A Roadmap to Services in South Dakota for People with Developmental Disabilities
The Center for Disabilities, through a grant from the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities, developed this road map to assist in accessing services for people with disabilities in South Dakota. While we may not have answered every question or covered every possible resource in the state, we hope you will find the information useful and that it gives you a starting point for accessing resources.

A Roadmap to Services in South Dakota for People with Developmental Disabilities

Like gender and ethnicity, disability is simply one of many characteristics of being human.

One in every five Americans is a person with a disability.

A person with a disability is more like people without disabilities than different.

Having a disability is a natural part of the human experience.

U.S. Developmental Disability Act

If we live long enough, we may all experience disability.
What is a Developmental Disability

Under the federal definition (PUBLIC LAW 106-402-OCT. 30, 2000):

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

A. IN GENERAL -- The term "developmental disability" means a

1. severe, chronic disability of an individual that --
   is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination
   of mental and physical impairments;
2. is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
3. is likely to continue indefinitely;
4. results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the
   following areas of major life activity:
   a. Self-care.
   b. Receptive and expressive language.
   c. Learning.
   d. Mobility.
   e. Self-direction.
   f. Capacity for independent living.
   g. Economic self-sufficiency; and
5. reflects the individual’s need for a combination and sequence
   of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized
   supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or
   extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.
In South Dakota, the Center for Disabilities (CD), South Dakota Advocacy Services (SDAS) and the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council) comprise the state’s DD Network. Together, these three agencies work to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

Center for Disabilities

The Center for Disabilities (CD) has been serving South Dakota for more than 35 years as part of a national network of University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). UCEDDs build the capacities of states and communities to respond to the needs of individuals with disabilities and special healthcare needs and their families.

CD works with others to create opportunities that enhance the lives of people with disabilities and their families through training, services, information, research and community education. These activities are delivered across the lifespan from a community-based, family-centered and culturally-competent perspective. Find out more about the Center at www.usd.edu/cd or by calling 1-800-658-3080.

South Dakota Advocacy Services (SDAS) is a private non-profit organization designated by the Governor to protect the rights of people with disabilities in South Dakota. It is the mission of this agency to protect and advocate for the rights of South Dakotans with disabilities through legal, administrative and other remedies. As the designated protection and advocacy system in South Dakota, SDAS has unique authority under Federal Law to access facilities, people receiving services in facilities and records that pertain to their care. Offices are located in Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Yankton. Intake
calls are accepted between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at this toll free number, 1-800-658-4782. Find out more about SDAS at www.sdadvocacy.com.

SDAS provides the following services:
• Advice, information and referral regarding disability concerns, laws and rights;
• Investigates allegations of abuse and neglect in residential and inpatient facilities;
• Mediation and negotiation;
• Presentations and public education;
• Representation in administrative hearings and legal proceedings; and
• Self-advocacy support and training.

SDAS collaborates closely with the other agencies in the Developmental Disabilities Network to establish and work toward mutual goals that provide people with developmental disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of society and ensure that they are treated with equity, dignity and respect.

The South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities is a 23-member board appointed by the Governor. The federal Developmental Disabilities Act authorizes each state to establish a Council to address the unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities through advocacy, capacity building and systems change activities. The Council’s Mission Statement reads: “To assist people with developmental disabilities to control their own destiny and to achieve the quality of life they desire.” Council activities focus on the INCLUSION of people with developmental disabilities in their communities - where they live, learn, work, volunteer and participate in leisure activities.

The Council offers travel assistance to people with developmental disabilities and their families to attend meetings, workshops and conferences, both in-state and out-of-state. Grants to impact systems through increasing skills and capacity are available to address the Council’s areas of emphasis. Applications are available from the Council Office or through the Council’s website: dhs.sd.gov/ddc/ or call toll-free: 1-800-265-9684.
There are many programs available for families of children with developmental disabilities and adults with developmental disabilities. These programs provide support to those who need it in the hopes of keeping families together and people with disabilities leading happy, healthy lives in the way they wish to. Here are a few programs to help you get started in your search for finding community support programs:

**Family Support 360/PLANS (People Leading Accessible Networks of Support) Program**

A program that you or your child may be eligible for is the Family Support 360/PLANS Program which provides a variety of services and supports to families of children and adults with a developmental disability. Family Support 360/PLANS Programs offer service coordination and financial assistance for supports designed to help families stay together or for adults with developmental disabilities to remain in their communities.

Only children with a developmental disability living with natural, adopted, stepfamily or relatives who act in parental capacity; adults with developmental disabilities living independently in the community or adults with developmental disabilities living with a family member, legal guardian or advocate are eligible for Family Support 360/PLANS. Some funding sources have an income eligibility, but not all.
Respite Care

Everyone needs a break now and then and that is exactly what the Respite Care Program is designed for. Respite, a break for caregivers and families, is temporary relief care provided to a child or adult with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and to persons at risk of abuse and neglect. Respite Care can be utilized on a regular or occasional basis and is intended to reduce family stress and support family stability. Providers, chosen by the family or caretaker, can be family members, friends, skilled care providers or professionals.

Any family having a child or adult family member who has a developmental disability, a developmental delay (children only), a serious emotional disturbance, a severe and persistent mental illness, a chronic medical condition (children only), a traumatic brain injury or a child they have adopted may be considered for respite care services.

- Respite care is available to eligible families regardless of income.
- There is no age limit; however, the child or adult must live with a parent or family member.
- The child or adult’s diagnosis and source of the diagnosis must be noted on the application form. Documentation of the diagnosis must accompany the application form.

For more information on Respite Care, go to dhs.sd.gov/dd/respite/index.aspx or contact the South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities at (605) 773-3438 or 1-800-265-9684.

Navigator Program

Sometimes, along the way, assistance is needed from a third party to guide a family and school through a difficult time in the planning process. The South Dakota Navigator Program is designed to improve the family-school partnership and to provide individualized guidance and direction to both parents and schools regarding special education and related services. It is the hope that through the assistance of the SD Navigator Program the result will be respectful interactions between families and school personnel, effective and productive IEP meetings, and lead to the best possible discussions and decisions regarding each student’s educational program.

Either the school district or a family may request the involvement of a Navigator. For more information on the Navigator Program, call (605) 361-3171 or email sdpc@sdparent.org or go to their website at www.sdparent.org.
When a child is born until they are five years old, there are several resources available to assist those families who have concerns about their child’s development. Services are available through a state program when they are birth to three years old and then through the families’ local school district for three- to five-year-olds. Many other resources are also available to support families during this stage of a child’s development.

**Birth to 3 Connections**

One program for kids this age in South Dakota is called Birth to 3 Connections. If you have questions about your child’s development, the Birth to 3 Connections Program can assist you. The Birth to 3 Connections Program provides screenings for children under age three for developmental concerns in the areas of thinking, language, social or emotional growth, self-help and physical growth.

This free screening is a quick look at how your child is learning and growing. Different kinds of assessments and questions will be used to learn how to best assist your child. The results of the screening will be discussed with you within five days of the time the screening is completed. At that point, the following decisions may be made: your child’s development is fine at this point; another screening will be scheduled in several months; a referral to other helpful sources will be made; or a more formal evaluation is needed. If an evaluation shows that service are needed for your child, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed.

For more information on the Birth to 3 Program, go to doe.sd.gov/oess/Birthto3/index.asp or contact the South Dakota Department of Education at (605) 773-3134.

**Early Childhood Preschool Program for 3-5 Year Olds**

When a child is between the ages of three and five years old, services transition from Birth to 3 Connections to services being provided by your local school district. Prior to your child turning three years old, your team will sit down with representatives from your local school district and develop a new plan called an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

If your child did not receive services through the Birth to 3 Connections Program, but you have a concern about their development, you may contact
your local school district to request a screening.

If your child qualifies for services through your local school district, they may participate in an early childhood program depending on their needs. Services may include: special instruction, audiology, counseling services, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language therapy.

For more information on the Preschool Grants Program, go to doe.sd.gov/oess/specialed/619.asp or contact the South Dakota Department of Education, Special Education Programs at (605) 773-3134 or contact your local school district.

**Children’s Special Health Services (CSHS) -- Health KiCC - Better Health for Kids with Chronic Conditions**

A program that may be of assistance to you and your family is CSHS - Health KiCC which provides financial assistance for medical appointments, procedures, treatments, medications and travel reimbursement for children with certain chronic health conditions. For an eligible family, the program will cover the entire cost after third party payment sources have been billed. Assistance is limited to $20,000 per fiscal year.

At your request, a care coordinator can assist you in explaining the services your child may need. This could include things such as connecting to other resources; identifying the best options for your particular situation or needs; and helping to prepare your child for transitions at daycare, school and into adulthood.

To be eligible for this program, you must live in South Dakota, have a child who is under the age of 21 and has a chronic medical condition covered by CSHS - Health KiCC. A family’s income must be less than 250% of the federal poverty guidelines (for a family of four this amount was $53,000 in 2008).

For more information on this program, go to www.children.sd.gov or contact the South Dakota Department of Health, CSHS - Health KiCC at 1-800-305-3064.

**Child Care Assistance Program**

There is assistance available for low-income families to help pay for child care while you work, attend school or both. Eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program is based on the family’s gross income and household size. The program helps pay for child care for children under age 13 (or up to age 18 for children with special needs) if the family’s income is less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; however, individualized assistance may be available so please contact the Child Care Assistance Program office to visit about your circumstances.

To apply for assistance, a family must complete an application available from any local office or One-Stop Career Center or from the Child Care Services office in Pierre. To request an application, call 1-800-227-3020, email CCS@state.sd.us or go to dss.sd.gov/childcare/ to learn more about the Child Care Assistance Program.
Each school district has the responsibility to provide a free, appropriate public education to every child in the community either until graduation or age 21, whichever comes first. This responsibility extends to children with special educational needs. If your child qualified for and received services through your local school district for early childhood, you and your school team would have met to plan for the transition to kindergarten through the yearly Individualized Education Plan (IEP) update.

If your child has not qualified for special education services, an evaluation is the first step in determining if such services are appropriate. Children qualify for additional assistance if:

- They have a disability that restricts one or more major life activities such as caring for themselves, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working and learning.

- They have a disability in one of 13 defined disability groups that affects their ability to learn.

For a child to be considered for special education services, a referral must be made. That referral can come from your family physician, a staff member at the school or can be made directly by you. You can start the process by sending a
letter to the principal of your child’s school asking that your child be evaluated for special education services along with the reasons for the request.

If your child is determined to be eligible for special education services, you and representatives from your school will work together to determine what services are needed for your child and to develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The IEP is the official document that says what services the school district must provide for your child. In addition to direct education services, the IEP will also discuss related services that may be necessary to assist your child in reaching the educational goals. Related services include such things as transportation or therapy.

Each year, there will be a review of your child’s progress. The annual review involves teachers and other staff who are a part of your child’s program. This review is meant to see if your child’s IEP is still appropriate. At the meeting, your child’s progress and goals will be discussed. In addition to the annual reviews, the school will conduct a re-evaluation at least once every three years. The purpose of the re-evaluation is to see if new services should be recommended or if there are services that are no longer necessary.

Preparing For The Future . . . Transition

Transition services are an important part of special education. Transition is a process that helps you define goals that will take you from high school into adulthood. These goals are based on your strengths, preferences and interests. It includes planning through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) and should document all the supports and services you need to make a smooth and productive transition out of school.

Transition planning must be in effect when a child turns 16, or younger if appropriate. This is a great opportunity to plan for your future. Your IEP should include a transition plan and address your goals for after high school. One way to complete that plan is by using Person-Centered Planning (PCP). Person-Centered Planning is a process designed to assist someone to make plans for their future. It is used most often as a life-planning model to enable people with disabilities to increase their personal self-determination and improve their own independence. PCP is a wonderful way to map out what you want your life to be. For more information on Person-Centered Planning, go to www.pacer.org/tatra/resources/personal.asp.

Some important things to talk about and address during transition planning are:

- What do you want to do? Do you want to go to college? Enlist in military service? Do you want to find a job? Do you want to do volunteer work?

- Where do you want to live? Do you want to live with your parents? Do you want to live with other people your age? Do you want to live in your own apartment?

- What do you want to be involved with in your community? Do you want to participate in recreation activities? How will you get to these activities? What are other opportunities that you want to participate in?

The transition plan should be meaningful to you and help you move toward your goals for after high school. By looking at the different areas listed above related to your life as an adult, you will be able to plan out your high school
course selection to match your vision for the future.

See the “Transition Guide” developed by the Transition Services Liaison Project. Contact the TSLP at (605) 224-5336 or 1-800-224-5336 to receive a copy.

**Transition Services Liaison Project**

During the time of planning and completing the transition process, a student with a disability may utilize the resources of the Transition Services Liaison Project (TSLP). The Transition Services Liaison Project has coordinators across the state whom provide technical assistance and training to students, families, local school districts and adult service agencies on the transition process.

For more information on the Transition Services Liaison Project, call (605) 224-5336 or 1-800-224-5336 or visit the website at [www.tslp.org](http://www.tslp.org).

Here are a few programs available through the TSLP:

**Catch The Wave**

If you are a high school student who has a disability and are considering post-secondary education (either college or technical institutes) then you should attend Catch the Wave. These one-day conferences will teach you about preparing for college life, securing appropriate accommodations and developing self-advocacy and communication skills. Highlights of the conference are panel discussions with people who have disabilities and have experienced a post-secondary setting, as well as Disability Coordinators from local college or technical institutes discussing entrance and eligibility requirements.

**Project Skills**

Many times, students with disabilities do not get an opportunity to gain paid work experience while in high school. Although willing, most employers cannot afford to provide the training and supports students frequently require on their first job. By covering the cost of wages and additional supports, Project Skills enables employers to provide students with valuable work experiences in a real work setting.

Project Skills, funded by the Division of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind & Visually Impaired, provides students the opportunity to learn different skills in a variety of job placements, with the assistance of a job coach. Project Skills will help to build the student’s work history, references and help them move into different and better jobs as they mature and are ready to take on new challenges.

**Regional Transition Forums**

These informal and interactive meetings are held each fall throughout the state, and are designed for high school educators and families to network and make connections with adult service agencies and resources. The forums are an opportunity for collaboration between the school, home and adult service agencies to ensure that students receive appropriate services and supports during the transition to adulthood process.
Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)

Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a unique five-day career and leadership training program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities to learn more about their own disability and others’ disabilities, their own strengths and weaknesses, decision-making and organizational skills, different leadership styles, the legislative process and disability laws, how to influence others, etiquette and much more.

YLF enables young adults who have a disability to learn from each other and from successful adults with disabilities who are recognized leaders and role models.

For more information about any of these programs, go to www.tslp.org or contact the Transition Services Liaison Project at (605) 224-5336 or 1-800-224-5336.

Additional resources for this age group:

- Center for Disabilities
- Children’s Miracle Network
- Family Support Program
- SD Advocacy Services
- SD Cares (formerly Easter Seals)
- SD Council on Developmental Disabilities
- SD Parent Connection

When you were in high school, you developed a plan for this stage of your life. If all went according to plan, you are doing what you enjoy doing and pursuing your goals. However, once you reach the age of 21, there are different programs that are available to you so that you can do and be all that you want.

As a person with a disability, you may have unique needs that qualify you for services and supports. During your school years, your services and supports may have been provided through the special education program through your local school district.

When you become an adult and leave the school system, you may need...
continued support to live in, work in and be a part of your community. Your family and friends may be able to provide some of these supports, but if you need additional support there are several options available to you.

**Family Support 360/PLANS (People Leading Accessible Networks of Support) Program**

Family Support 360/PLANS is a program for people with disabilities and their families. The mission of PLANS is to empower people to achieve their dreams through choice of services and supports. The program coordinators will do “whatever it takes” to provide people the ability to get the support they need. These services will make it easier for people to live in the community on their own. People who work for this program can help find the services you need to do this. The goals of the PLANS Program are to:

1. Help people make their own choices;
2. Help people live and work in their community; and
3. Help people find the supports that they want in their community.

**The PLANS Program offers:**

- Choice
- Individualized Services (services that work like you want them to)
- Independence (being able to do things on your own)
- Satisfaction (the feeling of being happy)
- Self-determination (setting goals and making your own decisions)
- Inclusion (being a part of things like everybody else)
- Self-advocacy (standing up for what you believe in)
- Cultural Sensitivity (respecting what you believe in because of your background)
- Flexibility (being willing to try new things)

For more information on the PLANS Program go to [dhs.sd.gov/dd/Family/index.aspx](http://dhs.sd.gov/dd/Family/index.aspx) or contact the South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities at (605) 773-3438 or 1-800-265-9684.

**Community Support Providers**

When you become an adult, one avenue of support in South Dakota is through non-profit community agencies called Community Support Providers (CSPs). There are 19 agencies providing support to more than 2,000 people with developmental disabilities in South Dakota in a variety of settings.

For many years, these agencies were known as Adjustment Training Centers (or ATCs). Community Support Providers offer support which may include residential, vocational, service coordination and nursing care. Services vary
from minimal supports for people living and working in their community to 24-hour care in a residential setting. CSPs work with the person and their family to establish an Individual Support Plan (ISP) based on person-centered planning.

If a public funding source is to be used for services, then eligibility is determined through the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Division of Developmental Disabilities can purchase services from certified agencies on behalf of people with developmental disabilities through the following funding sources:

**ICF/MR (Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded)**

A Medicaid program that provides funding for services to people with developmental disabilities at the South Dakota Developmental Center in Redfield. ICF/MR is based on a medical model with federal requirements.

ICF/MR funding can be used to support adults and children. This program requires a non-federal match which is usually about 1/3 of the reimbursement rate. Federal regulations are the basis for both financial eligibility and eligibility based on disability. Included in the funding provided by ICF/MR funding is the cost for room and board services.

For more information regarding the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ICF/MR information site, please visit the CMS website at [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov).

**HCBS Waiver (Home and Community-Based Service Waiver)**

In SD, there are two HCBS Waiver Programs - CHOICES and Family Support. The HCBS Waiver program is based on a waiver of federal regulations pertaining to the ICF/MR program. A state must submit and receive approval from the federal government to maintain their HCBS program. South Dakota began participating in this program in 1981. The waiver provides an alternative to the ICF/MR program. All 19 Community Support Providers participate in the HCBS program.

HCBS funding can be used to support children and adults. This program also requires a non-federal match of approximately 1/3 of the reimbursement rate. People usually use Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for room and board costs. Examples of services that are provided under the HCBS waiver program include case management, training and habilitation services, prevocational training and supported employment.

**CTS (Community Training Services)**

CTS is the only funding source available for services that is strictly state general funds. It is the smallest funding program, but also the most flexible. CTS is typically utilized for individuals who need less intensive services or who do not meet the financial eligibility for ICF/MR or HCBS funded services. The three main services that are provided under the CTS program are prevocational training, community living training and expanded follow along/support.

**Title XIX/Medicaid**

Title XIX of the Social Security Act is commonly referred to as Medicaid. In addition to ICF/MR and HCBS, Medicaid encompasses an array of
services including care provided in nursing facilities, health benefits, etc. Eligibility for Medicaid is determined by local Department of Social Services offices. For further information regarding Title XIX/Medicaid, please visit www.dss.sd.gov.

For more information on Community Support Providers, go to dhs.sd.gov/dd/atcs.aspx to download an application for services or contact the South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities at (605) 773-3438 or 1-800-265-9684.

Independent Living Centers

Another option is Independent Living Centers. To be eligible for services, a person must have:

1. A significant physical, mental, cognitive or sensory impairment;
2. Limited ability to function independently in the family or community or whose ability to obtain, maintain or advance in employment is substantially limited; and
3. For whom the delivery of independent living services will improve the ability to function, continue functioning, or move towards functioning independently in the family or community or to continue employment.

During the application process the independent living specialist will meet with you to begin assessing your disability and independent living needs. When the assessment is completed, you and your independent living specialist will set goals for you to achieve. There is no charge for services but some services are based upon your economic need.

A listing of Independent Living Centers is available at dhs.sd.gov/drs/il/county-il.aspx. Individuals should apply for services at the provider which serves the county in which they live.

South Dakota Developmental Center

If a person with a developmental disability is in need of more support, the South Dakota Developmental Center in Redfield is an option. The mission of the SD Developmental Center is to provide individualized services to people with developmental disabilities and challenging behaviors in a structured residential setting only when appropriate services are not available in the community and to develop supports that empower people to make appropriate life choices so they may successfully transition to the community.

For more information on the SD Developmental Center, go to dhs.sd.gov/sddc/ or call (605) 472-2400.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Another option is Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) which is a program from the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) that provides individualized vocational rehabilitation and supportive services to assist eligible individuals
with disabilities to get and keep jobs compatible with their skills and abilities.

The primary objective of the vocational rehabilitation program is to assist individuals with disabilities to find employment that is consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests and informed choice. Your plan for employment can include services to assist you in obtaining employment and keeping the job. After you obtain employment, your vocational rehabilitation counselor will follow-up to make sure everything is going well and that both you and your employer are satisfied.

VR services can include some of the following: the development of an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), vocational training, job coaching, assistive technology, worksite accommodations and more.

In order to be eligible for VR services, you must:

• Be a person with a disability (i.e., a physical or mental impairment) which constitutes or results in a substantial barrier to employment and can benefit from VR services to achieve an employment outcome.
• Require VR services to prepare for, secure, enter, engage in or retain employment.

DRS will gather and review your medical records, educational background, work history and related information, as needed, to determine specifically how your disability affects your ability to be employed and how vocational rehabilitation services might be of assistance to you. A qualified Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselor will determine if you are eligible for vocational rehabilitation services.

You may apply for vocational rehabilitation services by contacting a Rehabilitation Services office in your area. Applications are also available at the One-Stop Career Centers and the DRS home page at dhs.sd.gov/drs/vocrehab or contact the Division of Rehabilitation Services at (605) 773-3195 or 1-800-265-9684.

**Assistive Daily Living Services (ADLS) Program**

The Assistive Daily Living Services (ADLS) Program provides personal attendant services, case management, consumer preparation and ancillary services such as skilled nursing and emergency response services to individuals with quadriplegia.

To be eligible for the ADLS program, an individual:

• must be receiving personal attendant services, case management, consumer preparation or ancillary services.
• must be at least 18 years of age
• must have quadriplegia due to or resulting from ataxia, cerebral palsy, rheumatoid arthritis, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, a congenital condition, an accident or injury to the spinal cord, or another neuromuscular or cerebral condition or disease other than traumatic brain injury; or the individual has four limbs absent due to disease, trauma or congenital conditions.
• must be a recipient of SSI or must qualify for Medicaid as determined by the Department of Social Services
• must require nursing facility level of care
• if receiving personal attendant services, must be able to independently direct and manage the personal attendant services
• must be medically stable and free from life-threatening conditions.

For more information on the ADLS Program, go to dhs.sd.gov/drs/il/ADLS.aspx or contact the Division of Rehabilitation Services at (605) 773-3195 or 1-800-265-9684.

Supported Employment

Supported employment is when people with the most severe disabilities are working in the community alongside those who do not have disabilities. Supported employment is receiving the training at the job site and having available the necessary ongoing supports to help maintain the employment.

Traditionally supported employment services consist of job placement, job coaching and follow-along services. An individual receiving supported employment services is also eligible to receive any of the services available through the state Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

Any individual with the most severe disabilities who has been unable to obtain or maintain competitive employment because of their disability; and because of their disability needs intensive supported employment services, may apply for services at their local DRS Office.

For more information on supported employment, go to dhs.sd.gov/drs/vorehab/vr.aspx or contact the Division of Rehabilitation Services at (605) 773-3195 or 1-800-265-9684.

Home Ownership

There are many resources available if you want to explore the possibility of owning a home. A good place to start is to look at the SD Council on Developmental Disabilities website at dhs.sd.gov/ddc/housing.aspx or call the Council at (605) 773-6369 or 1-800-265-9684.

Additional resources for this age group:
- Center for Disabilities
- Pathways
- SD Advocacy Services
- SD Council on Developmental Disabilities
- SD Parent Connection

Refer to the Center for Disabilities’ “Resource Guide for People with Disabilities” handbook for specific contact information and information on other resources. You may obtain a copy of the “Resource Guide for People with Disabilities” by calling 1-800-658-3080 or on the web at www.usd.edu/cd.
Self-Advocacy

Self-advocacy is learning how to speak up for yourself, making your own decisions about your own life, learning how to get information so that you can understand things that are of interest to you, finding out who will support you in your journey, knowing your rights and responsibilities, problem solving, listening and learning, reaching out to others when you need help and friendship and learning about self-determination. Self-advocacy is important so that you have the knowledge needed to succeed and are given the chance to participate in decisions that are being made about your life.

Partners in Policymaking

Partners in Policymaking is an innovative leadership and advocacy training opportunity designed to involve and empower people with developmental disabilities, parents of children with disabilities and other family members. It requires a serious commitment by each participant during the course of the training, as well as after graduation. The expectation is that each Partner will commit to actively use the skills learned to encourage positive changes in the areas of community awareness, sensitivity, accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities.

A selection committee of past Partners in Policymaking graduates will review the applications and select the participants. The deadline is printed on the application. Selection is made each September. For more information contact: SD Advocacy Services at 1-800-658-4782 or 605-224-8294 or at www.sdadvocacy.com.

South Dakota Advocates for Change

South Dakota Advocates for Change is a group of people with disabilities whose role is to spread self-advocacy by encouraging self-advocates across the state to become more involved in their communities. The mission of SD Advocates for Change is to learn how to be stronger self-advocates; promote self-advocacy around the state; take action on issues that are important to self-advocates in South Dakota and find innovative ways to keep self-advocacy alive.

For more information on SD Advocates for Change, contact Chuck Henrie at (605) 430-8733 or email at chuckhenrie@msn.com or you may contact the SD Council on Developmental Disabilities at 1-800-265-9684.

Grievances and Appeals

If you are unhappy with the services from a school district or provider organization, you and your family have the right to report your complaint to them. Let your feelings and opinions be heard. If you are concerned about services you are receiving, contact the school district or organization and inquire about their grievance policy.