

## **What is the North Dakota Dual Sensory Project?**

The North Dakota Dual Sensory Project is a federally funded technical assistance and training program designed to enhance the provision of services for children and youth, birth through age 21, who are deaf-blind. The mission of the project is to help state educational agencies, local educational agencies, Part C agencies, early intervention service providers, teachers, service providers, and families address the educational, related services, transitional, and early intervention needs of children who are deaf-blind. The ultimate goal is to ensure that these children graduate from high school ready for competitive employment, post-secondary education, or independent living options. The North Dakota Dual Sensory Project is the sole statewide entity in North Dakota that has been funded to build state and local capacity to service children who are deaf-blind and their families.

Children who are deaf-blind are:

- Individuals who have mild to profound hearing loss and low vision to legal blindness that require adaptations or modifications.
- Individuals who have a diagnosed syndrome or pathology which impacts hearing and vision.
- Individuals with multiple or unique disabilities such as Cortical Vision Impairment or Central Auditory Processing Disorders who demonstrate inconsistent responses to hearing and vision evaluations or in their natural environments.

## **What Can the Project Do for You?**

The ND Dual Sensory Project has an office at the ND Center for Persons with Disabilities at Minot State University. However, it is tasked with providing training and technical assistance for children regardless of their location within the state. Many of our resources and materials are available online. Many of the general training events will be conducted using distance technology. But if staff need to be present in your town or school, please call! Project staff can provide or arrange for training, information dissemination, or technical assistance for individuals serving, or expecting to serve, children and youth with deaf-blindness. The age range covered is birth through age 21. The training and technical assistance can include educational staff and administrators, related services personnel, consultants, family members and the general community. This may be in the form of access to materials through the Project Library, connections with our in-state or out-of-state experts, connections with other families, webinars, online for-credit training, travel assistance to conferences and workshops, and connections with our resource agencies.