

## The national statistic states that 50% of foster parents stop fostering within a year of their first placement.

When a foster parent is no longer in the race, it creates instability for kids in care. When kids are experiencing uncertainty, they are more susceptible to these ten major social wounds.



According to The Annie E. Casey Foundation, every child who ages out of the system costs taxpayers and communities an average of **\$300,000** over the child's lifetime.



**26,000**  
foster youth



**\$300,000**  
per person



**\$7.8 BILLION**  
per year

Not only is the foster parent turnover rate affecting kids in care, but when a child ages out of foster care it costs taxpayers up to \$300,000 per child, according to The Annie Casey Foundation. On average, around 50 children age out of foster care each year in SD. That is roughly 15 million dollars in spending.

Your business can help change the story for SD to be the most Foster Friendly state in the US. So often, companies are asked for financial donations. Though financial partners are essential in helping kids in foster care, South Dakota Kids Belong wants to give you more options to make a difference. Your vocation is the solution. The Business Impact Program is a tool that helps mobilize businesses in their communities to support foster children and the families who care for them in four ways.

- 1 Impact your employees** - Help current foster parents who are your employees and educate employees to become foster parents.
- 2 Impact a future** - Fulfill a dream for a child in care or youth transitioning into adulthood. Create an internship for youth who has or is experiencing the foster care system.
- 3 Impact your community** - Leverage your business's products or services to support foster parents. Your vocation is the solution.
- 4 Impact the children** - Partner with the "I Belong Project" and state-wide initiatives to recruit and retain more than enough safe, loving families in SD.

When the business community supports the foster parents, this ultimately gives stability to the kids in their care. When kids in foster care receive security, their ability to heal increases.

## To Get Involved

Please fill out an application at <https://americaskidsbelong.org/sd-business-action>

For more information, go to <https://fosterone.sd.gov/strongerfamilies-together/business.aspx>

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