

PRESS RELEASE

State of South Dakota



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CONTACT: Emily Kiel at (605) 773-4165 or Emily.Kiel@state.sd.us

South Dakota's Broadband Initiative Awards 26 Technology Grants

PIERRE, S.D. – Twenty-six Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) across the state will receive funding from the South Dakota Broadband Initiative (SDBI) for a wide variety of technology improvements and expansions to continue improving their computer infrastructure. The funding is part of the federal Department of Commerce's National Telecommunication and Information Administration's (NTIA) State Broadband Initiative (SBI).

"The projects funded through these grants provide local service organizations with the tools and infrastructure they need to continue improving their technology environments to better serve community members," said Jim Edman, Deputy Commissioner for the state Bureau of Information and Telecommunications and Project Manager for the SDBI. "When communities continue to invest, improve and expand their computer infrastructure; they increase broadband services, usage and adoption; a key goal for the State Broadband Initiative."

In July, the SDBI first awarded technology grants to 15 CAIs for projects exceeding \$112,000 in total. Today, 26 CAIs are receiving awards for projects totaling over \$205,000.

A list of the institutions awarded grants is provided below. Included for each CAI is the total cost of the proposed project which reflects a required 20 percent matching investment through cash, in-kind or both.

1. **Active Generations, Sioux Falls** (\$12,203.75)
2. **Brookings Public Library, Brookings** (\$6,340.01)
3. **City of Huron, Huron** (\$6,273.15)
4. **City of Lennox, Lennox** (\$9,007.50)
5. **City of Madison, Madison** (\$8,416.75)
6. **City of Whitewood, Whitewood** (\$9,627.26)
7. **Community Memorial Hospital, Redfield** (\$12,473.88)
8. **Dakota Club Library, Eagle Butte** (\$6,593.43)
9. **Dorothee Pike Memorial Library, Lake Preston** (\$1,900.01)
10. **Gregory Public Library, Gregory** (\$6,088.51)
11. **Hanson School District, Alexandria** (\$12,175.06)
12. **Hill City Public Library, Hill City** (\$6,676.66)

13. **Hitchcock-Tulare School District, Hitchcock-Tulare** (\$9,966.40)
14. **Hot Springs Public Library, Hot Springs** (\$3,573.00)
15. **Huron Police Department, Huron** (\$5,171.00)
16. **ICAP, Sioux Falls** (\$12,285.00)
17. **Immaculate Conception School, Watertown** (\$9,529.00)
18. **Madison Central School District, Madison** (\$10,384.76)
19. **McCook Central Community, Salem** (\$9,877.33)
20. **NewTec, Aberdeen** (\$8,575.00)
21. **Rapid City Public Libraries, Rapid City** (\$1,810.00)
22. **Sioux YMCA, Dupree** (\$9,239.91)
23. **The Bridge Wesleyan Church, Pierre** (\$6,500.00)
24. **Vermillion Public Library, Vermillion** (\$12,258.06)
25. **Wall Community Library, Wall** (\$3,441.31)
26. **Whitewood Public Library, Whitewood** (\$4,733.04)

These awards provide funding for technology improvements in the areas of:

- Firewalls (a form of cyber security) to protect computers against malware, spyware, viruses and other threatening content.
- Network switches to ensure uptime and stability as well as increase network speeds and performance.
- Wireless equipment for mobile connectivity and increased performance.
- New or additional laptops and desktops to provide access to broadband services.

Upon request, the SDBI Technology Planning team will assist the CAI staff and their technology partners with the implementation of the equipment into their infrastructure. The Technology Planning and Computer Ownership program is one segment of the overall SDBI. The primary purpose is to provide CAIs with technology consulting and solutions pertaining to their technical infrastructure and broadband connectivity. Eligible institutions include libraries, medical and healthcare facilities, K-12 schools, institutions of higher education, public safety offices, government and tribal offices, and community support locations.

About South Dakota Broadband Initiative (SDBI): The purpose of the SDBI is to inventory, enhance and increase the adoption of high-speed broadband. Visit <http://broadband.sd.gov/>, email broadband@state.sd.us, or call 605-773-4165 for more information.