

SOUTH DAKOTA FUND GRANTS

FUNDING **GOOD**
ACROSS THE STATE

SOUTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

605.224.1025
www.sdcommunityfoundation.org



From rural towns to tribal nations,
South Dakota Fund Grants empower
local leaders to create a better
tomorrow, one project at a time.

SOUTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Dear Partners,

Each grant we award through the South Dakota Fund represents more than funding—it's an investment in people, ideas and communities. This booklet is designed to showcase examples of how past grantees have put resources to work in creative and meaningful ways.

Whether you are considering applying for the first time or thinking about a new project, we hope these stories give you ideas and encouragement. Our team is here to walk alongside you in the process and to support your vision for making South Dakota stronger. Together, we can ensure our state continues to thrive—today and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Stephane Janson



Brown County Emergency Management

Fat Truck Purchase

Community at the Core

When extreme weather or tough terrain threaten lives, Watertown Fire Rescue is ready, thanks in part to a unique addition to their fleet: the Fat Truck. This all-terrain vehicle, made possible with support from South Dakota Community Foundation, helps first responders reach people in areas traditional vehicles can't, across ice, water, mud and deep snow. For rural communities, where access can mean everything, this innovative solution puts safety and service first.

The Difference It Makes

A \$10,000 South Dakota Fund Grant allowed Watertown Fire Rescue to purchase the Fat Truck, expanding their reach in search-and-rescue missions and emergency evacuations. In a state where back roads and unpredictable conditions are the norm, the Fat Truck ensures no call for help goes unanswered. With this tool in place, more lives can be saved—and more families can rest easy knowing help can always find its way.



Community Organized Resources for Educating Youth (C.O.R.E.)

Freshman Impact Program Support

Community at the Core

Based in Box Elder, C.O.R.E. is taking an innovative approach to youth education and prevention through its Freshman Impact Program. Designed for ninth-grade students, the program partners with law enforcement, fire departments, EMS and school staff to create a powerful, hands-on learning experience. Students participate in simulations, listen to real-life stories and witness staged crash scenes that bring home the consequences of risky behaviors like impaired or distracted driving.

The Difference It Makes

A \$10,000 grant is supporting C.O.R.E.'s efforts to expand Freshman Impact across western South Dakota. By reaching more schools and building stronger partnerships with local responders, the organization is helping teens make safer decisions, avoid dangerous situations and develop greater respect for community leaders. It's a proactive, community-centered model that equips young people with the tools they need to navigate life with confidence and care.



Brookings Area Chamber of Commerce

Workforce Development & Retention

Community at the Core

In one of South Dakota's fastest-growing cities, the Brookings Area Chamber of Commerce is leading efforts to tackle workforce shortages head-on. Their Workforce Development and Retention Initiative focuses on connecting businesses with job seekers, building career pathways for students and strengthening relationships between employers and the local community. By aligning education, industry and opportunity, the Chamber is creating a stronger, more resilient workforce for the future of Brookings.

The Difference It Makes

A \$20,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is helping the Chamber bring key partners together to address critical workforce needs and keep talent rooted in the region. With a focus on collaboration and long-term planning, the initiative supports both immediate hiring goals and the broader economic growth of the area. It's a strategic investment in people, partnerships and the prosperity of South Dakota's workforce.



Burke Splash Pad Committee

Burke Park Splash Pad Project

Community at the Core

In the heart of Burke, South Dakota, a small but spirited community is rallying around a shared vision: a new splash pad at the Burke City Park. Led by the Burke Splash Pad Committee, this project aims to bring safe, accessible outdoor recreation to children and families throughout the area. In a rural region where amenities like this are rare, the splash pad promises to provide a joyful space for play, connection and community celebration.

The Difference It Makes

With a \$10,000 South Dakota Grant supporting the project, the committee is turning dreams into action. Once complete, the splash pad will offer a free, inclusive environment where kids can stay cool during the summer and families can gather close to home. More than just water play, the project encourages active lifestyles, deepens community ties and reminds residents of all ages what is possible when people come together with a common goal.



Funding the Future

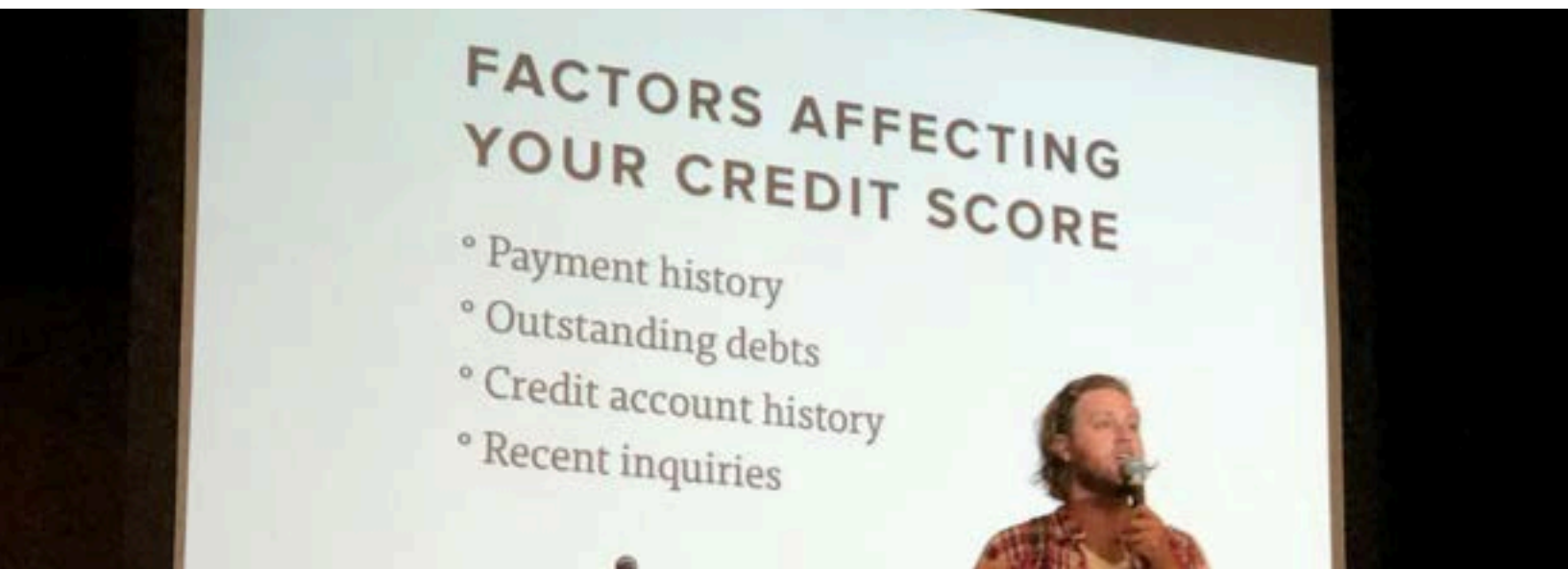
Financial Literacy Tour

Community at the Core

Financial literacy isn't just a skill, it's a foundation for lifelong stability. Funding the Future, a national nonprofit with ties to South Dakota, brings financial education to life through high-energy concerts and interactive programming designed specifically for students. Their Financial Literacy Tour travels to schools across the region, using music, storytelling and expert advice to help teens understand topics like budgeting, saving and managing debt in a way that sticks.

The Difference It Makes

With support from a \$14,000 South Dakota Fund Grant, Funding the Future is reaching more schools across South Dakota, especially in rural and underserved areas. The Financial Literacy Tour equips students with real-world money skills and builds confidence through engaging, age-appropriate content. By using music and storytelling to teach budgeting, saving and responsible spending, the program empowers teens to take control of their financial future and make smart decisions that last a lifetime.

A man with a beard and long hair, wearing a plaid shirt, is speaking into a microphone. He is standing in front of a large projection screen. The screen displays the title 'FACTORS AFFECTING YOUR CREDIT SCORE' and a bulleted list of factors. The man is positioned in the lower right corner of the frame.

FACTORS AFFECTING YOUR CREDIT SCORE

- Payment history
- Outstanding debts
- Credit account history
- Recent inquiries

Diamond Willow Ministries

Tokata Youth Center

Community at the Core

On the Crow Creek Reservation in Fort Thompson, Diamond Willow Ministries is creating a place where Native youth can dream, grow and lead. Through the Tokata Youth Center, the organization provides a safe, faith-based environment for students in grades K–12, offering mentorship, academic support, meals and enrichment opportunities rooted in Lakota culture and community values.

The Difference It Makes

A \$25,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is helping Tokata Youth Center continue its mission of nurturing the whole child, mind, body and spirit. With growing demand and limited resources, this funding supports daily operations, leadership development programs and continued outreach to families across the reservation. At its core, the center is more than just a building, it's a space of hope and belonging, where today's youth can become tomorrow's leaders.



Mammoth Site of Hot Springs South Dakota

Bonebed Enclosure

Community at the Core

In Hot Springs, the Mammoth Site is home to one of the world's most significant Ice Age fossil beds, an active dig site and museum that draws thousands of visitors and researchers each year. To protect and preserve this scientific treasure, the organization launched a campaign to construct a specialized bonebed enclosure. This project ensures year-round access for excavation, research and education while safeguarding the fragile remains of ancient mammoths and other prehistoric species.

The Difference It Makes

A \$16,000 South Dakota Fund Grant served as critical matching support for the enclosure, helping the Mammoth Site leverage additional funds and move the project forward. The new structure enhances preservation efforts, improves the visitor experience and supports the site's growing role as both an educational destination and a world-renowned center for paleontology. It's an investment in history, science and the future of discovery in South Dakota.



Abbott House Inc.

Therapeutic Foster Home

Community at the Core

For vulnerable children in South Dakota, healing often begins with stability and care. Based in Mitchell, Abbott House Inc. is expanding its network of therapeutic foster homes, providing safe, structured environments for youth who have experienced trauma. These homes are staffed by specially trained foster parents and designed to offer consistency, emotional support and the chance to thrive within a family setting.

The Difference It Makes

With a \$20,000 South Dakota Fund Grant supporting the development of a new therapeutic foster home, Abbott House continues its mission to meet kids where they are and help them move forward. The funding helps cover costs for training, household setup and program support—ensuring each child placed has the resources and relationships they need to heal. It's a step toward brighter futures for youth who deserve nothing less.



Mobridge Community Development Corporation

After School Program

Community at the Core

In Mobridge, after-school hours are becoming a time for growth, connection and opportunity. Mobridge Community Development Corporation is helping lead an initiative to expand after-school programming for local youth. The goal is to provide a safe and engaging space for students once the final bell rings, where they can receive homework help, enjoy healthy meals and participate in activities that build confidence and community ties.

The Difference It Makes

A \$20,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is helping support the program's growth, enabling more students to benefit from a supportive, structured environment during a critical part of the day. The effort not only fills a childcare gap for working families, but also gives kids the chance to develop social skills, explore interests and stay on track academically. It's a community investment in youth today—and in Mobridge's future tomorrow.



South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation

Teaching Kitchen

Community at the Core

In Sioux Falls, South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation is blending conservation with community health through an innovative new Teaching Kitchen. Located within the Outdoor Campus, the space is designed to teach people of all ages how to prepare nutritious meals using local and seasonal ingredients. With a focus on food education, wellness and outdoor living, the kitchen serves as a hands-on learning hub for families, students and community groups.

The Difference It Makes

A \$40,000 South Dakota Fund Grant helped bring this unique space to life, funding the construction and outfitting of the kitchen with tools and technology needed for dynamic, interactive classes. The project supports lifelong skills that promote health, sustainability and a deeper connection to nature. Whether it's a child learning to make a healthy snack or an adult discovering how to cook wild game, the Teaching Kitchen offers something for everyone, and strengthens South Dakota's outdoor lifestyle in the process.



South Dakota Dental Foundation

Breaking Barriers to Dental Care

Community at the Core

In Pierre and across the state, South Dakota Dental Foundation is working to ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to oral health. Through its Donated Dental Services program, the Foundation connects individuals who are elderly, medically fragile or living with disabilities to volunteer dentists who provide comprehensive care at no cost. Coordination is essential to making this statewide effort run smoothly, and to get care to those who need it most.

The Difference It Makes

A \$30,000 South Dakota Fund Grant supports the coordination of this vital program, helping manage referrals, streamline patient intake, and ensure efficient connections between patients and providers. With hundreds of dentists participating, the impact stretches far beyond any single community. By removing financial and logistical barriers, the South Dakota Dental Foundation is helping restore smiles, relieve pain and improve quality of life for people who might otherwise go without care.



Maḥpíya Luta Red Cloud Indian School

WICHÓUNČHAĖ Generations Campaign

Community at the Core

Rooted in the Pine Ridge Reservation, Maḥpíya Luta, formerly Red Cloud Indian School—is carrying forward a legacy of education grounded in Lakota culture and values. Through its WICHÓUNČHAĖ Generations Campaign, the school is expanding access to high-quality, culturally relevant education while investing in updated facilities, leadership programs and support services for Native youth and families.

The Difference It Makes

A \$20,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is helping advance this campaign's vision of a more equitable and empowering future. The funding supports long-term planning and infrastructure improvements that allow the school to serve students more holistically, fostering academic success, cultural identity and community leadership. It's a powerful step in strengthening Native education from one generation to the next.



Working Against Violence Inc.

Shelter Expansion

Community at the Core

In Rapid City, Working Against Violence Inc. provides critical support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. For many individuals and families in crisis, the organization's emergency shelter is the first step toward safety, recovery and long-term stability. With the number of those seeking refuge continuing to rise, the need to expand both space and services has become more urgent than ever.

The Difference It Makes

A \$10,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is helping Working Against Violence Inc. expand its shelter to meet the growing demand for safe housing. The additional space allows for more beds, private rooms for families, and trauma-informed care in a secure, welcoming environment. This expansion also helps staff deliver more personalized support, connecting survivors with legal resources, counseling and long-term housing options. At its core, this project reflects the community's commitment to standing beside those who need protection, healing and hope.



Junior Achievement of South Dakota

JA Finance Park

Community at the Core

In Sioux Falls, Junior Achievement of South Dakota is giving students a hands-on way to learn about real-world finances through its immersive JA Finance Park experience. This innovative program combines in-class learning with a simulated town where students take on roles as adults managing budgets, paying bills and making financial decisions. It's a dynamic environment that turns financial literacy into a powerful life skill.

The Difference It Makes

With support from a \$100,000 South Dakota Fund Grant, Junior Achievement is expanding access to JA Finance Park for students across the state. The program helps young people understand the importance of smart money management and prepares them for the financial realities of adulthood. Whether it's budgeting for groceries or saving for retirement, students leave with a clearer sense of responsibility and confidence. It's a transformational experience that builds financially capable citizens and stronger South Dakota communities.



Avera Research Institute

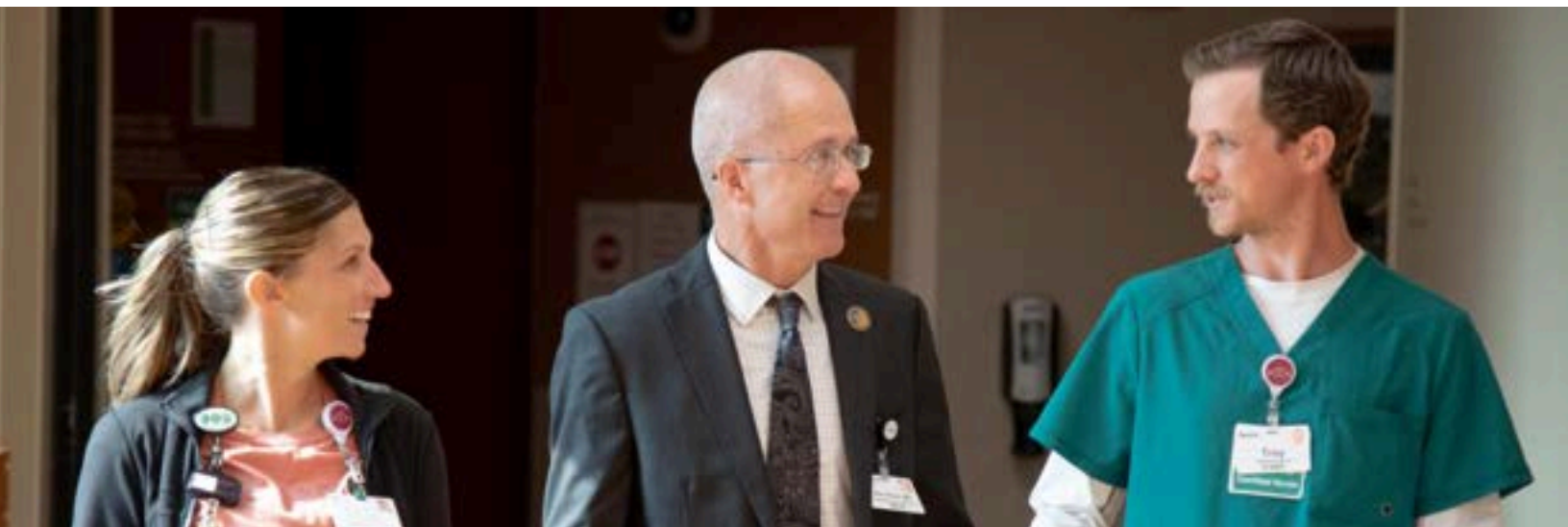
Needs Assessment

Community at the Core

As one of South Dakota's largest healthcare providers, Avera Research Institute (ARI) in Pierre is committed to meeting the evolving needs of the communities it serves. To better understand gaps in care and emerging health challenges, the organization launched a comprehensive needs assessment across its service area. The initiative gathers input from patients, providers and community stakeholders to ensure health strategies are grounded in real-life experiences and local data.

The Difference It Makes

A \$20,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is helping fund this essential groundwork, allowing ARI - in partnership with SD Department of Health and American Heart Association - to identify health disparities, prioritize investments and design responsive programs that meet people where they are. From rural clinics to urban neighborhoods, the assessment guides efforts to improve access, equity and outcomes for all. It's a proactive approach that puts the health of South Dakotans first and ensures no voice goes unheard in the planning process.



Helpline Center Inc.

Suicide Prevention Hotline

Community at the Core

Based in Sioux Falls and serving the entire state, Helpline Center Inc. is a lifeline for individuals facing crisis, emotional distress or thoughts of suicide. Operating South Dakota's 24/7 suicide prevention hotline, the organization offers immediate, compassionate support to those in need, connecting callers with trained counselors who can listen, guide and provide vital resources in their most vulnerable moments.

The Difference It Makes

A \$15,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is helping strengthen the hotline's infrastructure and ensure timely, professional responses across the state. With call volumes rising and mental health needs growing, this support allows the Helpline Center to expand staff training, improve technology and reach more individuals in crisis. It's an investment in connection, care and saving lives, one call at a time.



Naomi Project

Labor Trafficking

Community at the Core

In Sioux Falls, the Naomi Project is bringing attention to an often invisible and deeply complex issue: labor trafficking. While human trafficking is frequently associated with sex trafficking, many people across South Dakota are exploited for their labor through force, fraud or coercion. Victims may work long hours in unsafe conditions, be paid little or nothing, and live in fear of retaliation. The Naomi Project is stepping in to shine a light on this abuse and create meaningful change. Through education, outreach and survivor-centered care, the organization is raising awareness and building a network of support for those who have been silenced and exploited.

The Difference It Makes

A \$10,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is helping the Naomi Project expand its reach and deepen its impact. The funding supports trauma-informed services including case management, emergency shelter, legal aid and counseling. It also allows for training community partners, such as healthcare workers and law enforcement, to better identify and respond to labor trafficking. This work is about restoration, safety and reclaiming dignity for individuals who have endured unimaginable hardship.



Friends of the Goss Opera House Inc.

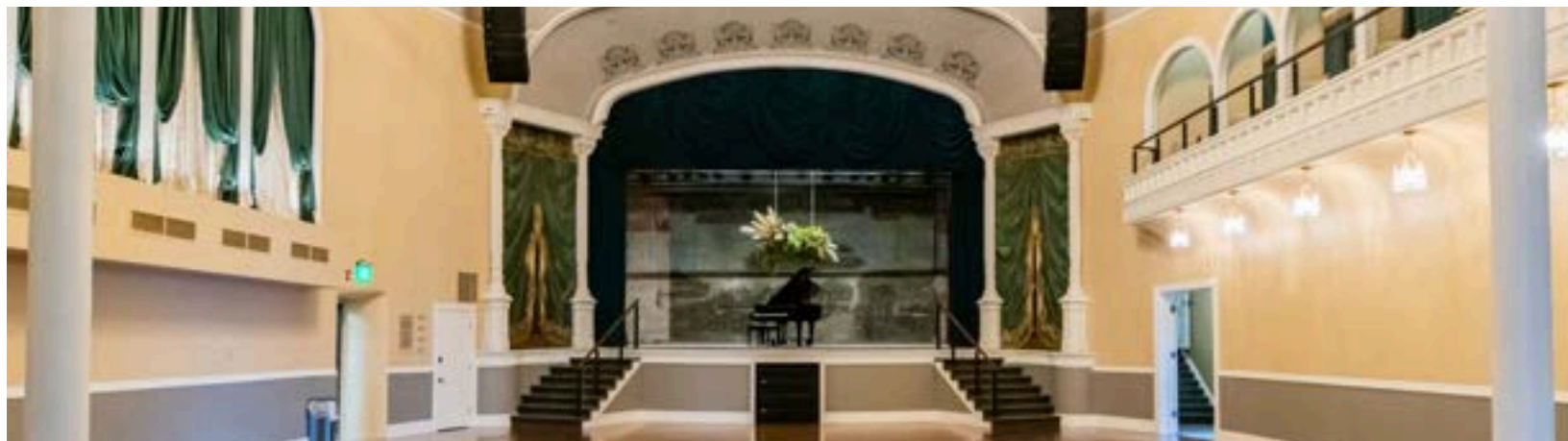
Passport to the Arts

Community at the Core

In Watertown, the historic Goss Opera House is more than just a performance venue, it is a cultural cornerstone for the community. Friends of the Goss Opera House Inc. is working to ensure that the arts are accessible to all through its Passport to the Arts program. Designed to reduce barriers to participation, the program offers free or reduced-cost tickets to individuals and families who may not otherwise be able to attend live performances, concerts and cultural events.

The Difference It Makes

An \$18,500 South Dakota Fund Grant is helping expand Passport to the Arts, enabling more residents of all ages and backgrounds to experience the power of the performing arts. The program not only increases access, but also builds a stronger, more connected community by creating shared cultural experiences. Whether it is a child seeing their first ballet or a senior enjoying live theater again, the program fosters creativity, inclusion and joy. It is a celebration of the arts that welcomes everyone to take part.



Brothers and Sisters Behind Bars

Opening Doors to the Arts

Community at the Core

In Watertown, Brothers and Sisters Behind Bars is creating a bridge between incarceration and community reintegration. Through two transitional homes, one for men and one for women, the organization offers a safe, structured environment for individuals recently released from prison. These homes provide more than shelter; they offer accountability, life skills training, mentorship, and spiritual support to help residents rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.

The Difference It Makes

A \$20,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is supporting the operating expenses of both homes, ensuring residents have access to the daily essentials, supportive programming and stability they need during a critical period of transition. By offering a fresh start in a nurturing setting, Brothers and Sisters Behind Bars is reducing recidivism, strengthening families and helping individuals find a new path forward rooted in faith, community and second chances.



ZoeCare Inc.

Earn While You Learn Program

Community at the Core

In Yankton, ZoeCare Inc. is helping new and expecting parents build strong foundations through its Earn While You Learn program. Designed for individuals navigating pregnancy and early parenthood, the program offers educational sessions on topics like prenatal care, infant development and parenting skills. Participants earn points for attending classes, which can be redeemed for essential items such as diapers, clothing and baby supplies.

The Difference It Makes

A \$5,000 South Dakota Fund Grant is supporting the growth of this practical, relationship-centered program. By offering both education and material support, ZoeCare empowers parents to feel more confident and prepared, creating healthier outcomes for families and their children. The program also fosters ongoing connections between participants and staff, ensuring that no one has to face early parenthood alone.



One project at a time.

These stories remind us of what's possible when nonprofits and communities come together with vision and determination. The South Dakota Fund Grant program is here to help bring your ideas to life. If you feel inspired, we encourage you to take the next step—explore the grant guidelines, connect with our team, and consider how your organization might make a difference through this opportunity.