

## Q. What is a Business Impact Partner?

**A.** SDKB Business Impact Partners are businesses in South Dakota that desire to impact children and families in foster care with their business. It takes entire communities to wrap around families and children in foster care. By partnering with SDKB, you can provide community support and awareness that makes a significant UPSTREAM impact on local children and families. This program offers an easy way to support your community, your employees, and the state's most vulnerable children, along with courageous foster parents who stand in the gap for these kids. Each partner chooses how to tailor their participation based upon their unique business.

## Q. What ways can I engage?

**A.** You and your business can...

1. Impact Your Employees by including foster families in your employee benefits and participating in foster care awareness initiatives with your employees.
2. Impact Your Community by committing to provide a discount or service to families who are fostering and installing a "foster-friendly" window sticker.
3. Impact The Children by connecting with organizations such as South Dakota Kids Belong and other community partners to find out how you may be able to help support the mission to give children in foster care a face and a voice.
4. Impact The Future by fulfilling dreams for kids transitioning into adulthood from foster care at <https://dreammakersproject.org>. Provide on-the-job career training for children aging out of foster care.

## Q. Can you give me some ideas of what the discount can look like?

**A.** Sure! Take whatever products or services your business offers and extend a discount or freebie to families that are fostering. This lightens their financial load and helps them to be seen in our community. It also encourages others to consider becoming foster parents when they see how the local business community wraps around these families. Examples: 50% off gym memberships | Free house cleaning for foster family | 30% off kids classes | Kids eat free with paying adult | 20% off purchase (mattresses, clothing, toys, etc.) | \$1000 towards an upgraded vehicle | Buy 1 Get 1 Free (activity, meal, camp, tutoring) | The options are endless!

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## Q. How many foster families are in my area?

**A.** As of June 30, 2020, there were 890 foster families; however, the number of foster homes vary from county to county. June 30, 2020 number of foster homes: Pennington: 87 | Lawrence, Butte, Harding, Meade, Custer, Fall River, Bennett, Jackson: 66 | Haakon, Hughes, Hyde, Jones, Stanley, Sully, Campbell, Corson, Perkins, Potter, Walworth, Dewey, Ziebach: 55 | Mellette, Todd, Gregory, Tripp, Brule, Buffalo, Lyman, Bennett, Jackson: 56 | Beadle, Faulk, Hand, Jerauld, Sanborn, Spink, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Roberts, Brown, Edmunds, Marshall, McPherson, Brookings, Kingsbury, Lake, Miner, Mood: 140 | Minnehaha and Lincoln: 366 | Aurora, Davison, Douglas, Hanson, McCook, Charles Mix, Bon Homme, Hutchinson, Yankton, Clay, Southern Lincoln, Turner, Union: 120

## Q. How would I identify foster families?

- A.** Foster families will be issued an ID card by their licensing agency to identify they are participating in the program. You can see the ID card to the right..

## Q. Is this for adoptive families as well?

- A.** This program is specifically for foster families who are actively providing a stable home environment for children in foster care who are waiting for reunification or adoption. Keep in mind; foster families may have 2 children at the breakfast table and 5 children at the dinner table. It would be impossible to track all the families who have adopted privately in our state.

## Q. How do we promote this as a business?

- A.** We have "Foster Friendly" stickers placed in a store window or door to alert foster families, bring awareness to the community, and build social goodwill among customers. The presence of your sticker shows the community that foster families are supported here and brings further awareness to the issue of foster care. SDKB will be promoting the partnerships to foster families in SD as well.

## Q. How long would this commitment be?

- A.** We hope to commit to partner with the foster care community long-term and see this as a part of your social goodwill in the community. Your business can reevaluate in writing at any time, but we ask for a minimum 6-month commitment.

## Q. Do foster parents get paid to foster?

- A.** Foster parents are provided with a daily per diem reimbursement for each child to assist with the child's care. Fostering is not a source of income, nor is it the reason the vast majority of foster families open their homes to help children and families. We hope to support these families to continue with everyday life routines as much as possible when they accept a new child into their home!



## Ready to Get Started? Become A SDKB Business Impact Partner at:

<https://americaskidsbelong.org/sd-business-action>

**Apply Now!**