



***Request for Information  
Evaluation Services***

**Project Name:** Volunteers of America, Dakotas Immersion Center

**Overview**

Volunteers of America, Dakotas (VOA Dakotas) will be submitting an application to the South Dakota Department of Education for the FY26 21st Century Community Learning Center Program. VOA Dakotas is seeking the services of an external evaluator to assist with data collection and evaluation, reporting, and quality improvement efforts related to this project. If awarded, this would be a five-year project, and the terms of the contract would be from 7/1/2025-6/30/2030.

**Population to be Served**

STARS will serve students from the Elementary Immersion Center at Jane Addams Elementary in Sioux Falls, SD. The Elementary Immersion Center (EIC) welcomes students and their families who are new to the country and have emerging reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in English.

The project anticipates serving an average daily attendance of 18 students during the school year and 9 students during the summer.

**Project Goals and Objectives**

Below is a description of the applicable performance indicators used by the South Dakota Department of Education to evaluate the effectiveness of activities carried out by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grants. Grantees are required to collect and submit data on the following elements. These are also required by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA).

1. Percentage of students in grades 4-5 participating in 21CCLC programming during the school year and summer who demonstrate growth in English/language arts on the South Dakota state assessments.
  - a. The South Dakota Accountability System performs growth calculations for every student who has enough testing data. Based on their achievement, each student will be assigned a growth number. Students should be counted as demonstrating growth if they achieved a growth score of two (2), three (3), or four (4).
2. Percentage of students in grades 4-5 participating in 21CCLC programming during the school year and summer who demonstrate growth in mathematics on the South Dakota state assessments.

- a. The South Dakota Accountability System performs growth calculations for every student who has enough testing data. Based on their achievement, each student will be assigned a growth number. Students should be counted as demonstrating growth if they achieved a growth score of two (2), three (3), or four (4).
3. Percentage of students in grades 1-12 participating in 21CCLC during the school year who had a school day attendance rate at/or below 90% in the prior school year and demonstrated an improved attendance rate in the current school year.
4. Percentage of students in grades 1-12 attending 21CCLC programming during the school year and summer who experienced a decrease in in-school suspensions compared to the previous school year.
5. Percentage of students in grades 1–5 participating in 21CCLC programming in the school year and summer who demonstrated an improvement in teacher-reported engagement in learning.

In addition to these required indicators, VOA Dakotas will collect the following:

1. Percentage of students demonstrating improved social skills based on pre- and post-social skills checklist completed by VOA Dakotas staff.
2. Data on family engagement and learning

### **Evaluation Responsibilities and Deliverables**

VOA Dakotas is seeking an experienced evaluator to facilitate data collection and evaluation and assist with reporting and quality improvement efforts. Responsibilities and deliverables include:

- Collecting and analyzing the above listed outcome data
- Assisting in preparing outcome data Annual Performance Reports twice annually (see attached example)
- Participate in at least quarterly meetings with relevant program staff, including at least one annual quality improvement meeting
- One (1) annual summary report at the end of each project year and one (1) cumulative report at the end of the five-year project. Annual reports should summarize activities, outcomes, and quality improvement efforts.

### **Volunteers of America, Dakotas Background and Purpose**

VOA Dakotas is called by the Gospel to guide people to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Reaching out to help those whom we are called to serve achieve their full potential, VOA Dakotas demonstrates God's love by guiding people with behavioral health needs; supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; strengthening those struggling with homelessness; and uplifting children, youth, and families.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.voa-dakotas.org](http://www.voa-dakotas.org)

### **Request for Information Details and Directions**

Please email information to Deb Rice, Managing Director of Grants, at [d.rice@voa-dakotas.org](mailto:d.rice@voa-dakotas.org) no later than January 31, 2025 by 5:00 PM CST. Questions regarding this Request for Information may be submitted electronically to Deb Rice, Managing Director of Grants at [d.rice@voa-dakotas.org](mailto:d.rice@voa-dakotas.org) with the subject line 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Project Question.

Content for the information should include:

- A brief description of the firm and/or consultant, including qualifications and relevant experience
- A proposed timeline of activities or deliverables
- A proposed budget for all five years of the project, including how budget was determined.
- A previous sample of work

### **Notification**

Selection notification will be sent via email on February 7, 2025.

### **Preparation Costs**

All costs incurred in the preparation and presentation of this Request for Information shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Deb Rice  
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Volunteers of America, Dakotas  
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