



Stronger
FAMILIES
Together



SD Department of Social Services
Division of Child Protection Services and Office of Licensing and Accreditation
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Stronger Families Together

Placement shortages

Focus on permanency

Initiative timeline

- Began examining the development of a new model in 2020
- Partnered with America's Kids Belong
- Launched by Governor Noem in May 2021

Greatest Recruitment Needs

- Western and Central South Dakota
- Native American Foster Families
- Older children
- Brothers and sisters
- Specialized care for medical, developmental, emotional, or behavioral needs





Who is involved?

Governor
Kristi Noem

Tribal
Leadership

Department
of Social
Services

Department
of Tribal
Relations

Non-Profit
Organizations

Tribal child
welfare
programs

Foster and
adoptive
parents

Foster care
alumni

Business
leaders

Municipal
leaders

Faith-based
organizations

Child
placement
agencies

Stronger Families Together Model



STATE
GOVERNMENT



TRIBES



BUSINESS



FAITH

Business Impact

Raise awareness

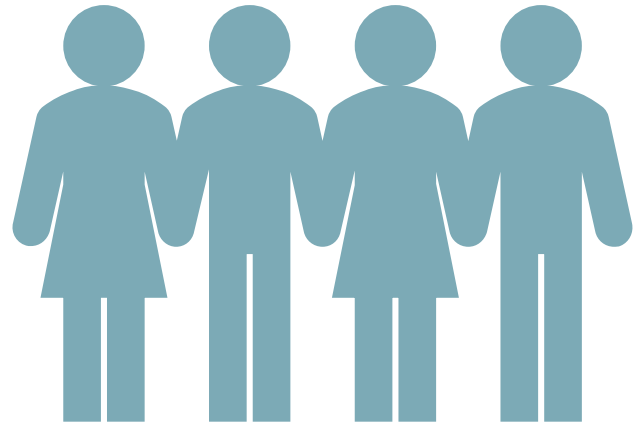
Provide support to
foster and adoptive
families

Outreach to
employees about the
need for foster and
adoptive families

Foster-friendly HR
policies for foster
parents

Support community
recruitment efforts

Mobile app “Foster
Friendly” Businesses



Faith Impact

Raise Awareness

Wrap-Around Programs

Support ministry

Trauma training for faith
community

Key Component

Partnership

Collaboration

Communications

Messaging

Recruitment materials

Targeted outreach

Media

New Licensed Foster Homes

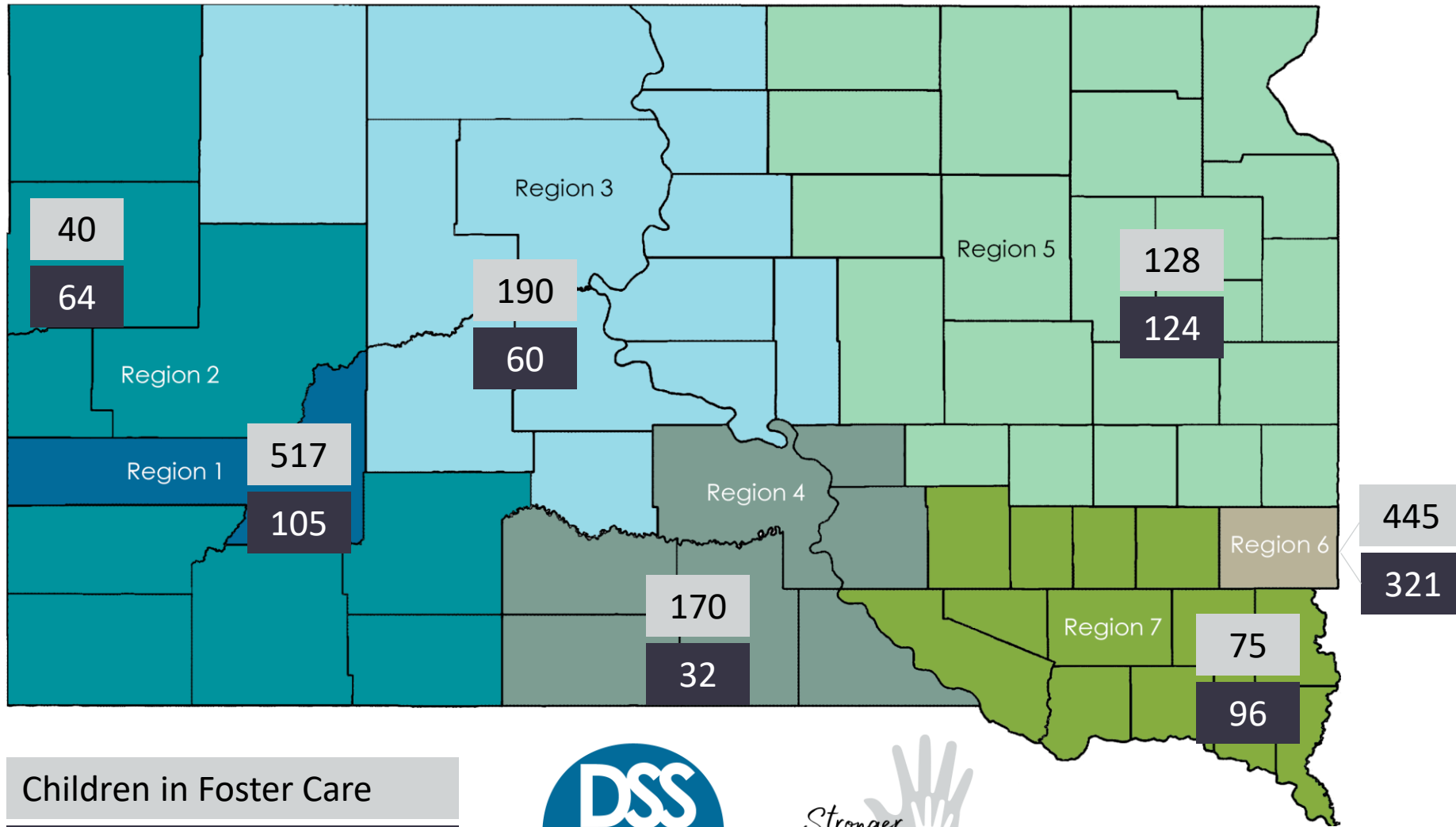
NEW LICENSED FOSTER FAMILY RECRUITMENT

State Fiscal Year	Total number of new licensed families	Number of new DSS Native American Families	Number of Therapeutic families	Number of New families licensed by a Tribal Agency
SFY2022	302	37	7	1
SFY2023	210	30	15	4
SFY 2024	207	32	2	5

Foster Parent Support Outcomes


SUPPORT/RETENTION FOR FOSTER FAMILIES					
State Fiscal Year	Wrap Around	Wrap Teams	Foster Friendly Churches	Foster Friendly Businesses	Foster Friendly Non-Profits
May 2021	10	10	19	0	0
SFY2022	175	13	32	73	3
SFY2023	311	28	64	151	38
SFY2024	378	29	66	289	38

As of October 31, 2024



Children in Foster Care
Licensed Foster Homes





For more
information,
please visit.....

www.strongerfamieliestogether.sd.gov