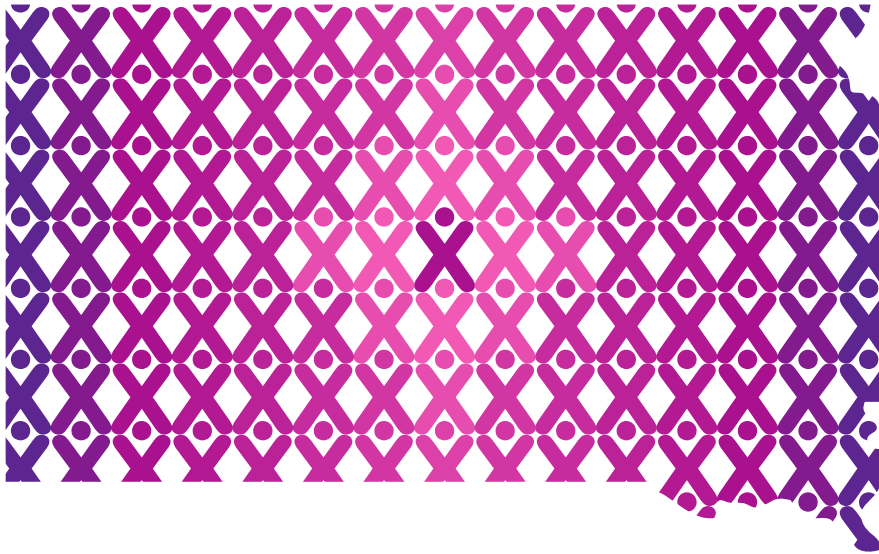


NEXUS SD IMPLEMENTATION AWARD

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
April 11, 2025, AT 5:00 PM CT



NEXUS SD IMPLEMENTATION AWARD

<p>Point of contact: Rachel Sehr, Administrator Office of Community Engagement South Dakota Department of Health</p>	<p>Application Submission Deadline: April 11, 2025, 5:00 pm CT</p>
<p>Funding available: Up to \$10,000 per awardee</p>	<p>Tentative Award Notification: May 16, 2025</p>
	<p>Project Period: June 1, 2025-December 31, 2025</p>

Apply via electronic submission to Rachel Sehr at Rachel.Sehr@state.sd.us no later than April 11, 2025, at 5:00 pm CT. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. For questions, please contact Rachel Sehr via Rachel.Sehr@state.sd.us or 605.367.5356.

Background

Social drivers of health have been shown to account for as much as 80% of a person's health outcomes.¹ Meaning, the medical care an individual receives has far less influence on their overall wellbeing than other, external factors.²

Rural residents are even more susceptible to negative health outcomes as a result of barriers being compounded in rural areas.³ In South Dakota (SD), all but two counties are considered either rural or frontier. SD also has 13% of its households living below 100% of the [federal poverty level](#). Reservations, of which SD has nine, experience still higher rates of poverty. Three counties which are each home to reservations, are amongst the highest poverty rates in the nation (Oglala Lakota (55.8%), Todd (52.2%), Mellette (49.1%)).^{4, 5, 6}

12.2% of SD residents under 65 years of age experience a lack of health insurance and 8.3% of residents have less than a high school diploma/GED. Additionally, two-thirds of the state is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area by the federal government.⁵

Purpose

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to address health disparities and social drivers of health to improve health outcomes through the implementation of Nexus SD.

Nexus SD is a statewide collaboration of health care, human and social service providers sharing information using an integrated technology platform and referral system to coordinate whole-person care. The vision of Nexus SD is to streamline connection between multi-sector providers to address social needs and drive positive outcomes among populations at higher risk and that are underserved. Nexus SD is beneficial to our State in many ways:

- Individual Benefits:
 - Quicker connection to appropriate services
 - Telling their story only once
 - Additional needs identified through screenings
 - Elevated level of care and satisfaction
- Partner Benefits:
 - Access to comprehensive resource database
 - Streamlined referrals and communication between providers
 - Shared client story promotes rapid identification of social needs
 - Organizations can more effectively serve community members

- Access to outcome data for measuring impact
- Community Benefits:
 - Community-level data to inform policy, planning and investment
 - Identification of unmet needs and barriers to access services
 - Infrastructure more effectively serves community members

Eligibility

- All applicants must have reviewed the Nexus SD Policy and System Operation Manual found at nexus.sd.gov and be ready to execute a membership agreement at the time of contract execution, if awarded.
- All awarded sites must either send, receive, or send *and* receive referrals related to addressing social drivers of health. The Nexus SD team will work with awardees needing to implement new referral processes as appropriate. However, applicants with processes already in place will be prioritized during awardee selection.
- This funding opportunity is open to:
 - Organizations with a 501(c)3 tax status (or equivalent status) and government entities:
 - Examples: Community groups/civic/service organizations ▪ Tribal and/or municipal government offices/programs ▪ Programs that meet basic needs: such as shelter, food, clothing ▪ Programs that provide emergency services ▪ Primary health care services ▪ Support groups ▪ Health and human services ▪ Youth programs ▪ Schools/after school programs ▪ Disability services ▪ Substance use services
 - For profit businesses providing a critical health or human service if they offer a free (or reduced cost) service to the community or accept Medicaid or Medicare
- Organizations previously awarded through a Nexus SD funding opportunity are not eligible for further funding.

Available Funding

- Up to twenty-five organizations will be awarded through this opportunity.
- Applicants can receive up to \$10,000 based on completion of various milestones.
- 100% of this project will be funded by federal funds.

Funding Parameters

- The project period begins June 1, 2025, and lasts through December 31, 2025.
- Organizations may be awarded prior to the submission deadline.
- Continued funding will not be available. Any awarded funding not utilized will be forfeited.
- Funding will be remitted based on completion of key milestones.
- All onboarding milestones must be completed for new Nexus SD members before reimbursement is dispersed.
- Members do not need to complete all milestones and will be reimbursed according to the milestones they achieve.
- Implementation and recruitment milestones may be reimbursed as soon as the milestone is reached.
- Implementation and recruitment milestones may occur concurrently.
- Recruitment reimbursement will be dispersed after each recruited organization successfully completes onboarding.

Funding Restrictions

- Organizations awarded through this opportunity must be physically located in South Dakota and target South Dakota residents and/or tribal communities.
- Funding will be awarded to an organization only and not to an individual(s).
- A single organization may be awarded only once, regardless of the number of physical locations.

Application Guidelines

- The South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH) will approve or deny applications. All decisions will be final. Denial of award does not equate to denial of Nexus SD membership.
- The maximum funding award will be \$10,000 based on completion of milestones.
- Past performance of organizations who have previously received SD DOH funds will be considered when reviewing applications.
- Applications received after the submission deadline will not be considered for award but are still encouraged to join Nexus SD.

Scoring Criteria

- Submissions will be rated based on the completeness and relevancy of the information supplied.
- Organizations serving the highest need populations in South Dakota will be prioritized.
- The following point values have been assigned to the sections within the application.
 - Contact Information.....20 points
 - Contract Requirements.....10 points
 - Organizational Background.....20 points
 - Population Served.....80 points
 - Pre-Implementation Considerations.....20 points
 - Nexus SD Utilization.....80 points
 - Project Team.....20 points

Reporting Requirements

- Submit user feedback via the post-onboarding survey.
- Submit a progress report with every milestone reimbursement request. A template will be provided by SD DOH.
- Submit a final, cumulative report by January 31, 2026. A template will be provided by SD DOH.

Award Requirements

- Submit invoices within one month of achieving milestone completion.
- Submit at least one success story by the end of the funding cycle. A template will be provided by SD DOH.
- Participate in one panel discussion or presentation as requested by SD DOH.
- Participate in other evaluation activities requested by the SD DOH.

Technical Assistance

- Technical assistance will be provided by the Nexus SD team throughout the application period and project period.

Objective Specific Requirements

- Awardees will implement the use of Nexus SD within their organization through the pre-determined milestones.

New Nexus SD Members		
Category	Milestone	Reimbursement
Onboarding	Sign contract and Nexus SD membership documents	\$2,000.00
	Create program card(s)	
	Claim program(s)	
	Complete staff training	
Implementation*	Provide services for at least 10 seekers	\$1,000.00
	Provide services for at least 25 seekers	\$1,000.00
	Provide services for at least 50 seekers	\$1,000.00
Recruitment**	Refer up to 10 member organizations who join Nexus SD	\$500 per member
Existing Nexus SD Members		
Category	Milestone	Reimbursement
Implementation*	Provide services for at least 10 seekers	\$1,000.00
	Provide services for at least 25 seekers	\$1,000.00
	Provide services for at least 50 seekers	\$1,000.00
	Provide services for at least 75 seekers	\$1,000.00
	Provide services for at least 100 seekers	\$1,000.00
Recruitment**	Refer up to 10 member organizations who join Nexus SD	\$500 per member

*Eligible implementation services include:

- Completing the intake process for a new seeker
- Sending one or more referrals on behalf of a new seeker
- Receiving a referral for a new seeker and documenting a positive (green) completion status indicating your organization was able to provide a service (assist with rent, transportation, food procurement, etc.) for that seeker.
- For unsuccessful (red) outcomes, due diligence must be documented showing the member attempted to provide a service before it can count toward your overall implementation milestones.

**Eligible referrals include new members who join Nexus SD in response to your recruitment efforts. Awardees may not receive reimbursement for recruitment of existing members or recruitment of organizations who are ineligible or don't join Nexus SD.

Helpful Resources/Links

- Nexus SD: nexus.sd.gov
- South Dakota Department of Health: <https://doh.sd.gov/>

References

1. Deloitte: https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/life-sciences-and-health-care/articles/addressing-drivers-of-health-outcomes.html?id=us:2ps:3gl:dohweb25:awa:lsbc:080124&qad_source=1&qclid=Cj0KCOjwq_G1BhCSARIsACc7NxpA4zDIJf_BtcsLPssagLWnv56mcr19IqV9szi6q7-7_2C1NaM7YSMaAuceEALw_wcB
2. World Health Organization: https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab_1
3. Rural Health Information Hub: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/social-determinants-of-health>
4. Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA): <https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/Narratives/Overview/a508549b-f4df-4a1f-b0d1-a263051578fd>
5. United States Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/12/poverty-rates-by-county.html#:~:text=Three%20counties%20in%20South%20Dakota,the%20nation's%20highest%20poverty%20rates.>
6. South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations: <https://sdtribalrelations.sd.gov/tribes/nine-tribes.aspx>
7. Rural Health Information Hub: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/frontier#definition>
8. US Department of Health and Human Services: <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/health-equity-healthy-people-2030>
9. CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/health-literacy/php/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/learn/index.html
10. Health Resources and Services Administration: <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/workforce-shortage-areas/shortage-designation#hpsas>
11. US Department of Health and Human Services: <https://health.gov/healthypeople/about#:~:text=What%20is%20Healthy%20People%202030,over%20the%20first%204%20decades.>
12. United State Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>
13. US Department of Health and Human Services: <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>

Definitions

- **Frontier** counties include those with a population density of six or fewer people living in a square mile.⁷
- **Health Disparities** are defined as particular types of health differences that are closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantages.⁸
- **Health Literacy** is comprised of two components, personal health literacy and organizational health literacy.
 - **Personal health literacy** is the degree to which individuals have the ability to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others.
 - **Organizational health literacy** is the degree to which organizations equitably enable individuals to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others.⁹
- **Health Professional Shortage Area** is a shortage of providers for an entire group within a defined geographic area.¹⁰

- **Healthy People 2030** identifies public health priorities to help individuals, organizations, and communities across the United States improve health and well-being.¹¹
- **Rural** areas encompass all people, housing, and territory not within an urban area. Urban areas are territories consisting of at least 2,000 housing units or a population of at least 5,000.¹²
- **Social drivers of health (SDOH)** are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.¹³

Budget

- No budget submission is required for this funding award.
- A maximum of \$10,000 will be dispersed to awarded organizations based on completion of the specified milestones.

Point of Contact

Rachel Sehr, Administrator
Office of Community Engagement | South Dakota Department of Health
605.367.5356 | Rachel.Sehr@state.sd.us

NEXUS SD IMPLEMENTATION APPLICATION

Contact Information

Organization name: _____

Organization address: _____

Organization HIPAA status: _____ HIPAA-covered _____ Not HIPAA-covered _____ Unknown

Organization tax status: _____ 501(c)3/nonprofit _____ For-profit _____ Unknown

Organization sector: _____ Healthcare _____ Human Services _____ Social Services

_____ Community-Based Organization _____ Other: _____

What population(s) does your organization serve: _____ Medicaid _____ Medicare

_____ Uninsured _____ Underinsured _____ Insured _____ Other: _____

Primary contact: _____

Contact title: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Contact email address: _____

Have you previously been awarded funding or been in a contract with the South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH)? _____ Yes _____ No

Please indicate if you are a current member/user of any of the following:

_____ Nexus SD _____ Findhelp _____ Helpline Center Network of Care (HCNC)

_____ Unite Us _____ Unknown _____ Other: _____

What software system(s) do you currently use for documentation? _____

Do you have interest in integrating your software with Nexus SD? _____ Yes _____ No

How did you hear about this award opportunity? _____ SD DOH website _____ Newsletter

_____ Outreach from Nexus SD Team/Helpline Center _____ Outreach from SD DOH

_____ Current Nexus SD Member: _____

_____ Other: _____

Contract Requirements

If your organization is awarded funding, a contract and Nexus SD membership agreement documents must be executed with the SD DOH prior to access of Nexus SD or dissemination of funds. The following documents will be required:

- Contract with SD DOH
- Proof of insurance
- Alternate W-9 form
- [SB189 Vendor Certification Form](#)
- [Nexus SD Partner Agreement](#)
- [Nexus SD Associate Agreement](#) (non-HIPAA covered organizations)
- Nexus SD Participant Customer Agreement with findhelp (HIPAA-covered organizations)

To speed the process of document execution, please provide the below information.

_____ Same as listed in contact information section

Organization name: _____

Organization address: _____

Primary contact: _____

Contact title: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Contact email address: _____

Signatory information (individual that has the authority and will sign the required legal documents on behalf of your organization):

_____ Same as primary contact

Signatory name: _____

Signatory title: _____

Signatory phone number: _____

Signatory email address: _____

Organizational Background

Please describe in detail the type(s) of work completed by your organization. This may include programs within your organization, services offered, etc.

Population Served

What is the total number of individuals served by your organization in the past year? _____

Please describe the demographic makeup of the population your organization services. (e.g., sex, age, ethnicity, insurance status, etc.)

Please describe the geographic area your organization serves (i.e., statewide, Pennington County, etc.).

Please describe the barriers and challenges faced by the population your organization serves, particularly as they relate to social drivers of health.

Pre-Implementation Considerations

Please describe any steps that must be taken prior to implementation of Nexus SD (i.e., security scan, policy development, etc.).

Nexus SD Utilization

Please describe the anticipated level of staff participation within your organization, including how many and what type of staff (case managers, community health workers, etc.) will utilize Nexus SD.

Please describe how the use of Nexus SD aligns with existing or planned workflow or processes within your organization.

Please describe any anticipated **benefits** your organization will experience with Nexus SD implementation.

Please describe any anticipated **barriers** your organization will experience with Nexus SD implementation.

Project Team

Please describe the team that will lead your internal Nexus SD implementation efforts.

