



 **BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS**

# Preparing people with disabilities to enter careers in technology

The abilIT program leads participants through an intensive training program consisting of technical training and professional and personal development. abilIT ensures participants are equipped with both the know-how and soft skills necessary to join and succeed on any project team.

## Untapped Talent Fills IT Gap

With approximately 350,000 unfilled positions in the computer science industry, the demand for entry-level technology staff has never been higher. abilIT offers a solution that leverages the untapped potential and talent of people with disabilities, who are often underemployed. This program creates a top-quality IT workforce solution for employers who want to benefit from a neurodiverse workforce, as well as a pathway to meaningful employment for people with disabilities.

## Supportive Workplaces for All

Melwood's career exploration programs help people with disabilities achieve their employment goals and prepare for future success. In addition to supporting the employee, Melwood educates employers to help create an inclusive, accommodating workplace for all, so that once participants arrive in their new position, they are met with a supportive workplace.

## Graduates have found careers at:



**For more information: Submit the "Contact Us" form on [www.melwoodcommunity.org](http://www.melwoodcommunity.org)**

**5606 Dower House Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 | 301-599-8000 | [www.melwood.org](http://www.melwood.org)**

## Program overview

Melwood's abilIT is a 14-week program offered in partnership with Cybrary, creator of the most extensive massive open online course in the cybersecurity arena. By pairing innovative, highly technical training with personalized soft skills instruction, abilIT equips participants with the skills they need to build lifelong careers as competitive technology professionals through job search assistance, placement, and on-the-job coaching.

During weeks 1-5, students participate in an IT Fundamentals Assessment. In the remaining weeks, students choose a skilled track to pursue, including options such as IT Systems, App Dev, and Microsoft Office. After completing the course, students will be prepared to sit for A+ certification, Network+ certification, or Security+ certification, which can lead to entry-level jobs in IT career fields. Melwood also works to connect abilIT graduates with employers who have been trained on how to create an inclusive environment that encourages employees to succeed.

## Curriculum Outcomes Include:

- The skills to compete for entry-level information technology positions
- The ability to sit for A+, Network+, and Security+ certifications
- The soft skills necessary to land a job and work effectively as part of a project team (including resume and cover letter building, interview skills, teleworking and networking guidelines)

## Minimum Requirements:

People with disabilities with either a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent are eligible for admission. Veterans living with post-traumatic stress or a service-related injury are also encouraged to apply.

### To Join the Next Cohort:

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