

## South Dakota

Community Programs • Community Facilities Grant

### USDA Meeting the Needs of a Rural Day Care Center

Wagner Early Childhood Center is a childcare facility that supervises and cares for a large number of children in the Wagner area. The daycare provides services that support parents and guardians by caring for children too young to be left alone, or to attend school or school-aged children that require before or after school care. The facility is licensed to serve 90 children. The center also offers physical therapy, occupational speech therapy, and offers after school programs and activities. Children are encouraged to explore and use their imagination in an enriched environment that offers swing sets, slides, sand toys, bike and walking path.

Through a Community Facility grant in the amount of \$24,700, USDA Rural Development assisted the daycare with meeting guidelines set under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 to improve handicap accessibility inside the facility. The boys and girls' bathrooms will be upgraded to improve handicap

accessibility and lever faucets will be installed in the restrooms and kitchen area. In addition, the carpet is being replaced throughout the building. This investment will remove the physical barriers and make the facility accessible to the children and families they serve. The federal funding was leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$8,300. Funding for this announcement was made available through the \$150 million in grants included in the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act that President Trump signed into law on June 6, 2019. These grants are to help eligible rural communities continue their recovery from the devastating effects of natural disasters.

"USDA Rural Development offered us a great opportunity, through their grant program to upgrade our facility, that will assist in keeping the day care operational in our community and available to the families we serve," said Pam Beeson, Director/Financial Administrator at Wagner Early Childhood, Inc.



*Pictured left to right: Tim Potts, USDA Rural Development Community Programs Director; Pam Beeson, Director/Financial Administrator at Wagner Early Childhood, Inc.; and Julie Gross, USDA Rural Development State Director.*

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**Obligation Amount:** \$24,700 Community Facility Disaster Grant

**Date of Obligation:** 08/07/2020

**Congressional District:** Representative Johnson; Senators Thune and Rounds

**Partners:** Wagner Early Childhood, Inc. and USDA Rural Development

**Demographics:** Wagner, SD has a Native American population of 40% and has a population of 1,662.

**Impact:** This investment will remove the physical barriers and make the facility accessible to the children and families Wagner Early Childhood, Inc. serves.