

Obviously from everywhere.

To get public transportation.

Reduces travel costs, sitting in the office to get there 15 minutes ahead of time and we are still sitting there waiting to be seen.

If it is a family member that lives in a different state or a different area or they are at work.

They could potentially be able to get together.

It is more convenient for people to want to be in their pajamas.

An option that people can use.

So.

As I said some of those stats.

Whenever – it's whether there is a lack of broadband.

Whether it is a lack of the actual knowledge of the device.

There are a lot of things that go into this.

26 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have access to a smart phone and the lowest among age 65 and older.

To be able to provide resources.

There are FCC initiatives that are helping to provide paying for broadband as well as access to some of these devices if I don't have it in there as well.

It is not just one cause.

For people to have access for some criteria.

I've already said a couple of things.

I tried to keep my own father in the back of my head when I'm thinking about stuff like this.

He is very resistant to technology and very resistant to change.

Whenever he finds out about sending a picture through a text.

It blows his mind.

So.

Not everybody obviously is like my father.

But I tried to have somebody like him in the back of my mind.

Like we said.

It is important for the medical component but also social isolation is a huge thing that can impact this and being disconnected from doctors, specialists and connections and networks.

Visual impairment.

Hearing loss.

Things that might not always be something somebody has experienced their whole lives.

Maybe it is something they are just now starting to experience or starting to now acknowledge.

Maybe this is something I could use some help with.

So.

When you have all these things together it can really impact somebody's ability to utilize these solutions.

There are a lot of solutions out there but they are not all the same.

Here are a couple of examples of some devices that somebody might be able to utilize.

They might look similar but they are very different.

The device all the way at the left the one next to it does have a home button.

Just in terms of its basic construction.

One here is a pad that is designed for people that need /have a cognitive – maybe they had a stroke.

Someone who has a big is just a Samsung tablet.

I think it is just a different operating system.

Some of them that somebody might not use too.

Even though you have a lot of similar solutions.

Really focusing on individuals with their strengths and some things they might be more resistant to or more open to than others.

We're going to go into these.

What do we do with accessibility?

Something that we talk about.

Not obviously with just telehealth but every aspect of somebody's day to day life.

At the end of the day it means that a person with a disability has the same information, interactions in the same services as somebody who does not have a disability.

That they have equal opportunities.

Equal ease of use.

And if that means that there has to be components in the sense of assistive technology.

They are a little different.

It means they are more accessible for them.

That's what we want to be focusing on.

>> Something like telehealth, consider these four areas.

Not only these four but these are some of the biggest.

Are they colorblind?

Do they have low vision?

Are they hard of hearing?

Is that something that started recently with them that they are still getting used to?

Can they use a mouse?

Do they have slower response time?

Limited motor ability or cognitive?

Are they easily distracted?

Have they had some kind of a stroke that's made it more difficult for them to take in lots of different or new information.

These are all things to focus on when somebody is using a piece of technology for the first time of any type.

But in this case obviously telehealth.

If we were all in person in the same room.

I would say bring along an iPod with you to go through some of these next few slides to try this out for yourself.

Obviously the slides will be available on the website.

If you want to do this after the fact.

It is great to play along with us to see these features you are familiar with or they are new two for the first time.

So, when it comes to accessibility and tablets.

There's a lot of options that people can explore if they have any of those extra needs on the previous slide or things that might just work better for them in general.

So, there is a lot more than just these options.

These are just the ones we are going to focus on today.

Screen magnification and captions.

Things like contrast, speakers and accessories.

Accessibility is the whole spectrum that somebody might explore that is going to meet their needs.

Whatever they happen to be.

It's just for the sake of time you're going to focus on these here.

So.

Some physical things with an iPod themselves.

What we've seen a lot in the past is, somebody gets a tablet and that is it, they are done.

Here is how it is, we'll figure out how it works and you are good to go.

When it comes to the size of a tablet or an iPod.

A larger screen.

Means it could be better for somebody to see.

Especially if they have low vision.

But it might be portable.

It might be a little bit heavier.

There are smaller screens.

Something like an iPod which means they are more portable but it might be hard to see.

That play on what is going to work best for one may again not work for somebody else.

Some would again have a home button.

Somebody that is lacking in fine motor skills, that might be difficult for them.

So again.

We are going to focus on iOS.

If people prefer focusing on android maybe for an iPad or iPhone is going to look very similar if you're focused on not seeing the PowerPoint at this time, and you do have a iOS system or you want to check it out somewhere else.

It is this little gear looking icon on a screen or if you go through a menu.

I do want to add that things change all the time.

There are updates to accessibility and people are always constantly trying to make it better the thing to get around if you are looking at a settings menu.

You can always type in the thing you are looking for whatever that might be down the road.

All kinds of things through your settings.

That's going to be your best friend.

A lot of people already know this.

I have this on my own iPod or my own phone or what have you.

Again, try to put yourself in the situation of somebody who might not.

Or maybe the things that you or your family use might not work for them. This is a screenshot of what an iPod is going to look like.

It's going to give you a lot of options about things like the magnifier.

How you are going to change the way textbooks or captioning.

This is going to be your best friend.

If you have an iPod with you feel free to play along and follow along.

Things are going to affect your text size and display.

Some of the biggest things you see or suggest.

Things like bold tasks or larger sizes.

If you go around to accessibility.

It should pop up under display and text size.

Full text.

Larger text.

There are a few other options obviously there as well.

It will show you what they all look like.

If you're working with someone who is a little bit older.

Maybe someone that doesn't have experience with these kinds of devices.

Take a look at these different options to see what they respond the best to you.

Maybe it is bold text.

Like you see on the second image.

The first is what it will look like on its own.

Might be a little easier to see for somebody.

The next is increased contrast.

That might be helpful again for somebody who has low vision.

Larger text, for somebody like me.

I didn't need glasses and so I was in my early 30s. Now I'm realizing that I do use it much more and it definitely helps.

This could work great for somebody who is in a similar boat.

Maybe they've never needed glasses or had an issue when it comes to seeing things in front of them.

But, this may be something that will help them be more comfortable if they are for the first time.

Like subtitles and captions.

They can be utilized obviously for audio and video.

There are ways through different apps like somebody is watching you two.

There is captioning they can turn on.

But if you were to turn on captioning in an iPad itself.

It can be turned on and off by a user again through the settings menu and accessibility.

It will allow you to turn on captioning if you look at this circled area down here.

Again.

Certain websites and certain other options are going to change depending on what the person is using.

And just as a reminder for captioning, closed captioning can be turned on and off.

It is something you may have on and off your TV at home.

Captioning means it is burned and you cannot remove it.

Just some things to keep in mind.

There is just a little trick to increasing volume for somebody who is slightly hard of hearing like myself.

I listened to too much metal when I was younger. Now I'm hitting the point where I'm definitely looking at captioning and increasing volumes more and more.

Again just a slight check.

It might not be a huge impact for people but you never know.

Your settings menu under music.

If you select EQ there are some steps by steps here on this picture.

If you're listening and not watching.

If you select late-night and by increasing a little bit and give it that extra push.

Sometimes it helps people and sometimes it doesn't.

Somebody like me, very helpful.

Too much music.

Not a lot of smarts.

Mike's next slide.

It hasn't had its coffee.

Sometimes it's a little slow.

A huge update we are letting people know about that was shared by one of our trade centers down in Westchester.

I see our name down there.

Along with our amazing trade staff.

An opportunity to use an iPad in a way that is much more simplified and easier to access.

If you've never seen an iPod, sometimes people have a billion apps on it.

A million different icons that people can switch back and forth to.

Some people prefer that.

That is the way they like it.

It is easy for them to navigate.

For somebody who might be again.

They might have low vision or might be overwhelmed by a billion options of different things.

And might easily forget what was that that I needed or how do I get to that?

It has an inaccessibility update called assistive access.

This is for 17 and up.

If you have an older type of iPad this might be a little more difficult.

This option is you can see again if you are listening.

It basically simplifies so you can select the apps most important to you.

Without you.

It is customizable.

It is hopefully, and theory less likely to be overwhelming and it really makes it much more streamlined for a user.

This new option makes the icons bigger.

It makes it more focused and makes it easier to navigate.

So, for this example it is just the person for this theoretical iPod might be using it for their camera messages.

Music, photos.

Maybe the weather.

So this could be a great option for somebody that – let's say they just want it for their camera.

To get in touch with their family.

Maybe to check the news.

Take a picture.

Maybe they don't want to be playing Angry Birds or mine craft or – I don't know what is cool these days.

But

Use your imagination.

This is a newer feature.

If somebody did want to use this.

There is step by step more detailed information online.

For somebody interested in doing this very quickly.

A trusted supporter can also help somebody set this up be a family member, community staff.

They can help set it up there in the accessibility menu in the settings.

They are able to pick what apps are going to be the most important.

It might not be the ones on the previous screen.

It might be something else or something that is custom the person might be using.

Maybe it is an app that a doctor's office has.

Something like that.

If you were to go to the accessibility menu.

If you scroll down to assistive access and top set up assistive access it will walk you through the process.

>> They can select through all the options what exactly it is they need or what they want.

Obviously anything can be updated and edited.

Personally we have to have a passcode.

But, we have a resource that will talk about the end of this presentation.

It will hopefully help for some people that potentially either forget their passwords and all of us at some point we forgot the passwords, the phone number.

I definitely have.

And I'm sure we are all in the same boat.

It is in the update in assistive devices designed specifically that looked a lot like this.

This is an option on an iPad which is mass-produced.

Available easily to people for a lot of times much less than a specialized device.

Again it's just a great option.

How do we address things like positioning or ease of comfort when it comes to holding a device?

Some people benefit from having a stand.

If you are looking at the screen.

Just these basic ones here that either something you might be able to find an eight trade center.

Unique and a lot of different options.

Contact your local trade center and they can tell you what they do and don't have.

Options through things like cases.

If you look at the picture that is right below.

Just a folding case.

There are a million options that you can either find at retailers like Walmart.

It is always great to explore the first time.

Some other things you might not think about can be helpful with navigating a screen especially if somebody has to swipe up.

Or it might not begin having experience or using the smaller somebody for me.

Using a tablet is different from somebody again.

Like my dad who would be fascinated to hear about all the things that you can do.

There's a lot of different options.

There are options that are much thicker and easier for somebody to hold. You might have difficulty with something like this. Some people are resistant to having something that looks medical or looks – it makes them feel like they stand out.

Having an option like this would be great.

Somebody would be using something that's helpful but not standing out as much.

Somebody else might need a device that has a lot more customization.

Custom mobility.

Something that can be bent and molded to their hand.

Either through a grip or other things out there.

A lot more comfortable for a user that needs that as an option.

>> It looks like a wiffleball.

There are devices that can be customized through 3D printing or through.

I've seen people use a stress ball and put a stylus through it so that way the person is still able to hold onto it.

But not put them at discomfort again.

Maybe it is arthritis or something else.

There's a lot of different options but it's not something we explore with somebody who is interested in this type of assistive technology device.

If you're working with somebody in this type of situation.

Keep this in the back of your mind along with something like a case or a positioning device.

And just some other options out there.

Protective cases are great; they can make buttons harder to press.

Keep that in the back of your mind.

Things like a keyboard might be great for some people.

They may have used a keyboard their entire life.

They feel comfortable with it.

Just having that feedback through the clicking of the keys.

Can be great.

And for other people, they might prefer just to use the actual tablet itself.

Consider a physical keyboard for somebody either way if you want to try out both options or if the person is not sure either way.

At the end of the day we want people to have an informed choice because people are comfortable with these devices.

Likely for them to be a paperweight just sitting on somebody's desk not being used.

What we saw a good amount during the pandemic is that families would get tablets or whatever device for their family member and there was not somebody there to kind of help them navigate or understand what these different features were.

And they just kind of sat there.

So.

We are hoping that this will help people feel more comfortable and give them options that will help you be easier and more effective.

Let's just give some other quick information to the justice center.

For those of you that don't know, trade is the protection of people with special needs.

Part of this project was creating three short videos to help people who have never used telehealth before and might want that extra bit of help whether it is on the weekend.

Or if something is – maybe family is not available or if they have somebody in the immunity that is helping them.

They are not available either.

These three short videos are available in both English and Spanish.

They are on our website and there are again.

The three of them are the introduction to the iPad for telehealth.

The steps that we could take.

Things like how to charge the iPad.

Knowing where the icons are I will tell you what the battery level is.

Whether it is connected to Wi-Fi.

How to turn on the iPad.

All of those things that some of us might be doing for a very long time.

Somebody who has never used a tablet might not be familiar with it.

Overview of telehealth appointments.

Some things to keep in mind before you are sitting down for an appointment.

Do you have a stable Wi-Fi connection?

Do you have everybody available to support you?

Should you – a family member.

An advocate, a social worker.

Whatever that looks like.

Also making sure that somebody has prepared in case an appointment is late.

Sometimes things might be scheduled at 10:00 a.m. and don't start until 1015.

What to do for backup should call ends, what have you.

Making it accessible to everybody.

What this video basically goes over is reminding professionals in the field.

Not all of us are at the same level.

When it comes to using assistive technology or using telehealth.

Sometimes there are blips along the way.

Maybe the connection goes out.

Maybe someday I will have a hard time finding the camera.

Maybe somebody has a difficult time just understanding how this technology works in general.

So, helping them to remember.

We are all in a similar boat and we all need access to medical care.

We all need patience and understanding.

Yes, it is a busy day and there's a lot of things to do.

But that does not mean that we should just be rushing people out.

We don't have time to deal with technical issues.

It is something that everybody should have access to and that we are here to support.

I'm not going to show the videos themselves.

There is a link in this PowerPoint that should take you right to them.

They are all available.

As I said, they are available in both Spanish, English.

Relatively short.

Some of them are closer to 4 minutes.

We lied.

They are not all two or three minutes.

They are geared to be used by people with disabilities.

People who are older.

People who might be a family member.

Professional.

Feel free to use them for whatever you think they might be good for.

And if that means having them in a shortcut to them on an iPad for a user.

That's obviously an option as well.

We hope it will be useful again in three areas.

Just know they are available.

Should you be interested.

Along with these videos we have three handouts that go along very closely as well.

They include the first video which is the basics of the iPad.

Knowing when something is fully charged where the Wi-Fi is.

What an iPad – the different buttons will do.

Whether it is the home button.

If it is not an iPad nine or older.

The last generation where the home button was actually part of the actual device.

Everything beyond that is going to have that option that is great for some people and not great for others.

For an appointment.

A lot of those things in every dimension.

Making sure that if you want somebody with you that they are with you before the appointment starts.

That you got everything set up.

The Wi-Fi is stable.

All of those good things.

We also have handouts that are geared towards keeping all of your information in one place.

It is a double-sided handout.

The first is keeping the doctor's phone number in the same place.

Obviously some people are going to have more than one doctor and specialist.

We try to have some space for that as well.

If you need to use more than one shape that is totally fine.

It gives people the option to write down your password for their device.

Password for email.

To get some help.

And that includes context.

There is also an option to write down the Wi-Fi password.

Location.

Limited experience with us.

Hopefully it is a good day to keep it together instead of worrying that something will get lost.

Print out.

Use themselves if people want to fill them out be it a family member specialist whoever that is.

It is just a tool that we hope will be helpful.

Just some final thoughts.

Before an appointment.

There are a lot of different options that people need to kind of go through.

Making sure the camera and the microphone are working.

One thing we encourage anybody here that is working with somebody in the community or has an aging parent or sibling or whatever that looks like for them.

There are a lot of things that you know – might be overwhelming but.

We want everybody to break it down into kind of a simple component and say.

Okay.

We will look at telehealth.

Is it going to work?

That means our different types of tablets work for this person.

I'm going to jump ahead a little bit.

>> I lied.

Consider if somebody is using a smartphone.

What is their operating system they are using?

If somebody is already using iOS.

It might be an easier switch to go from an iPad.

From going from an iPhone to using an android tablet.

Not that it can't be done.

But if you are looking – consider maybe an android tablet might work best for them.

If somebody hasn't ever used a smartphone or there are other barriers.

Maybe consider something like the grand pad.

That we mention has a similar interface.

That doesn't have that background.

Oregon we had the new Iowa 17 update.

18 components.

Communication.

It can be used for different school apps and different telehealth as well.

If you're working with someone to consider all these different components.

Think about things like access to power outlets.

Consider portable chargers.

These are things again.

We might not think about it.

You just plug it in, whatever.

Is this divisive ? Somebody forgets about it for a few hours.

Is it still going to be able to be used?

And do they have a support system to be able to manage the device?

Again, to go back to covid there were a lot of cases where someone was just given an iPad or tablet and that was it.

There was almost no follow-up.

Does this person have a support system be it family, a community worker.

Android to android.

IOS to iOS.

Or something completely different depending on their experience.

Some ways that you can help or if you have friends in the field that might benefit from this as well.

Research options that can help.

We don't want a one-size-fits-all approach.

For any type of assisted technology.

We very quickly went over just a couple.

There are many more out there.

Knowing what was going to work for somebody knowing on their break time, just seeing how things change.

Helping people to store their passwords and login information.

Happens a lot.

And think about what I should do.

Not somewhere that can be taken and used for whatever.

It helps that much more with the process.

A set up practice times when there is not an appointment.

We have the quick reference sheet Google can use.

Again, telehealth related or not.

Those moments when you are at an appointment and you are having to talk to somebody on the other side of the screen.

We do have resources within trade.

We do training in regional Buffalo, Rochester.

In the areas as well.

We can help set people up with either my website, documents, and what have you.

And then assistive technology and sex ability as a whole.

It is our bread and butter.

It's what we know better than anything.

If you have additional questions after this we are happy to get in touch.

From a variety of different units within the agency.

Trade will be part of that in our presentation, some of those really stressful in a person's life. The three we are going to cover what does that look like for a child in a family and what to be prepared for.

College employment.

Or maybe even on something else.

Maybe it is something truly different.

If someone has to go into a nursing home and then transition out back into the community.

Feel free to check us out.

I can attach a link in the chapter registration. It will be on Wednesday, April 24 from 2:30 PM to 4:00.

Myself and our staff from Westchester and Queensberry will be joining me as well.

What we want you to take away from this presentation as we said probably a million times.

Not every technology is going to work the same for an individual.

That also includes telehealth.

Consider the experience that somebody has using technology using the tablet.

Consider things like the size of the tablet.

The accessories that go along with it.

The way the tablet is going to look, sound and feel at the end of the day we want them to be comparable in use.

Access the medical care that everybody should have access to.

Just in their own living rooms.

Wherever they happen to be.

Thank you all so much.

I don't know if there's any questions but I'm happy to answer any that might have.

That's what this slide is.

>> Great.

Let's go back one more slide so people can write down your contact information.

While they ask their questions in the Q&A.

>> Am doing the button.

>> Am trying to do the button too.

>> I think we are both doing it at the same time.

>> I apologize for doubting constantly.

We got a bunch of snow last night.

It is wreaking havoc on me.

>> It's terrible to be allergic to snow.

>> I've got a couple of questions that come in.

One person asks where your sites are.

We put the link in the chat with all the trade sites available across New York State.

There are similar programs in the state of New Jersey to our resource guide to see what's available in New Jersey.

One person asked.

What types of devices do you have at your sites that people can take home with them and borrow to see if that's going to work for them.

Do you have things like walkers and wheelchairs and things like that?

What's there is 10 types of assistive technology and that is everything from – not that there is a test or anything.

You do not remember this for a quiz.

Mobility saving that is everything from wheelchairs, walkers daily living could be everything from showering or bathing equipment.

It's food preparation, speaking, and communication.

Computer accessories.

Recreation even.

All of our trade centers have their own inventory.

As I said, each one is different.

The best way to know what your local trade center has is to contact them directly.

As we said, the link is in the chat right there.

The staff can go over with you what your needs are.

The needs of the person you're calling in regards to – it doesn't have to be the person that needs the equipment.

It could be a teacher.

A parent.

Whoever.

Then they can go over again.

What exactly they have.

We do have some tablets and similar types of devices.

Depending on the time of year we can get a bit of demand.

If we do have anything available right away.

Just be patient with us.

We will let you know when it is available on both.

>> I've earned a lot of information from your presentation.

I really thank you.

This has been great.

>> I do see as well.

One of our amazing staff mentioned there were multiple that could be purchased when it comes to smaller devices.

Even sometimes bigger ones that can be customized to somebody's.

Whether it is their hand or just their overall something that you can find my apologies.

>> And Melinda.

I got a couple of calls this week.

People looking for stair lifts.

Requested a vertical lift like a little elevator.

Inside your garage, they could get up your stairs.

Next we really don't.

For a couple of reasons.

Stair lift was a very customized kind of device.

Everyone is going to have a different amount of steps.

Either outside or inside.

It is difficult for us to take one that is donated and then bring it to somebody else.

However, it does happen.

Somebody will call us and say hey, I've got this, can you take it?

But we will often do.

Should be a donated option we put those two individuals in touch.

Sometimes it works great for them.

And sometimes it doesn't work.

That is an option that we do as well.

We also note a lot of community resources within our region.

Something that we can do.

We will try to put that person in touch with somebody that does that.

Sometimes people are able to make those connections.

If you are not sure let us know and we can give you extra information.

>> And then somebody is asking about this annual Justice Center Summit.

Is there a virtual event?

>> If you show up at our offices it will be very boring.

The whole thing is online.

Subpoena and attend.

Again it's not just trade.

There are a bunch of others as well.

I will put them in the chat.

>> Okay that's great.

I want to hear that you have 3D printers.

Can you tell folks what sort of things you are printing off of those.

Are you able to do any prosthetic devices yet?

>> I have a bunch on my desk that come from the Queensberry trade center.

I visited last week and they gave me a bunch.

To answer your questions about prosthetics, we don't do prosthetics because in order to fit and mold them there is a lot of time you're going to need to be working with a doctor to make sure it is fitted properly and people's bodies change over time so the prosthetic is going to need to be changed.

I know there are resources that do that.

Just, trade is not one of them.

Again our mission is the devices that we give you, we want them to be as useful and as comfortable and as appropriate for in person as possible.

However, we 3D print a lot of things.

For example I don't know if you could see.

This right here is a toothpaste squeezer.

So if somebody has a tube of toothpaste and pushes it through.

They can squeeze out the last little bit so somebody can get that out.

I know as a college student at one point for like four points to get that last little intimate anything I could get out of there.

We have things like Badr bottle openers.

For some people that might have difficulty unscrewing the top of the bottle.

We got these guys here.

This is my new favorite.

This is a toothbrush holder.

It is hard to show how big he is.

But he balances a toothbrush up top and will stand up on his own.

Some other things I don't have in front of me are things like he guards somebody using an iPad as a communication device.

It kind of breaks up the screen that way there's kind of a tactile field to using it.

If somebody's looking around it's easier to navigate those that are customized to somebody based on their work with a speech language pathologist or whoever else.

Those are just a smidgen of what we do.

Most of our centers are 3D printing.

Not all of them.

Many of them have 3D printing on display.

If you are in Queensberry or Buffalo.

Those 3D printers are out there for you to go and check out.

But if you're ever curious and want to know what we have, contact your local trade center.

And let us know.

>> Thanks so much.

Let's move forward.

If you have questions, put them in the Q&A.

And we will be certain to answer those questions for you today.

I just wanted to remind people.

It's for anyone who worked in the last four years.

It is important that we file income taxes reporting that earned income.

Because they could increase the amount of money available for us to save or to purchase things that we need.

For a person that has a disability.

In particular.

It is important that they file income taxes because within a short period of time.

A person who receives SSI benefits may eventually become eligible for SSDI benefits when they are ready to retire. This is the retirement benefit for that person's future as well.

So, there are free tax preparation sites across the United States.

If you call 211, they will tell you where the free tax site is.

If you live in New York City, call 311 to find a free tax preparation site.

And, before April 15 you can have your taxes done for 2320, 2021 and 2020.

If you wish information about tax preparation, specifically for people who have disabilities.

We have information available on our website.

And that project is called share our strength.

Please explore those materials.

A person who has a disability that began before age 26 is eligible to open an able account.

They can save up to $100,000 in that account and that is savings or investment money not counted towards the SSI resource limit of $2000.

Any amount of savings does not count towards any type of Medicaid or Medicare eligibility.

Friends, family and special needs trusts can deposit up to $18,000 total into an able account this calendar year.

If the account owner works up to their employment earnings were up to 14,000 $580.

Can be deposited into their account.

So.

Whichever is less.

Either 14,000, 580 or that person's employment earnings for that calendar year.

That is a huge amount.

$42,580 Can be deposited into an account for this calendar year.

And we have tons of free information about accounts and where people can sign up for these accounts online.

The national resource center in the link is here on this slide.

Able qualified disability expenses include assistive technology, transportation, housing expenses, things of that nature.

So.

We wanted to put out a little survey participant to take your time and complete this, we believe the presentation is open while you complete the survey.

We are wondering what other types of topics you would like us to cover in future webinars.

For example,

Next month, April 18 at 12:00 noon.

We have another free webinar presentation and disability rights New York will be speaking about how they can help people purchase assistive technology and what rights we have when we need assistive technology and really about their services overall and how they can help people who are in need here in New York State.

A similar program is available as well in New Jersey.

This is open to anyone across the United States to participate in next month's presentation as well.

So, my contact information, my telephone number is 202449 9521.

I and I think Melinda.

For participating today and providing information about the ET demonstration sites that are available, really and every state across the United States and later today spoke specifically about telehealth services and supports available in New York State.

And I thank you so much.

So, we would like to ask what information in this webinar was most helpful.

We have a program who can help people receive SSI and/or SSDI to find a job.

If you need help finding a job.

Let us know.

Question number three.

What type of assistive technology would you like more information on?

Would you like to schedule a presentation for your agency or community organization?

So.

For example I am available to provide virtual presentations on the assistive technology loan program.

On able accounts that are available here.

In New York State.

Or New Jersey.

And how to put together a budget for example to be able to save more money in an able account or to be able to save let us know what information you need and if I cannot provide that presentation I will find a presenter to help you or your organization.

And I thank you so much for your time today.

They give for joining us.

Have a great day.