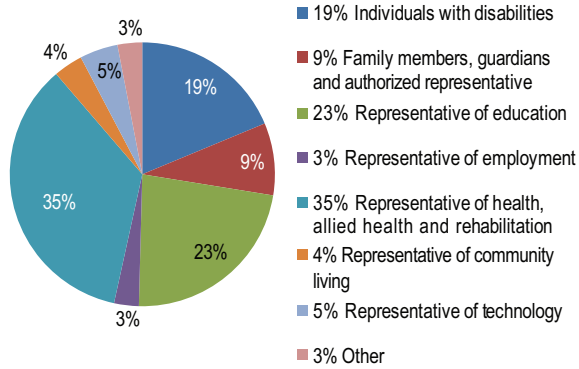
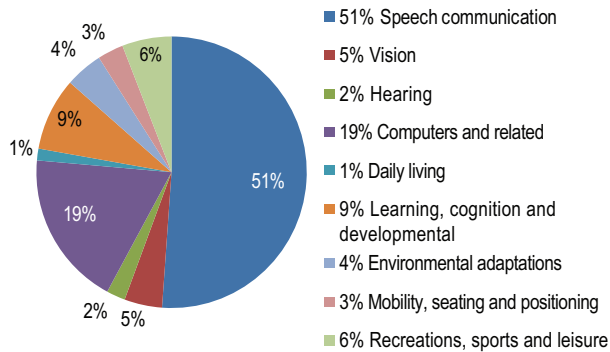


## Demonstration and loan program assisted Minnesotans

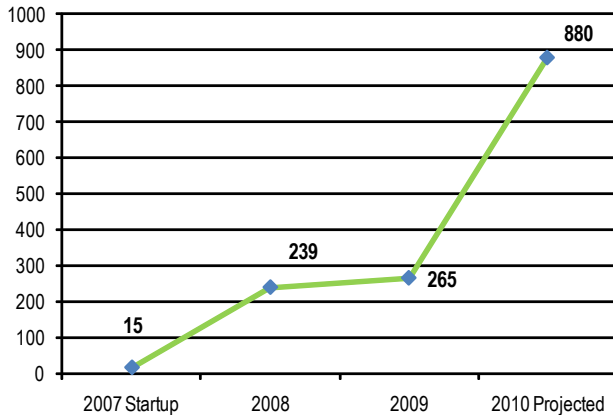
### Type of individual or entity



### Type of assistive technology (AT) provided



### Number of loans made



## Contact us

Minnesota STAR Program  
358 Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

651-201-2640 (main)  
888-234-1267 (toll free)  
800-627-3529 or 711 (Minnesota Relay)  
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[www.starprogram.state.mn.us](http://www.starprogram.state.mn.us) (website)

### Advisory Council Members

Jeanne Anderegg, St Paul, Congressional District 4, At-Large  
David Andrews, St Paul, State Services for the Blind  
Jennifer Delisi, Mendota Heights, Congressional District 4, At-Large  
Kursten Dubbels, Fergus Falls, Department of Education  
Mark Felling, Maple Grove, Congressional District 3, At-Large  
Cheire Frick, Remer, Congressional District 8, At-Large  
Ray Griffin, Brainerd, DEED\* – Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
Heidi Johnson, Bemidji, Congressional District 7, At-Large  
Jon Kragness, Fergus Falls, Congressional District 7, At-Large  
Darlene Kratt, St Paul, DEED\* – Workforce Investment  
Peter Morton, Minneapolis, Congressional District 5, At-Large  
David Quilleash, Plymouth, Congressional District 3, At-Large  
Tom Reed, St Cloud, Congressional District 6, At-Large  
Brian Wagner, Alexandria, Congressional District 7, At-Large  
Vacant, Center for Independent Living

\* DEED - Department of Employment and Economic Development

A System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR) Program is located within the Minnesota Department of Administration and is funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration as authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended.

You may request this material in a different format such as large print, Braille, audio tape or disk by calling 651-201-2640 or 888-234-1267 (toll free). Consumers with a hearing or speech disability may call us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800-627-3529, or contact us via email at [star.program@state.mn.us](mailto:star.program@state.mn.us)



*The STAR Program helps Minnesotans with disabilities find and use the tools, equipment, devices and resources they need to succeed at home, school, work and in the community.*

In 2009, STAR helped thousands of Minnesotans of all ages and all disabilities with:

★ The STAR assistive technology device exchange program, which helped over 400 individuals with disabilities save \$68,000 in 2009.

★ A free online classified ad service, [www.mnstarte.org](http://www.mnstarte.org), where individuals can buy, sell or trade used assistive technology.

(continued inside)

(Continued from the front panel)

- ★ Refurbishing assistive technology and providing open-ended loans for assistive technology in partnership with nine organizations throughout the state.
- ★ Promoting the use of assistive technology through a variety of training opportunities, activities and publications, including the “Funding Directory of Resources and Services,” the “STARPoint” email listserv and the “Constellations” newsletter.



The STAR Award certificate

- ★ Recognizing champions through its annual Assistive Technology Awards Program, which in four years has honored 104 individuals, businesses and organizations.
- ★ Helping state government ensure that its electronic information and services are fully accessible and useable by everyone.



### Thinking and doing –

“An able-bodied person does not think about how to get their mouth to move to say something or how to get their hand to move to manipulate a computer mouse,” says Blake Peterson’s teacher. “Blake needs to think about these things each time he attempts to communicate, to use his computer, to do these tasks and others – and with extreme patience, stamina and the determination to not give up. Blake demonstrates daily his ability to use the skills and technology he has to overcome physical limitations that for many of us would

Blake Peterson and his teacher



### Take me out to the ballgame –

Tom Reed is not afraid of stepping out of his “comfort” zone, or that of others for that matter, to talk about and advocate for the rights and acceptance of people with disabilities. Tom is a pioneer in researching, testing and mastering available assistive technology. He makes numerous presentations each year using his augmentative communication device, and has performed the national anthem at a Minnesota Twins game and “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” at a St. Cloud River Bats game.

Tom Reed at the annual STAR awards ceremony



### The power of Wii –

“CN” lived for fishing. On a lake, from a dock, along a stream bank – anywhere the bluegills and bass might bite. But multiple sclerosis eventually made that impossible. Through the AT device loan program, CN received a Wii game console and borrowed a fishing game from the local library. “At first I found it to be a challenge, but I gradually improved with practice,” CN says. “I had to use my eye/hand coordination; I had to get them working together.” CN is now ‘back on the water’ and is even out-fishing family members.