



ADAPT [we change]
COMMUNITY NETWORK

Innovation as a Strategy:

Empowering People Supported through Technology
Partnerships



Today's Agenda

1

Introduction: Getting Started

Technology and innovation as a strategic priority

2

Working with Universities

Speech Accessibility Project

3

Working with Companies

Lotus Ring Pilot

4

Working within ADAPT

Home Enabling Supports

5

Next Steps

Key takeaways

Funding Suggestions



Introduction

Getting Started

Who We Are



Ronak Parikh
Senior Vice President
of Community and
Business Development



**Matthew
Parascando**
Chief Program Officer



Overall Goals



Improve quality of life for people supported and provide opportunities to increase independence, enhance safety, integrate in the community, etc.



Support caregivers and family members by providing options that reduce the level of care, improve communication, etc.



Explore and establish new revenue-generating opportunities that support diversification and long-term planning



Create an organizational culture that fosters and promotes innovation that gets staff excited to work at ADAPT

Opportunities

People Supported	Staff	Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to new technology and services• Participation in research studies and pilots• Increases independence• Fosters social relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skill building for career advancement• Increases efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New revenue streams• New innovative programs, services, and models of care



Working with Universities

Speech Accessibility Project

In late 2023 we were introduced to the project through CP Unlimited

1

We recruited Speech Language Pathology interns, who registered and supported participants to record voice prompts

2

We developed a number of unique protocols and processes and extended the project to ADAPT HV in the Summer of 2025

3

Speech Accessibility Project

A research project conducted by the University of Illinois, designed to train voice recognition technologies to better understand people with diverse speech patterns and disabilities.

Funded by Amazon, Apple, Google, Meta, and Microsoft as a follow up to Google's Project Euphonia.



Project Structure





Impact

105

People supported
Registered

93

Completed the project
and were paid

\$12.8K

Intern Support

Benefits

Compensation

People supported were involved in research and competitively compensated (\$180)

Recognition

ADAPT is recognized as an org that is involved with relevant and impactful research, at no cost and allows us to be the org of choice for future opportunities

Resume Building

Master level SLP students were able to work on a project at no cost to ADAPT while getting hands on experience with people with I/DD

Partnerships

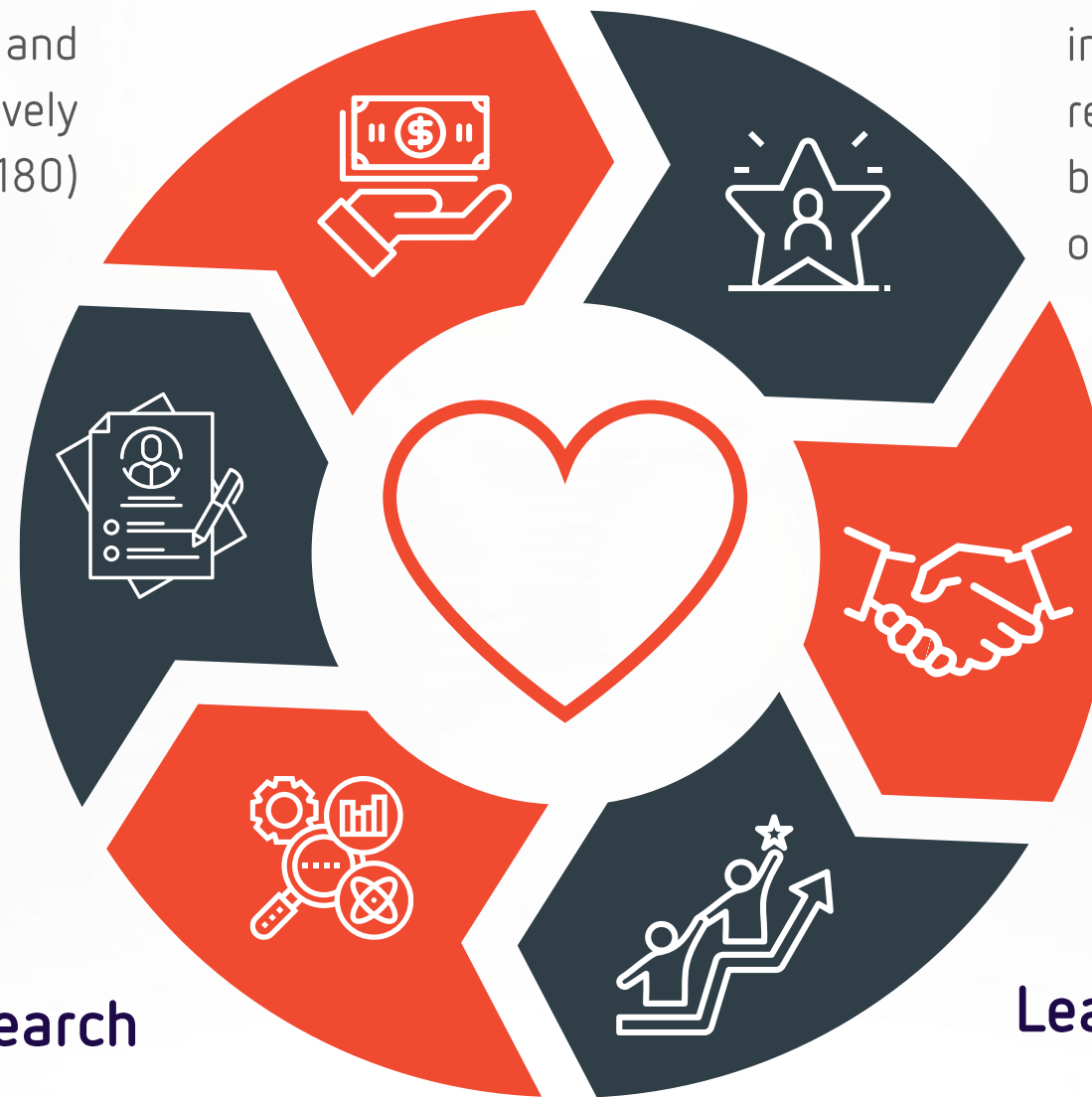
Worked with UIUC and Columbia on a new NIH research proposal, project was extended to ADAPT HV

Emerging Research

The University was able to collect relevant data in a sample pool larger than they are used to

Leadership Opportunities

Allowed Directors and Admin to be involved in relevant research and creating opportunities for the people they support



Additional University Partners





Working with Companies

Lotus Ring Pilot

A year before the pilot started, we convinced Lotus to focus on the I/DD population

1

During the 2+ month pilot, we participated as a nonprofit industry partner, having 20 ADAPT residents participate

2

We coordinated and supported video interviews with people supported and staff for promotion, and ensured there were benefits to ADAPT and our people supported

3

Lotus Ring Pilot

Funded by the NYC Office of the Aging, the Lotus Ring Pilot was designed to test out their new technology with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



How to Use the Lotus Ring



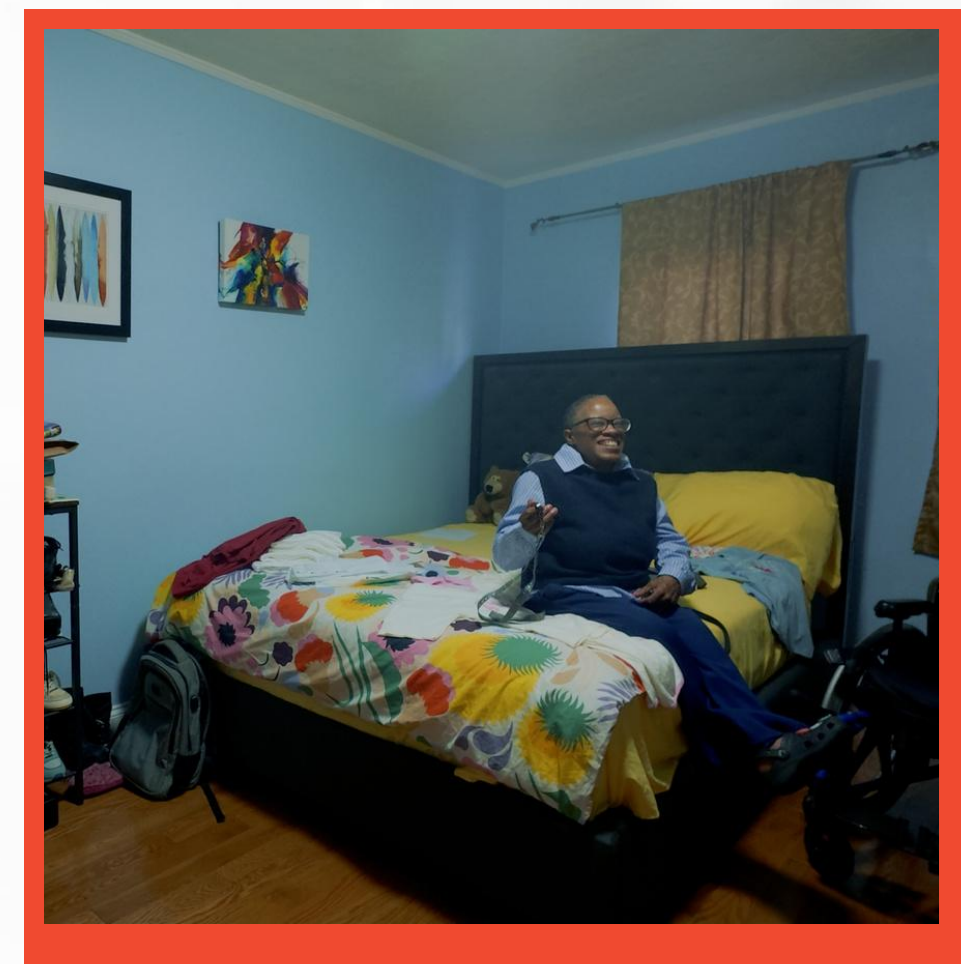
Put on the Lotus Ring

The button faces your thumb and black infrared window aligns with your knuckle



Snap on the Lotus Cover

Magnets on the back of the Switch Cover align with the screws of your wall switch



Point and Click

Point and click the Ring's button with your thumb (can also double click to use with a TV)

Benefits



Compensation

People Supported were involved in pilot and compensated with \$400 Lotus Ring Kit

01



Leadership

ADAPT Staff were creating opportunities for people supported and their feedback informed future strategy

02



Opportunities

Lotus decided to add people with I/DD as a new target population

03



Promotion

Lotus paid to do video interviews of people supported and staff for joint promotional purposes

04



Recognition

ADAPT developed reputation as a responsive partner organization that delivers on what it promises

05



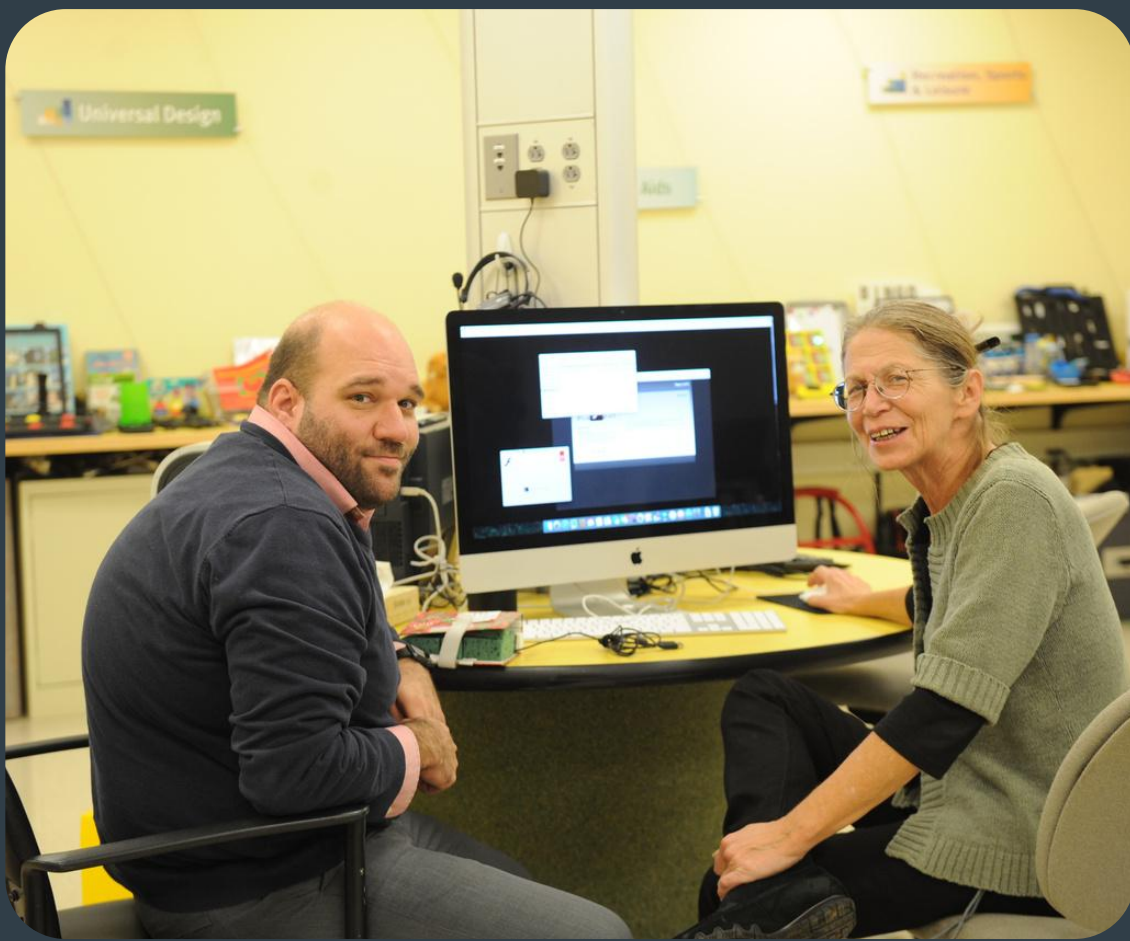
Partnerships

ADAPT is working with Lotus to add to the Smart Lab and through Home Enabling Support services

06

Additional Company Partners





Working within ADAPT

Home Enabling Supports

No central resource for people with I/DD and their caregivers to learn about and test out those technologies and solutions

1

Universities don't always partner with I/DD provider agencies for research

2

Technology vendors typically don't think about the I/DD population as a market

3

Assistive and Enabling Technology

Represented as devices, equipment, software, or other solutions that helps people with disabilities adapt to their environment and perform functions that may otherwise be difficult or impossible.

There are so many technologies and solutions are being developed to support people to live independently, but they are not always tailored for the specific needs of people with I/DD.



Our Assistive Technology Programs

Techworks



We launched our Techworks program in 1990, and since then we have been the NYC regional center for the NYS Assistive Technology Act Program. Techworks operates throughout NYC and provides free assistance and public resources to people supported and their families.

Home Enabling Supports



ADAPT was selected as one of eight providers across NYC for the Home Enabling Supports Program. Through this new Medicaid waiver service, we will provide assistive technology to help persons with disabilities live more independently.

Smart Lab



Our Smart Lab will match the people we support with technologies and solutions that meet their individual needs. Located on our Stillwell Campus, the lab will be a replica of a real home and will serve as a hub for showcasing, developing, and researching new technology. It will feature guided tours and will provide employment opportunities for our people supported.

HES Overview and Goals



Sub-component of the Assistive Technology category of OPWDD HCBS 1915(c) Waiver services



Can use Medicaid funds to provide access to assistive technology, Remote Supports, and Health Assessment and Coordination Services (HACS) to people living in non-certified settings



Limited to \$5,000 in technology and services per person, per year



Goals are to: support independence at home and in the community; increase safety; improve health; increase participation and integration in the community; and reduce reliance on in-person staff

HES Service Categories

Assistive Technology	Remote Supports	HACS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devices that are designed to assist a person to perform a particular task but do not involve real-time, in-person support• Examples include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lotus Ring• Dose Health medication dispenser• Rifton adaptive desk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of supports by a vendor that subcontracts with the HES provider• Vendor is located at a remote location and uses an electronic method and equipment to engage with persons who have the capability for live two-way communication• Examples include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SimplyHome remote supports platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24/7 consultive telehealth service that provide real-time consultation and support• Includes follow-up or after care, as needed• Cannot duplicate or replace other HCBS services or medical services• Examples include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• StationMD virtual urgent care

HES Eligibility Criteria

1

Must be enrolled in the NYS Medicaid program and the OPWDD HCBS Waiver

2

Must live in the community in a non-certified residence

3

Remote supports are limited to people ages 15 and older

HES Processes and Workflows



HES Technology Vendors / Technologies



SimplyHome

Remote supports platform that integrates sensors and alerts to promote safety and independence



StationMD

Virtual urgent care and behavioral health care services tailored to people with I/DD



BoundaryCare

Apple watch-based remote supports application to prevent and support falls, seizures, elopement, etc.



Lotus

Wearable ring technology that controls objects at home, including lights, tv, automatic doors, etc.



Dose Health

Smart medication dispenser and PERS devices



ImpruvonHealth

Medication management dispenser and platform

HES Technology Vendors / Technologies (cont.)



Rifton

Adaptive equipment,
such as chairs, standers,
desks, toilet seats, etc.



Inclusion Table

Adaptive table for people
in wheelchairs



Look, Cook, and Eat

Meal preparation and
cooking tutorials tailored
for people with I/DD

HES Coordinating with Stakeholders

CCOs	Providers	Individuals / Families
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aligning on processes and referrals• Providing education and guidance on available technologies• Developing ongoing relationships to collect and disseminate feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doing outreach and providing education to providers and provider associations about new HES service• Offering opportunities to learn about and try available technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting outreach to spread awareness about new HES service• Offering opportunities to learn about and try available technologies



Next Steps

Key Takeaways
Funding

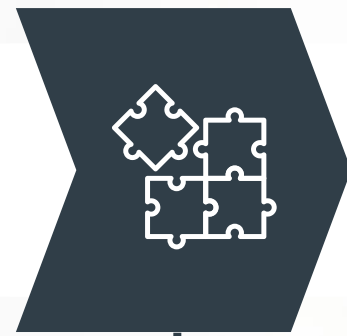
Get Involved



1

Strategize

- Identify gaps
- Assign leadership positions
- Involve people supported and front-line staff immediately



2

Collaborate

- Connect organizations and universities that have a focus on assistive technology or the disability space



3

Fundraise

- Apply for grants or donations from organizations focused on the disability space, innovation, and technology



4

Communicate

- Showcase technology and benefits on various media platforms
- Create blogs, podcasts, press releases
- Highlight stories and testimonials of users and their families



5

Innovate

- Focus on win-win opportunities
- Generate excitement
- Minimize fear

Make a Difference

Conduct	Measure	Compare	Monitor	Involve
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct user testing with people who have different types of disabilities• Collect feedback on usability, accessibility, and satisfaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measure impact on quality of life, independence, health, and well-being• Include users and their caregivers or family members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compare outcomes with alternative interventions or solutions• Target the same group of users	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor ethical, social, and legal implications• Consider privacy, security, consent, accountability, and human dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involve people with disabilities and their representatives• Ensure technology meets their needs and preferences

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We need to protect the future of the kids of the future: Education Rights





THANK YOU!



To the staff, people supported, and partners
that helped make these initiatives possible

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