Monarch RISE FAQ

# General Information:

## What is the Monarch RISE project?

Monarch RISE is a 5-Year [Disability Innovation Fund](https://rsa.ed.gov/about/programs/disability-innovation-fund-creating-21st-centry-workforce-of-youth-and-adults-with-disabilities) project. The core focus of Monarch RISE is to understand how the Monarch can empower individuals in achieving and sustaining competitive integrated employment (CIE).

## Who is eligible to participate in the Monarch RISE project?

The following individuals may be eligible to participate:

**Adults and Transition-Age Students (14+):**Individuals who are currently seeking or plan to seek competitive integrated employment (CIE) before September 2028.

**Blind Professionals:**Those currently working in CIE positions outside of blindness services.Participants in this group must be willing and able to provide mentoring to individuals seeking CIE.

**Professionals Supporting CIE-Seekers:**Includes those working in vocational rehabilitation, assistive technology, higher education, blindness services, and similar roles that support adults and transition-aged students seeking CIE.

**Additional Requirements:**All selected participants must be proficient in 6-key entry and meet other criteria outlined in the project application.

## How can I apply for the Monarch RISE project?

Application will be posted on the Monarch RISE website at [www.aph.org/meet-monarch/rise](http://www.aph.org/meet-monarch/rise) in early February.

## Is there a cost associated with participating in the Monarch RISE project?

There is no direct cost to participate in Monarch RISE.

## What are the key objectives of the Monarch RISE project?

The key objective of the Monarch RISE project is to empower individuals’ efforts to achieve and maintain competitive integrated employment by

* distributing 250 Monarchs to transition-aged students and adults across the United States
* evaluating the Monarch and Monarch resources regarding CIE
* proposing targeted improvements to the Monarch and Monarch resources focused on CIE
* launching a new application for the Monarch designed for CIE

# Training and Support:

## What kind of training is provided to master the Monarch device?

Anyone can begin to Master the Monarch utilizing the Hive Course and other training resources available on [www.aph.org/meet-monarch/](http://www.aph.org/meet-monarch/)

Participants will engage in asynchronous online training supported by APH Outreach Services. Based on individual needs, some may also attend synchronous, online or in-person training sessions. In addition, the program is designed to foster peer learning, enabling participants to benefit from shared experiences with other users.

## Will there be opportunities for Monarch RISE users to provide feedback on their experience with the Monarch?

Yes, collecting ongoing feedback and proposing targeted improvements to optimize the Monarch for CIE is a key focus of the RISE project.

# Project Phases and Timeline:

## What are the different phases of the Monarch RISE project?

During Phase 1, professionals supporting CIE-seekers and blind professionals will complete asynchronous Tech Training to master the Monarch; share experiences, propose improvements, and develop resources at Experience Exchanges; and refer individuals seeking CIE to participate in Phase 2.

During Phase 2, individuals seeking CIE will complete asynchronous or synchronous Tech Training to master the Monarch; share experiences, learn from experts, receive guidance from mentors, and propose improvements at Experience Exchanges; and receive personalized, ongoing CIE support with progress tracking.

## When will each phase of the Monarch RISE project take place?

Project timelines are still being finalized and may change.

Priority selection for Phase 1 applicants is expected in Spring 2025, with activities likely beginning in Summer 2025. Priority selection for Phase 2 applicants is expected in Summer 2026, activities likely starting in Fall 2026.

Project activities will take place through September 2028. Generally, participants are expected to invest significant time to project activities during their first year with the time commitment decreasing in subsequent years.

## How will participants be selected for each phase of Monarch RISE?

Application information will be available on the Monarch RISE website at [www.aph.org/meet-monarch/rise](http://www.aph.org/meet-monarch/rise) in early February. Participants will be selected based on a combination of factors including geographic distribution. Priority will be given to applicants without regular access to a Monarch through other means.

# Impact on Employment and Education:

## How does the Monarch device support individuals in achieving competitive integrated employment?

The core focus of Monarch RISE is to understand how the Monarch can empower individuals in achieving and sustaining competitive integrated employment.

## Can the Monarch be used in educational settings to support learning and skill development?

Yes. Visit <https://www.aph.org/meet-monarch/> to learn more.

# Feedback and Evaluation:

## Will the results of the Monarch RISE project be publicly available?

Yes. Please visit [www.aph.org/meet-monarch/rise](http://www.aph.org/meet-monarch/rise) for project updates.

# Funding and Partnerships:

## How is the Monarch RISE project funded?

100% of the total costs of APH’s DIF-F project (Monarch RISE) will be financed by the $10 million grant under grant number H21F240052 from the Department of Education. No percentage of the total costs of the project will be financed by non-governmental sources.

## Are there other Disability Innovation Fund programs?

Yes. Visit <https://rsa.ed.gov/about/programs/disability-innovation-fund-creating-21st-centry-workforce-of-youth-and-adults-with-disabilities> to learn more about other DIF-F grantees.

# Distribution and Availability:

## Can adults purchase the Monarch if they are not eligible or selected for the Monarch RISE project?

Yes. Contact our Monarch support team at [monarchsupport@aph.org](mailto:monarchsupport@aph.org) or (833) 447-8444