Technology and Disability Policy Highlights

April 2014

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# Overview

In April, the Department of Justice reached a 10-year settlement agreement with the State of Rhode Island following investigations into the state’s day-activity service system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Under the settlement, Rhode Island has agreed to redirect State funding to more integrated services to ensure individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities are afforded better employment and employment transition services. Federal contractors have filed a class action suit against the Government Services Administration (GSA) regarding the accessibility of the System for Award Management website, [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov), run by GSA. The case alleges that SAM.gov is not accessible for individuals who are blind or have low vision and does not adequately train helpdesk staff to assist blind or low vision individuals. Robyn Powell, Attorney Advisor for the National Council on Disability (NCD), also testified before the Massachusetts legislature addressing the history of discrimination towards parents with disabilities and the rights of parents when pursuing assistance through the Child Welfare System and the family court system.

In regulatory news, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced April 16, 2014 as the effective date for final rules governing delivery of accessible emergency information in video programming and the accessibility of associated equipment and apparatus. They also issued final rules in accordance with Section 713 of the Communications Act to enhance the quality of closed captioning. The rules, which require that captions are accurate and synchronous in portraying the spoken words and background noises, are present for the whole program and are placed in such a way that they do not block important visual content, become effective January 15, 2015. Additionally, the FCC took immediate action to halt misuse of IP Relay services by eliminating the 911 exception, due to repeated fraudulent use that resulted in the unnecessary dispatch of first responders

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

[Legislative Activities](#legislativeactivities)

[Regulatory Activities](#regulatoryactivities)

[Other Items of Interest](#otheritemsofinterest)

[Wireless RERC Updates](#wirelessrercupdates)

[Upcoming Events](#Upcomingevents)

# Legislative Activities

## NCD Testifies on Behalf of Parents with Disabilities

April 9, 2014 – Robyn Powell, Attorney Advisor for the National Council on Disability (NCD), testified before the Massachusetts legislature concerning the rights of parents with disabilities. The legislature met regarding Massachusetts House Bill 1379 which “seeks to prohibit discrimination against parents with disabilities in family and juvenile court proceedings.” In her testimony, Powell addressed the history of discrimination towards parents with disabilities including the biases and lack of accommodations toward these individuals when pursuing assistance through the Child Welfare System and the family court system. Specifically, Powell cites the 2012 NCD report entitled, *Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Children*, as a key policy study. This NCD report provides specific case studies of parents and future parents with disabilities in situations including “family law and dependency proceedings, adoption, and access to assistive reproductive technology.” With regard to the Massachusetts House Bill 1379, Powell stated, “NCD encourages the legislature to pass legislation ensuring the rights of prospective parents with disabilities to access adoption and assistive reproductive technologies, as well, in accordance with the model legislation in the *Rocking the Cradle* report.”

#### Additional Information

[NCD’s Robyn Powell’s Statement](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/Testimony/04092014)

[<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/Testimony/04092014>]

## Class Action Suit Highlights Accessibility Issues of Government Website

April 22, 2014 — Federal contractors filed a class action suit against the Government Services Administration (GSA) regarding the accessibility of the System for Award Management website, [www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov). The case highlights that GSA is responsible for ensuring that all “federal contractor programs and activities are Section 504 compliant and accessible to [individuals with disabilities].” Use of SAM.gov is essential for all federal contractors, as they are required to register with the site before any work can begin. Yet the plaintiffs note that SAM.gov is not screen reader accessible and does not allow for keyboard navigation. Additionally, the SAM.gov helpdesk lacks training to assist individuals who are blind or have low vision. In a quote to *Nextgov*, attorney Matthew Handley noted, “It would be one thing if [the Environmental Protection Agency’s] website wasn’t compliant with screen reader software, but this is all the more troubling because this is the agency that’s supposed to be policing all the other agency websites and it doesn’t appear to be policing its own websites.”

#### Additional Information

[Class Action Suit](http://www.washlaw.org/pdf/filed_gsa_complaint.PDF)

[<http://www.washlaw.org/pdf/filed_gsa_complaint.PDF>]

[Nextgov: Lawsuit Says GSA Discriminates Against Blind Contractors](http://www.nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2014/04/lawsuit-says-gsa-discriminates-against-blind-contractors/83179/)

[<http://www.nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2014/04/lawsuit-says-gsa-discriminates-against-blind-contractors/83179/>]

# Regulatory Activities

## FCC Issues Final Rules for Closed Captioning

March 31, 2014 — The FCC has issued final rules, in accordance with Section 713 of the Communications Act, to enhance the quality of closed captioning. Despite previous rules, the FCC has continually received comments noting that captions are often found to be “inaccurate, garbled, incomplete, misspelled and/or misunderstood, incomprehensible, obscure the speaker, or significantly lag behind the spoken words they are intended to convey.” The final rules require that captions are accurate and synchronous in portraying the spoken words and background noises, are present for the whole program and are placed in such a way that they do not block important visual content. Also adopted are rules which require broadcasters “who utilize Electronic Newsroom Technique (ENT)” to ensure that all news scripted for the teleprompter is also captioned. In order to ensure technical compliance of the rules, the R&O specifies that video programming distributors must “monitor and maintain their equipment,” in addition to keeping records of any “maintenance, monitoring and technical checks of their captioning equipment.” Finally, the rules provide best practices for video programmers and off-line and real-time captioning vendors and captioners. The requirements presented in the final rules become effective January 15, 2015.

#### Additional Information

[FCC Final Rules [GC Docket No. 05-231]](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-03-31/pdf/2014-06754.pdf)

[<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-03-31/pdf/2014-06754.pdf>]

## DOJ Settlement Regarding Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

April 8, 2014 — The Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that it has entered into a 10-year settlement agreement with the State of Rhode Island. The settlement follows an investigation of Rhode Island’s day-activity service system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The investigation found that Rhode Island depended heavily on segregated services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, while those individuals were also subject to low wages and “little or no contact with persons without disabilities.” Under the Supreme Court decision made in *Olmstead v. L.C.,* individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities have the right to integrated services and community living rather than institutionalization. Accordingly, under the settlement, Rhode Island will redirect State funding to more integrated services including those which support individuals in finding improved employment, provide more integrated non-work activities and provide better transition services for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha for the District of Rhode Island stated, “It ushers in a new day of opportunity – opportunity for Rhode Island residents with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live, work and spend their recreational time alongside their fellow Rhode Islanders.”

#### Additional Information

[DOJ: Rhode Island Settlement](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/April/14-crt-350.html)

[<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/April/14-crt-350.html>]

## Accessible Emergency Information requirements in Effect and Enforceable

April 9, 2014 – The FCC announced April 16, 2014 as the effective date for final rules governing delivery of accessible emergency information in video programming and the accessibility of associated equipment and apparatus. Specifically, the *Report and Order* (R&O) [FCC 13-45], implementing T*wenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*, requires that emergency information communicated via video programming is accessible to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. This includes the requirement of an aural presentation of the emergency information on a secondary audio stream that must be conveyed at least twice in full. The use of text-to-speech (TTS) technologies is permitted for providing the aural presentation. In addition, the Report and Order also establishes apparatus requirements for the transmission of emergency information and video description to individuals with disabilities. Specifically, the apparatus is required to “receive, play back, or record video programming transmitted simultaneously with sound.” TTS capability is permitted but not required.

The announcement also outlines rules for reporting compliance with the R&O to determine whether accessibility provisions are being implemented. This rule for information collection was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on April 9, 2014.

#### Additional Information

[FCC Granted OMB Approval for Information Collection](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-04-16/pdf/2014-08570.pdf)

[<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-04-16/pdf/2014-08570.pdf>]

## FCC to Host Workshop to Promote Health and Safety for Older Americans

April 11, 2014 — In honor of Older Americans Month, the FCC will hold a workshop on May 22, 2014 at FCC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The workshop, entitled “Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected,” will facilitate a discussion around online safety, emergency communications and telehealth for older Americans. The workshop will also provide technology demonstrations. For those unable to attend, the event will be broadcast live with open captioning at [FCC.gov/live](file:///C:\Users\salimah\AppData\Local\Temp\FCC.gov\live)

Additional Information

[Workshop Information: Stay Safe, Healthy and Connected](http://www.fcc.gov/events/workshop-older-americans-stay-safe-healthy-and-connected)

[<http://www.fcc.gov/events/workshop-older-americans-stay-safe-healthy-and-connected>]

## FCC Waives 911 IP Relay Exception After Misuse

April 29, 2014 – The FCC’s Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau (CGB) has eliminated the 911 exception to the Internet protocol relay service (IP Relay) due to the repeated misuse that has resulted in the unnecessary dispatch of first responders. In 2012, the Commission “eliminated the requirement for IP Relay providers to handle calls placed by newly registered users prior to completing the verification of such users, but kept this requirement for emergency IP Relay calls placed to 911.” While this service was originally intended to assist the Deaf or hard of hearing, when verification is not required, it has become an open door for fraudulent activity. After continued criminal misuse of this exception, Sprint urged the FCC to allow the option of blocking 911 calls from “guest” users. The CGB, given the dangerous misuse of this service, has waived the Commission’s exception: “…for one year the requirement for IP Relay providers to handle calls to 911 prior to verification of the IP relay user, effective upon release of this Order.” The Order goes on to say “CGB takes this action because of the potential and immediate dangers associated with allowing the current guest user policies for 911 calls to remain in place while the Commission proceeds with a rulemaking proceeding on this and other issues addressing the provision of IP Relay services.”

Additional Information

[FCC Waives 911 Exception](http://www.fcc.gov/document/misuse-ip-relay-service-waiver-911-exception)

[<http://www.fcc.gov/document/misuse-ip-relay-service-waiver-911-exception>]

# Other Items of Interest

## New Hearing Aid Allows Users to Sync with Wireless Devices

April 1, 2014 — Starkey has released Halo, a new hearing aid which is designed to be compatible with iPhones, iPads and iPods. Halo hearing aids act as stand-alone hearing aids but have the added feature of using Bluetooth to connect directly to wireless devices. Using the TruLink Hearing Control app, Halo users can use their iPhone to stream calls, music and Facetime directly to the hearing aid. The app also enables users to remotely adjust hearing aid settings and create TruLink Memories, which geotags and saves hearing aid settings for specific locations.

Additional Information

[Halo](http://www.starkey.com/hearing-aids/technologies/halo-wireless-hearing-aids)

[<http://www.starkey.com/hearing-aids/technologies/halo-wireless-hearing-aids>]

[TruLink iPhone App](http://www.trulinkhearing.com/trulink-control-app#call)

[<http://www.trulinkhearing.com/trulink-control-app#call>]

## 3D Systems Provides 3D Printing Access for Students with Disability

April 4, 2014 – 3D Systems has offered its support to a program called "Engaging Young People with Assistive Technologies," which assists students with physical disabilities at Hereward College (United Kingdom) in “designing objects that make everyday life easier.” The article notes a personal account from a 21 year old student who developed a “bespoke straw holder” that would allow him to drink out of varying bottle types. The student, Ollie Baskaran, said, “Because I have limited strength, I need to use a straw to drink. But often when I lift and tip a bottle, the straw moves around, which makes drinking difficult. I wanted to design something that would hold the straw in place…Without 3D printing, it would have cost too much to get my idea professionally designed and manufactured.” This project, a collaboration between Hereward College, Warwick Manufacturing and the Department of Computer Sciences, is part of a larger campaign by the University of Warwick to “engage with groups of learners that are currently under-represented in science and technology at the university degree level.”

Additional Information

[3D Systems Printing Access](http://www.itnewsonline.com/news/3D-Systems-Provides-Students-With-Disabilities-Access-to-3D-Printing-for-Assistive-Devices/32786/8/4)

[<http://www.itnewsonline.com/news/3D-Systems-Provides-Students-With-Disabilities-Access-to-3D-Printing-for-Assistive-Devices/32786/8/4>]

## NIDRR Requests Comments on Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) Priorities

April 15, 2014 – The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) seeks comment on their new Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) priorities. The two proposed priorities are a part of NIDRR’s Long-Range Plan, which was approved and published in the Federal Register on April 4, 2013. The RRTC is being co-funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The first of the proposed priorities is “Transition to Employment for Youth and Young Adults with Serious Mental Health Conditions.” The second proposed priority is “Community Living and Participation for Youth and Young Adults with Serious Mental Health Conditions.” Both priorities involve research, development and training. Comments on the two proposed priorities are due by May 15th. Details on the specifics of each proposal can be found by clicking the link below.

Additional Information

[NIDRR Proposed Priorities](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-04-15/html/2014-08556.htm)

[<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-04-15/html/2014-08556.htm>]

## Presentations Released - State of Science Conference on Employment of People with Disabilities

April 24, 2014 — Presentations from the State of the Science Conference, sponsored by the University of New Hampshire, the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Evidence Based Practice in Vocational Rehabilitation (RRTC-EBP-VR) and the Kessler Foundation, are now available. Held April 8-9, 2014 in Bethesda, Maryland, the conference addressed employment disparities experienced by people with disabilities and presented research from three NIDRR-funded employment rehabilitation research and training centers. Included among the presentations was research from the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Policy and Measurement, highlighting findings from a study evaluating the Youth Transition Demonstration projects, and the University of New Hampshire, describing cost effective workplace accommodations. Transcripts and slides for all sessions are available [here](http://www.researchondisability.org/epm-rrtc/2014-state-of-the-science-conference).

Additional Information

[State of Science Conference](http://www.researchondisability.org/epm-rrtc/2014-state-of-the-science-conference)

[<http://www.researchondisability.org/epm-rrtc/2014-state-of-the-science-conference>]

## Does your State have a Tech Savvy Lawmaker?

April 24, 2014 — *Government Technology* has released an interactive map detailing legislators with the most involvement in technology-related policies and legislation. Using information provided by the National Association or State Chief Information Officers, the National Association of Counties, The National Association of State Legislatures and other experts, *Government Technology* found 13 state senators and representatives who qualified as “tech savvy” based on the legislation they have introduced or sponsored, “the technology-related committees they sit on, and any other roles they have held with regard to technology.” Among those included on the list are Illinois Senator Don Harmon (D-Oak Park), who has focused on increasing telehealth in Illinois, Minnesota Senator Matt Schmit (DFL- Red Wing), who has worked to increase access to broadband in rural areas, and Oklahoma Representative Jason Murphey (R-Guthrie), who has pushed for open government and IT modernization in Oklahoma. The interactive map is meant to be a living document, adjusting as “legislators leave office or new names warrant inclusion,”

Additional Information

[Government Technology Interactive Map](http://www.govtech.com/data/Meet-the-Tech-Savviest-Legislators-in-the-US-Interactive-Map.html)

[<http://www.govtech.com/data/Meet-the-Tech-Savviest-Legislators-in-the-US-Interactive-Map.html>]

## America’s PrepareAthon

April 28, 2014 – The PrepareAthon’s first ever national day of action, a nationwide call to “action to increase emergency preparedness and resilience,” was held on April 30, 2014. Events included “specific drills, group discussions and exercises focused on preparing Americans to respond to spring hazards such as wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods.” With a long track record of working alongside the “Office of Disability Integration and Coordination,” FEMA is developing emergency-preparedness plans that take into account accessibility for people with disabilities. Through mandates, including The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act and Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, FEMA is required to account for people with disabilities during emergency planning. This PrepareAthon was an excellent opportunity to experience firsthand FEMA’s preparedness in providing accessible assistance for people with disabilities during an emergency situation.

Additional Information

[America’s PrepareAthon](http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/cfghome/grouphome)

[<http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/cfghome/grouphome>]

# Publications and Reports

## America at Risk: Job Crisis for People with Disabilities

April 28, 2014 — RespectAbility has released a report entitled “America at Risk: Job Crisis for People with Disabilities – Views on Solutions from 3839 People on the Front Lines.” The report compiles data from a nationwide survey and focus groups of people with and without disabilities to highlight the current attitudes and practices regarding employment of people with disabilities. Findings from the report highlight that despite the disparity seen in the low employment of people with disabilities; approximately 71% of survey respondents noted the importance of employment and independence. A change was also seen in the attitude towards disabilities among younger people with disabilities, with 82% of respondents ages 18-29 reporting that “their disability gave them a challenge and that they are more capable because of it,” as compared to 69% of all respondents with disabilities. The report cites the largest barrier to employment of people with disabilities as the perceptions and attitudes of employers and suggests that additional training may be needed for employers. Regarding the report, Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, RespectAbilityUSA President, noted, “While the US Census and other reports measure many demographics of Americans with disabilities, RespectAbilityUSA’s report is unprecedented in its size and scope of asking people with disabilities and other stakeholders their own real-life experiences and opinions. People with disabilities need to be heard regarding the policies and practices that impact us the most.”

Additional Information

[RespectAbility - America at Risk](http://respectabilityusa.com/america-at-risk-job-crisis-for-people-with-disabilities-views-on-solutions-form-3839-people-on-the-front-lines/?utm_source=WhatCounts+Publicaster+Edition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New+Toolkit+for+Policy+Makers%2fLeaders+Released+Along+with+Poll%2fFocus+Group+Research+Report&utm_content=America+at+Risk%3a+Job+Crisis+for+People+with+Disabilities++Views+on+Solutions+from+3839+People+on+the+Front+Lines)

[<http://respectabilityusa.com/america-at-risk-job-crisis-for-people-with-disabilities-views-on-solutions-form-3839-people-on-the-front-lines/?utm_source=WhatCounts+Publicaster+Edition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New+Toolkit+for+Policy+Makers%2fLeaders+Released+Along+with+Poll%2fFocus+Group+Research+Report&utm_content=America+at+Risk%3a+Job+Crisis+for+People+with+Disabilities++Views+on+Solutions+from+3839+People+on+the+Front+Lines>]

# Wireless RERC Updates

## App Factory Releases 2014-2015 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 10, iOS, Windows Phone). Apps developed through this program include AccessNote by the American Foundation for the Blind, BrailleTouch by BrailleTech, LLC, and Sprint ID Accessibility Packs, Currency Identifier and IDEAL Group Reader by Apps4Android.

Proposals for 2014-15 are due on June 30, 2014. Selection of proposals for funding will be on October 15. More information can be found in the PDF of the Call for Proposals below.

Additional Information

[App Factory 2014-15 CFP](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/content/newroom/App%20Factory_RFP_2014.pdf)

[<http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/content/newroom/App%20Factory_RFP_2014.pdf>]

## Wireless RERC Supports Student Innovation

The Georgia Tech Research Network Operations Center in partnership with the Institute for People and Technology (IPaT) announced the winners of the 2014 Convergence Innovation Competition (CIC). The CIC competition featured student innovations which competed for top prizes under the themes of Connected Home, Connected Work, Connected Transportation, and Connected Communities. Among the top prize winners were two projects developed during a semester-long course taught by CATEA and Wireless RERC Researcher, Dr. Claudia B. Rebola. The course was also cross-listed with course in computer science and industrial design focusing on prototyping technologies for healthy environments, led by CATEA Director, Jon Sanford and Wireless RERC Researcher, Brian Jones. The two courses brought together industrial design and computer science students and challenged them to develop assistive technology for older adults. Winning first place under the connected communications category, KeepSeek, is an interactive shelving unit that aids older adults “to keep connections, routines, and activities with friends,” while also seeking new connections. Sleep Smart, a system which helps older adults in obtaining more sleep each night through the use of environmental conditioners, won second place under the connected home category. Dr. Rebola stated, “this class gives fantastic opportunities for students to design implementable solutions within a multidisciplinary perspective that elevates design for proposing innovative solutions with an emphasis on making and understanding opportunities of current off-the-shelf technologies.”

Additional Information

[Convergence Innovation Competition](http://cic.gatech.edu/)

[<http://cic.gatech.edu/>]

[CIC 2014 Winners](http://cic.gatech.edu/spring-2014/winners)

[<http://cic.gatech.edu/spring-2014/winners>]

## Inclusive Designing: Joining Usability, Accessibility, and Inclusion

Wireless RERC researchers John Morris, PhD and Jim Mueller authored a book chapter titled *Blind and Deaf Consumer Preferences for Android and iOS Smartphones*, to be published by Springer London in Inclusive Designing: Joining Usability, Accessibility, and Inclusion. The abstract for their chapter follows: Access to and use of mobile wireless technology has become critical to social and economic participation for people with disabilities. As the technology increases in power and sophistication, these customers increasingly rely on mobile devices and software for functions previously available only through dedicated “assistive technology”. Successfully serving this large and growing population has become a market imperative as well as a legislative mandate for the wireless industry in the US.  Competition for this market is especially keen between the Android and Apple’s iOS operating systems.  This article presents survey research findings on the relative ease of use, importance, and satisfaction observed by blind and deaf customers using mobile devices on Android or iOS platforms. Focus group research conducted by the authors suggests that blind smartphones users overwhelmingly favor the iPhone, while deaf smartphone users show greater diversity in their device choices.  Data collected through the Survey of User Needs (SUN) conducted by the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Technologies (Wireless RERC) are presented to test this finding with quantitative data, and to test differences between blind and deaf users in terms of ease of use and satisfaction with iPhone and Android smartphones.

Additional Information

[Book Chapter](http://download.springer.com/static/pdf/407/chp%253A10.1007%252F978-3-319-05095-9_7.pdf?auth66=1398884649_7314d32a4425510ec9be05c0e1fd2098&ext=.pdf)

[<http://bit.ly/1g5bPuH>]

# Upcoming Events

## Mobile Device training for People with Disabilities

The Wireless RERC, in partnership with AT&T Foundation, continues its series of seminars to help consumers with disabilities uncover the range of accessibility features found on their mobile devices. The spotlight for this training will be on educating consumers with disabilities about the powerful accessibility features already built into three popular smartphone operating systems. May dates are:

**Visual Limitation Events**

*Wednesday, May 7, 2014*

*10:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

*AFB Center on Vision Loss*

*11030 Ables Lane*

*Dallas, TX 75229*

Register! - [http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=xhbu8wdab&oeidk=a07...](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=xhbu8wdab&oeidk=a07e98m1x574612af6b)

**Hearing Limitiation Events**

*Friday, May 9, 2014*

*10:00 AM - 12:00 PM*

*Deaf Action Center - Dallas*

*3115 Crestview Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75235*

Register! - [http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=xhbu8wdab&oeidk=a07...](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=xhbu8wdab&oeidk=a07e999a3f3d8e1c80a)

If you're interested in attending future events or have questions about them, please contact:

Ben Lippincott, 404-894-7034, [ben@imtc.gatech.edu](mailto:ben@imtc.gatech.edu).

## FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination to Hold Roundtable

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) and Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office (PMO) will partner to host an open roundtable on May 7, 2014. The semi-annual roundtable offers industry partners and other stakeholders a chance to discuss the IPAWS program and “commercial and Federal initiatives that might be leveraged in support of the disability community.” While all IPAWS-ODIC roundtable discussions have focused on accessible alerting, this event will be the first to explore current organizational and individual efforts to enhance emergency communications. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP to [Hans.Yu@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Hans.Yu@fema.dhs.gov) or by calling (202) 646-3910.

Additional Information

[IPAWS-ODIC Roundtable Webinar](https://femaipawslab.webex.com/femaipawslab/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=669895737)

[<https://femaipawslab.webex.com/femaipawslab/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=669895737>]

## ADA for State and Local Governments Conference

The Georgia Association of State Facilities Administrators (GASFA) and the Georgia State ADA Coordinator’s Office are hosting the 4th Annual ADA for State and Local Governments Conference on May 14th (Higher Education Track) and 15th (Facilities, General ADA and Employment Tracks). Attendees select one of the two days. Presenters will include representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Salome Heyward & Associates. They will be focusing on the “latest information on the new ADA regulations, accessibility standards, implementation strategies, and best practices for state and local governments.” The conference is designed for “for state and local government agency ADA Coordinators, program officials, facility administrators, human resource professionals, and other individuals with ADA compliance responsibilities under title II.”

Additional Information

[ADA for State and Local Governments Conference](https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUpMember?PG=1534565182300&P=15345651911427810600&Info)

[<https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUpMember?PG=1534565182300&P=15345651911427810600&Info>]

## M-Enabling Summit

The 2014 M-Enabling Summit will be held in Washington, D.C. from June 9-10, 2014. The Conference and Showcase are hosted by the Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ict) and E.J. Krause & Associates. The focus is on accessible use of mobile technologies, applications, and services and other assistive technology solutions.

Additional Information

[M-Enabling Summit 2014](http://m-enabling.com/index.html)

[<http://m-enabling.com/index.html>]

**Technology and Disability Policy Highlights**

April 2014

Technology and Disability Policy Highlights reports on national and local public policy events and recent wireless technological advances and political activities; and tracks emerging issues of interest to individuals with disabilities. *Technology and Disability Policy Highlights* 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, Braeden Benson [braeden@cacp.gatech.edu], Dave Stone[dave@cacp.gatech.edu], or Salimah LaForce [salimah.laforce@cacp.gatech.edu].

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