

***ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY
RESOURCE
DIRECTORY***

*Assistive Technology
for Independent
Living 2017*

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INTRODUCTION

The genesis of this analysis and report on the availability of Assistive Technology (AT) for people with disabilities in South Dakota began with work that the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) did as part of the SILC State Plan. Some of the information contained hereafter was a part of the SILC's analysis. Also included in this report is a compilation of other AT resources in the state that are offered through various programs.

This resource directory was created in collaboration with state agency staff, people with disabilities, and a large group of stakeholders who provided feedback on the contents. The Department of Human Services recognizes and thanks the following entities that lent their expertise to the development of this report: Statewide Independent Living Council; Department of Human Services; Department of Social Services; Department of Health; Department of Education; DakotaLink; and people with disabilities.

The information is not intended to be all inclusive but to stimulate the thinking process and offer ideas about where to start in identifying and obtaining needed assistive technology.

While every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy and comprehensiveness, it is possible that some resources have been inadvertently excluded. If your organization would like to be included in future updates or would like to make changes to current listings, please contact the Department of Human Services' Division of Rehabilitation Services by sending an email to infodhs@state.sd.us or by calling (605) 773-3195, or toll free at 1-800-265-9684.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this resource directory is to outline the assistive technology services and assistive technology devices currently available for people with disabilities, their families and advocates living in South Dakota.

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive technology (AT) can be a solution to many of the obstacles that people with disabilities face. AT is defined as any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. An AT service is defined as any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

CATEGORIES OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive technology devices are often grouped in three categories.

1. A low-tech device is operated manually. Pencil grips, walkers, and door knob adaptors are just a few examples of low-tech devices.
2. Medium-tech devices are electrical, such as powered wheelchairs and wheelchair lifts, audio recording systems for people with low vision, and pneumatic door openers.
3. High-tech assistive technology devices are computer-based. Fitting this rapidly evolving category are voice-recognition software, closed caption decoders, environmental controls, “sip’ n puff” wheelchairs, and much more.

COMPONENTS OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

There are two components to assistive technology - access to AT and acquisition of AT:

1. Access refers to having a demonstration of devices and explanation of services available to help identify the appropriate devices to reduce or eliminate functional limitations.
2. Acquisition refers to the funding of a device and getting it into the hands of individuals.

One of the most important aspects of AT is finding the best device. With the large scope of devices available, choosing a device that best meets the needs of the individual is crucial. In addition, the AT device must be within the capabilities of the user; otherwise, the user gains nothing. Individuals must feel comfortable using the device and it must fit into the individual's social environment. Other areas that need to be considered are how long the device will be used, if it can be upgraded, what the warranty is, and the amount of training required to use the device effectively.

To provide you with additional guidance, the resources listed within this resource directory, identify whether the resource is for access, acquisition or for both.

TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1988, AS AMENDED IN 2004

Since the passage of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988, as amended in 2004 (Tech Act), there has been federal legislation supporting assistive technology activities in the states and territories. Over the years, several types of programs and projects with distinct goals and objectives have emerged. They all have one thing in common - the promotion of assistive technology solutions to assist with all life functions. Tech Act programs are required to serve all people with all types of disabilities, of all ages, in all environments. Every U.S. state and territory has a State Assistive Technology Act Program. DakotaLink has been the Tech Act implementing entity in South Dakota for the past 25 years and offers the following AT services:

AT Demonstration Activities

AT Device Loan Activities

AT Device Reuse and Reutilization Activities

State Leadership Activities

For more details about DakotaLink's services visit their website at <http://dakotalink.org/> or call 1-800-645-0673.

RESOURCES

ADULT SERVICES AND AGING – ASSISTIVE DEVICES

ACQUISITION

Assistive Devices are one-time purchases that enable an individual to perform routine personal tasks independently, or provide for a safe and secure environment related to health care needs. The purpose of Assistive Devices is to enhance an individual's self-sufficiency, safety and/or mobility, and assist the consumer to continue to live safely and independently in his/her own place of residence. Assistive devices may be considered when an individual needs an assistive device to maintain his/her independence when performing the following activities:

- to walk/be mobile
- to bathe
- to eat
- to dress self
- to transfer
- to toilet

Assistive Devices that may be purchased include:

- Bathroom and household accessories for safety purposes, excluding any type of exercise equipment.
- Personal items that would improve mobility and dexterity. These items may include batteries for wheelchairs/scooters/lift chairs, etc. (excludes hearing aid batteries).
- Home modifications which improve the consumer's independence.
- Repairs to existing assistive devices.

For more information contact Adult Services and Aging at 605.773.3656 or 1.866.854.5465 or visit their website at <http://dss.sd.gov/asa/services/assistivedevices.aspx>.

SOUTH DAKOTA ADVOCACY SERVICES is South Dakota's gubernatorial designated protection and advocacy (P&A) system. P&As are mandated under various federal statutes (see next section) to provide legal representation and other advocacy services to all eligible persons with disabilities. These services are provided through a variety of vehicles: individual representation, educating policy makers, advocacy for groups, information and referral services, rights education, and self-advocacy training.

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (PAAT) (1994) In 1994, Congress created a new mandate for P&As with the passage of amendments to the Technology-

Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act (29 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.). Under this program, P&As are separately funded to assist individuals with disabilities, their family members and advocates, in accessing assistive technology devices and services (e.g., motorized wheelchairs, “talking” computers, and adaptive computer software) through case management, legal representation, and self-advocacy training. P&As are mandated to help facilitate, through legally based advocacy, changes in laws, regulations, policies, and practices that impede the availability or provision of assistive technology devices and services. In South Dakota, this program is called Protection and Advocacy Assistive Technology (PAAT).

For more information on South Dakota Advocacy services available contact them at:

221 South Central Ave., Ste. 38

Pierre, SD 57501

(605) 224-8294 (Voice/TTY)

1-800-658-4782 (Voice/TTY)

Fax: (605) 224-5125

Field offices:

- Rapid City: 605-342-2575
- Sioux Falls: 605-361-7438
- Yankton: 605-665-5616

or visit their website at <http://www.sdadvocacy.com/>

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROJECT (ATAP)

ACCESS

The ATAP is offered through the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) within the Department of Human Services to provide training to individuals with vision loss to maximize their ability to use their mobile devices or computers. Trainees receive specific, individualized training on how to access their computer, mobile device or other technology such as an iPad, Tablet, Kindle, etc. Training may include adjustments utilizing built in accessibility features, downloading apps, accessing the Internet, e-mail and other applications. Training typically does not exceed 5 hours per trainee, but more can be authorized if needed. To learn more, contact SBVI at 605-773-4644.

AT EVALUATIONS / ASSESSMENTS

ACCESS

Website: <http://dakotalink.org/at-evaluationsassessments/>

An AT evaluation is the first step toward realizing your full potential. An evaluation will focus on aspects of your life that are especially in need of improvement. An evaluation by one of DakotaLink’s certified assistive technology specialists can help identify AT that will assist people

to live more independently. To make an appointment and discuss the cost of an assistive technology assessment contact DakotaLink at info@dakotalink.net or you can call them at 1-800-645-0673.

AT RECYCLING/REUSE**ACQUISITION**

Website: <http://dakotalink.org/recyclingreuse/>

DakotaLink has set up a web-based resource to help people locate, sell, donate or recycle used assistive technology devices, including durable medical equipment. A person can create his/her own password-protected account to list unneeded devices for sale, loan, or donation. Or a person can search for devices he/she needs that may be available from someone else right here in South Dakota. Website: <https://www.sd.at4all.com/> or you can call them at 1-800-645-0673.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAM**ACQUISITION**

Website: http://dhs.sd.gov/drs/cochlear_implant/cochlear-implant.aspx

The Division of Rehabilitation Services, through the Department of Human Services, administers the Cochlear Implant Program. A Cochlear implant is a surgically implanted device that assists an individual with severe or profound hearing loss to hear sounds. This program is designed to provide financial assistance to an eligible individual who is uninsured or to help offset the deductible or coinsurance for an individual with an insurance plan that covers cochlear implants. The program provides funding for the cost of the implant surgery for one ear or both ears, one or two implant devices, surgeon fee, hospital fee, the initial mapping and up to a maximum of 12 follow up mappings within one year post surgery. For more information call (605) 773-4644 or toll free at (800) 265-9684 or go to the website above.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RECYCLING AND REUSE (MERR) PROGRAM**ACQUISITION**

The Department of Social Services (DSS), has entered into an agreement with Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) to establish a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) reuse program.

DakotaLink has established a pilot facility located at 3411 South Center Avenue in Sioux Falls to accept, refurbish, and recycle Durable Medical Equipment (DME). DME includes items such as wheelchairs, scooters, patient lifts, hospital beds and assistive communication devices used repeatedly by one or more individuals. DME plays an important role in helping individuals who have medical conditions or other functional limitations to maintain their independence.

Sometimes the equipment only serves its purpose for a short period and unfortunately, too often ends up in a closet or a corner of a garage collecting dust. Individuals who have a device which is no longer being used can donate it to the Medical Equipment Recycling and Reuse program where it will be cleaned, re-stored to manufacturers specifications and redistributed

to individuals in need.

For additional information, please call 605-271-5074 or 1-866-274-2594. The DME available is listed also on the AT4ALL website at: <https://www.sd.at4all.com/>.

EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS

ACCESS

Website: <http://dakotalink.org/equipment-demonstration/>

DakotaLink has established four geographically located Demonstration Centers across the state for the purpose of allowing individuals with varying disabilities to try out different assistive devices. The Centers are equipped with some of the latest technology for uses in the home, at work, in the classroom, community and recreation. This will give the individual a hands-on experience before purchasing a needed device. Centers are located in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Brookings. For more information call DakotaLink at (605) 347-4476

HEARING AID ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ACQUISITION

Website: <http://dhs.sd.gov/drs/deafserv/HAAP.aspx>

In 2014 the South Dakota Legislature identified a need for many families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing: assistance in purchasing hearing aids, and approved funding to establish the Hearing Aid Assistance Program (HAAP). For more information view the [HAAP Brochure](#) or call (605) 773-4644 or toll free at (800) 265-9684.

HOME MODIFICATIONS AND ADAPTIVE DEVICES (HMAD) ACCESS & ACQUISITION

The Home Modification Program is available through IL centers and provides home alterations (ramps, doorway widening, bathroom and kitchen modifications) and other architectural changes for eligible individuals to make their premises accessible. HMAD services are available at:

Independent Living Choices <http://www.ilchoices.org/default.aspx>
(605) 362-3550 or toll free at 1-800-947-3770

Western Resources for Independent Living <http://www.wrill.org/>
(605) 718-1930 or toll free at 1-888-434-4943

Native American Advocacy Program <http://www.lakotanaap.org/> Ph:605-840-4417

Medicaid Waivers

THE ASSISTIVE DAILY LIVING SERVICES (ADLS) WAIVER

ACQUISITION

The Assistive Daily Living Services Waiver Program operated by the Division of Rehabilitation Services within the Department of Human Services, provides personal attendant services, case management, consumer preparation and ancillary services such as skilled nursing and

emergency response services to individuals with quadriplegia.

The Department of Human Services has recently added to the AT-related waiver services that an ADLS participant has access to. The amended waiver has added the following AT devices:

- Specialized Medical and Adaptive Equipment, such as lifts, medication dispensers, etc.
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations, such as ramps, roll in showers, lower countertops, widen doorways, etc.
- Vehicle Modifications, such as wheelchair or scooter lifts and carriers, lifts or ramps to access vehicles, adaptive driving controls, etc.

For information on eligibility for the ADLS waiver and AT devices and services available contact the Division of Rehabilitation Services at (605) 773-3195, toll free at 1-800-265-9684 or visit their website at <http://dhs.sd.gov/drs/il/ADLS.aspx>.

Community●Hope●Opportunity●Independence●Careers●Empowerment●Success

CHOICES WAIVER

ACQUISITION

Participants of the CHOICES waiver, operated by the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of Human Services, have access to the Medical Equipment and Drugs service available through the waiver. Medical equipment and drugs are devices, controls or appliances specified in the plan of care which enable participants to increase or maintain their ability to perform activities of daily living, or to perceive, control, or communicate with the environment in which they live. This service can include designing, fitting, adapting, and maintaining equipment, as well as training or technical assistance to use equipment. This service also includes items necessary for life support, ancillary supplies and equipment necessary to the proper functioning of such items, and durable and non-durable medical equipment not available under the Medicaid State Plan.

The purchase or rent, repairs and maintenance of medical/adaptive equipment if not covered under warranty or by the Medicaid State Plan; and payment of devices used when safety concerns exist (Lifeline services, Comfort One bracelets) are covered.

For information on eligibility for the CHOICES waiver and AT devices and services available contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities at (605) 773-3438 or visit their website at <http://dhs.sd.gov/dd/>.

FAMILY SUPPORT 360 WAIVER

ACQUISITION

The Family Support 360 Waiver, operated by the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of Human Services, includes three services related to AT for those eligible for

the waiver:

- Environmental accessibility adaptations – Environmental accessibility adaptations include those physical adaptations to the home, required by the participant’s service plan, which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the participant, or which enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home, and without which, the participant would require institutionalization. Such adaptations may include the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, or installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems which are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies which are necessary for the welfare of the participant.
- Specialized Medical Adaptive Equipment and Supplies (SMAES) – SMAES include devices, controls, or appliances, specified in the service plan, which enable participants to increase their abilities to perform activities of daily living, or to perceive, control, or communicate with the environment in which they live.
- Vehicle modification – Vehicle Modification consists of adaptations or alterations to an automobile or van that is the waiver participant’s primary means of transportation in order to accommodate the special needs of the participant. Vehicle adaptations are specified by the service plan as necessary to enable the participant to integrate more fully into the community and to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant.

HOME & COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS) WAIVER

ACQUISITION The Home and Community-Based Services Waiver operated by the Division of Long Term Services and Supports, within the Department of Human Services, allows the Department to use Title XIX Medicaid to provide home and community-based services to individuals who are at risk for institutionalization. Some of the AT devices and services available through the Home and Community-Based Waiver include:

- Emergency Response Systems – An electronic device that enables a consumer who lives in his or her home to secure help in an emergency. The consumer may also wear a portable "help" button to allow for mobility. The system is connected to a consumer's phone and programmed to signal a response center once a "help" button is activated.
- Specialized Medical Equipment – Devices, controls, or appliances, specified in the plan of care, that enable consumers to increase their ability to perform activities of daily living and assist the consumer to remain living safely at home. Services consist of assistive technology equipment, installation and monitoring, purchasing, leasing or otherwise providing devices, controls, sensors or appliances to be used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of consumers. Specialized medical

equipment reimbursed with waiver funds is in addition to any specialized medical equipment furnished under the State Plan and excludes those items that are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the consumer.

- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations – Those physical adaptations to the private residence of the consumer, or the consumer's family, required by the consumer's care plan, that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the consumer or that enable the consumer to function with greater independence in the home. Such adaptations include the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, or the installation of specialized electric or plumbing systems that are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies that are necessary for the welfare of the consumer. Excluded are those adaptations or improvements to the home that are of general utility, and are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the consumer. Adaptations or improvements that add to the total square footage of the home are excluded from this benefit except when necessary to complete an adaptation (i.e., in order to improve entrance/egress to a residence or to widen a bathroom to accommodate a wheelchair). This service does not include general repair or maintenance to the residence, which are considered to be standard housing obligations of the owner or tenant.

For more information on eligibility and AT available through this waiver contact Long Term Services and Supports at 605.773.3656 or 1.800.265.9684 or visit their website at <http://dhs.sd.gov/ltss/titlexix.aspx>

MIDCO LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ACQUISITION

Low-income households get affordable home phone or internet access through Midco's Lifeline assistance program. Lifeline is a federal program intended to put home phone and internet service within the reach of qualifying families. Broadband Assistance and Home Phone Assistance are available.

Eligibility

Lifeline Assistance is available to qualifying new and current customers who meet income guidelines.

How to Apply

The Federal Communications Commission is currently modifying requirements for the Lifeline program, which will be updated in early December. If you are interested in Lifeline benefits, please contact us at 1.800.888.1300 or visit our website at <https://www.midco.com/lifeline>

RECYCLE FOR LIFE

ACQUISITION

Website: <http://oaheinc.com/recycle-for-life.html>

Oahe, Inc. manages the Recycle for Life program. Recycle for Life is an inexpensive, efficient system to bridge the financial gap between hospital stays, disability needs and independent living. Their recycling system lends durable, donated, gently-used and sanitized medical

equipment for a small donation to those in need for as long as they need it. For more information call (605) 224-4501 or go to the Recycle for Life Website listed above.

SHORT-TERM DEVICE LOANS

ACQUISITION Website: <http://dakotalink.org/short-term-device-loan/>

DakotaLink's assistive technology loan service can help to identify the AT device that best meet the needs of individuals with disabilities. A variety of devices are available for short term loan so that a person can try them out and help determine what AT devices work best. **Visit their website** at www.sd.at4all.com, or call DakotaLink at 1-800-645-0673.

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL DEAF-BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

ACCESS & ACQUISITION

Website: http://dhs.sd.gov/drs/deafserv/SD_NDBEDP/SD_NDBEDP_main.aspx

The National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) is a program established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to distribute a wide array of assistive technology to people who are deaf-blind and require special equipment to make a phone call, send an email or access the Internet. For more information call 1-800-265-9684. You can also visit the national website, www.iCanConnect.org or call 1-800-825-4595.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADAPTIVE DEVICES (TAD)

ACCESS & ACQUISITION

Website: http://dhs.sd.gov/drs/deafserv/TAD_drs.aspx

The Telecommunication Adaptive Devices (TAD) program provides telecommunication devices and services for individuals with disabilities other than deafness, hearing impairment, or speech impairment. The TAD devices include fully voice activated phones, emergency messenger telephones, picture dialing phones, large button phones and other equipment which may be need to communicate through the phone lines. View the [TAD Brochure](#) for more information.

TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM (TED)

ACCESS & ACQUISITION

Website: <http://dhs.sd.gov/drs/deafserv/tedp.aspx>

The Telecommunication Equipment Distribution (TED) program provides telecommunication devices and services to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech impediment. Technology distributed through this program consists of amplified phones, captioned phones, and has recently grown to include newer technologies such as iPhones and iPads for people who are deaf. See <http://relaysd.com/> for more information.

TRAINING

ACCESS

Website: <http://dakotalink.org/training/>

DakotaLink conducts training activities throughout the state to continue promoting assistive technology awareness and improve access to assistive technology devices and services. Individualized training for the use of specific kinds of assistive technology is offered by DakotaLink's nationally certified Rehabilitation Technologists within the DakotaLink staff. For more information call DakotaLink Administrative Office (605)347-4476.

VIDEO MAGNIFICATION LEASE/LOAN PROGRAM

ACQUISITION

Over the years, the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) has received donations from individuals in memory of loved ones. Thanks to the generosity of those individuals, the Division implemented the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Lease/Loan Program in April of 2004. This program makes CCTVs available to individuals who cannot otherwise afford them because of limited financial resources. Since 2004, over two hundred fifty CCTV units have been made available for lease or loan by consumers of the SBVI Older Blind Independent Living Program. In 2016 new devices were received for the expansion of the CCTV Lease/Loan program.

SBVI staff has provided a tremendous amount of support and assistance with the delivery of the machines to the IL program participants on their caseloads. For more information call Toll Free: 1-800-265-9684 or visit their website at <http://dhs.sd.gov/sbvi/independ.aspx>.

WANT TO BE INCLUDED?

If your agency or organization provides assistive technology funding, services, devices, equipment loan or modifications, and would like to be included in this resource directory, please contact the Division of Rehabilitation Services at (605) 773-3195, or toll free at 1-800-265-9684.

IF YOU FIND INCORRECT INFORMATION

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