**Able Opportunities, Inc.**

**Building Successful Innovation Employment First Models**

Jennifer White, CEO • 206.406.9900 Cell • www.ableopps.com • jennifer@ableopps.com

Smart devices have radically changed accommodation and access for people with disabilities. Touch screen technology is a tool of the masses, allowing for very strong and affective incidental learning. Immersed in a life where iPads and other smart devices are modeled everywhere, access to lessons, fixes, new apps and demonstration of its use to navigate the world abound.

Instead of carting around a specialized device that addresses one area of need, and is often complicated to operate, people with disabilities are using the same tool as their peers, colleagues, and family members, increasing natural supports across numerous environments. With one smart device, a person can access literally millions of apps for a plethora of uses; expressive and receptive communication, focus, self-care, health, organization, travel training, safety, networking, production, reporting, access, participation, independent living, education, entertainment and self-advocacy, to name a few.

All devices come with built in accessibility features that make it easier for users with visual, auditory or other physical disabilities. These include Voice Over, Zoom, White on Black, Mono Audio, and Speak Auto-Text. In addition to these features, iPads allow for clear concrete visual processing, making it a more accessible choice for people with intellectual developmental disabilities. To learn a new tool, edit content and share files, one simply touches the screen, the item, or standardized icon and a menu specific to the chosen content appears with related options. There is less need to find a feature hidden in complicated menus, by memorizing how to access it.

For people with challenged motor skills, touch screens are more intuitive devices. Desktops and other older technology require visual shifting between a mouse or keyboard and the screen.  With the iPad, people can watch as one of their fingers or a stylus directly selects or writes on the screen, which in turn helps improve fine motor skills. Interactive features like drag and drop, tap, swipe, shake and drawing can make use more fun and motivating.

Portability cannot be understated as an asset! Easy access, set up, and carrying options allow for individual need. Positioning can be addressed through stands, cases, mounts and straps. Cases also allow for waterproofing, and protection from dropping.

Employers and their employees with disabilities call the iPad an exceptional accommodation tool that increases independence and fading of supports. From initial contact a person can represent themselves more effectively; a video resume during an interview allows the employer to see a potential employee instead of perceived barriers, specific apps allow for the capture and tracking of employer expectations, the ability to report, and much more.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (list name here) needs an iPad to participate fully in their home life, community, and to make strides with their employment goals. Their individual need for accommodation includes:

List accommodation need/s here. Ex. visual concrete steps captured to track and report work steps, augmented communication supports, safe travel to the workplace, etc.

1.

2.

3.

An iPad is a necessary accommodation tool for determining personal choice about jobs, independent tracking of the job search, direct and accurate representation to and communication with an employer, and long-term reporting of production to direct supervisors. In addition, they will be provided ongoing training and education about numerous apps that support higher levels of independence across their life.

A meeting with their personal physician has confirmed this need.

Individual Date

Support Staff Date

Guardian Date

Physician Date