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Community Options Receives \$2.6 Million Grant to Develop Innovative Program for Youths with Disabilities

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE– Community Options, Inc., a leading national nonprofit supporting people with disabilities, was awarded a three-year grant for \$2.67 million by the Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging. The grant will launch an innovative program to empower youth with disabilities to use advanced technology to navigate their communities independently.

Community Options develops innovative housing and employment support for 6,000 people with disabilities and families across 12 states. In Tennessee, Community Options supports over 300 people and maintains offices in Nashville, Cookeville, Chattanooga, Smyrna, and Maryville.

Community Options will launch a Medicaid Alternative Pathways to Independence (MAPs) program to equip youths with disabilities in the greater Nashville area with the tools, concepts, and services necessary to promote individual success and achievement. Central to the program is the development of a Virtual Community Resource Map, enabling participants to identify and access community resources that align with their interests and support their unique needs.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with the State of Tennessee to use innovative technology to foster independence and community inclusion for youth and young adults with disabilities," said Robert Stack, President and CEO of Community Options. "Our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for persons with disabilities remains steadfast, and we look forward to collaborating with families and youths to achieve remarkable outcomes."

Each participant will receive an individualized person-centered plan. Key components of the program include:

- **Technology-Enhanced and Smart Home Living Skills:** Participants will receive training in leveraging technology to enhance daily living and promote independence within their homes.
- **Community Transportation:** Guidance on accessing and navigating community transportation options effectively.
- **Peer Mentoring:** Support from peers who have successfully navigated similar challenges, providing guidance and encouragement.

- **Employment Services:** Access to a variety of employment-related services aimed at preparing individuals for meaningful employment opportunities.

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About Community Options, Inc.:

For over 35 years, Community Options has developed housing and employment support for people with disabilities – supporting thousands of people from over 50 offices across 12 states. Community Options provides advocacy assistance to empower people with disabilities because all people – regardless of ability level – should live and work in the community with dignity, choice and self-determination. For more information please visit our website: www.comop.org and follow us on social media on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#).