



Winter News 2023

Technology Solutions for Life's Limitations

Greetings!

Happy New Year, 2023! What a year 2022 was for the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) and its members! Not only did we receive a \$1 million increase for FY22, but we also squeaked out another \$1.5 million at year's end for FY2023. AND...to top it all off, the Assistive Technology Act was reauthorized and is now officially called the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act! Furthermore, ATAP won the AT Act Technical Assistance grant to serve State and Territory Assistive Technology (AT) Act Grantees. What a year! We must give a big "Thank You" to Audrey Busch-Treussard and her team for their tireless work and dedication to make these things happen, as well as all of you!

These steady funding increases to the AT Act Programs are significant and say a lot about the political climate surrounding assistive technology. These yearly increases indicate that the legislature is beginning to see the personal benefit of AT for people with disabilities and for those who are aging, as well as the ROI of AT. That said, we are only on the ground floor where we need to be to help more people access and acquire AT, but at least we have our foot in the door!

AT History

The Federal Assistive Technology Act started in 1988. It was reauthorized in 1994, again in 1998, again in 2004 and finally reauthorized to the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act at the end of 2022.

DakotaLink Advisory Council

Steve Stewart – Chair, Richard Moeller – Vice Chair, Eric Weiss – Member at Large

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday March 8th, 2023, 9:30 am MT, 10:30 am CST.

If you or anyone you know would like to be a part of the DakotaLink Advisory Council, I have provided a link to the application:

<https://www.dakotalink.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/DakotaLink-Advisory-Council-Application.pdf>

The agenda and notes are also posted on our website at: [https://www.dakotalink.net/#Advisory Council Activities.](https://www.dakotalink.net/#Advisory-Council-Activities)

New Technology

Glean - <https://glean.co/>

Glean improves grades, boosts confidence and reduces stress so that more students graduate successfully. With Glean, you never have to worry about missing important information from class again! Record lectures in full, listen back at your own pace, and annotate with different note types to create a complete learning resource - tailored to the user.

The structured note taking process is proven to improve grades and aid student retention. Statistics show, 76% of students see their grades rise after just one semester of using Glean.

Capture all the information from class

- Record complete lecture audio
- Instantly screenshot online classes
- Add notes, labels and photos

Organize for easy navigation

- Add slides and headings
- Group your notes by class or subject
- Search across all your recordings

Refine your notes at your own pace

- Listen back after class
- Add multimedia notes
- Look up definitions in-app

Integrate into your learning

- Time your revision sessions in-app

- Available on laptop and mobile
- Automatic syncs between devices

DakotaLink is now set up to be a reseller for the Glean app. The company has set us up with an account that lets us “gift” the 1-year subscription with no auto-renewal. This will cost \$120 for one year.

Outreach

DakotaLink has extended the KELO commercials out as we are now fully into the new fiscal year. We tried getting banners/flyers to be put into the transit system, but they only do Exterior Bus Advertising and Bus Bench Advertising. We are pursuing other options with is as well.

There is a South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities held in Sioux Falls at the Convention Center September 6 & 7, 2023. DakotaLink will be attending this conference with a booth. DakotaLink will also be at the Special Ed Conference in March 2023.

Annual Progress Report

The Annual Progress Report is complete and has been approved at the state and federal level. This is the report that goes to the ACL (Administration for Community Living) for the federal government.

Program Review

DakotaLink had a program review by the state and all of the documents they requested have been submitted. We will meet with the reviewers in the coming weeks to ensure everything is in its right place.

MERR Program Year 6

If you or anyone you know needs gently used Medical Equipment, we would encourage you to support this program.

Ron Lien continues to work to expand The Medical Equipment Recycle and Reuse program.

Press releases for MERR are being distributed to the full Department of Social Services media list in periodic increments. This started in July 2022 and continues to this day. Specific information regarding MERR is being communicated to Medicaid providers via regular Provider Bulletins by Medical Services staff.

Here is a link to the brochure for the program:

<https://www.dakotalink.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/MERR-Brochure-20181004-1.pdf>

Here is a list of the latest items available from the website:

<https://www.sd.at4all.com/Items/ItemSearch.aspx?Mode=NewItem>

Social Networking

We continue our efforts in social networking getting a great deal of traffic on Facebook and share posts with ATAP, AT3, ILC, DHS, DSS, and MERR. More resource information on our website: <https://www.dakotalink.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/AT-Resource-Directory-2017.pdf>

Low-Interest Loans

We also want to remind everyone of our low-interest loan program. The loans are designed to fit your budget and we will work with you to create affordable payback payments. We will also help you fill out the application if you have any concerns with that process. The application is on our website, but here is the direct link:

<https://www.dakotalink.net/at-funding>

DakotaLink strives to maintain its professionalism by earning a RESNA ATP certification. (ATP – Assistive Technology Professional). We currently have 5 staff with their ATP certification and will continue to help the newer employees gain that status. To maintain these credentials, we must complete a specific amount of CEU's (Continuing Education Credits) on a biennial basis. We have been doing that mostly through webinars that ATAP provides through an agreement with ATIA.



Remember, we are on Facebook! So, be sure to “like” us to see what we are up to daily:

<https://www.facebook.com/DakotaLinkAT/>

Be safe and healthy!

Best,

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DakotaLink is the South Dakota Assistive Technology Program

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.

An assistive technology device is any equipment or tool that helps individuals overcome limitations in daily activities.

Assistive technology services assist individuals to acquire, use, modify or maintain an assistive technology device.