

Keep In Mind

Hundreds of South Dakota children need foster families while their own families work to overcome circumstances that make the child unsafe.

The more foster families there are in our communities, the easier it is to keep siblings together and keep children in their own neighborhoods and schools. Foster families of every culture are needed to help children build and maintain positive identities.



For More Information

Thank you for your commitment to know more about becoming a foster family. You could be the one to change the lives of children.

855.830.5062
DSS.Learnmore@state.sd.us
StrongerFamiliesTogether.com

- Oglala: 605.867.5752
- Standing Rock: 701.854.3431
- Sisseton Wahpeton: 605.698.3992
- Flandreau Santee: 605.997.3891
- Crow Creek: 605.245.2581

Stronger FAMILIES Together

Tiwahé Waʼagya Witayé

Printed on recycled paper by the
South Dakota Department of Social Services
Alphagraphics | 2,000 copies | $0.15 per copy
May 2024 | CPS19N



Tiwahé Waʼagya Witayé



Help Change Lives

In communities all across South Dakota, children are in need of loving and safe foster homes.

In Lakota, Tiwahé Was'agya Witayé means Families Stronger Together and it is a time honored concept of the Tiospaye (extended family). There are no orphans in Lakota/Dakota/Nakota traditional society as children have family and others in the community to support them if a parent cannot. The concept of Wolakota means living in peace and harmony by being a good relative to those who come into our lives. These concepts cross all cultural lines as healthy families are the backbone of any society and by offering a helping hand to other families in our communities, we can build the Tiwahé Was'agya Witayé.

Five of the nine tribes can license foster homes either on or near their reservations or in their service areas.

Licensing Requirements

There are five basic licensing standards required for every potential foster family. Families must meet these standards to be licensed.

1. Foster parents must be at least 21 years of age.
2. Your house must be a safe place, without structural or health hazards.
3. A family must have sufficient income to meet the essential needs of their family. The Department of Social Services provides monthly financial assistance to support the needs of the children in foster care.
4. To ensure the safety of children in foster care, potential foster families are screened for past criminal activity and reports of abuse or neglect.
5. Attendance and completion of a foster parent education and training program to prepare and support families for success as a foster parent.

Did You Know?

- Foster parents may be single, married or divorced; parents, grandparents or people with or without children of their own.
- Foster parents may be either homeowners or renters.
- Foster families receive financial assistance to help with child care and other costs of caring for the child in foster care.
- Children in foster care will have their own medical, dental and vision insurance.
- Children in foster care may share a bedroom with children of the same gender.
- Some foster parents choose to foster children for many years. Others choose to foster for a short period of time. The choice is yours.
- Oglala Sioux, Standing Rock Sioux, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, Flandreau Santee Sioux and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes have the authority to license their own foster homes.