Important Resource Information for Parents

The following resources are available through various South Dakota agencies. For additional information, please contact Child Care Services at 1(800)227-3020 or email ccs@state.sd.us.

211 Helpline Center - The Helpline Center serves thousands of people every year by connecting individuals to resources and support. To reach the 211 Helpline Center, you can dial "211" from your phone or visit www.helplinecenter.org. The Helpline Center provides child care referral services at https://www.helplinecenter.org/support-programs/child-care-resources/.

Department of Social Services (DSS) - Program information available at http://dss.sd.gov

1. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** - South Dakota's TANF program provides temporary assistance to families who meet eligibility guidelines.
2. **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** - The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) helps eligible South Dakotans pay for a portion of their home heating costs.
3. **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** - SNAP, helps low-income families supplement the household's food budget. The amount of SNAP benefits a household receives is based on its size, income, and allowable expenses.
4. **South Dakota Medical Assistance Programs** - Medical Assistance is a federal and state-funded program giving medical coverage for people who meet certain eligibility standards. Medical assistance programs include programs such as: State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for children under age 19, Low Income Families (LIF) for adults with dependent children, programs for women who are pregnant, or be an individual receiving Supplemental Security Income.
5. **Child Support** - The Division of Child Support (DCS) provides services to any father or mother who is the custodial parent or adult who has legal custody and/or guardianship of a minor child. Services are also available to fathers who need help establishing paternity.
6. **Child Care Assistance Program** - Parents may be eligible for assistance with child care expenses for their children from birth through age 12 while they work or attend school. Eligibility is based on family size and income.
7. **Choosing Quality Child Care** - Parents are encouraged to learn about what defines quality child care and how to choose a quality child care provider. A '*Choosing Quality Child Care*' booklet is a handy tool for parents to use when looking for child care arrangements. It is also available for download at: http://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/docs/CCS/choosingchildcareinSD.pdf

Department of Education (DOE) - Program information available at: http://www.doe.sd.gov

1. **Head Start and Early Head Start** - Head Start/Early Head Start is a comprehensive program that provides educational, nutritional, health and social services to preschool children from low-income families.
2. **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** - Licensed child care programs may participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and are reimbursed for meals served based on income level of the area or the families they serve. Guidelines assure the children are receiving nutritious meals.
3. **South Dakota Birth to Three** - Birth to Three is a program that provides early intervention services regardless of income at no cost for children from birth to age three who have a disability or a developmental delay.
4. **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs and services** - IDEA is a law ensuring services to children with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. Information is available from the US Department of Education at: http://idea.ed.gov

Department of Health Programs (DOH) - Program information available at https://www.sd.gov/wic

1. **Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program** - WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program for eligible families whose goal is to promote and maintain the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk women, infants and young children and is available statewide. https://www.sd.gov/wic

Parenting and Child Development

1. **SD Early Childhood Enrichment (ECE) Offices** - Child Care Services partners with five Early Childhood Enrichment (ECE) programs across the state to deliver a variety of services focused on parents and early childhood and school-age care providers. Located in Rapid City, Pierre, Aberdeen, Brookings, and Sioux Falls, these offices provide parenting education for parents and caregivers of children birth to age 3 and serve as hubs for the SD Child Safety Seat Distribution Program. For more information, go to: http://dss.sd.gov/childcare/educationalopportunities/.
2. **Common Sense Parenting** - Offered by the South Dakota Department of Social Services, Common Sense Parenting is a proven, step-by-step parent education program for raising responsible children and provides skills to help parents build strong, healthy families. To download the Common Sense Parenting program brochure, go to: http://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/docs/PARED/CSPbrochure.pdf
3. **SD Early Learning Guidelines** - The South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines were developed to provide parents, caregivers, and teachers a list of appropriate skills and knowledge children can learn with support by the time they have finished their preschool years, which are typically between the ages birth to 5. For more information, go to: https://dss.sd.gov/docs/childcare/Early_Learning_Guidelines.pdf

Developmental Screening Programs Available in South Dakota

1. **SD Parent Connection** - South Dakota Parent Connection (SDPC) is a nonprofit organization that connects families caring for children (birth to 26) with disabilities or special health care needs to information, training and resources in an environment of support, hope and respect. This assistance can range from information and training to referrals or individualized assistance. For more information, go to: www.sdparent.org For specific information on screenings, early intervention and educational supports, select children and youth under the "resources" tab.
2. **Medicaid/CHIP Well Child Care – South Dakota** -The South Dakota Children's Health Insurance Program, more commonly referred to as CHIP, provides health care services including regular check-ups; well child care exams; *Ear*ly, Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT); dental and vision care for children and youth; hearing tests as recommended by the PCP; and tests for lead at 12 months and 24 months, and as recommended by the PCP. For more information https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/recipients/. Applications are available at local DSS offices, schools, hospitals & clinics, or can be requested by calling 1(800)305-3064, or completed online at: https://dss.sd.gov/applyonline.
3. **WIC/Well-child check-ups and screenings** - Children on the WIC program may also participate in screenings through the community health nurse clinics through the South Dakota Department of Health. Services are delivered county offices throughout the state. Visit for more information https://www.sd.gov/wic
4. **Newborn Hearing Screening Program** - The SD Department of Health and birthing hospitals across the state have implemented an infant hearing screening program, collaborating with audiologists and early intervention service coordinators. The purpose is to identify infants with hearing loss by 3 months and enroll them in services as needed by 6 months of age. Contact your baby's doctor or an audiologist in your community or call the SD Newborn Screening Program at 1(800)738-2301. Information on this program is available at: https://doh.sd.gov/programs/newborn-screening/hearing/
5. **Newborn Screening Program** - All newborns in SD are required to have a blood test shortly after birth to screen for metabolic and other inherited disorders to help identify babies who may have one of these disorders and alert the doctor to the need for further testing and special care. For information, call 1 (800)738-2301; or visit the following website: https://doh.sd.gov/programs/newborn-screening/
6. **Indian Health Service Maternal & Child Health Screenings** - Children of American Indian heritage are eligible for Indian Health Service (HIS) well child screenings, as well as the state's health screening services. IHS Clinics are in Eagle Butte, Fort Thompson, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, McLaughlin, and Wagner. Additionally, South Dakota Urban Indian Health clinics are located in Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Rapid City. Information about the clinics and services is available at: https://www.ihs.gov/greatplains/healthcarefacilities/