

Christ-centered Crisis Pregnancy & Adoption Support For the Women of South Dakota

South Dakota District LWML Mission Grant Proposal from Lutheran Family Service

Meet Lutheran Family Service

For more than a century, Lutheran Family Service (LFS) has walked with people through challenging times as a ministry extension of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Jesus is the cornerstone of their ministry and the focus of all they do. The LFS team is made up of mature Christian individuals who are experts in their field with a passion for ministry work. A Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS, LFS has grown to meet the evolving needs of healthy families and healthy children in today's faith-challenging culture. LFS provides LCMS Church Worker Wellness, Unplanned Pregnancy Support, Adoption Services, Grief Education and Support, Marriage and Family Counseling, and Mental Health Counseling in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Statement of Need

Nearly 4,000 births in South Dakota annually are to single mothers, creating a crisis situation for many of them and their unborn babies. This can lead a young mother to make a deadly decision to abort her unborn child. The illegal mailing of abortion drugs takes place at alarming rates, making the women of South Dakota vulnerable to abortion despite the state's ban. Additionally, medical abortions are performed without restriction in neighboring states. These 4,000 women facing unplanned pregnancies need mercy work and God's loving message of forgiveness and salvation.

Program Summary with Budget

LFS provides essential services of life affirming options counseling, evidence-based decision making models, case management, medical insurance applications, WIC applications, transportation assistance, housing referrals, parenting preparedness, discussions of pregnancy with birth fathers, Christian counseling, adoption planning, legal representation in adoption court processes, and after-adoption mental health support. All of these services to South Dakota women are free, and both parenting preparedness and adoption planning are offered.

Conversations of faith are a critical part of our work with our clients. As is often the case, when difficult situations arise, people can see their need for Christ's love, forgiveness, and salvation. LFS intentionally does not accept government financial support so that we can have these critical discussions with our clients.

Informing South Dakota women of the help and support they will find at LFS is essential. The engagement of OBGYN's and family practice doctors in South Dakota is one of the most effective ways of getting the information about these services to pregnant South Dakota women.

In order to educate and inform OBGYN's and family practice doctors, LFS would like to conduct a Lunch and Learn program in twelve practices surrounding the Sioux Falls area within a twenty-four-month time frame. During the Lunch and Learn, the medical professionals in that practice

will learn about all the services provided and how to refer their clients to visit with us. Materials for referral will be provided. Lunch will be provided to all the participants in each practice in order to encourage their attendance and attention to the information provided.

We anticipate attendance of 10-15 participants in each of the 12 practice locations where a Lunch and Learn will be offered. We further anticipate a cost of \$2,250 to provide lunch. We ask that \$2,750 be awarded to LFS to provide for the necessary services for the South Dakota women referred to us. Services that we provide free of charge to pregnant South Dakota mothers are listed in the previous paragraphs in this program summary. In total, \$5,000 is being requested.

Facilities & Equipment

LFS has an established office located in Sioux Falls, SD, with several skilled Christian practitioners. No special equipment is necessary.

Administration and Accounting of the Program

The Grant Administrator is Kim Laube, LFS Deputy Director, with funds accounting by Operations Manager Holly Eldridge. LFS finances are reviewed annually by an outside accounting firm, with audited figures available in each year's Form 990; and upon request. Please direct any additional inquiries to LFS Deputy Director at 515-669-5187 or klaube@lutheranfamilyservice.org.

Other Funding Sources

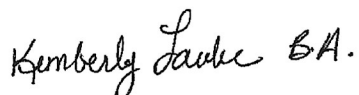
LFS is blessed by the partnership of the LCMS South Dakota District, whose invitation to bring services to South Dakota included some of the necessary startup funding, along with consistent, vocal championing of our expanding work. LFS is also blessed with many donor partners who care about those in need and support serving them through annual stewardship gifts. Donor partner support, together with fee income, covers the organization's ongoing annual operating expenses.

Comments from persons having special knowledge of the ministry

"Lutheran Family Service is an organization that does not only work with you, they are willing to establish a relationship with you. I would personally love to recommend working with my Adoption Caseworker. She has been wonderful, and I could not have been more blessed to not only work with her professionally, but have a relationship with her and get the feeling that she has care for me that runs deeper than a social -worker to biological—mom relationship. We need more people like her."

Mia, South Dakota, Birthmother

Respectfully Submitted,



Kimberly Laube, Deputy Director
Lutheran Family Service

June 23, 2025







