

Autism Spectrum Disorders Program

Celebrating its 22nd Year of Excellence



SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
The University of South Dakota
CENTER FOR DISABILITIES

Impact:

Nationally, federal funding for autism has increased. Based on national prevalence rates of 1 in 110 individuals having an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009, December), in South Dakota it can be estimated that 7,385 individuals have an ASD based on a SD population of 812,383 citizens (US Census, 2009, July). The **lifetime cost** of caring for and treating a person with an ASD in the U.S. is estimated to be **\$3.2 million**. Lost productivity (of both the individual with autism and their parents) and adult care are the most expensive components (Ganz, 2007). The Autism Spectrum Disorders Program provides consultation for professionals and families so they may better help South Dakotans with autism be as independent as possible. **The state's \$125,000 support of the ASD Program allows us to provide early diagnosis and interventions and to train others across the state to provide effective services that reduce South Dakota's lifetime cost of supporting individuals with autism.**



We provide services to every county in South Dakota, serving over 13,000 individuals since 1989:

- Training to families, caregivers, and professionals on identifying, treating, and educating individuals with autism spectrum disorders - to date, over 100 trainings for which graduate credit was offered including the only graduate level courses offered in SD, and over 500 inservices. Provided training to over 500 university students.
- Consultation with families, professionals, schools, and adult agencies, over 3,000 to date
- Diagnosis and assessment of individuals suspected of having an autism spectrum disorder - over 500 to date
- Intervention and treatment
- Family Support
- Resource and Information Dissemination

Historical Background:

1989: Initial funding of \$25,000 obtained from the state of South Dakota through the grassroots efforts of families.

1991: Funding increased to \$125,000 and was granted through the Department of Education.

Today: Funding continues at \$125,000 through the Department of Human Services, representing approximately 1/3 of the program's operating expenses. Funding is crucial to providing the foundation from which other grants and contracts are generated to fully carry out the intent of the ASD Program.

Center for Disabilities is the only university-based, independent source of Autism Spectrum Disorders services and supports in South Dakota.



SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
The University of South Dakota
CENTER FOR DISABILITIES

1400 West 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
1-800-658-3080
1-605-357-1439
www.usd.edu/cd
cd@usd.edu



I can't say enough good things about your staff and facility.

They were kind and professional and gave us a good deal of useful information. Thanks!

-Parent after receiving diagnostic services

The Autism Program consultant knew right away what needed to be done and went to work.

It was especially appreciated that she was sensitive to the time (cost) and didn't waste any time.

She was very knowledgeable and effective. We will be contacting her for further services.

-Professional after receiving consultation services

References

Autism Society of America. (2007) Government Accounting Office Report.
Ganz, M. L. (2007). The Lifetime Distribution of the Incremental Societal Costs of Autism. Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine, 161, 343-349

Dedicated to *Life* Without Limits