



DakotaLink
Assistive Technology Program for
the State of South Dakota



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**DakotaLink Program - Dave
Scherer**

DakotaLink is a program of the South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services administered by Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and funded in part through a grant from the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services through the Rehabilitation Services Administration under Public Law 108-364, referred to as the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 or the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended.



**DakotaLink
Mission and Goals**

- Our mission is to assist individuals with functional limitations; due to a disability, illness, injury, or the effects of aging; maximize their potential whether at home or in the community, at school, at work, or at play through the use of Assistive Technology.
- Improving access - defined as information, knowledge, awareness and understanding
- Improving acquisition - defined as obtaining assistive technology devices and services



**DakotaLink
Program Activities**

- Support and encourage financing efforts
- Support and encourage re-utilization efforts
- Provide short term loans of Assistive Technology devices
- Provide demonstrations of a variety of Assistive Technology devices
- Provide training and technical assistance
- Conduct public awareness activities
- Support coordination activities between entities

DakotaLink Program Activities

	Exchange	Short Term Loans	Demonstrations	Training
2011	84	299	650/1517	750
2012	113	276	683/1545	685
2013	118	431	684/1591	837
2014	124	256	789/1607	762

DakotaLink Grant Funding

- Federal Support dollars are based upon a formula included in the 2004 Assistive Technology Act. Since authorization Congress has budgeted roughly the same amount. South Dakota has received:

2005	\$ 353,336.00
2006	\$ 364,049.00
2007	\$ 403,819.00
2008	\$ 399,032.00
2009	\$ 410,446.00
2010	\$ 410,445.00
2011	\$ 409,902.00
2012	\$ 409,359.00
2013	\$ 394,777.00
2014	\$ 410,975.00
2015	\$ 411,024.00

Federal Grant Budget FY 2014-2015

Total distributed to South Dakota	\$ 410,975.00
Salary & Benefits representing 5 FTE (partial support for 10 Full Time Employees)	\$ 263,000.00
Occupancy costs for 4 offices	\$ 40,600.00
Travel costs	\$ 30,000.00
General office supplies	\$ 19,000.00
Activity specific supplies	\$ 11,625.00
Contracted Tech support	\$ 4,800.00
Equipment	\$ 18,000.00
Admin Fees (6.3%)	\$ 23,950.00

DakotaLink Funding Initiatives

- DakotaLink pursues additional granting opportunities when possible. Here are some examples of recent grant applications:
- 2015 - DakotaLink partnered with the South Dakota Department of Education (SDDOE), South Dakota Center for Disabilities, Technology and Innovation in Education (TIE), South Dakota Parent Connection (SDPC) and South Dakota Transition Services Liaison Project (TSLP) in submitting a grant proposal to effectively implement and sustain evidence-based technology and providing stakeholders the skills needed to advocate for evidence-based technologies for students with disabilities with a proposed budget totaling 2.3 million over five years.
- Waiting for award notification announcement.

DakotaLink Funding initiatives

2012 & 2014 DakotaLink submitted grant proposals in response to United States Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administrations Funding Opportunity for Assistive Technology **Alternative Financing Programs**

DakotaLink submitted grant proposals to create a \$750,000 Assistive Technology Revolving Loan Fund to increase access to assistive technology for South Dakotans, especially those who have limited resources and/or do not qualify for other forms of financial assistance.

\$ 3 million dollars was available for up to 3 awards to U.S. states and territories. Unfortunately our applications were unsuccessful.

DakotaLink Fee for Service - Patrick Czerny

- Established in 1995
- 1st Electronic Referral process established for VR consumers
- Improved delivery from up to 3 months to 5 weeks
- Provide assessment, sales, installation and training
- Seven technicians – All with computer background and certified as Rehabilitation Technicians from The Engineering Society of North America (RESNA)
- Longevity 6 years to 25 years.

DakotaLink Fee for Service - Patrick Czerny

- Rapid City - Store front location
- 1161 Deadwood Ave. # 5
- Sioux Falls – Located within Rehab Center for the Blind
- 2900 W 11th St Suite 101
- Brookings – Located next door to DRS Office
- 1310 Main Ave South Suite 114
- Aberdeen – Located across hall from DRS/ SBVI Office
- 1707 4th Ave. SE Suite C

Current Major Projects & Activities

- VR Consumer Referrals
- Closed Circuit Television Program
- National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program
- TED & TAD Telephone Equipment Distribution Programs
- SBVI Smart Device and Computer Training Program (ATAP)
- Technical Support for DOE Smarter Balanced Testing
- Collaboration Technology & Training Project with DOE
- Education, VA, Business, Private, Gadgets



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