



## SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

3200 East Highway 34, Pierre, SD 57501

Administration

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOC teams up with SDSU to expand offender reentry services

PIERRE, S.D.- The South Dakota Department of Corrections (DOC) is teaming up with South Dakota State University (SDSU) to expand and facilitate services for individuals transitioning out of prison and back into the community.

The Community Practice Innovation Center at SDSU has been awarded a \$3 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to work on prevention, treatment, and recovery for substance abuse disorder.

“A large proportion of the offenders in our prisons have substance use disorders when they enter our system,” said Secretary of Corrections Kellie Wasko. “We will proactively identify resources and partnerships to impact our offender population while incarcerated and throughout their transition back into our communities. We are extremely thankful for this particular partnership with SDSU.”

SDSU will utilize the grant funding for their START-SD (Stigma, Treatment, Avoidance and Recovery in Time) program to increase access to treatment services for substance abuse disorder, establish peer coaching services, expand reentry programming, and provide post-reentry support. Work will focus in Hughes, Bon Homme, Yankton, and Codington counties on individuals transitioning out of the South Dakota Women’s Prison, Mike Durfee State Prison, and the Yankton Minimum Center.

Offenders, including those currently or recently incarcerated, will have increased access to medication assisted treatment, counseling, behavioral therapy, and peer coaching services.

Reentry programming in the prison facilities will also increase, allowing more services to be available. Evidence-based reentry programming includes services which help offenders prepare for release and are shown to decrease likelihood of recidivism.

In addition to providing services to those currently or recently incarcerated, START-SD-Impact will increase availability and access to coaching and peer-coaching services for family of offenders. The program will also complete work to increase community engagement and decrease stigma surrounding substance use disorder and reentry. Seminars will be available for correctional staff, medical and behavioral health professionals for training, increasing support for treatment, and recovery programming.

For additional information regarding the grant, see [www.sdstate.edu/news/2024/10/start-sd-team-sdsu-begins-work-address-substance-use-disorder-support-prisoner-reentry](http://www.sdstate.edu/news/2024/10/start-sd-team-sdsu-begins-work-address-substance-use-disorder-support-prisoner-reentry)

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