



SDCF Grant Opportunities & Services

Pierre
April 21, 2026



Grant Opportunities & Services

- SDCF Competitive Grant Programs
 - GOapply Grant Portal
- SDCF Scholarship Programs
- SDCF Affiliate Funds
- Community Savings Account Program





Good Grants Guidance Session

Pierre
April 21, 2026





SOUTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SDCF Grant Programs



Ginger Niemann,
Senior Program Officer



Grant Program Overview

- SDCF Grant Programs
 - Eligibility/Guidelines/Timelines
- SDCF Grant Programs
 - South Dakota Fund
 - Nonprofit Savings Account
 - Beyond Idea Grant (BIG)
 - Bush Prize: South Dakota
 - Fairy Godmother's Fund



Who can apply?

Eligible Organizations

- Verified Nonprofit or Charitable Organizations
 - Tax ID# is verified nonprofit with the IRS
 - 501(c)(3) Status
 - Organizations may use a Fiscal Sponsor
- Units of government, schools & churches
- Projects must take place in South Dakota

Not Eligible

- Private Businesses & Individuals
- Organizations on IRS Auto-Revocation List due to not filing appropriate forms
- SDCF will not consider organizations until they've received an affirmative Determination Letter from the IRS.



South Dakota Fund

- SDCF's flagship grant program
- 2026 Initiatives:
 - Child Well-Being
 - Housing
 - Workforce Development
- 2026 will also include traditional areas of focus:
 - Culture
 - Economic Development
 - Education
 - Financial Literacy
 - Health
 - Human Services



South Dakota Fund Timeline



Application Stage	Timeline/Due Date
Letter of Inquiry (LOI)	LOIs are accepted on a rolling basis.
LOI Decision: Invited or Denied	SDCF responds to LOIs within 15 working days.
Application	Applications are due 60 days after SDCF sends out an invitation to apply.
Application Decision: Awarded, Denied or Holdover	SDCF informs an applicant of their status approximately 90 days of the application submission date.





South Dakota Fund

- Program/Project Expenses
- Match required:
 - Other Grants
 - Donors
 - Fundraisers
 - In-kind
- Rolling Grant Program
 - Letter of Inquiry
 - Application
- Twelve-month waiting period
- Must take place in South Dakota



South Dakota Fund

2026 Initiatives:

- Child Well-Being, Housing, Workforce Development
 - Grant Sizes:
 - Development up to \$50,000
 - Implementation up to \$100,000
- Child Well-Being:
 - Impact of child's well-being at all stages of development.
- Housing:
 - Development, access and sustainability of affordable housing options for all.
- Workforce Development:
 - Programs & strategies aimed at enhancing workforce skills & improving employment opportunities.



South Dakota Fund

2026 Initiative Examples



Child Well-Being:

- Early childhood development
- Physical and mental health
- Family stability and support
- Education and school readiness
- Youth development and resilience



Housing:

- Development of affordable housing
- Increasing access to safe, stable housing
- Preserving existing affordable housing
- Housing sustainability and long-term affordability
- Supportive services connected to housing stability



Workforce Development:

- Skill-building and credentialing programs
- Career pathways and job training
- Employer partnerships
- Workforce re-entry
- Strategies that improve employment outcomes



South Dakota Fund

Traditional Focus Areas:

- Culture
 - Economic Development
 - Education
 - Financial Literacy
 - Health
 - Human Services
- Grant Sizes:
 - Up to \$20,000
 - Financial Literacy
 - May apply for more than \$20,000



South Dakota Fund Grants

Examples of Grants Awarded:

Theater Updates
Playground Equipment
Security System Upgrades
Program Expansion
Financial Literacy Classes
Purchase of Vehicles
Promotional Expenses
Prevention Education Programs
Food Preservation Equipment
Kitchen Equipment
Childcare Program Expenses



Nonprofit Savings Account

Endowment Building Challenge Grants:

Grant Size:

- \$1 for every \$4 raised for an endowment, up to \$20,000
- To receive full \$20,000, \$80,000 must be raised - creating a \$100,000 endowment
- Fundraising timeframe is 2 years
- Endowment to benefit nonprofit organization
 - Fund balance invested in perpetuity
 - 4.5% of the average fair market value is available annually

Timeframe:

- Rolling



Bush Foundation Intermediary Partners

Minnesota Partner

- Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
 - Minnesota Community IDEAS Program
 - Bush Prize: Minnesota

Native Nations Partner

- Good Relatives Collaborative
 - Good Relatives Grant
 - Bush Prize: Native Nations

North Dakota Partner

- Strengthen ND
 - Creative Community Solutions Grant
 - Bush Prize: North Dakota



South Dakota Partner

- South Dakota Community Foundation
 - Beyond Idea Grant
 - Bush Prize: South Dakota



Beyond Idea Grants

in partnership with the Bush Foundation

- Community based problem-solving grants
- Grant Sizes: \$5,000 - \$100,000/year
 - Development up to \$50,000
 - Testing/Spreading up to \$100,000
- Multi-year funding may be considered
- No Match Required
- \$1.2 million available in 2026
- Competitive



Beyond Idea Grant 2026 Timeline



Applications Open	June 1st
Applications Close	June 30th The application window closes at 12 p.m. Central Time/11 a.m. Mountain Time. Late applications will not be accepted.
Recipient Announcement	November

Beyond Idea Grants

Important Considerations:

- Community-based **problem solving**
- To design, test and spread **ideas**
- To inspire, equip and connect **leaders**
- **Planning** or **Implementation** Grants
- **Community** impact potential



Beyond Idea Grants

Important Criteria for BIG



- What is the community problem being addressed?
- How does the idea address the problem in an innovative and collaborative way?
- Is the idea realistic and likely to succeed?
- How are key stakeholders meaningfully involved?

BIG will not fund



- **Solely** general operating expenses for **routine** program and project costs
- Loans
- Construction



Beyond Idea Grants

Examples of Grants Awarded:

- Food Security and Food Systems
- Enhancing Afterschool Programming
- Enhancing Childcare Programming
- Mental Health Program Expansion
- Workforce Housing
- Leadership Program Expansion
- Adult Literacy and Career Development
- Regional Economic Development Organizing
- Community Social Services Organizing
- Capacity Building for Rural Health Initiatives



Bush Prize: South Dakota

in partnership with the Bush Foundation

- **Award:**

- Extraordinary organizations that consistently engage and lead their community toward creative solutions.

- **Grant Size:**

- 2 Honorees will be awarded \$250,000 EACH
 - Finalists receive \$10,000 EACH

- **Track record:**

- Successful community problem-solving

- **Grant Use:**

- Flexible. Award can be used to build up reserves or test that next big idea or whatever else would best support the organization's ongoing good work



Bush Prize: South Dakota 2026 Timeline

Applications Open	April 1st
Applications Close	April 30th The application window closes at 12 p.m. Central Time/11 a.m. Mountain Time. Late applications will not be accepted.
Finalist Selection	August
Recipient Announcement	October



Bush Prize: South Dakota

Eligibility

- **Verified Nonprofit or Charitable Organizations**
 - Tax ID# is registered as nonprofit with the IRS
 - 501(c)(3) Status
 - Units of government, schools & churches
 - A verified organization may serve as a Fiscal Sponsor for other initiatives
- **Must be located in South Dakota or one of the 9 Native nations that share the same geography.**
 - Community innovations highlighted must also have occurred within that geography.
- **Previous Bush Prize winners are not eligible for 10 years**
 - Organizations who have been finalists are eligible to apply again



Bush Prize: South Dakota

Criteria

- **Transformational Impact** - organizations which have created meaningful, long-lasting change to address the challenges and issues affecting their community.
- **History of Creative Solutions** – honors organizations which have a history at least three to five years of using innovative approaches that offer real solutions for the challenges and issues affecting their communities.
- **Creative Community Problem Solving** – honors organizations which have proven to be deeply rooted in their communities and value driven.
- **Additional Considerations** - Over time we seek a portfolio of honorees representing the full diversity of South Dakota, and includes a variety of:
 - *Organization sizes*
 - *Communities served (size and demographics)*
 - *Types of issues addressed*





BUSH FOUNDATION

The Bush Foundation invests in great ideas and the people who power them in **Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native Nations** that share the same geography.

Grant Opportunities

- Bush Fellowship
- Community Innovation
- Ecosystem Grants & Organizations
- Change Networks
- and more.....

Website: BushFoundation.org



BUSH
FOUNDATION



Fairy Godmother's Fund



Created to improve the health & well-being of people in South Dakota with limited resources.

- Field of Interest Endowed Fund at SDCF
- Advisory Council
- Referrals from Agencies/Organizations
- “Invite Only” Link
 - No Self-Referrals
 - The need was caused by an unforeseen event that resulted in a crisis.
 - The need must match requested amount.
 - All other resources have been utilized.
 - Referrals up to \$1,000.



Grant Tips



Do Your Homework

Eligibility
Deadlines
Project Dates
Attachments
Budget
Partners
Ask Questions



Tell Your Story

Committee is from all corners of SD
What has been done - what needs to be done
Competitive processes -what makes your project stand out



Community Support

Sustainability
Roles partners play
Matching funds



Questions





SOUTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SDCF Grants GOapply



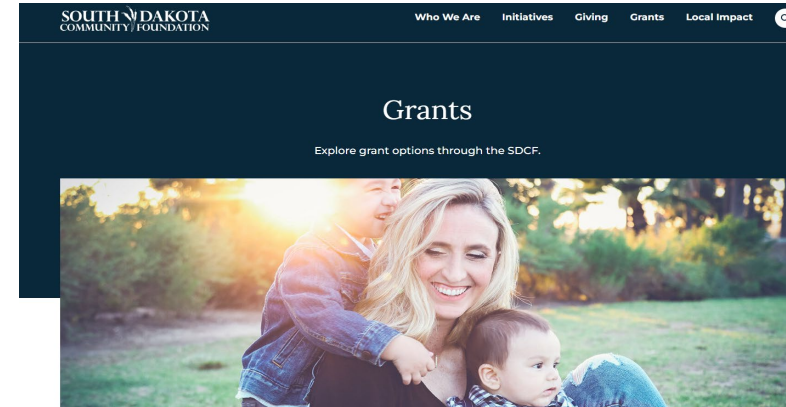
Stephanie Harmon,
Program Assistant



How to apply?

SDCF website: SDCommunityFoundation.org/Grants

- Grant Information
- Guidelines
- Draft Applications
- Grants Awarded
- Application Windows



Online grant portal: GOapply2.akoyago.com/SDCFgrants

Access through website

- Organization Creates an Account
- One Submitter per Organization
- Grant programs listed under “Opportunities”


Grants

Sign in to your account

Or [create a new account](#)

Your Email

Your Password

The Password field is required.

Remember me

[Forgot password?](#)



GOapply



Sign in to your account

Or [create a new account](#)

Your Email

Your Password

Remember me

[Forgot password?](#)

SDCF Grants Site:

<https://goapply2.akoyago.com/SDCFgrants>



GOapply



In Progress Submitted Opportunities Organization Profile Review

Stephanie Harmon ▾

My Opportunities

	Fiscal Year	Opportunity Name	Opportunity Guideline URL	Phase Contact	Email Address
View	2026	Community Savings Accounts Challenge Grant	https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/local-impact/challenge-grants	Jamie Farnen	jfarmen@sdcommunityfoundation.org
View	2026	Nonprofit Savings Accounts Grant	https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/grants/nonprofit-savings-accounts	Ginger Niemann	gniemann@sdcommunityfoundation.org
View	2026	South Dakota Fund	https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/grants/south-dakota-fund-grant	Ginger Niemann	gniemann@sdcommunityfoundation.org

Home Screen

- **In Progress** – what you are currently working on; documents SDCF has downloaded to your portal that need to be completed
- **Submitted** – any documents that your organization has submitted to SDCF Grant Programs
- **Opportunities** – current SDCF Grant Programs that are open and accepting applications
- **Organization Profile** – Organization’s information that should automatically come from SDCF’s database. Changes can be made; this information should auto-populate into applications.



GOapply



In Progress Submitted Opportunities Organization Profile Review

Stephanie Harmon ▾

My Opportunities

	Fiscal Year	Opportunity Name	Opportunity Guideline URL	Phase Contact	Email Address
View	2026	Community Savings Accounts Challenge Grant	https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/local-impact/challenge-grants	Jamie Farnen	jfarnen@sdcommunityfoundation.org
View	2026	Nonprofit Savings Accounts Grant	https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/grants/nonprofit-savings-accounts	Ginger Niemann	gniemann@sdcommunityfoundation.org
View	2026	South Dakota Fund	https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/grants/south-dakota-fund-grant	Ginger Niemann	gniemann@sdcommunityfoundation.org



View: When clicked, this will take you to Grant Program's home screen



Opportunity Guideline URL: When clicked, this will take you to SDCF's grants page.



Phase Contact: Point of contact for each grant program



GOapply

There are previous submissions or drafts for this application. [See submissions](#)

South Dakota Fund 2026

Letter of Inquiry

Print Blank Apply

Summary

Do not copy and paste answers into the portal. Doing so will result in issues with submitted documents.

Updates to organization name, EIN or address should only be done in the Organization Profile tab, located in the top ribbon.

The **South Dakota Fund** is SDCF's flagship grant program and awards program or project related funding in support of culture, economic development, education, financial literacy, health and human services. In 2026, three new initiatives are offered: Child Well-being, Housing, and Workforce Development.

SDCF accepts applications on a rolling basis throughout the year. It starts with a Letter of Inquiry, if approved, a full application will need to be submitted.

Downloadable blank application – cannot be submitted from here.

Click here to move the LOI for SD Fund or application for other grant programs.

This is your indication that you have already started an LOI or application. Click to go to that pending document.

Description

The South Dakota Fund awards grants throughout the year to nonprofit organizations that meet vital and diverse needs across the state.

Eligible Applicants:

Verified nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, under Publication 78

The IRS maintains a list of qualifying organizations, linked here:

<https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>

Public schools, government entities, and churches

Initiatives or projects using a fiscal sponsor.**

Not Eligible:

Individuals

Private businesses

**Fiscal sponsorship is a partnership with a verified nonprofit organization (the sponsor) and an organized group that does not have its nonprofit status. They offer their tax-exempt status to groups engaged in activities related to the sponsor's mission. This arrangement is beneficial for projects or initiatives that are not separately incorporated as nonprofits but wish to apply for grants.



GOapply

Submission is locked and cannot be modified

South Dakota Fund Letter of Inquiry

Page 3 of 3

Project Description

Reason for Grant Request (a brief description of what you need the funding for): *

TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST TEST

Beginning Date of Project: *

08/31/2025

Ending Date of Project: *

12/31/2026

Once submitted, changes can no longer be made. If you have changes, please contact us. We can move your LOI or application back to "In Progress" so you can make changes.

Indicates a required field. Cannot move forward if not answered.

Some information from LOI auto-populates to the application. This information cannot be changed in the application phase.



GOapply

 In Progress Submitted Opportunities Organization Profile

In Progress

	Phase Due Date	Opportunity Name	Phase Name	Progress (%)	Created On
View 		South Dakota Fund	Application	50	2/4/2026 8:08 AM

 In Progress Submitted Opportunities Organization Profile

In Progress

	Phase Due Date	Opportunity Name	Phase Name	Progress (%)	Created On
View 		South Dakota Fund	Final Evaluation Report	55	2/2/2026 7:59 AM

The next phase of the application cycle will be moved forward and appear in the Phase Name column.

- If the LOI is approved, the application will appear in the Phase Name column at the same time the LOI is approved.
- If your grant requires a final evaluation, the evaluation will be moved forward after you have been notified your grant has been awarded.



GOapply

Frequently Asked Questions:

- I created my User Registration, why can't I log in?
 - SDCF staff complete due diligence on all new users before new users can log into the portal. Staff look for:
 1. Is the EIN provided correct and does the name entered match the IRS.
 2. Does the organization name entered match our records.
 3. Is this a new organization that is not currently in our system.
 4. Does the organization already have a person already approved.
- What is the difference between a submitter and contributor?
 - Submitters are allowed to start, edit, complete, and submit applications. Organizations may only have one submitter.
 - Contributors are allowed to review & edit their organizations applications, but the submit button does not exist. Organizations may have as many contributors as needed.
- I need more space to provide the answer to the question.
 - Each question will state the character limit and count down as you type your answer. Be mindful of the space provided.



GOapply

Frequently Asked Questions:

- My organization information did not auto-populate from the organization profile, and I cannot enter the information.
 - Developers are aware of this issue and working towards a solution. It mainly happens with new users/organizations. The information does download into our system correctly.
- My organization has had some staffing changes and I am now the new Submitter for GOapply, what do I need to do?
 - Please contact SDCF staff and we will make the necessary edits.
- My application or evaluation is not in my “In Progress” tab?
 - Please contact Stephanie Harmon, she will make sure your document is loaded correctly.
- How do I print my submitted documents?
 - On the Submitted tab, click on the Download tab beside the document you want to print. A PDF is created and ready for printing.
- I can no longer access my application. Why?
 - Organizations have 60 days from the date on the approval email to submit the full application. Once the 60 days have passed, organizations will no longer have access to the application.



Questions



SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Ginger Niemann

Senior Program Officer

gniemann@SDCommunityFoundation.org

Stephanie Harmon

Program Assistant

sharmon@SDCommunityFoundation.org

Call: 605.224.1025 or 800.888.1842

THANK YOU!





SOUTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Scholarship Program



Kelly Nelson,
Scholarship Coordinator



How to apply?

SDCF website: <https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/scholarships>

➤ For Students

Begin your application here

GOapply Student Guide

Student Scholarship Application Tutorial: Start to Finish

➤ For Selection Committee Reviewers

Begin your review here

GOapply Reviewer Guide

➤ Or Search by

City

County

Keyword

The screenshot shows the SDCF website's Scholarships page. At the top, the navigation bar includes the SDCF logo and links for Who We Are, Initiatives, Giving, Grants, Scholarships, and Local Impact. The main heading is "Scholarships" with the tagline "Connecting students with generous donors." Below this, there are two expandable menu items: "For Students" and "For Selection Committee Reviewers". At the bottom, there is a search section with dropdown menus for "City" (set to "All Cities") and "County" (set to "All Counties"), a checkbox for "Statewide", and a "Search Keyword" input field with a "Search" button and a "Reset Results" link.





SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

At South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF), we oversee a variety of scholarships made possible by generous donors.

Apply now to find scholarships that will help you pursue higher education with less financial burden.

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE

Scan the QR code to explore eligibility for each SDCF scholarship and begin your application under "For Students."

 **800-888-1842**

 **SDCommunityFoundation.org**

APPLY NOW!



Questions





**SOUTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**



THANK YOU!

Kelly Nelson

Scholarship Coordinator

knelson@SDCommunityFoundation.org

Call: 605.224.1025 or 800.888.1842



SOUTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Affiliate Fund Program



Phillip Adam,
Affiliate Fund Coordinator, MBA



Affiliate Fund Program Overview

- Created in 2025
- Primarily donor-advised funds
- Support charitable giving in specific fields of interest
- Grantmaking guided by a dedicated advisory board
- May also include agency endowment funds and other charitable fund types





Grantmaking Structure

- Some Affiliate Funds use a formal application-based process
- Other Affiliate Funds entail administrative or operational support without a standard grant cycle
- The SDCF Affiliate Fund Coordinator serves as the primary liaison between:
 - Affiliate Fund Advisory Board
 - Partner Nonprofit Organizations
 - South Dakota Community Foundation
 - Other Interested Entities



Benefits of Becoming an Affiliate Fund



REAL VALUE. REAL IMPACT.

1

SECURE, STREAMLINED ONLINE PORTAL

Through SDCF's online application, you will have access to a portal that simplifies and secures the grant application, reporting and payment processes. This increases transparency and reduces paperwork for both applicants and administrators.

2

ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF

SDCF will alleviate the administrative burden on your organization by managing day-to-day grant-related tasks. This allows your team to focus on strategic priorities rather than time-consuming operational responsibilities.

3

TIMELY, ACCURATE AND COMPLIANT GRANT PAYMENTS

SDCF's team ensures that grant disbursements are made in a timely manner and aligned with financial and compliance policies. As a result, risk is reduced, and fund administration becomes more reliable.

4

DEDICATED SDCF STAFF CONTACT

Your organization will have a designated SDCF staff member to serve as a consistent point of contact. This individual will support your partner organizations by answering questions, troubleshooting and providing hands-on assistance throughout the grant process.





Sam F. Weller Family Foundation Fund

- Established by Richard F. Weller to honor his father, family, and community
- Provides grant for special projects beyond normal nonprofit budgets
- Over \$1 million awarded to Mitchell-area nonprofits
- Awarded grants to 15+ local organizations across education, youth services, housing, arts, veterans, and community development
- Abbott House, CASA, Dakota Discovery Museum, Sanborn County 4-H, Mitchell Area Housing, Mitchell Area Safe Place, Mitchell Lions Club, Mitchell Weekend Snackpack, Prehistoric Indian Village



Sam F. Weller Family Foundation Fund Information

- **Successful Applications Demonstrate:**

- A well-defined community need or issue
- A thoughtful strategy to address the issue
- Strong community support and engagement
- Independent fundraising efforts toward the project
- Demonstrated demand for the project
- Capacity to sustain and maintain the project long-term

- **How to Apply?**

- Applications submitted through SDCF's website and secure online portal

- **Need Assistance?**

- SDCF's Affiliate Fund Coordinator is here to help!
- Contact information to reach Phillip Adam can be found on SDCF's website



Questions





**SOUTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**



THANK YOU!

Phillip Adam

Affiliate Fund Coordinator, MBA

padam@SDCommunityFoundation.org

Call: 605.224.1025 or 800.888.1842





**SOUTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

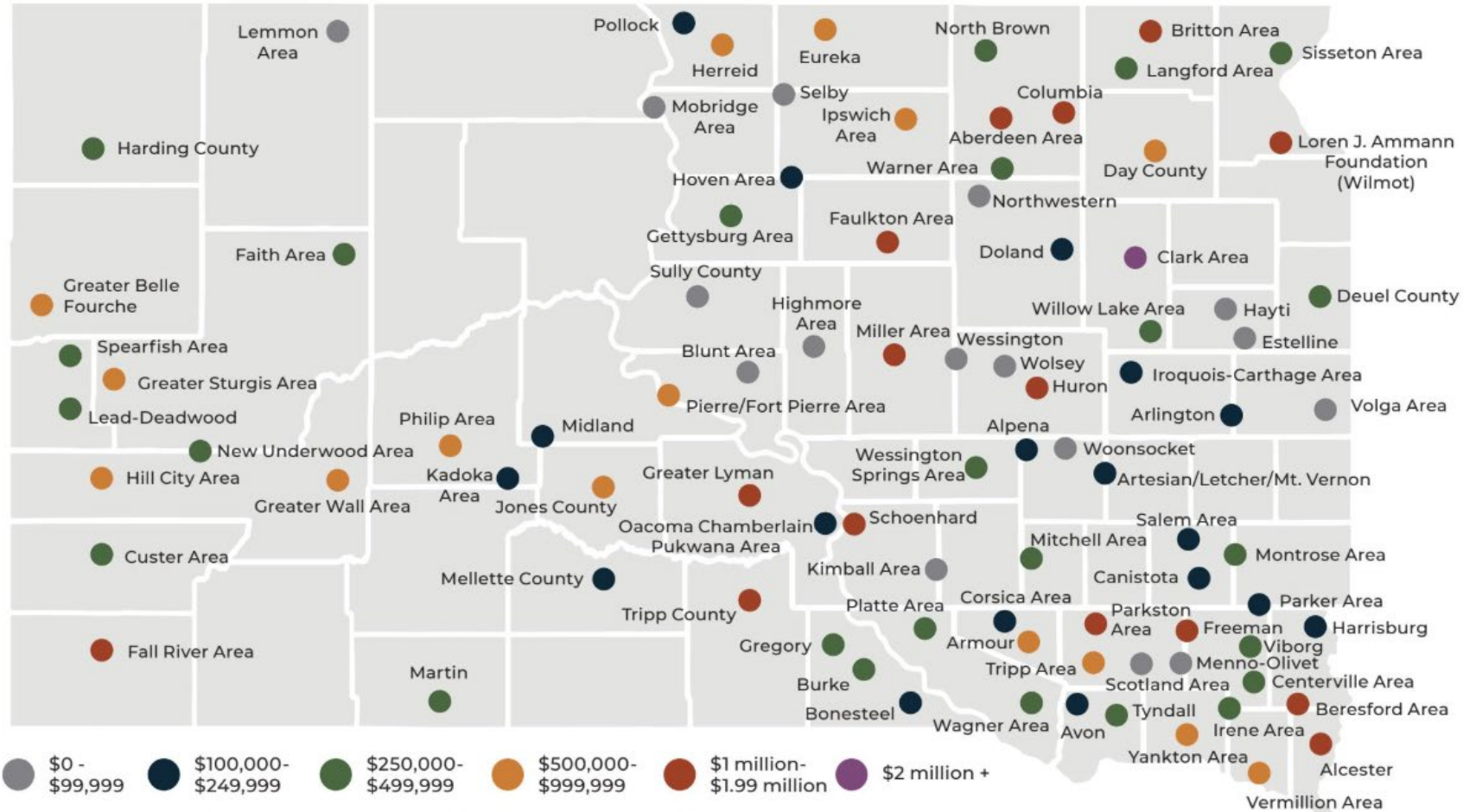
Community Savings Account



Jamie Farmen,
Senior Community Development Coordinator



Community Savings Accounts (CSA)



* Amounts represent fair market value of the fund as of December 31st, 2025. Sub-fund assets are not included.



Jamie Farmen
Senior Community
Development Coordinator
SDCF

90 communities in partnership

With SDCF's careful investment, CSAs continues to grow and give back to local causes through local guidance for years to come.

SDCommunityFoundation.org/Local-Impact



Pierre-Fort Pierre Area Community Foundation

- Established 1998
- Granted \$414,000+ to local nonprofit causes since inception.

Challenge match: \$50,000 from SDCF if \$400,000 raised by 2/28/29

Pierre/Fort Pierre Area Community Foundation Advisory Council

- Matt Brakke-Chair
- Becky Burke
- Tom Hart
- Brett Koenecke
- Kate Olson
- Alexis Terwilliger
- Mark Edwardson

Pierre/Fort Pierre Youth Philanthropy Advisory Council

- Molly Olson
- Lincoln Houska
- Nicholas Gregg
- Cheznie Heezen



Matt Brakke, Chair

*Pierre-Fort Pierre Area Community
Foundation Advisory Council*



Questions





SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

THANK YOU!

Jamie Farmen

Senior Community Development Coordinator, CFRE

jfarmen@SDCommunityFoundation.org

Call: 605.224.1025 or 800.888.1842

Matt Brakke

Pierre/Fort Pierre Community Foundation

Matthew.brakke@gmail.com

