

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Addressing childcare needs to help rural SD communities continue to thrive

https://extension.sdstate.edu/childcare-needs-south-dakota

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Rationale



- Many rural communities are facing a childcare shortage, and parents have to find unique solutions, such as grandparents or traveling to other towns or 1 parent staying home to care for the children, thus giving up their career aspirations.
- Communities need help finding solutions that will remain viable and help community members see the benefits of being in the childcare profession and what it does for the local economy. Some rural communities have been overlooked in some of the recent childcare crisis work as they do not have the capacity nor understanding of how to build the taskforce groups and collaborative work groups to bring in the right voices/people.
- By helping these rural communities and diverse populations do a needs assessment and conduct roundtables and hear from panelists, we can help them build capacity and appreciation for childcare that will help build their economic future.

Approach and Outcome



Identify

 Worked with a 4-H Youth Program Advisor, STEM Field Specialist, and the Extension Master Gardener Field Specialist to help identify rural communities in each of their perspective work locations that need some help with childcare or are experiencing an economic downturn due to a lack of employees. These individuals know the communities and/or have childcare needs of their own so that they can help us gain perspective on the situation and help promote our products and services.

Needs Assessment

 With help from a community vitality field specialist, a needs assessment was developed for the communities to take, and the data will be analyzed to identify specific needs from both an economic and childcare side as the 2 correlate to keep a community thriving.

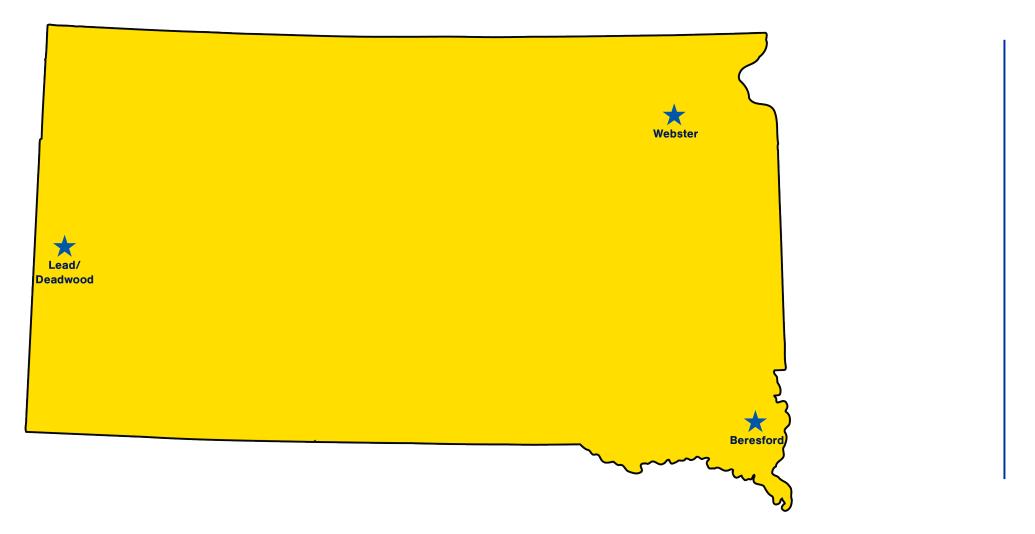
Roundtable/panel discussion

- Based on the data from the needs assessment, we plan to put together roundtable or study circle groups that could start brainstorming and formulating action plans for their community. Panelists would be brought in from various backgrounds that have helped their community or employees find and build their childcare capacity.
- From these roundtable discussions and action plan formations, we plan to help these communities form a diverse group of individuals (task force) who can continue to carry out the action plan steps as well as look at an overall strategic plan that can help build their rural economy.

Project Communities



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Mission

As the outreach arm of South Dakota State University, our state's land-grant institution, SDSU Extension serves as a lifelong network that provides farmers, ranchers, agribusiness, **FAMILIES**, **YOUTH** and **COMMUNITIES** with the research-based information and education needed to positively impact their quality of life, economic viability and environmental surroundings.

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How this fits Extension's mission?



- A needs assessment is a systematic approach to gather information to develop Extension programming.
- After conducting the assessment, SDSU Extension will tailor direct education resources to local needs and build a better working relationship with stakeholders and community members.
- "..positively impact their quality of life, economic viability and environmental surroundings."

Stakeholders Involved



- SD Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) and Early Learner staff reviewed survey.
- Nebraska Extension Early Childhood Educators reviewed survey.
- Department of Social Services staff reviewed the survey.
 I will share the results with them once the survey closes and the data has been analyzed.
- Schools, economic development, chamber, and city government within the three communities have been contacted to help market the survey.

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 The Extension multidisciplinary program seed grant funding is pulled from federal dollars.

 The majority of the grant resources (time and funds) will be spent on direct education within the three communities once the assessment is complete.

- Costs to complete the needs assessment survey:
 - Software \$0 Question Pro provided by SDSU
 - Marketing \$1000 locally targeted print and digital advertising
- Making the survey available statewide did not add any additional expenses to the project.





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mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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