

DakotaLink 

DakotaLink
Assistive Technology Program for
the State of South Dakota

BVR 03-05-20

Patrick T. Czerny, ATP
Coordinator of Technical Services
DakotaLink
1161 Deadwood Ave. #5
Rapid City, SD 57702
1-800-645-0673
pczerny@dakotalink.net



www.dakotalink.net

1

DakotaLink

DakotaLink Grant Program

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 Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living under Public Law 108-364, referred to as the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 or the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended.

2

DakotaLink

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

3

DakotaLink

Assistive Technology

An assistive technology device is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Assistive technology service any service that directly assists a individual in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. This term includes evaluation, purchasing, leasing, selecting, designing, customizing, coordinating with other services, training to the individual and training to a others working with that individual.

4

DakotaLink

Universal Design

The intent of universal design (UD) is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost.

5

DakotaLink

Examples of Universal Design

- Accessible buildings and environments
- Lever handles and Light switches with large flat panels
- Controls on equipment that can be distinguished by touch or large print
- Information and curriculum the is available electronically visual and auditory output
- Use of meaningful icons with text labels
- Closed captioning on television and other videos
- Web pages that provide alternative text to describe images
- Speaker independent voice control of equipment
- Computers, tablets and portable devices with built in accessibility features (Touch Windows)(Apps)

6

DakotaLink

DakotaLink Activities

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

7

DakotaLink

Through the Years

1988 - Began with direct service focus
Broad state flexibility to determine activities to implement

1992 – South Dakota Funded
Administered by Black Hills Special Services utilizing 2 Mobile Units & Demonstration Centers.

1994 - Refocused on systems change
Policy improvement and individual advocacy activities required.
System change activities with 5 year sunset

1998 – Extension of existing law
Added Sioux Falls office. Separated P&A

2004 – Changed focus to services that put AT in consumers hands.
Became formula grant. Added Brookings and Aberdeen Offices

2014 – Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
Transferred AT Act administration from ED/RSA to HHS/ACL

8

DakotaLink


DakotaLink Fee for Service

- Established in 1995
- Provide assessment, sales, installation and training
- Seven technicians are available to provide assistive technology devices and services to individuals with disabilities of all ages
- From start to finish, a one stop, turn key solution
- Offices in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Brookings and Aberdeen

9

DakotaLink

Rapid City Office



Technicians: Brett Burden & Patrick Czerny
1161 Deadwood Ave Suite 5
Rapid City, SD 57702-0382
1-605-394-6742
1-800-645-0673
atinfo@dakotalink.net
Like us on FaceBook
<https://www.facebook.com/DakotaLinkAT/>

Storefront operation. Walk in are welcome.

10

DakotaLink

Sioux Falls Office




Technicians: Mark Fleming
Josh Popelka
Page Hudson - Grant Program Manager
2900 West 11th Street Suite 101
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2594
1-605-334-9099
1-800-645-0673

Located at Rehabilitation Center for the Blind

11

DakotaLink

Brookings Office



Technician: James Honomichl
1310 Main Ave South Suite 114
Brookings, SD 57006-3894
1-605-690-5348
1-800-645-0673

Located next to Rehabilitation Services

12

Dakota Link

Aberdeen Office



Technician: Mark Cook
 2201 6th Ave South East Suite 17B
 Aberdeen, SD 57401
 1-605-380-9790
 1-800-645-0673

Located in Super City Mall

13

Dakota Link

AT for Reading

- Eyeglasses, Highlighting, Colored overlays
- Large Print Books, Hand Held Magnifiers
- High definition desktop and portable electronic magnification systems with and without text to speech.
- Text to speech software: Converts any scanned text to speech on the computer and provides additional supports such as talking dictionary, study skills and test taking. Portable devices and Apps that convert text to speech
- Tape recorded or talking books, Talking Dictionary
- Screen Reading software: Reads any information on the computer, Braille Translation, Refreshable Braille

14

Dakota Link

AT for Writing

- Adaptive grip or writing utensil, special paper, writing guides
- Slanted, larger, or no-slip writing surface
- Computer or portable device with or without adaptive mouse, keyboard or switch
- Word prediction, abbreviation expansion
- Dictionary and thesaurus (print or electronic, may be talking)
- Speech to text software: Controls computer by voice commands and allows for large amounts of dictating text by voice. Speaker dependent systems requires prior training to use the computer or device.
- Speaker independent systems requires no training and is growing in uses from telephone systems to portable devices.

15

Dakota Link

AT for Math

- Talking calculator, talking ruler, talking thermometer talking weight measuring devices
- Inexpensive or free software programs or Apps on portable devices for the development of skills or for remediation of skills.
- Software programs that read math formulas and software programs that produce powerful calculations by voice are improving in accuracy and ease of use.

16

Dakota Link

AT for Speech

- Speech amplifier, speech clarifier
- Communication board/book
- Text display or print output electronic notetaker
- Dedicated augmentative communication devices
- Inexpensive Apps on portable devices for the production of speech. Prior to the advancement in portable electronic devices individuals were paying \$4,000 to \$8,000 dollars for communication devices. Now with portable devices that cost \$400 to \$500 dollars you can add a equally sophisticated communication program that produces in many cases the same outcome as those more expensive devices.

17

Dakota Link

AT for Hearing

- Hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening systems
- Captioning of video and TV, computer assisted real-time captioning (CART), Computer assisted notetaking (CAN)
- Specialized Telephones, (Amplification, VCO, Captel etc.) Video Conferencing and Video Relay

18

DakotaLink

AT for Memory and Organization

- Picture or picture schedule, visual organizers, electronic managers or organizers
- Critical thinking software
- Software to support organization, software templates
- Inexpensive or free software programs and Apps on portable devices for the daily reminders of appointments, schedules and assignments. These this type of technology is also available for computers.
- Inexpensive Apps on portable devices to can assist those with significant memory issues through routine or complex tasks

19

DakotaLink

AT & UD for Orientation, Mobility or Ambulation

- Universally designed buildings and accessible workspaces
- Environmental controls (to control computer, portable devices, lights, appliances, doors, etc.)
- Auditory location signaler systems
- Grab bars, lever handles
- Distance Learning and Meeting
- Canes, walkers, wheelchairs, Mind controlled prosthetics

20

DakotaLink

Our Work by the Numbers

DRS	140
SBVI	104
PRI	107
CCTV	108
VET	68
MERR	50
TAD	44
EDU	32
ATAP	31
BUS	26
FSC	14
NDBEDP	10
TRB	2
BHSSC	6
Loans	2
Total	744

CONSUMERS 2018-19

21

DakotaLink

Medical Equipment and Recycle Program

Call Today
866.274.2594

3411 S Center Ave • Sioux Falls

<https://www.sd.at4all.com/>

22

DakotaLink 

DakotaLink
Assistive Technology Program for
the State of South Dakota

Thank You!

Patrick T. Czerny, ATP
Coordinator of Technical Services
DakotaLink
1161 Deadwood Ave. #5
Rapid City, SD 57702
1-800-645-0673
pczerny@dakotalink.net



www.dakotalink.net

23