



NRFC State Profile: South Dakota September 2016

This profile describes state and federally funded programs and policies that aim to strengthen families. These programs and policies support parenting and father involvement, promote strong family relationships, enhance fathers’ economic stability, and provide support during incarceration and reentry. The profile lists phone numbers and websites for the programs. This information was correct when the profile was written (in 2016) but may change over time.

Programs to Support Responsible Fatherhood and Strengthen Families

Responsible fatherhood programs focus on issues such as enhancing parenting and relationship skills, keeping fathers involved with their children, improving their economic stability, helping them pay child support, and generally helping to strengthen families.

The following state and federally funded programs are available in the state:

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Community Alternatives of the Black Hills (CABH)	Reentry Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	CABH is a state and federally funded residential reentry facility that assists ex-offenders transitioning back to the community. Services include psycho-educational groups (life skills, family dynamics, and self-efficacy), family services, employment and transition skills training, and employment opportunities. CABH also provides addiction and recovery services for Native Americans in the community. CABH works in partnership with the Sioux San Indian Hospital in Rapid City.	Rapid City. Website (605) 341-4240
Job Corps	Economic Stability	<i>Job Corps</i> is a federal job training program to help low-income young men and women ages 16 to 24 with educational and career goals.	There is one Job Corps Center in South Dakota. It is located in Nemo. Website (605) 348-3636

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Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota (LSSSD)	Reentry Economic Stability	LSSSD uses federal funding to run several services for families and youth, including: 1) <i>Fatherhood & Re-Entry Services</i> , which include pre- and post-release services for fathers under 25 who are returning to the community from incarceration; 2) The <i>Work Training Program</i> , which provides job readiness training and job search assistance for re-entering fathers and mothers; and 3) additional services for families, such as counseling, childcare, and financial services.	Northeast, Southeast, and West River regions. Website with services by region. (605) 444-7500
South Dakota Department of Corrections	Reentry	The South Dakota Department of Corrections offers a <i>Community Transition Program</i> to assist offenders in their transition back into their communities. The program provides help with budgeting and money management, case planning for release, interim housing options, and temporary housing.	Sioux Falls, Pierre, Yankton and Rapid City correctional facilities. Website (605) 773-3478
South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR)	Economic Stability	South Dakota's DLR runs the <i>Workforce Training</i> program, which provides support, education, and training to assist unemployed workers, veterans, dislocated workers, and other residents of South Dakota with their job search. The website has additional online resources, including job postings and training resources.	There are six Career Learning Centers, located in Aberdeen, Rapid City, Huron, Mitchell, Yankton, and Pierre. Website of locations and phone numbers (605) 773-5017
South Dakota Parent Resource Network	Fatherhood/Parenting	The state funded South Dakota Parent Resource Network offers four parenting classes: <i>Common Sense Parenting</i> , <i>Parent University</i> , <i>Responsive Parenting</i> for parents of infants and toddlers, and <i>Parents as Teachers</i> .	Serves the entire state Website (605) 347-6260
Volunteers of America Dakotas (VOAD)	Healthy Relationships Economic Stability	VOAD was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 to provide healthy marriage, relationship education, and economic stability services.	Sioux Falls metro area (Minnehaha, Lincoln, Turner and McCook Counties). Website (605) 334-1414

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Youth & Family Services (YFS) Inc.	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships Economic Stability Incarceration	YFS was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015 for the <i>Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education</i> project, which is designed to improve marriage and relationship skills, and promote economic stability and mobility. The organization also offers <i>Fatherhood First</i> , which provides hands-on activities to help fathers understand and embrace the vital role they play in their children's lives; <i>Dads 4 Dads</i> , a mentoring program for incarcerated fathers; and <i>The Mentoring, Encouraging & Nurturing Dads (MEND)</i> program, where fathers learn how to communicate and engage with their children when physically apart.	Rapid City. Website (605) 342-4195

Policies to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

Paternity Establishment

Establishing paternity gives a child born outside of marriage the same legal rights and privileges as a child born to married parents. Children gain access to family medical history and rights to inheritance, fathers' medical and life insurance benefits, social security and veterans' benefits, and child support. In addition, Native American children gain tribal enrollment rights.

In South Dakota, parents can voluntarily acknowledge paternity by signing a paternity affidavit under oath. The affidavit can be completed at the hospital where the child is born, or at a later date and forwarded to the South Dakota Department of Health's Vital Records Program. The affidavit can be rescinded within 60 days via a court action, and can be contested up to three years after signing the affidavit in court on the basis of fraud, duress, or mistake of fact. Parents can establish paternity any time before the child turns 18. Genetic testing may be requested by either parent if they question whether the alleged father is the biological father, or if the alleged father does not wish to voluntarily acknowledge paternity. The Department of Social Services or the circuit court may also order genetic testing in appropriate cases.¹

Child Custody

If unmarried or divorced parents cannot reach agreement concerning child custody or visitation, a legal order can be made through the court system. Either parent may be granted custody of the child, or both may share equally in physical custody and/or decision-making responsibilities. There is no legal connection between payment or non-payment of child support and rights to visitation.

In South Dakota, parents are encouraged to agree on their own "Parenting Plan," or visitation plan. When parental maturity, personality, and communication skills are adequate, the ideal arrangement is reasonable time with the noncustodial parent upon reasonable notice. The next best arrangement is a detailed parenting agreement made by the parents to fit their particular needs and, more importantly, the needs of their child(ren). If parents cannot agree on their own Parenting Plan, then the court will use the South Dakota Parenting Guidelines to create one. The court

decides a custody arrangement based on the best interests of the child and which parent is deemed to be most fit to care for the child.ⁱⁱ

Child Support

The Federal Child Support Enforcement Program was established in 1975 as Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to locate noncustodial parents, establish paternity and establish and enforce child support orders. General services available in all states and territories include voluntary in-hospital paternity acknowledgement, genetic testing, explanation of state guidelines for determining child support orders, and review of child support orders at least every three years at the request of either parent. State child support offices are responsible for the collection and distribution of child support payments and can modify orders when appropriate. If a parent is behind in their payments, the office may use enforcement tools such as license revocation (including drivers, professional, recreational or occupational licenses), seizure of assets, property liens, passport denial, and federal and state tax refund offsets.ⁱⁱⁱ

South Dakota's Division of Child Support services are available for any adult who has legal custody and/or guardianship of a minor child and fathers who need help establishing paternity and/or child support order. The Division of Child Support has eight offices South Dakota. Go to the [website](#) or call (605) 773-3641 for more information.

The Family and Medical Leave Act

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protects employees who have worked with the same organization for at least twelve months and worked at least 1,250 hours within the past year. It contains provisions for both fathers and mothers to take time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or during a serious illness, without fear of losing their jobs. Employees in companies with 50 or more employees are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave, over a one-year period, to care for a new child, recuperate from a serious illness, care for a seriously ill family member, or handle issues arising from a family member's call to active military duty. The FMLA also gives employees the right to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a family member who is seriously injured or becomes ill while on active military duty.^{iv}

South Dakota has no additional provisions for paid or unpaid leave.

Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded school readiness program for young children from low-income families. The program, currently delivered by about 1,700 local organizations – public and private, non-profit and for-profit – provides preschoolers with comprehensive services, such as education and health screenings, with the goal of building their skills across five school readiness domains: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical development and health, and social and emotional development. Head Start encourages the role of parents (both mothers and fathers) as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Early Head Start, also managed by the federal Office of Head Start, is directed toward children up to the age of three and their parents. While the program is federally funded and managed, local agencies make decisions regarding service delivery based on the specific needs of their communities; for example, some may opt to include home-based services for families in their programs. Most states have multiple Head Start programs providing services for fathers.

To find information on Head Start programs in South Dakota, go to this [website](#).

Policies to Promote Economic Stability

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) works with states to provide support for children and their low-income families. Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers), grants, or

contracts with providers. Fathers and mothers may select a child care provider that satisfies applicable state and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements.^v

South Dakota's Child Care Assistance program is available for families who meet income guidelines and minimum work and/or school requirements. Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant helps low-income families pay for child care as they work, attend school, or both. The program helps families with income less than 175 percent of the Federal Poverty Level by paying a portion of child care costs directly to providers. The family may be required to make a co-payment based on the household income and family size. Families may apply online^{vi} or by mailing an application to the South Dakota Department of Social Services.^{vii}

Rental Assistance

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rental assistance to low-income families and individuals through a number of methods. HUD subsidizes privately owned apartments, allowing low-income tenants to rent them at reduced rates. In the Public Housing program, local housing agencies manage rental housing for low-income tenants, while HUD provides professional and technical assistance in their planning, development, and management. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, better known as Section 8, provides eligible families and individuals with vouchers that they can use to pay for all or part of the rent at housing units of their choice. Generally, eligibility for the HUD rental assistance programs is based on annual gross income, assets, family size, and other considerations such as elderly or disabled status. Local housing agencies generally set the fixed eligibility rules for their regions, determine assistance amounts, and manage waiting lists for assistance.^{viii}

South Dakota has no additional state provisions for rental assistance.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp program, provides low-income individuals (both men and women) and families with funds delivered in an electronic benefit transfer card, or EBT card) that can be used to purchase food. SNAP is administered within the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services and is federally funded, but applications, delivery, and outreach are handled at the state or local level. In general, individuals and households are eligible to receive SNAP if they have less than \$2,250 in countable resources and earn less than 130 percent of the poverty line in gross monthly income. However, characteristics of recipients (for example, age or disabled status) can affect eligibility requirements, and states have flexibility in determining eligibility, particularly with regard to what is considered a countable resource. In many states, individuals over the age of 18 and under the age of 50 are limited to three months of SNAP benefits every three years unless they are working or in a work or training program 20 hours a week. Some states have waivers to this rule for all or part of the state – for detailed state eligibility requirements, consult the [state SNAP agency](#).^{ix}

To be eligible for South Dakota's SNAP program, households must meet certain income and work requirements. Eligible households are issued a monthly allotment of SNAP benefits based on the Thrifty Food Plan, a low-cost model diet plan. South Dakota also encourages SNAP recipients to look into iGrow,^x a nutrition education platform run by South Dakota State University Extension, to learn more about inexpensive ways to provide nutritious meals for a family.^{xi}

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program grants federal funds to states for developing and implementing their own welfare programs that provide assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

The TANF program in South Dakota provides cash assistance and job training to low-income families. This monthly cash assistance benefit is intended to be used for family needs such as housing, utilities, and clothing costs. An adult can receive TANF for up to 60 months (5 years) in a lifetime. TANF recipients in South Dakota must participate in South

Dakota's TANF Work Program and must work a minimum of 30 hours each week (20 if the recipient has a child under six years old). Recipients will also create a Personal Responsibility Plan (PRP), which is a guide to help participants become self-sufficient and employed.^{xii}

Other Helpful Resources

Family Visitation Center

The Family Visitation Center in Sioux Falls offers resources and services for supervised exchange and visitation by noncustodial parents. The focus of the center is to ensure the safety and well-being of children when they are caught in the middle of issues such as divorce, domestic violence, substance abuse, and/or child abuse. The [website](#) provides more information on the center's services.

South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault (SDNAFVSA)

SDNAFVSA is a state funded network that supports family violence prevention by providing training and technical assistance, law enforcement training, rural outreach services, emergency services funding, and sexual assault prevention training. Individuals seeking support can call the South Dakota Domestic Violence Hotline at (800) 430-SAFE (7233) or access a list of state shelters and agencies on the [website](#).

References

ⁱ For more information on Paternity Establishment in South Dakota, see <https://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/docs/CS/VolPatEst.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ For more information on Child Custody in South Dakota, see <http://ujs.sd.gov/uploads/pubs/UJS%20302%20-%20South%20Dakota%20Visitation%20Guidelines.pdf>.

ⁱⁱⁱ For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css.

^{iv} For more information on the Family and Medical leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>.

^v For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.

^{vi} To apply for South Dakota's Child Care Assistance program online, see <https://apps.sd.gov/SS45/ChildCareAssistance.aspx>.

^{vii} For more information on Child Care Assistance in South Dakota, see <https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/childcareassistance/>.

^{viii} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance.

^{ix} For more information on SNAP and to find services in your state, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply>.

^x For more information on iGrow, see <http://igrow.org/>.

^{xi} For more information on SNAP in South Dakota, see <https://dss.sd.gov/economicassistance/snap/>.

^{xii} For more information on TANF in South Dakota, see <https://dss.sd.gov/economicassistance/tanf/>.