



2024 State Convention Adopted Resolutions Adopted by the South Dakota Democratic Convention July 20th, 2024

Resolution to Urge the South Dakota Governor and Legislature to Actively Pursue Federal Funding for Programs Benefiting South Dakotans

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Democratic Party recognizes the paramount importance of improving the affordability of basic necessities, education, and healthcare, as well as the overall quality of life, for the people of South Dakota and sovereign Tribal Nations within South Dakota borders; and

WHEREAS, South Dakotans face significant challenges, including low wages, limited affordability of education opportunities, child and eldercare deserts, mental health services, poverty, and hunger, that shackle their liberty to improve their and their families' economic standing and overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, South Dakotans pay federal taxes and deserve to see these funds utilized to benefit their communities through federal programs designed to address these issues; and

WHEREAS, the state executive and legislature's rejection of currently available federal funding sources, as well as pre-emptive bans on state agencies applying for potential future opportunities to bring our taxpayer dollars back to the state, serves to hinder progress in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, federal funding opportunities, such as those provided through the American Rescue Plan, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Inflation Reduction Act, and federal grants for education offer substantial benefits to the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, denying the state's opportunity to encourage the creation of higher-paying jobs in areas such as technology and clean energy, and strips South Dakotans' freedom to improve their own lives through better employment prospects within our state; and

WHEREAS, these rejections place South Dakota at a disadvantage compared to other states that have accepted federal funds to improve their socioeconomic conditions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Dakota Democratic Party calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to:

1. **Investigate and Apply for Federal Funds:** Systematically review all available federal programs and grant opportunities and apply for those that can significantly benefit the people of the State and insure that available federal funds are used to their full potential.
2. **Legislative Measures:** Enact legislation to ensure that federal funds, once accepted, are utilized effectively and transparently to address key areas of need within the state.
3. **Public Awareness and Advocacy:** Educate the public and advocate for the acceptance of federal funds by highlighting the direct benefits to families, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and the broader economy, as well as the creation of higher-paying jobs in new sectors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Dakota Democratic Party supports any actions by the Governor and Legislature that prioritize the economic and social well-being of all South Dakotans by ensuring that the state fully utilizes available resources to enhance the lives of its residents.