

**NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services
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New Technology Center to open in Grand Forks
Latest assistive technology showcased

The North Dakota Department of Human Services, through its Rehabilitation Consulting and Services (RCS) initiative, is opening an assistive technology lab in Grand Forks that will allow people with disabilities and employers in the region to try specialized equipment. The public is invited to an open house and ribbon cutting event on Oct. 18, 2007, 2-4 p.m., at Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. Fourth St.

“The ‘*SOLUTIONS using AT*’ Assistive Technology Lab showcases employment-related devices that promote independence and functional abilities at work and school,” explained Brenda Satrom, Grand Forks RCS Consultant and Assistive Technology Coordinator. “The lab will give job seekers, employees, and employers an opportunity to learn about available technologies and to try equipment to assist with computer access, hearing, vision, learning, memory and organization issues,” she said.

The lab is the department’s second. It launched the first in 2001 in Bismarck to provide direct service and to build awareness of technology solutions for workers with disabilities.

Wanda Haaland Bye, director of field services for the department’s Vocational Rehabilitation Unit said, “We are excited about the opening of the new lab in Grand Forks and its potential impact. In light of the Governor’s desire to build and retain a qualified workforce for the 21st century, this lab gives individuals with a permanent injury, illness, or impairment access to technology that may help them enter the workforce or maintain their current employment. It also gives employers a chance to view technology that may keep a productive member of their team on the job following a disabling injury or illness.”

To schedule an appointment in the lab or for more information, call 701-795-3100 or TDD 701-795-3060.

The department’s vocational rehabilitation professionals assist individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment opportunities. The Rehabilitation Consulting and Services initiative is aimed at helping North Dakota business owners and employers find solutions to disability-related issues.

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