

South Dakota State Assistive Technology Plan

The South Dakota Technology Related Assistance Services Program

DakotaLink

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South Dakota State Plan for the South Dakota Technology Related Assistance Services Program - DakotaLink

Part I: Attachments
OMB Control Number: 1820-0664
Expiration Date: 10-31-2008

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Attachment 1: Basic Information

Name of Lead Agency: South Dakota Department of Human Services

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency: Division of Rehabilitation Services

Address of Lead Agency: E. Hwy 34, Hillsvie Plaza, C/O 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency: Jerry C. Hofer, Secretary, South Dakota Department of Human Services.

Address for Certifying Representative: E. Hwy 34, Hillsvie Plaza, C/O 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501- 5070

Telephone for Certifying Representative: 1-605-773-5990

E-mail for Certifying Representative: jerry.c.hofer@state.sd.us

Name and Title of Program Director: Grady Kickul, Director, Division of Rehabilitation Services

Address for Program Director: E. Hwy 34, Hillsvie Plaza, C/O 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Telephone for Program Director: 1-605-773-4644

E-mail for Program Director: grady.kickul@state.sd.us

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director): Steve Stewart, Rehabilitation Engineer

Address for Program Contact: E. Hwy 34, Hillsvie Plaza, C/O 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501

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Name of Implementing Entity: Black Hills Special Services Cooperative

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity: DakotaLink

Address of Implementing Entity: P.O. Box 218, Sturgis, South Dakota, 57785

Name and Title of Program Director: Ron Rosenboom, Deputy Executive Director

Address for Program Director: P.O. Box 218, Sturgis, South Dakota 57785

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Program Coordinator

Address for Program Director: P.O. Box 218, Sturgis, South Dakota 57785

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Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity

2.1 Identification and Description of the Lead Agency - Identify and describe the Lead Agency referred to in section 4(c)(1)(A) of the AT Act.

2.1A Identification and Description of Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is not Designated : **Not Applicable**

2.1B Identification and Description of the Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is Designated :

In 1992 the Governor of the State of South Dakota designated the South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services as the Lead Agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Program - DakotaLink.

2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity – Identify and describe the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing Entity is designated by the Governor.

Since 1992 The South Dakota Department of Human Services, through a contractual arrangement, has designated Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) as the implementing agency for the Statewide Assistive Technology Program – DakotaLink. Since 1980 BHSSC has offered South Dakotan’s public education, community development coordination, and technology applications that reduce commonly experienced geographic isolation through its Division of Disabilities and Treatment Services, Division of Technology and Innovations in Education, Division of Education and Workforce Development, Division of Community Economic Development, and DakotaLink (the South Dakota Assistive Technology Project).

Black Hills Special Services Cooperative is governed by a board of one elected school board member from each of the 12 public school districts in western South Dakota that comprise the Cooperative. Board meetings are monthly and public, and minutes are published in the Rapid City Journal. The organization operates as an educational cooperative under South Dakota Codified Law 13:5:31. Because BHSSC has programs in many diverse fields, it is reviewed by about 15 regulatory councils and by law must secure an independent audit annually.

Central offices are located in Sturgis, S.D. with satellite offices throughout the Black Hills and in Pierre, the State’s capitol. Though it is a governmental legal entity, BHSSC does not levy taxes. Funding is secured by providing services which public institutions and private organizations are willing to purchase.

DakotaLink, the South Dakota Assistive Technology Program, previously has been the South Dakota Assistive Technology Project and as such developed efforts that worked toward systems change and advocacy to create a comprehensive, consumer responsive

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system of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities of all ages. DakotaLink helped draft a “Lemon Law” to protect consumers who purchased assistive devices, worked with the State Bureau of Information Technology to ensure accessible information technology and appropriate use of AT in State Government, developed a funding guide to assist individuals to navigate the complex and often complicated systems of support, and created a guide to assistive technology in education as efforts to eliminate and overcome barriers so individuals with disabilities could access assistive technology in a timely manner.

DakotaLink has always been and will continue to be directed by the advice of a consumer dominated advisory council and works closely with state agencies, public education, and disability organizations to increase access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and services. Efforts to provide comprehensive information, assessment, equipment trial through device loan, and increased awareness of assistive technology are designed to meet the needs of a very rural state. These activities are supported by four demonstration centers and nine technical staff located in communities across the state who will continue to provide information and referral, assessment, formal evaluation, equipment acquisition, setup, training and follow-up services as part of this State Plan. These efforts have had a direct impact on the availability and delivery of technology in a timely manner, especially for the rural and underserved populations of South Dakota.

DakotaLink facilitated the creation and continues to support an annual Native American Disability Summit, has worked with state agencies and private business to create the South Dakota News Telephone Reader allowing individuals who are blind or visually impaired to access the daily news and have it read to them over the telephone. All DakotaLink activities are designed to assist individuals with disabilities throughout South Dakota to realize their employment, education, and independent living goals.

DakotaLink will continue to conduct its activities throughout the state of South Dakota by continuing use of its four demonstration centers and efforts to expand the number of demonstration centers through collaborative efforts in the State Plan. DakotaLink technical staff will continue to travel to smaller communities providing increased access to assistive technology and assist citizens in the timely acquisition of devices. The demographics of a rural state like South Dakota, large spaces and few people, create unique problems. There are nine Indian reservations in the state and three of the five poorest counties in the United States lie within South Dakota’s borders.

Working in partnership with a wide variety of state agencies, disability organizations, advocacy groups and private businesses DakotaLink will continue to assist persons with disabilities to overcome life’s limitations through technology solutions.

DakotaLink has forged partnerships, to leverage resources, commonly define assistive technology devices and services, and clarify policies and regulations, with the South Dakota Department of Education, the Division of Rehabilitation Services, Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Division of Adult Services and Aging, the

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Bureau of Information Technology, the Public University system, Vocational/Technical Schools and Tribal Colleges.

DakotaLink will continue to provide alternative financing information, referral, transition advice, and assistive technology expertise to a diverse population including elementary, secondary, and post-secondary students, individuals with disabilities receiving vocational rehabilitation services, the majority who are living at poverty level, receiving Supplemental Security Income or Supplemental Security Disability Insurance and striving to return to work and eliminate the need for public assistance; elderly residents wishing to maintain independence and remain in their homes; deaf and hard of hearing; and the blind and visually impaired. DakotaLink specifically identifies Native Americans with disabilities living on the nine reservations located within the state and in our communities as an underserved population.

2.3 Show of Good Cause for Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity – If the Governor has chosen to change the Lead Agency or, if applicable, Implementing Entity as allowed in section 4(c)(1)(C) of the AT Act, provide an explanation of good cause for this re-designation.

Not Applicable

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Attachment 3: State Advisory Council

3.1 Membership of the Advisory Council - Identify the members of the Advisory Council and each member's designation as an individual with disabilities who uses AT, a family member or guardian of such individual, or a representative of a State agency or other entity.

The State of South Dakota has established a South Dakota Assistive Technology Advisory Council to provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to the State for planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of the activities carried out by DakotaLink (the Statewide Assistive Technology Program).

The advisory council is composed of:

Individuals with Disabilities who use assistive technology and family members:

Keith Bundy (Chairperson)
William Utley
Roberta Anderson
Leo Hallan
Judi Severson (Vice Chairperson)
Mary Sjerven (Member at Large)

State Agency Representatives:

Grady Kickul (Director, Division of Rehabilitation Services, designated member of the Workforce Development Council)
Gaye Mattke (Director, Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired)
Ann Larsen (State Dept. of Education, Director Division of Special Education)
Gary Wald (State-wide Independent Living Council).
Keith Rouse (Division of Rehabilitation Services)

The members of the Advisory Council live in counties throughout the State to ensure representation from urban and rural areas and reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the State. Members who use AT utilize a variety of devices, including mobility devices, computer adaptations, visual aids, and speech output devices.

3.2 Structure and Operation of the Advisory Council – Describe the structure and operations of the Advisory Council.

Members of the Advisory Council become part of the council in two ways. Agencies representatives are designated by their respective agency heads or governing boards, while consumer nominations are solicited through networks of disability organizations or

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councils throughout the State. Members of the Council are appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Human Services. All members are expected to serve a three year term and are eligible to serve two full three year terms, per the by-laws adopted by the council. The Advisory Council adopted by-laws that establish elected officers including a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and a member at large elected by a majority vote of the full Council membership for a period of one year. These officers along with a non-voting representative of the Lead agency comprise the Council's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is authorized to: 1. Act on behalf of the Council to perform necessary business matters between regular meetings provided their actions receive concurrence of a majority of the Council members at the next full Council meeting. 2. Act on behalf of the Council on actions as directed by the full Council. 3. Report regularly its work and actions to the Council by sending minutes of Executive Committee meetings to all the Council members.

The Advisory Council shall meet as often as necessary, as determined by the Chairperson and in cooperation with the Department of Human Services and DakotaLink and its activities follow the state fiscal year.

The functions of the Council, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, are:

- 1) Advise the Department and DakotaLink on the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities and the professionals who provide them with services.
- 2) Assist the Department and DakotaLink in identifying and prioritizing strategies to make assistive technology more available to South Dakota citizens with disabilities, consistent with the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended.
- 3) Assist the Department and DakotaLink in designing meaningful outcomes for activities.
- 4) Serve on ad-hoc workgroups to design and refine services.
- 5) Identify and support collaborative initiatives whose goals and activities align with and help further the goals of DakotaLink, the statewide assistive technology program.

All meetings of the Advisory Council are open to the public in accordance with the State of South Dakota open meetings law, SDCL 1-25-1. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Council's by-laws and any special rules the Council might adopt. The Council may amend the by-laws at any meeting of the Council by a majority vote of the appointed Council membership in attendance provided the amendment has been distributed to all Council members prior to the meeting.

Attachment 4: Measurable Goals

Dakotalink will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during year **two**, and will submit after year **two** an amendment identifying the long term goal and short-term goals set to improve upon this baseline during **subsequent** years of the State Plan. This baseline will be established by using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA after the State plan process has been completed.

4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A: data collection not established.**

4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A: data collection not established.**

4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration**

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programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.

- Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A: data collection not established.**

4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A: data collection not established.**

4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.**
- Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A: data collection not established.**

4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3:
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for**

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employment purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.

- Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A: data collection not established.**

4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living

- Long-term goal:
 - Short-term goal for Year 3
 - Short-term goal for Year 2: **Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not have obtained the AT device or service.**
 - Short-term goal for Year 1: **N/A: data collection not established.**

4.8 Additional Measurable Goals –

No additional goals have been established at this time.

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Attachment 5: State-level Activities

5.1 State Financing Activities – Describe how the State will implement State financing activities as described in section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act.

An alternative financing program (AFP) is designed by states as a vehicle to provide loan and loan guarantees to individuals with disabilities in need of assistive technology, but unable to directly purchase the equipment and/or qualify for a traditional loan from a lending institution.

As the State of South Dakota does not currently have an alternative financing program for assistive technology, the design, development, and implementation of an AFP will be of primary consideration within the current state AT plan. The first year of the plan a feasibility study **was conducted to determine how an AFP that is both universally accessible and comprehensive might be implemented within the state and how that AFP might be designed so that it meets the AT acquisition needs of individuals with disabilities who could not otherwise purchase AT devices.**

Two primary questions answered through the feasibility study were:

1. **What is the current need in South Dakota for an Assistive Technology Alternative Financing Program?**
2. **What is the State's capacity for designing, developing, implementing and maintaining an AFP?**

The first effort in the feasibility study was the development, distribution and evaluation of an AFP survey. The eleven question survey was targeted to a wide range of individuals whose interests would be served through some form of alternative financing for assistive technology devices and services. DakotaLink partnered with the South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, the South Dakota Developmental Disabilities Council, the South Dakota Department of Special Education, the Disabled American Veterans of South Dakota, and the South Dakota Parent Connection to distribute the survey both in an electronic format as well as a print version.

Of the survey responses: 25% were persons with a disability or other functional limitation, 27% a family member of a person with a disability or other functional limitation, 22% service providers, 22% educators, and 4% disability advocates.

79% of the respondents are current users of assistive technology and 62% indicated a current need to purchase some form of AT with 50% indicating a need for either a home or vehicle modification.

57% of the respondents indicated an interest in seeking a loan for AT if it was low interest with an extended pay back period although 90% have never made an attempt to seek a financial loan to purchase AT.

An indicator in the lack of previous loan activity might be that 72% of those who responded as a person with a disability or functional limitation or as a family member of a person with a disability or functional limitation indicated either they have not attempted to seek a loan for AT due to insufficient income or monthly payments that are unaffordable (51%) , that their current debt is too great to take on another obligation (13%), and that previous credit issues prevented them from seeking financial assistance through a loan process (8%). 17% of these respondents indicated that interest rates are too high to consider a financial loan and 11% reported they were unemployed.

The survey further provided insight into the types of assistive technology being sought by the respondents in the following categories:

Alternative Augmentative Communication devices	10%
Hearing devices	6%
Vision devices	6%
Mobility devices	10%
Environmental Controls	6%
Computer Access	13%
Modified vehicle (new)	6%
Modifications to an existing vehicle	6%
Home modifications	10%
Recreational devices	6%
Work/job accommodations	5%
Education accommodations	9%
Health/Safety/Daily living devices	7%

Finally the survey indicated that 49% of the respondents did not know if they qualified for funding from an existing source however 51% indicated eligibility for the following programs:

Education/ School district funding	13%
Vocational Rehabilitation	9%
Medicaid	18%
Medicare	9%
Private insurance	2%

In addition to the survey an ad-hoc group of stakeholders has been consulted to collaborate, provide information and dialogue with regard to the process of developing and sustaining a state program for alternative financing. These stakeholders included representatives from the business and finance communities,

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the state AT Project, program and advocacy groups, the education community and individuals with disabilities.

One focus of these discussions was the capacity for developing a low interest loan program with an extended pay back period. Acquisition of funds for a match to apply for a grant under Title III of the At Act were explored. However, it was learned that the remaining Title III funds authorized for 2006 would be limited to prior applicants who had not received funding in the previous distribution or who had previously been under funded and no additional Title III monies would be appropriated for future use. The availability of State and private funds to meet this capacity remains limited and would not be sufficient for establishing this type of loan fund nor would the small amount of increased dollars appropriated by Congress under Title I. Traditional financial institutions within the State remain unwilling to participate in a program where loans are guaranteed by the state AT program. Available funding may be sufficient to establish a fund of last resort.

These discussions also indicated a statewide interest in seeking savings on the purchase of Assistive Technology as the primary alternative to a traditional loan program. Bulk purchasing and cooperative buying were two mechanisms believed to be the most advantageous for offering immediate relief to individuals seeking assistive technology devices.

In year two of this State Plan DakotaLink will provide state financing activities in the following ways:

1) A cooperative purchasing program will be implemented building on previous efforts to decrease the cost of Assistive Technology devices and pass the savings on to individuals served throughout the State. Through collaboration with the State Bureau of Information Technology, State Department of Human Services (Rehabilitation Services and Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired), State Department of Social Services (Division of Developmental Disabilities, Services to the Elderly and Aging, and Medicaid Services), the State Department of Education (Division of Special Education) and the 176 Independent School Districts DakotaLink will act as a central point of acquisition for needed Assistive Technology Devices.

DakotaLink will build upon previous vendor relationships established with AT manufacturers as well as create new relationships to offer the best pricing and provide discounted products at a dealer rate. A discount list of available AT products will be produced and distributed quarterly.

2) The overwhelming indication of the limited resources of individuals with disabilities creates a significant barrier to the acquisition of assistive technology. As a means to address this barrier DakotaLink will establish an Assistive Technology lease program. Based upon the success of the cooperative lease program currently

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conducted by DakotaLink in collaboration with the South Dakota Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired it has been determined that providing devices on a long term lease basis is a viable means to place assistive technology into the hands of individuals who would not otherwise be able to acquire them. After full exploration of all other means of support, if an individual is determined to be without the means and unable to acquire the needed assistive technology they will be eligible to lease the device directly from DakotaLink. Once the device is no longer needed or fails to meet the need of the individual it will be entered back into the inventory for continued use. Fees collected from the lease program will be used to add to the inventory and support the ongoing needs of the program.

In addition, public awareness and dissemination of marketing information to appropriate constituents of the program will be administered in accordance with the overall objectives of the State AT plan (see Attachment 8, Section 8.2 for detailed information about the public awareness proposal under State Leadership Activities). The second year of the plan will serve as an implementation period and provide baseline data with regard to individuals served through state financing initiatives.

Subsequent years of the state AT plan will be used to support and grow **the State financing programs** with an overall goal of creating a sustainable program. Activities conducted will have a primary focus on increasing the number of individuals acquiring assistive technology devices through **State financing activities** who would otherwise not have acquired the device and include activities that have the potential to generate additional **State financing** program funds, increase public awareness about the program, and provide technical assistance to those seeking AT devices.

5.2 Device Reutilization Program – Describe how the State will implement a device reutilization program as described in section 4(e)(2)(B) of the Act.

Within the State of South Dakota there currently exist a number of device reutilization programs. Included among these programs is *The Equipment Connection*, which is an online, consumer driven reutilization project, designed to match individuals in need of devices with those who desire to offer used equipment for resale. *The Equipment Connection* website is maintained by DakotaLink. DakotaLink staff is available to assist individuals who have limited technical skills negotiate the site; collect limited data on sales including follow up telephone calls to sellers; and delete listings for items that have sold or are no longer for sale.

Use of the website is open to any individual within the state of South Dakota with Internet access. For individuals who do not have access to the Internet, access to the equipment connection can be made via phone or in person to any of the Dakotalink representatives. There are no limitations on the types of AT devices that can be listed. The program is currently only limited by what devices the sellers themselves choose to make available.

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As the organization does not act as a mediator between the buyers and sellers, the specific details regarding individual transitions had been limited. Sellers are required to register to use the site, but buyers had been able to remain anonymous. Buyers log onto the website and contact the seller directly—either via e-mail or telephone—and all negotiations are completed between the two parties. Therefore, the only data previously collected is whether or not a transaction occurred.

Year one activities built upon the current reutilization system through *The Equipment Connection* website focused on the development of more accurate and detailed data collection methods that capture data required under the AT Act. Year two and subsequent years will focus on expanded use and promotion of this redesigned online resource as a statewide and comprehensive method of device reutilization.

The Neural Muscular Equipment Recycling Program provides assistive devices to South Dakotans with severe neuromuscular disabilities that substantially limit major life activities in order for the individual to live more independently in their home or community. It is funded and administered by the State Division of Rehabilitation Services and provides recycled equipment including installation and training to individuals within the state who has a neuromuscular disability (MS, MD, or ALS) that substantially limits major life activities that prevents them from living independently in their home. Assistive devices provided are limited to items that are necessary to allow an individual to function more independently in their home or community. Individuals access the program by contacting the DRS central office by telephone, e-mail or in person and completing an application form. Devices are then delivered to qualifying individuals who sign a condition of acceptance form agreeing to return the items when they are no longer needed. **In year two of this plan and for all subsequent years DakotaLink will manage the inventory, delivery and storage of the assistive technology devices available through this program. Currently there are approximately two Million dollars worth of assistive technology devices available for reuse throughout the State of South Dakota.**

The Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) Program is a collaborative effort between DakotaLink and the State Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SDSBVI) providing CCTVs to consumers with low vision. While currently part of a lease program, units are returned to DakotaLink at the end of the lease period and inventoried for reutilization. The CCTV program is funded by the SDSBVI and administered through contract by DakotaLink. Individuals contact DakotaLink via a toll-free telephone number to access the program. CCTV units are delivered to qualifying individuals who sign a condition of acceptance form agreeing to return the items when they are no longer needed.

The Easter Seals Recycle for Life Reutilization Program is a program which takes previously owned, donated durable medical equipment, refurbishes it and donates it to those South Dakota residents who need it. All equipment is available only if it is currently in stock. Medical Equipment Loans are available through any of 10 Loan Closet Locations around the state.

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The first year of the AT state plan inventoried current reutilization programs and invited collaborative partnerships among providers to coordinate activities.

The above cited reutilization providers and other stakeholders in conjunction with the State Advisory Council and DakotaLink will be responsible the ongoing goal of building a comprehensive system that meets the needs of individuals with all types of disability and within all geographic areas of the state. This includes the use of a toll-free telephone number operated by DakotaLink who will maintain current and comprehensive referral information with regard to AT reutilization programs that meet specific needs as well as a comprehensive website designed to link programs and services.

Through the equipment reutilization program, individuals with disabilities will be benefited in a number of ways.

1. Because devices are used, sellers usually will offer them for free or at a low price, creating a more affordable device.
2. Users of the reutilization program do not need to meet income eligibility criteria.
3. Devices can be made available that are not covered under private or public funding.
4. Some devices made available are no longer manufactured, so the reutilization program is a limited source for the particular device.
5. Individuals may often get devices sooner through the reutilization program than if they waited for funding from public or private sources.

The device reutilization activities during year two and three of the AT plan will involve the continued facilitation of collaborative efforts among providers, stakeholders, and individuals with disabilities to support and grow the program, to increase public awareness (See Attachment 82.) about the program, and to increase the number of individuals receiving AT devices that would not otherwise have received them (See Attachment 4: Measurable Goals). Activities associated with the overall goals of years two and three include:

1. Working with medical providers on a campaign to encourage individuals who currently own durable medical equipment that they no longer need to recycle the equipment through The Equipment Connection to increase the selection of equipment available through the program.
2. Working with disability service providers on a campaign to encourage organizations and individuals with disabilities who currently own assistive equipment but no longer need it to recycle the equipment through The Equipment Connection to increase the selection of equipment available through the program.

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3. Explore the feasibility of a partnership with AT vendors throughout the region to develop a program to refurbish used devices as some devices may be made available and usable with minor repairs and upgrades and provided to individuals with disabilities through the reutilization program.

5.3 Device Loan Program – Describe how the State will implement a device loan program as described in section 4(e)(2)(C) of the Act.

Device loan programs within the State of South Dakota are in a similar situation to the device reutilization programs in that a number of programs **have existed** in isolation, targeting specific populations of individuals with disabilities and providing exclusive types of equipment.

DakotaLink maintains a number of devices that individuals may borrow from the program. The equipment loan program is currently **being** marketed through DakotaLink’s accessible website and through the demonstration centers. **DakotaLink provides a central access point, inventory of AT devices available for loan and a formal procedure through which devices are loaned and returned, however, additional efforts to support a system to refurbish, replace, and upgrade loan equipment will be ongoing.**

In addition to DakotaLink’s loan program, other providers of equipment for loan in the state include:

- The Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Program provides telecommunication devices for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech-impaired with difficulty communicating on the telephone. The program, administered by the South Dakota Department of Human Services through a contract with Communications Services for the Deaf, can be accessed by telephone, electronically, or in person at one of four distribution sites across the State. An individual wishing to utilize the program complete applications to receive equipment free of charge for as long as needed and eligibility is based on disability.
- Easter Seals Equipment Loan Closets provide durable medical equipment for loan periods up to 6 months for a nominal fee. If finances are a problem, the fee may be waived. Ten loan closets located in communities across the state and are available to individuals who have need of the equipment for a short period of time. Individuals borrowing the equipment are asked to arrange for pick up and return through the nearest loan closet. Delivery by Easter Seals South Dakota is not available in all areas. The Easter Seals Equipment Loan program may be accessed by calling, e-mailing, or visiting the nearest Loan Closet.

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During the first year of the State AT Plan an inventory of loan programs was completed and collaborative partnerships formed among providers to coordinate activities as well as identify gaps in services.

These collaborative partnerships are designed to provide a network of providers for device loan that embraces the individuality of the programs while providing for the state-wideness and comprehensiveness required under the AT Act. This network can be accessed through a single point of contact via DakotaLink’s toll free telephone number, accessible website, and print material. These efforts ensure that the needs of all individuals with disabilities in all areas of the state are being met. DakotaLink will continue the facilitation of the ongoing growth of a network of providers for device loan and assume a role as a central point of contact in the referral process.

The overall goal of the first year of the Device Loan Program was to design a system by which family members and practitioners as well as individuals with disabilities will be able to borrow a device and use that device in an appropriate environment in order to make a decision about acquisition. By allowing individuals with disabilities and professionals to borrow AT devices, South Dakotans are offered an opportunity to try out a device before they buy. It also meets the interim needs of individuals with disabilities whose own devices are being repaired or to those who are waiting for the approval of the purchase of a device.

As the equipment loan program **has not had** the capacity to conduct the program in a fully comprehensive manner, the second and third year plan activities will revolve around supporting and growing the program, including identifying additional device loan needs and gaps in services and determining appropriate strategies to meet the continuing and growing AT loan needs. Collaborative partnerships will be an integral part of the device loan program and DakotaLink will continue to take the lead in developing partnerships and will provide opportunities through meetings and/or professional development opportunities to facilitate the ongoing relationships.

An additional responsibility of DakotaLink during years two and three will be to explore avenues to develop the comprehensiveness of the device loan program by “filling in the gaps” in which types of devices needed by specific demographic groups might be missing. **As a means to fill one “identified gap DakotaLink, through collaboration with the South Dakota Department of Education Division of Special Education, has secured a financial commitment for year two in the amount of \$200,000 for the acquisition of additional devices specific to the device loan needs of students, parents, and educators in the South Dakota K-12 system. In addition to this effort** strategies will be explored to increase the number and types of devices available including:

State: South Dakota

1. Working with medical providers on a campaign to encourage individuals who currently own durable medical equipment that they no longer need to donate the items to the device loan program to increase the selection of equipment available through the program.
2. Working with disability service providers on a campaign to encourage organizations and individuals with disabilities who currently own assistive equipment but no longer need it to donate it to the device loan program increase the selection of equipment available through the program.
3. Explore the feasibility of a partnership with AT vendors throughout the region to develop a program to refurbish used devices as some devices may be made available and usable with minor repairs and upgrades and provided to individuals with disabilities through the device loan program.

5.4 Device Demonstration Program – Describe how the State will implement a device demonstration program as described in section 4(e)(2)(D) of the Act.

Four demonstration centers are currently maintained by DakotaLink. With one Assistive Technology Specialist at each site, three of the demonstration centers are located in the Eastern third of the state and one serves the western most communities. Currently, any of the appropriate targeted individuals specified within the AT Act may access a demonstration center by making an appointment with the Assistive Technology Specialist who will link the individual with devices appropriate to their needs, provide opportunities for individuals to operate the devices, and offer additional information and referral as appropriate.

Assistive Technology Specialists also provide demonstrations to groups by request at remote locations as well as presenting to groups and individuals at disability specific conferences, workshops and trainings throughout the State.

Despite the efforts to provide demonstration access at off-site events, DakotaLink acknowledges that the current demonstration center system is not statewide in that individuals may still be required to drive distances of one hundred miles or more to access a Center or presentation. In addition, the limited number of devices currently available decreases the comprehensiveness of the program and thus has not been efficiently or effectively marketed recently.

Given these challenges, during the first year of the plan, the major focus of activities within the device demonstration domain **identified** strategies for a device demonstration program consistent with the requirements of the AT Act and able to meet the diverse needs of the rural regions of the state with particular emphasis on increasing the availability of services to individuals residing within the Reservation areas of the state.

State: South Dakota

In order to create a seamless system in which constituents are able to access demonstration centers as needed, DakotaLink **explored** partnerships with existing organizations that maintain an infrastructure consistent with the needs of a AT demonstration center.

The State currently supports nine WIA Service Centers which are geographically distributed by region that exist as the Career Learning Centers of South Dakota. While each Center offers programming consistent with the needs of the specific geographic region in which it is located, they all embrace employment training and education services as their main purpose and work in conjunction with the State Workforce Development Council.

Each of the Career Learning Centers **has been** equipped with commonly used and diverse AT devices for their consumers with disabilities. In an ongoing effort to meet the AT access needs of individuals with disabilities across the state through expanded demonstration centers **DakotaLink intends to offer additional devices, training, and technical assistance as the staff at the Centers support the day to day operations in the second and subsequent years of the Act. The success of this effort may be hampered by recent program changes and reductions in financial support to the Centers from the United States Department of Labor.** Other options will **continue to be explored** as part of the proposed demonstration center plan and may include partnering with local school districts, independent living centers, and/or other service providers.

In year two and subsequent years, demonstration centers will continue to be supported through DakotaLink and grow in scope and depth of availability of services based on ongoing data collection and analysis of the needs of the appropriate targeted individuals and entities. Ongoing support may include expanding and updating the AT inventory available for demonstration, providing ongoing staff training and technical support, engaging in public awareness and marketing of the demonstration sites (see Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities for a detailed description of the public awareness activities), providing on-site assistance to consumers and increasing the availability of services to individuals residing within the Reservation areas of South Dakota.

State: South Dakota _____

Attachment 6: Comparable Support

6.1 Source and Amount of Support – Identify the State-level activity for which there is comparable support, the source of this support, the amount of the support, and the project year for which this support is being provided.

Not Applicable

6.2 Comparability -- Demonstrate that this support is comparable in terms of funding and that the activities are comparable in terms of scope.

Not Applicable

6.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities and collaborate with the appropriate entity, if the comparable funds are provided to, or the activities are conducted by, an entity other than the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity.

Not Applicable

State: South Dakota _____

Attachment 7: State Flexibility

7.1 Activity – Identify each State-level activity the State is choosing not to carry out.

Not Applicable

7.2 Maintenance of Statewideness and Comprehensiveness – Demonstrate that the Statewide AT Program will continue to be comprehensive without conducting this activity.

Not Applicable

7.3 Achievement of Measurable Goals - Demonstrate that the State can reach its measurable education goals, employment goals, telecommunications and information technology goals, and community living goals without conducting such activities.

Not Applicable

7.4 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will coordinate activities and collaborate with entities in the State that do conduct this activity, if the State chooses not to conduct this activity because another entity already conducts it.

Not Applicable

Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities

8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities – Describe how the State will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education and businesses as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(i) of the AT Act.

DakotaLink conducts training activities throughout the state to promote assistive technology awareness and improve access to assistive technology devices and services. The audience of the current training programs includes individuals with functional limitations, the elderly, family members, service providers, medical professionals, and community members about the benefits of Assistive Technology. Individualized training for the use of specific kinds of assistive technology is offered by nationally certified Rehabilitation Technologists within the DakotaLink staff. Training is currently offered by request of individuals or groups. In addition, DakotaLink seeks opportunities to provide trainings at local, regional, and state conferences specific to disability issues including education, employment, independent living, and telecommunication/IT.

Training takes place on an individual, group, conference or community level, with audiences of consumers, professionals and policy-makers through Topic and Device Specific Workshops, DakotaLink Demonstration Centers, Team Evaluations and Assessments, as well as presentations at conferences, civic meetings, health fairs, professional and Consumer Meetings. Topics of training include:

- Accessible Electronic and Information Technology
- Empowerment and self advocacy
- Consumer Choice (selecting devices)
- Funding Issues Related to Assistive Technology
- Assistive Technology in the Classroom
- Alternative Computer Access
- Basics of Assistive Technology
- Assistive Technology for the Elderly
- Assistive Technology for Infants and Children
- Assistive Technology and the IEP

The overall goal of training is that individuals with disabilities and their families will obtain the needed appropriate assistive technology in a timely manner, resulting in maximum independence and productivity for the individual needing assistive technology.

Technical assistance is currently offered on an as-needed basis and can be requested through the DakotaLink main office or any of the demonstration centers via e-mail, telephone, or in person. Technical assistance is offered to current users of assistive technology who need additional support and/or information, individuals interested in the acquisition of assistive technology, family members, disability related service providers,

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employers, independent living centers and educational institutions at all levels. Technical assistance is provided both on and off site—usually at the convenience of the individual making the request. Technical assistance is provided in an effort to ensure that assistive devices are in proper working order, that individuals have the knowledge and skills to operate the equipment appropriately and efficiently and that the current or anticipated equipment is appropriate to the need of the user.

During year **two and all subsequent years of this** plan under the AT Act these training and technical assistance activities will continue and be monitored by the Lead Agency and the State Advisory Council in conjunction with DakotaLink and analyzed through consumer reaction surveys for their state-wideness and comprehensiveness to ensure that:

- All geographic areas of the state are being equally served with appropriate training and technical assistance for their demographics
- All appropriate targeted individuals and entities are being served through training and technical assistance opportunities
- The training and technical assistance activities being implemented are appropriate and meeting the needs of the individuals being served
- The training and technical assistance activities are in response to consumer driven needs.

Subsequent years of the plan period will support the modification of existing training and technical assistance activities based upon the data gathered during **the previous year to address the** statewide and comprehensive requirements of the AT Act and will be guided by the State Advisory Counsel as well as other stakeholders including individuals with disabilities who are users of AT. **Subsequent years** of the proposed plan will include the continuation of the previously described training and technical assistance plan through an action research spiral that includes collecting and analyzing data and action planning based on findings.

In addition to the above described activities, DakotaLink will collaborate and coordinate services with the South Dakota Transition Liaison Project and South Dakota Independent Living Centers in accordance with section 4(e)(3)(B)(i)(III) of the AT Act. The Transition Services Liaison Project (TSLP), is a state initiated project offered through two State Department of Human Service agencies –Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) and the State special education agency – Office of Special Education (OSE). The managing agency grantee is the division of rehabilitation services which contracts with Black Hills Special Services Cooperative for project management. The Transition Services Liaison Project can provide technical assistance and training to students, families, local school districts, and adult service agencies. The primary objective of TSLP is to provide a coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability promoting the movement from school to post-school activities. DakotaLink will provide information and technical assistance to the TSLP staff on a schedule consistent with other regularly occurring meetings and events including advisory board meetings and staff meetings to ensure that the most current and timely information is available as well as be available to answer questions and concerns

State: South Dakota

about needs of individual consumers with regard to AT access, acquisition, information and/or referral.

Among other activities, the TSLP hosts two major events for students with disabilities each year. The *Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities* is a unique career leadership training program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities to serve as delegates from their communities. *Catch the Wave* is a conference designed specifically for high school students who have a disability and are considering post-secondary education (either college or technical institutes). The AT Act implementing agency proposes to partner with the Transition Liaison Project for each of the three years of the plan to coordinate AT training and technical assistance at these two events to ensure that students with disabilities who are transitioning to post-secondary education or employment receive appropriate information and referral, have access to AT devices, and are able to make informed decisions about the acquisition of AT devices. As part of the coordination of these efforts, DakotaLink will ensure that each student participating in the *Youth Leadership Forum* and/or *Catch the Wave* receives on site assistive technology information, demonstration and technical assistance as needed and appropriate.

DakotaLink will also collaborate with and support efforts of the State-wide Independent Living Council (SILC) and the network of Independent Living Centers throughout the State to provide information on assistive technology devices and services to the clients they serve. The DakotaLink Advisory Council member representing the state wide independent living centers establishes a liaison between the State AT program and transition issues related to independent living needs.

8.2 Public Awareness Activities – Describe how the State will provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, informal assessments and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the AT Act.

DakotaLink’s public awareness activities are currently limited to the provision of information to service providers primarily in collaboration with partner organizations. Partners currently include:

South Dakota Advocacy Services (SDAS), an independent, private, non-profit, tax exempt corporation designated by the Governor to assist in providing protection and advocacy services to eligible South Dakotans. SDAS accepts tax-deductible contributions. With four offices in South Dakota services to individuals with disabilities and their families and caregivers are free of charge.

The South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities which is a disability advocacy organization and provides resources and advocacy for all individuals to exercise their rights and freedoms through on-site consultation, via telephone and e-mail and through an accessible website.

State: South Dakota

The South Dakota Independent Living Centers operating out of eight central and satellite offices and administered five separate organizations. The independent living centers advocate for the rights of equal inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life, identify and promote access to existing resources and to advocate for the development of new resources. Specific services of the independent living centers include independent living skills training, advocacy, information and referral, and peer support.

The Easter Seals of South Dakota who operate out of a centrally located office and are accessible by telephone, e-mail and their accessible website provide a number of services to individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers and professionals including an equipment reutilization program, an equipment loan program, individual economic assistance and an annual caregiver's conference.

Through existing relationships with the staff of these and other organizations, DakotaLink maintains regular contact **as** a central point of contact and provides up to date and ongoing information with regard to assistive technology access and acquisition information and DakotaLink activities. This information is provided verbally, through print material, and electronically; and is passed on by the partner programs to consumers as needed and appropriate.

Other public awareness activities include maintaining an accessible website; providing informational presentations at workshops, conferences, and trainings for individuals with disabilities, their families, and/or professionals; through print material distributed to organizations that serve individuals with disabilities; and through demonstrations at disability related conferences.

These public awareness activities **may not always be** statewide and comprehensive because they require requesting individuals/organizations to have current knowledge of DakotaLink's availability and expertise and workshops/conferences/trainings must be brought to the attention of DakotaLink staff well in advance of the event in order to make arrangements to participate.

Information and referral activities are currently conducted by all of DakotaLink staff at each site as well as during off-site activities. Information and referral is accessed via telephone, e-mail, the accessible website, and/or in person. Information and referral databases are available for use by DakotaLink staff to assist to share with individuals requesting services, however, are not updated on a regular basis, requiring staff to have extensive personal knowledge of available services, supports and resources.

During year one, DakotaLink **focused** on an analysis of the existing public awareness efforts through consumer survey activities designed to identify strengths, areas of concern, and gaps in services with regard to state-wideness and comprehensiveness of the current assistive technology public awareness, information and referral activities as well as a determination of appropriateness of the current activities. Based on this analysis DakotaLink **has developed** strategies to capitalize upon the strengths of the current public awareness activities and build capacity to strengthen areas of need. All of the

State: South Dakota

public awareness activities will be accomplished with the guidance of the State Advisory Council as well as other stakeholders including service providers and individuals with disabilities.

During years two and three of the plan DakotaLink will implement public awareness activities identified through the collaborative partnerships in year one. The public awareness strategies identified during year one may include presentations and demonstrations:

- In conjunction with regional conferences, workshops, and seminars for individuals with disabilities and their families as well as service providers. It is anticipated that these events will encompass all domains of AT access and acquisition including education, employment, community living and telecommunications.
- At educational in-service events such as beginning of the year local school district institutes.
- As part of regional and state leadership meetings of service providers in the domains of education, employment, community living and telecommunications.
- In cooperation with ongoing professional development opportunities for educators, employment specialists, community living professionals and those who work in the telecommunications field.
- To potential individual users and their family members and/or caregivers who seek such services.
- Across print, electronic, and digital media as appropriate.

As in year one, years two and three of the public awareness activities aimed at the access and acquisition issues of AT, the reaction to and the impact of the public awareness activities will be continually monitored with the assistance of the Lead Agency and the State Advisory Council and modified to ensure that they are statewide, comprehensive, and that they meet the needs of the appropriate targeted individuals and entities. In addition, steps will be taken to ensure equitable access to and participation in all program activities. These steps specifically include:

- Ensuring that all electronic information sources are Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act compliant
- Offering print material in alternative formats including large print and/or Braille format
- Ensuring that all facilities, including demonstration centers are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant

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- Specifically targeting public awareness activities to traditionally underserved populations, including the nine Native American Reservations in South Dakota.
- Ensuring that the State Advisory Council maintains diversity based on gender, race, national origin, color, disability, and age.

8.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and others to improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) of the AT Act.

The coordination of assistive technology activities throughout the state will be one of the significant activities to ensure a seamless process of access and acquisition of AT devices to individuals with disabilities that are both statewide and comprehensive. With one of the major goals of the State AT plan being the creation of a seamless service delivery system for AT access and acquisition, ensuring that all providers of services and technical assistance are working towards similar goals will be a critical step.

With the assistance of the State Advisory Council and the Lead Agency, measures **were** taken in the initial year of the project so that each of the state-level and state leadership activities outlined in Attachment 5 and Attachment 8 are implemented in a manner consistent with the development of:

- A comprehensive system of AT access and acquisition that meets the needs of all individuals with disabilities.
- A statewide system of AT access and acquisition that provides services to all individuals with disabilities who need/desire the services regardless of their geographical location without burdensome travel
- A system that provides for the leveraging of resources—both human and fiscal—that efficiently meets the acquisition and access needs of individuals with disabilities efficiently and without duplication of resources.

With the guidance of the State Advisory Council and the Lead Agency, **DakotaLink, during the first year of the proposed plan, provided** leadership in the development of a database of AT access and acquisition. An ad-hoc committee of stakeholders—including service providers and individuals with disabilities—**was established to provide ongoing input and guidance to maintain current information on those access and acquisition resources available and support a process in which information and referral can best be provided to appropriate targeted individuals.**

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During the first year of the proposed plan a system for a clearinghouse of information regarding AT access and acquisition **was identified utilizing the DakotaLink website and partner publications and newsletters. This system will be implemented within the second year and monitored and maintained in subsequent years providing opportunities to engage in public awareness activities described in Attachment 8.2 in order to support on-going coordination and collaboration and to grow utilization of the resources available.**

Stakeholders and representatives on the committee include representatives from:

- The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Service Centers and/or other employment leadership programs.
- The seven South Dakota Education Service Agencies who provide regional staff development and technical assistance to local school districts, including those who have been deemed in need of improvement under No Child Left Behind.
- Independent Living Centers
- Information and communication technology program providers
- Individuals with disabilities and their families
- Other service providers and program administrators

Attachment 9: Involvement of Public and Private Entities

9.1 Nature and Extent of Resources – Describe the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators to assist in accomplishing identified goals.

Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC), a legal entity educational cooperative and qualified Local Education Agency (LEA), has been asked by the collaborative partners—The South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services, DakotaLink, and the State Advisory Council to serve as the implementing entity for the State Assistive Technology Program. BHSSC, along with its partners has committed significant resources to the project and to participant success. These human & tangible resources are delineated in the budget, budget narrative and throughout the attachments. Briefly, BHSSC’s committed support includes:

- Fiscal and overall management for the State Assistive technology program
- Facilities, equipment, technology and other resources for management personnel
- Full utilization of all equipment and educational resources within the organization including facilities, furnishings, and office technology for project staff.
- Full access to computer learning labs, classrooms, and conference rooms as needed
- Equipment and educational materials including computers, network technologies and Internet connectivity, application and instructional software and library resources.
- Education and technology support, and support staff assistance and support.

Collaborative partners that provide service, support and advocacy to individuals with disabilities have committed additional resources to the project. These partners include:

- The South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services
- The South Dakota Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired
- The South Dakota Education Service Agencies
- The South Dakota Department of Labor through the Career Learning Centers of South Dakota
- The South Dakota Independent Living Centers

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- Advocacy Groups including the South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities
- Organizations and entities represented by individuals on the State Advisory Council.

Resources committed by these entities and organizations include:

- Access to educational materials and resources
- Access to facilities including computer learning labs and classrooms at remote sites
- Access to equipment and materials including computers, network technologies and Internet connectivity, application and instructional software, textbooks and library resources where applicable
- Consultation, technical assistance, and program development
- Public awareness and information dissemination support

9.2 Mechanisms to Ensure Coordination - Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the implementing entity, if any, and the State.

Coordination of activities between Black Hills Special Services Cooperative/DakotaLink as the implementing agency and the State will be accomplished in the following ways:

- Regular contact and consultation between the Program Director from the Lead Agency and the Program Director from the implementing entity.
- Regular contact and consultation between the Program Contact from the Lead Agency and the Program Contact from the implementing entity
- Lead Agency representation on the Advisory Council for the South Dakota Assistive Technology Program
- Contractual oversight of the implementing entity by the Lead Agency

9.3 Involvement of State Advisory Council - Describe the nature and extent of the involvement of the State Advisory Council in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals required in section 4(d)(3).

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The purpose of the Advisory Council for the South Dakota Technology Related Assistance Service Program – DakotaLink is to provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to the State for, planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of activities carried out through the Assistive Technology Grant of 1998, as amended in 2004, including setting measurable goals for the Program.

The Council in consultation with the Department of Human Services shall:

- Advise the Department and DakotaLink on the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities and the professionals who provide them with service.
- Assist the Department and DakotaLink in identifying and prioritizing strategies to make assistive technology more available to South Dakota citizens with disabilities, consistent with the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004.
- Assist the Department and DakotaLink in designing meaningful outcomes for activities
- Serve on ad-hoc workgroups to design and refine services
- Identify and support collaborative initiatives whose goals and activities align with and help further the goals of DakotaLink

The qualifications for the Council specify persons knowledgeable of Assistive Technology. A majority, not less than 51 percent, of the members shall be individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology or the family members or guardians of individuals with disabilities that use assistive technology. Members representing State units designated in the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 as amended in 2004: a state center for independent living, the state workforce investment board, the state education agency, or representatives of other state agencies, public agencies or private organizations shall not count toward the majority membership requirement of 51 percent.

The Advisory Council has a Chairperson elected by majority vote who presides over all meetings. The Chairperson, in cooperation with the lead and implementing entities, schedules all meetings of the Council and performs all duties relevant to the office. The Chairperson represents the Council in dealing with other organizations and at public meetings and conferences, unless an alternate is designated to do so.

The Advisory Council meets as often as necessary, as determined by the Chairperson and in cooperation with the Department of Human Services and DakotaLink. All meetings are open to the public in accordance with the State open meetings law, SDCL 1-25-1. Meeting notices and minutes will be posted on the DakotaLink website.

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Attachment 10: State Support

10.1 State Support for State-level Activities – If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State-level activities described in section 4(e)(2).

Not Applicable

10.2 State Support for State Leadership Activities - If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State Leadership activities described in section 4(e)(3), if applicable.

Not Applicable

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Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds

11.1 Tracking Expenditures – Describe planned procedures for tracking expenditures for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

DakotaLink, through Black Hills Special Services Cooperative’s well-established infrastructure, is well positioned to assume leadership for all required components of the AT Act including the allocation and utilization of funds. BHSSC uses an electronic time/travel/expense report system to track the utilization of human resources and to code specific activities to general ledger numbers.

Within this system, DakotaLink staff members will be able to differentiate their daily activities as either statewide or state leadership activities to ensure the 60/40 allocation. From this report, which is submitted on a monthly basis, the BHSSC business office can transfer the time/travel/expense distribution to general ledger categories. All other expenses will be differentiated by their actual purpose and coded to their appropriate categorization through the application of established fiscal procedures and generally accepted accounting principles.

11.2 Proposed Budget Allocations – Attach a budget containing proposed allocations for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

The following are proposed budget allocations for State Leadership and State Level Activities for **Year 2** of the program.

<u>Proposed Allocation</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Total of Award Amount</u>	
		<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Indirect Costs/Administrative Fee	8%	\$ 28,025.00	8% \$ 28,173.00
State Level Activities	65%	\$229,084.00	63% \$231,235.00
State Leadership Activities	27%	\$ 96,227.00	29% \$104,640.00
<i>Leadership Activities</i>	<i>95% (of 27%)</i>	<i>\$ 91,199.00</i>	<i>90 % (of 29%) \$94,349.00</i>
<i>Transition</i>	<i>5% (of 27%)</i>	<i>\$ 5,028.00</i>	<i>10% (of 29%) \$10,291.00</i>
TOTAL		\$353,336.00	\$364,048.00

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With the Above Budget, DakotaLink proposes to apportion funds for specific activities in the following manner.

State Level Activities	Proposed Allocations	
	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
State Financing Activities	\$30,000.00	\$33,000.00
Device Reutilization Activities	\$50,000.00	\$65,000.00
Device Loan Activities	\$96,084.00	\$63,235.00
Device Demonstration Activities	\$53,000.00	\$70,000.00
State Leadership Activities	Proposed Allocation	
	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Training and Technical Assistance Activities	\$38,199.00	\$37,762.00
Public Awareness Activities	\$36,000.00	\$33,000.00
Coordination and Collaboration Activities	\$17,000.00	\$23,587.00
Transition Activities	\$ 5,028.00	\$10,291.00