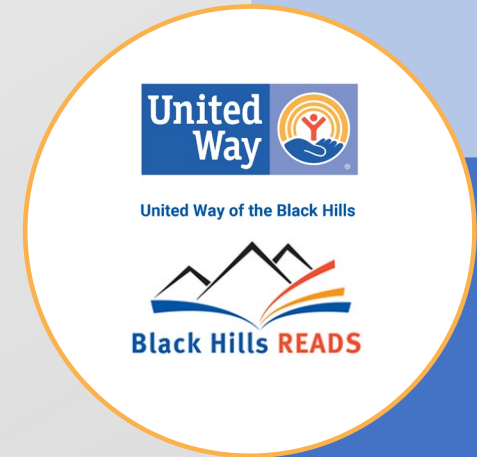


Black Hills Reads Luncheon

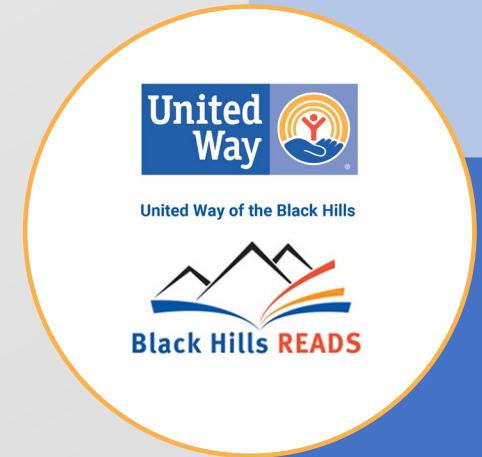
Putting together the Puzzle Pieces



Tuesday, July 27, 2021 | www.unitedwayblackhills.org

Jamie Toennies

Executive Director,
United Way of the Black Hills



A Special Thank You to the
John T. Vucurevich Foundation
For Supporting this Luncheon



JOHN T. VUCUREVICH
FOUNDATION

...to make a piece of the world a brighter place.



United Way of the Black Hills



Meeting Agenda



United Way of the Black Hills
(UWBH) role in Education



Black Hills Reads Mission and Goals



Early Learner South Dakota



About Systems Change: What is it?



UWBH Mission

We fight for a brighter tomorrow for each individual in the Black Hills through efforts focused in the pillars of ...



EDUCATION

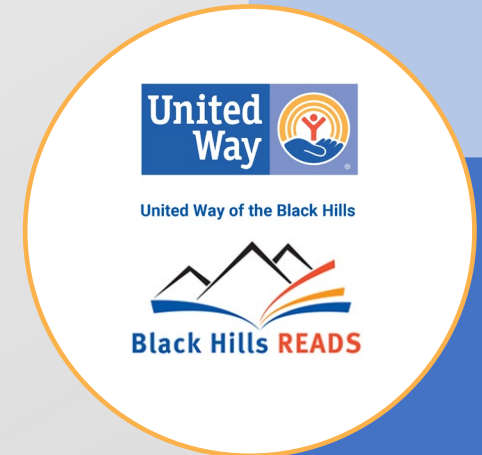


FINANCIAL
STABILITY



HEALTH

Why is Education Important?



UWBH's Focus on Education

WHY? Key studies show that education is the foundation to future opportunities:



- **More likely** to hold a job and have higher earnings
- **More likely** to own their own car and home
- Children who fall behind in school are more likely to drop out and dropouts are eight times more likely than graduates to end up in prison

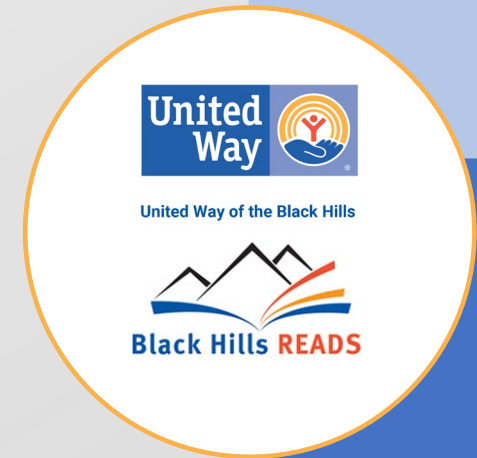


UWBH's Focus on Education

Access to Quality Childhood Education can help in solving some of the chronic issues identified in our 2019 Community Needs Assessment...

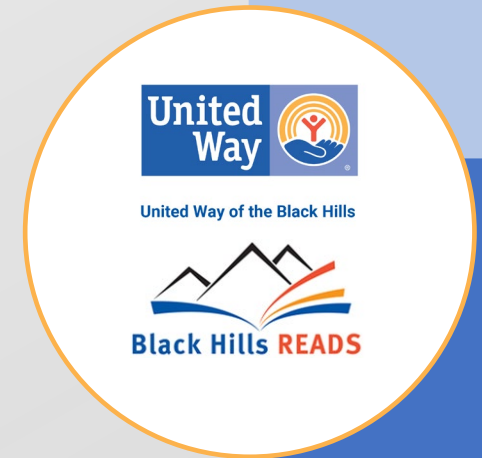
- Access to higher paying job opportunities
- Financial Instability/Dependence
- Inability to cover costs for basic needs like food, utilities, rent or mortgage

BOTTOM LINE: Quality education and learning experiences in an investment in our future economy



Kayla Klein

Black Hills Reads Director,
United Way of the Black Hills



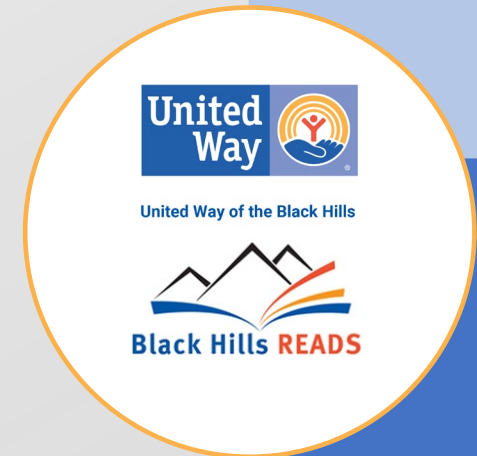
Our Focus on Education

Reading Proficiency at the third grade reading level is a strong indicator of academic success and future opportunities

DID YOU KNOW? 54% of third graders in South Dakota **ARE NOT READING PROFICIENT**

Black Hills Reads focuses on reducing this statistic learning gap, and get children reading proficiently by the end of third grade

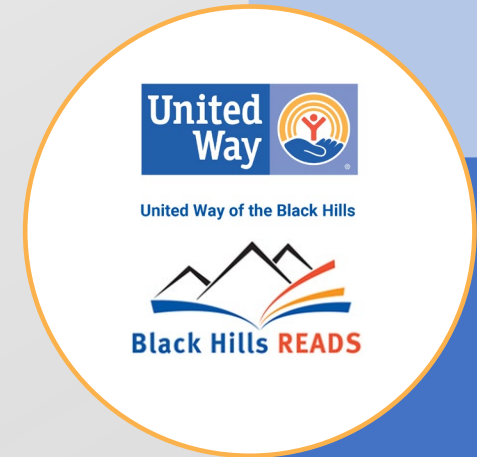
How do we make this happen?



Why is Early Learning and Child Care Important to Black Hills Reads?

“Recent research confirms that the first five years are particularly important for the development of the child’s brain structure. Early experiences provide the base for the brains organizational develop and functioning throughout life. They have a direct impact on how children develop learning skills as well as social and emotional abilities”

World Health Organization



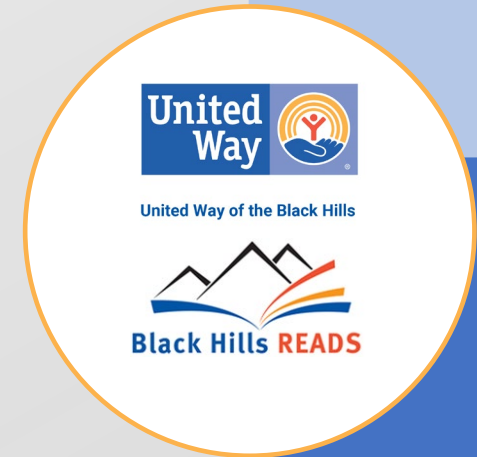


Yet...

43% of people in SD live in a child care desert – very little to zero child care providers in their area'

75% of children in South Dakota, ages 6 and under, have both parents in the labor force, which is one of the highest in the United States

Where do we fit into the puzzle?



Early Learner SD

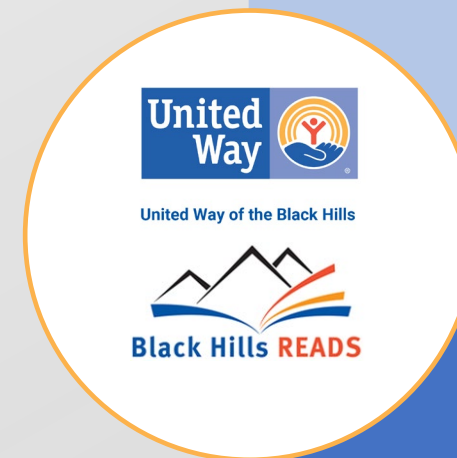
Our vision is that all children have access to high quality early learning experiences and environments to create a solid foundation for lifelong success.



ADVOCACY



GRASSROOT
EFFORTS



How does United Way of the Black Hills and Black Hills Reads plays a vital role in these efforts?

Find out next!



Callie Schleusner

Director of Monitoring and Evaluation

BENCHMARK
DATA LABS



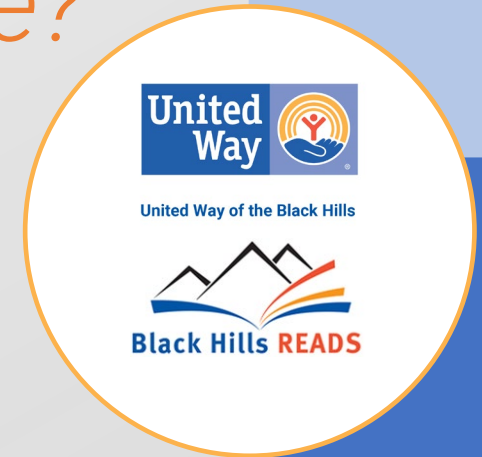
What is Systems Change?

Addressing the root causes of social problems by **getting individual people and individual organizations to change in a coordinated way** that involves policies, financing, and services motivated toward a specific change or specific sets of changes



How do you evaluate Systems Change?

Acknowledge the complexity of the situation by capturing data through **literature reviews, observations, and conversations**



System Change In Action: COVID-19



Early Learners



Covid-19 Pandemic



Sustained Child Care Facilities



March 2020

Covid-19 pandemic hits SD

System Change In Action: COVID-19

**NAEYC &
SDAEYC**

April

BH Reads Partners with NAEYC on
Childcare Covid Impact Survey

**Childcare
Providers**

**US
Senate**

July

BH Reads facilitates meeting with
Senator Thune and child care providers

UWBH

September

Elevate Rapid City releases
Childcare Provider Grants

**Elevate
Rapid
City**

**Rapid
City CDBG**

June

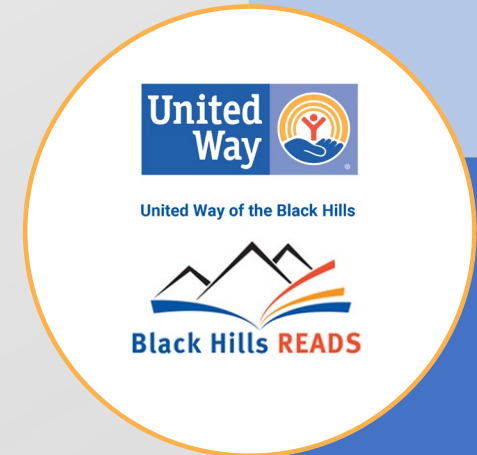
BH Reads launches
Covid-19 slide grants for
childcare providers

August

BH Reads awards Early
Learning Innovation Grants

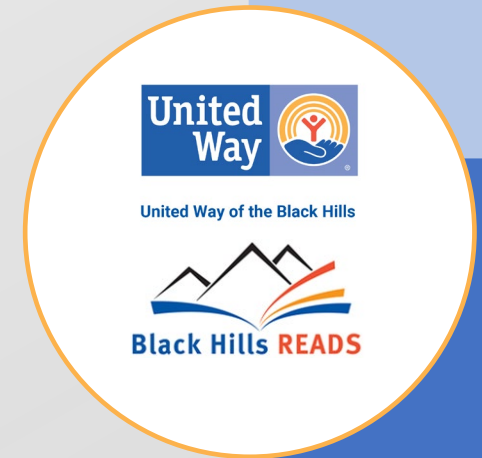
December

Rapid City CDBG makes CARES Act
funding available to childcare providers



Kim Huber

Coeur Wharf





Economic Recovery Depends on Early Learning & Quality Education Efforts

\$279 Million – Possible Industry **Revenue** in the Child Care Industry

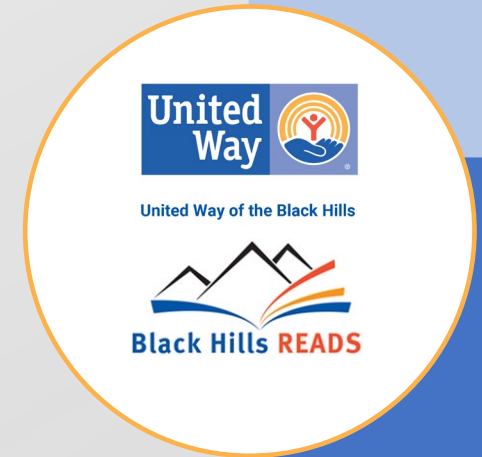
82% (26,698) children under the age of 3 have working parents. Yet, parents need to go back to work and don't have a place to enroll their child

36% of families with children had a decline in income compared to **29%** of families without children.

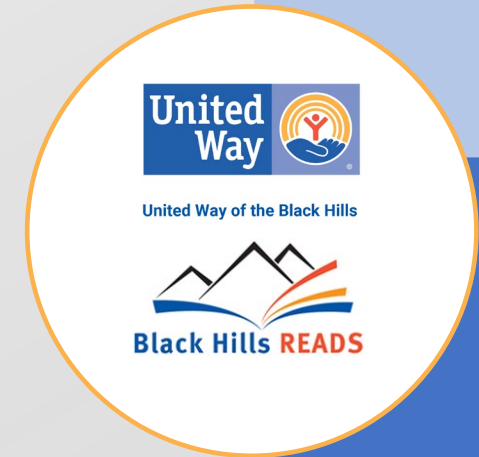


Kayla Klein

Black Hills Reads Director,
United Way of the Black Hills



How do all these puzzle pieces fit together?



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...to make a piece of the world a brighter place.



United Way of the Black Hills



Thank you for joining us!

Have questions?

Please Contact:

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Black Hills Reads Director

(605) 343 - 5872

kayla@unitedwayblackhills.org

