

New RFGA-Internet Safety

NAU/IHD- Online Privacy and Safety-\$72,124

The purpose of this project is to ensure individuals with I/DD experience the benefits of the internet and can safely access online environments. NAU/IHD will develop new and refine existing materials to produce a comprehensive training curriculum that can be used for in-person trainings as well as independent learning. The original target age range of participants was 18-24 but has been expanded to include 15–17-year-olds as a recommendation of the evaluation committee. The training and materials for each group will be developed independently due to social and legal differences (i.e. use of various apps and parental consent). They will provide training to a minimum of 42 individuals with I/DD as well as their family members, support workers, and caregivers. The in-person trainings will be in Flagstaff, Yuma, Springerville, Tuba City, and Phoenix, with individuals from across the state being included through a hybrid (online and in-person) delivery model.

In-person trainings will last all day with one age group's curriculum covered in the morning and the other covered in the afternoon. Each training will include a pre-training discussion forum to gather information on current use of the internet and associated needs as well as continual evaluation and revision.

The training will also be available on the IHD website for self-directed training where individuals can (for example) search for specific topic areas such as phishing, and gain access to the steps and video-based scenarios to help them protect themselves from scams.

The following are the training topic areas:

- Understanding Online Privacy and Safety
- Navigating Social Media and Communication Platforms
- Safe Internet Browsing and Searching
- Email and Messaging Safety
- Online Gaming Safety
- Cyberbullying Awareness and Response
- Privacy and Safety in Online Transactions
- Digital Citizenship and Responsible Online Behavior.

The objectives of the project are as follows:

1. Develop the training curriculum needed to provide online safety and privacy training to individuals with I/DD and their parents and caregivers. The curriculum will be comprised of instructional materials and resources, such as cheat sheets that will provide direct guidance and be available through QR codes. It will include a checklist with links to best

practices to guide individuals while safeguarding their devices and will be translated into Spanish and plain language.

2. Facilitate the first in-person training session in Flagstaff and collect evaluation feedback.
3. Enhance the training curriculum through the Deming Model of Continuous Quality Improvement reiterative process.
4. Conduct training sessions 2 and 3. Both will be online/virtual.
5. Enhance the efficacy of the training sessions by the Deming Model reiterative process.
6. Conduct training sessions 4-7 in diverse communities. Yuma (Spanish), Tuba City (Rural), Springerville (Rural), Phoenix (Urban)
7. Disseminate information related to the project materials, resources, and insights and provide for sustainability.

If awarded a second year of funding, NAU/IHD will develop outreach strategies to boost recruitment of Individuals with I/DD, as well as target and re-contextualize the training materials for caregivers, family members, and educators. They will continue to solicit feedback and refine the training materials and delivery methods. They would like to develop a “train-the-trainer” workshop as well as continue local workshops/trainings to ensure accessibility for those with limited internet access or persons who prefer in-person learning.