



## EDUCATION:

### **Assistive Technology Supports for Students The Parents' Place of Maryland**

**LOCATION:** Statewide

| **FUNDING:** \$81,000; \$27,000 match

#### **GOALS**

**Council Goal:** Children and adults with developmental disabilities meaningfully participate in all facets of community life, and are valued and supported by their communities.

**Council Objective:** Increase access to community-based services and supports.

**Goals of Initiative:** Increase access to assistive technology for students with developmental disabilities and their families during emergency school closures.

#### **OVERVIEW**

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all Marylanders, including students with developmental disabilities and their families. The pandemic closed schools, and students are engaged in virtual learning. Because of this, the use of technology in education is necessary. This includes assistive technology devices students with developmental disabilities need to successfully learn at-home.

In partnership with the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), this time-limited demonstration project will identify strategies to support the assistive technology needs of students with developmental disabilities and their families, including the purchase of assistive technology devices, to help students learn and succeed at home.

#### **STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES**

- The Parents' Place of Maryland will:
  - Respond to emerging needs of students with developmental disabilities and their families as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Receive, account for, and distribute Council funds to local school systems to address the assistive technology needs of students with developmental disabilities and their families.
  - Track and report on students served and lessons learned from students, families, and school systems about the needs of students with developmental disabilities and families.

#### **OUTCOMES**

- Increased access to assistive technology for students with developmental disabilities and families.
- Increased capacity of local school systems to support the short-term and long-term needs of students with developmental disabilities and families during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Inform systems change efforts for future disaster preparedness and emergency response in Maryland and other states.