

DID YOU KNOW?

Foster families recruiting other foster families is one of the most successful recruiting methods.

Recruiting and retaining foster families helps youth stay together in our communities. We need more people to support lifelong connections with children. Here are 3 ways you can get involved.

1

Become a foster or an adoptive parent



2

Become a Foster Friendly Business or nominate a business

3

Become involved in supporting a local foster family through WRAP support

Please ask your civic or faith community for 5-10 minutes to share your story about the need for more foster parents and ask people to join you in supporting our goal in strengthening families in South Dakota.

Sample Script:

In **(name of your community)**, there are not enough foster/adoptive parents to meet the needs of children in foster care. The areas of greatest need are families who are willing to care for older youth, sibling groups, Native American children, and children who require specialized care due to behavioral, mental health or medical needs.

- Personal stories are an effective way to grab your audience's attention in a short amount of time. We encourage you to share your own personal story and how it has impacted your family.
- Suggested content: why you became a foster parent, positive impact it has had on you and your family, and/or positive impact you have had on others, such as the children and their parents.
- Share the Stronger Families Together business card.
- If more material is needed, for Western SD contact Andrea Hemeyer at Andrea.Hemeyer@state.sd.us; and on Central/Eastern SD contact Jennifer Mueller at Jennifer.Mueller@state.sd.us.
- Ask churches or non-profits to become a foster friendly faith community and help recruit and retain foster parents.



Please be prepared for questions. It is okay if you don't have the answer. You can get back to them. The most common questions are answered at <https://strongerfamiliesTogether.sd.gov/>

Conclude with an invitation for people to get involved (Stronger Families Together business card/link, WRAP Around Services, Foster Friendly Business). All of these opportunities can be found on this link, www.strongerfamiliesTogether.sd.gov please check it out if you are interested and share with others.