

Dakota Club library is located on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation which includes the poorest county in the nation. We have 10,000 people spread out over an area of 5 million square miles. Unemployment on the reservation is over 70%.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Prior to receiving assistance through the South Dakota Broadband Initiative the library had one computer available to the public that was using Windows XP. The computer was incredibly slow and we had to significantly limit the computer time for each patron. We were also limited in the types of programs we were able to offer to the citizens of this community. The South Dakota Broadband Initiative enabled the library to update the librarian's equipment and allowed us to offer eight computers to our patrons. We are regularly offering classes on resume writing job searching and basic computer skills. As a result seven individuals have obtained employment. Two of those individuals were behind on child support and are now paying child support.

Many individuals attend online college classes while remaining on the reservation so they may remain close to family. These individuals need affordable proctors for their exams. Many of the colleges that provide this service charge more than \$20.00 per exam. The library charges \$5.00. This opens up further opportunities for individuals to attend colleges where their degrees will earn them a job.

We are also able to offer practice tests for GED as well as the various professions such as nursing, teaching, electrician and others.

In a community where the median income for a family of four is \$8500 a year internet access at \$40-\$80 per month is prohibitive. Broadband access has made it possible for individuals to improve their condition by accessing the free services we provide.

Libraries are not in any way obsolete. We bring internet to the poor through this program and this program should be expanded.

Thank you
Very truly yours,

LEISAH C. BLUESPRUCE