



**BREAKING NEWS / COVID-19 in South Dakota: 32 total new cases; Death toll remains at 1,705; Active cases at 3,678**

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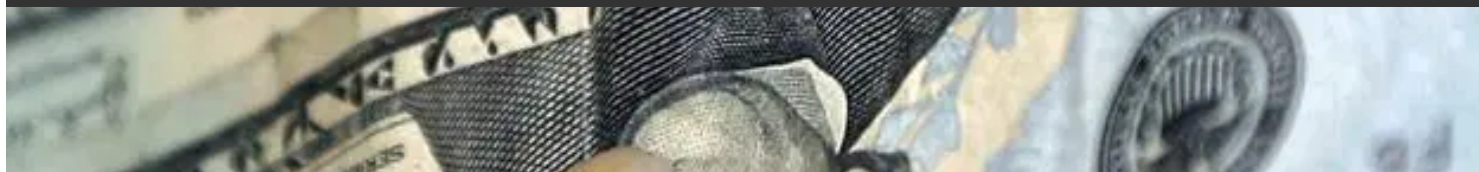
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CAPITOL NEWS BUREAU

# South Dakota 911 system gets \$3.45 million from companies in settlement





by: [Bob Mercer](#)

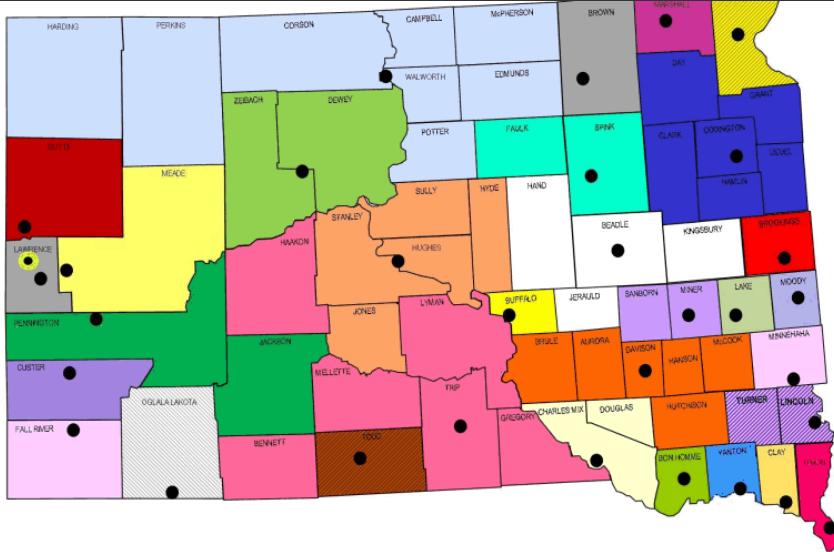
Posted: Mar 17, 2020 / 04:18 PM CDT / Updated: Mar 17, 2020 / 07:04 PM CDT

PIERRE, S.D. (KELO) — The state 911 Coordination Board came out of a closed-door session Tuesday and approved a settlement for \$3.45 million from three companies that formerly provided emergency telephone services throughout South Dakota.

NextGen Communications Inc. and TeleCommunication Systems Inc., based in Annapolis, Maryland, and Comtech Telecommunications Corp., of Wilmington, Delaware, have 21 days to pay the board, according to the stipulation.

28 public-service answering points for communities and counties throughout South Dakota will share \$200,000 of the settlement. The remainder will be deposited in the state 911 account.

Page 1 of [PSAP Contact Sheet W Coverage Map](#)  
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<p><b>Bon Homme County 911 (SO)</b> Amanda Boden PO Box 1, 300 W 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. Tyndall, SD 57066-0001 P: 605.589.3942 F: 605-589-4209 E: <a href="mailto:amandajboden@gmail.com">amandajboden@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Brookings Police Department</b> JoLynn Longville 307 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Brookings, SD 57006 P: 605.692.2113 F: 605.692.5320 E: <a href="mailto:longville@brookingspolice.org">longville@brookingspolice.org</a></p>	<p><b>Brown County Communications</b> Kent Jones 124 S 1<sup>st</sup> Street Aberdeen, SD 57401 P: 605.626.4000 F: 605.626.4003 After 5pm: 605.626.7911 E: <a href="mailto:Kent.Jones@browncounty.sd.gov">Kent.Jones@browncounty.sd.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Butte County Dispatch Center (SO)</b> Vicki Greenwood 839 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ste. 5 Belle Fourche, SD 57717 P: 605.892.2737 F: 605-892-2738 E: <a href="mailto:vicki.greenwood@buttesd.org">vicki.greenwood@buttesd.org</a></p>	<p><b>Central South Dakota Communications</b> Cindy Gross 1302 E HWY 14, Suite 9 Pierre, SD 57501 P: 605.773.7410 F: 605.773.7424 E: <a href="mailto:Cindy.Gross@ci.pierre.sd.us">Cindy.Gross@ci.pierre.sd.us</a></p>	<p><b>Charles Mix County 911 (SO)</b> Sheriff Randy Thaler PO Box 610 215 S 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Lake Andes, SD 57356 P: 605.487.7625 F: 605.487.7198 E: <a href="mailto:171a@cme.coop">171a@cme.coop</a></p>
<p><b>Clay Area Emergency Services Communication Center</b> Ryan Anderson 15 Washington Street Vermillion, SD 57069 P: 605.677.7070 F: 605.677.7165 E: <a href="mailto:randerson@claycomm.org">randerson@claycomm.org</a></p>	<p><b>Custer County Communications Ctr</b> Michelle Lyon 420 Mount Rushmore Road Custer, SD 57730 P: 605.673.8146 F: 605.673.3765 After 5pm: 605.673.8176 E: <a href="mailto:mboehrs@custercountysd.com">mboehrs@custercountysd.com</a></p>	<p><b>Fall River County Sheriff's Office</b> Lyle Jensen 906 N River Street Hot Springs, SD 57747 P: 605.745.4444 F: 605.745.7591 E: <a href="mailto:Lyle.jensen@frcounty.org">Lyle.jensen@frcounty.org</a></p>
<p><b>Huron Police Department DPS</b> Lisa McWethy 239 Wisconsin Avenue SW PO Box 1369 Huron, SD 57350 P: 605.353.8550 F: 605.353.8554 E: <a href="mailto:lisam@huronpolice.com">lisam@huronpolice.com</a></p>	<p><b>Lake County 911 Communications</b> April Denholm 219 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street Madison, SD 57042 P: 605.256.7620 F: 605.256.7160 E: <a href="mailto:lake911@lake.sd.gov">lake911@lake.sd.gov</a> <a href="mailto:dispatch@lake.sd.gov">dispatch@lake.sd.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Lawrence County Sheriff's Office</b> Sue Black PO Box 405, 80 Sherman St. Ste #1 Deadwood, SD 57732 P: 605.578.4464 F: 605.578.3913 After 5pm: 605.578.2230 E: <a href="mailto:sblack@lawrence.sd.us">sblack@lawrence.sd.us</a></p>
<p><b>Lincoln County Communications</b> Todd Baldwin 128 North Main Street Canton, SD 57013 P: 605.764.2664 F: 605.764.2767 E: <a href="mailto:lccc@lincolncountysd.org">lccc@lincolncountysd.org</a></p>	<p><b>Marshall County 911</b> Deb Skonberg 911 Vander Horck, PO Box 9 Britton, SD 57430 P: 605.448.5181 F: 605.448.5927 E: <a href="mailto:skonbergd02@yahoo.com">skonbergd02@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>Meade County Telecom (SO)</b> Virginia Fitzpatrick 1400 Main Street Sturgis, SD 57785 P: 605.347.2681 F: 605.347.6824 E: <a href="mailto:vfitzpatrick@meadecounty.org">vfitzpatrick@meadecounty.org</a></p>

Updated February 2020

Contributed to DocumentCloud by Karen Sherman of KELO-TV • View document



Paul Bachand represented the 911 board. He is a Pierre lawyer who previously worked in the state Office of Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney office for South Dakota.

Marty Jackley, a Pierre lawyer who previously was state Attorney General and U.S. Attorney for South Dakota, signed the agreement for the companies.

Also signing were Kent Hellebust for NextGen and TeleCommunication Systems, and Michael Porcelain, chief operating officer for Comtech.

TeleCommunication Systems and various state officials had signed a 60-month contract in December 2014 that was to be worth nearly \$33 million.

The settlement Tuesday came 10 months after the board switched back to CenturyLink as South Dakota's 911 provider and six months after the board brought a lawsuit against the three companies.

The suit alleged the companies were responsible for a series of 911 failures in October 2018 and December 2018 that led dispatch centers to leave the companies' system.

The board operates as an arm of the state Department of Public Safety.

South Dakota completed on February 26 the first phase of the change to an Internet-based system for transmitting data and communications when the Brookings PSAP migrated.

"There's just a few minor things the technicians are still working on," Maria King, the state 911 program manager, said Tuesday. "We are pleased with the service we are getting."

The next phase calls for 911 texting service and geospatial routing of calls, according to King. "It's all going smoothly," she said.



## S.D. 911 panel sues three companies for fraud

### CenturyLink: SD 911 conversion done by March

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Ted Ruffedt Jr., a board member whose director of budget and technology for the Pennington County 911 center, singled out King's efforts — "You did a fantastic job," he said — and said CenturyLink did "a fantastic job too."

King said CenturyLink brought in engineers and trainers from other states to help with the transition.

The initial five-year contract with CenturyLink would be worth more than \$34 million to the company over its potential lifetime.

State government raises money for the emergency system through surcharges on various types of phone services.

The lawsuit alleged that NextGen Communications began in 2015 to fail to provide satisfactory service.

The first trouble apparent to the public came the morning of December 14, 2016, when Canton, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Watertown dispatch centers weren't able to answer 911 calls.

That afternoon, the same problem hit Deadwood, Huron, Mobridge, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Watertown.

There were more outages in March and April of 2017, according to the lawsuit.

State government withheld payment in May 2017 but oversaw conversion of the locally-managed dispatch centers to the contractor's new system in mid-2018.

The new system didn't work long. Nineteen dispatch centers in eastern South Dakota found October 15-16 they couldn't process 911 calls.



CenturyLink stepped in and started routing 911 calls to administrative phone lines at those centers.

Affected were Bon Homme, Brown County, Central South Dakota (Pierre), Charles Mix County, Clay Area, Huron Police, Lake County, Lincoln County, Marshall County, Miner County, Mitchell Regional, Moody County, North Central Regional (Mobridge), Roberts County, Spink County, Union County, Watertown, Winner (through Sioux Falls) and Yankton, according to the lawsuit.

Western South Dakota's 911 service blacked out October 27. Unable to receive 911 calls that day were dispatch centers based in Butte County, Custer County, Fall River County, Lawrence County, Meade County, Pennington County and Spearfish Police.

Charles Mix, Moody County and Watertown lost 911 service December 16.

All left the new NextGen system, according to the lawsuit.

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## GFP seeks \$500,000 to help match \$4.5 million of donations for Custer State Park bison center

by Bob Mercer / Jan 25, 2021

PIERRE, S.D. (KELO) -- The folks at Custer State Park hope to build a bison visitors center this year. The \$5 million project needs a green light from legislators -- and \$500,000 of state government's cash.

Scott Simpson made the pitch Monday to the Senate State Affairs Committee. He is director for the Parks and Recreation Division of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department.

[Read the Full Article](#) →





## House panel blocks attempt to make polling places provide copies of S.D. ballot measures

by Bob Mercer / Jan 25, 2021

PIERRE, S.D. (KELO) -- South Dakota shouldn't be forced to have copies of ballot measures available at each voting booth when people go to the polls in future elections.

The South Dakota House State Affairs Committee made that decision Monday morning, rejecting 7-6 a plan from Representative Fred Deutsch (pronounced doytsh).

[Read the Full Article](#) →





by Bob Mercer / Jan 25, 2021

**CHANGING WORLD:** The governor's proposal to open South Dakota's medical laws to the practice of telehealth is filed.

Senate Bill 96 would repeal the prohibition against telehealth being used in the absence of the provider-patient relationship. That sentence would be replaced by an acceptance of telehealth.

[Read the Full Article](#) →



## TOP STORIES



**First@4: Latest COVID-19 data; Bill banning abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis introduced; How federal student loan freeze affects students**



**Photos: The first dogs are home! Champ and Major arrive at the White House**



**President Biden signs 'Buy American' order, pushes for urgent relief**

**New bill bans abortions based on Down syndrome diagnosis**



**First-grade class in Mitchell wants to name a snowplow Frosty; Teacher says contest provides real-life learning for students**

**GFP seeks \$500,000 to help match \$4.5 million of donations for Custer State Park bison center**



**Trump impeachment trial: Lawmakers divided on how to proceed**



**NFL prospects prepare for draft with the help of Sanford POWER**

**US virus numbers drop, but race against new strains**



**Monday Ag markets, January 25**



**PREVIEW: Preserving history, honoring loved ones**



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**House panel blocks attempt to make polling places provide copies of S.D. ballot measures**



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- 4 New bill bans abortions based on Down syndrome diagnosis

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- 5 Winter in Minnesota featured on CBS Sunday Morning

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### KELOLAND Pro Football Challenge

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### Tweets by @pierremercer



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**City of Rapid City**  
@rcgov

Street Department crews out checking & monitoring road conditions & will be treating any issues arising from falling temperatures & changing weather conditions during evening commute & overnight hours. Drivers advised to use caution/be aware of scattered slippery conditions



24m



**KELO Bob Mercer**  
@pierremercer



NEW: CRST member is President Biden's director for USDA Office of Tribal Relations. [usda.gov/media/press-re...](https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/01/25/crst-member-is-president-biden-s-director-for-usda-office-of-tribal-relations)





**U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Heather Dawn Thompson as Director, Office of Tribal...**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25, 2021 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the appointment of Heather Dawn ...  
usda.gov



44m



**KELO Bob Mercer**  
@pierremercer



NEW: SD Senate votes 27-7 to extend state permit for concentrated animal feeding operations to 10 years from current five. SB 52 goes to the House for committee hearing next. SD DENR seeks the change to reduce frequency of paperwork, Senator Mary Duvall, R-Pierre, said. @keloland



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**KELOLAND News** ✓  
@keloland

The folks at Custer State Park hope to build a bison visitors center this year. The \$5 million project needs a green light from legislators — and \$500,000 of state government's cash. [bit.ly/3a48kbX](https://bit.ly/3a48kbX)



**GFP seeks \$500,000 to help match \$4.5 million of donations for Custer State Park bison center**

PIERRE, S.D. (KELO) — The folks at Custer State Park hope to build a bison visitors center this year. The \$5 million proje...  
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**SD Attorney General** ✓

@SDAttorneyGen

The new Missing Persons Monday is ready for viewing. Please like, subscribe and share this information so we can reunite these individuals with their loved ones. [youtu.be/jqqaFbpVe3E](https://youtu.be/jqqaFbpVe3E) #MissingPersonsMondaySD @MissingKids



2h

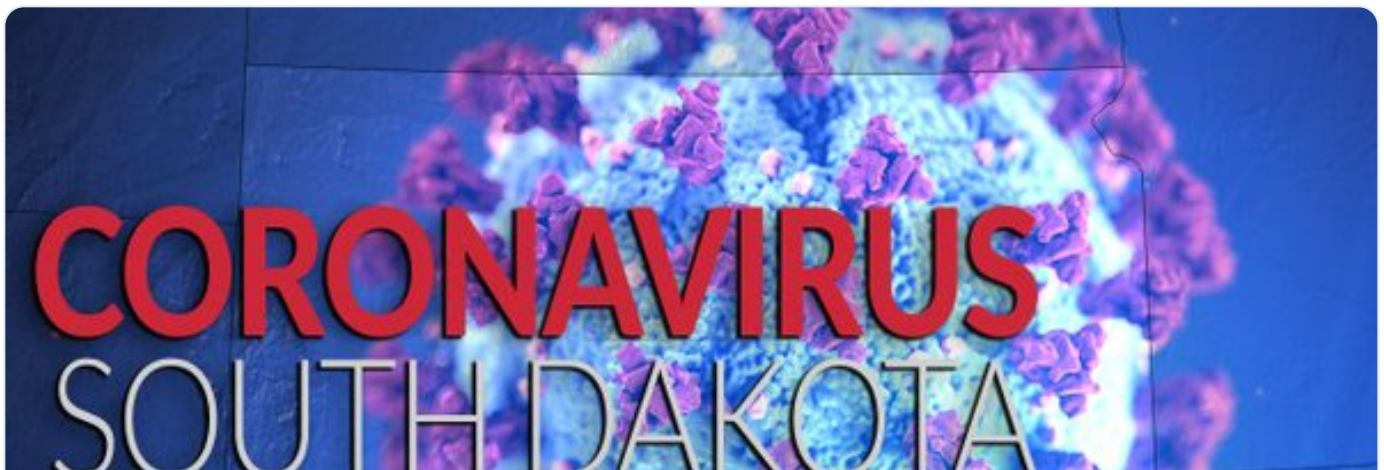
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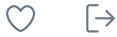
JUST IN: Active cases of COVID-19 in South Dakota have dropped below 4,000 on Monday, according to the latest update from the South Dakota Department of Health. The last time South Dakota had active cases in the 3,600 range was on September 30. [bit.ly/3a6GJH8](https://bit.ly/3a6GJH8)





**COVID-19 in South Dakota: 32 total new cases; Death toll remains at 1,705; Active cases at 3,678**

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**SD Humanities**

@SDHumanities

Check out our Event Calendar for current SDHC events! [buff.ly/2HHpYFE](http://buff.ly/2HHpYFE)

## Upcoming SDHC Events

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
HUMANITIES COUNCIL**

- 5

FEB

**The 1862 U.S.-Dakota War Through Sarah Wakefield's Eyes, Vermillion**

12:00 pm | VIRTUAL PROGRAM
- 10

FEB

**Bone Chalk: A Conversation on Crime, Punishment, and Craft, Sioux Falls**

7:00 pm | VIRTUAL PROGRAM
- 18

FEB

**The Q's High Line to Deadwood - A 103-year Retrospective, Deadwood**

12:00 pm | Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center
- 1

MAR

**Conversation Across Communities: Using Narrative to Explore Membership and Belonging in South Dakota**



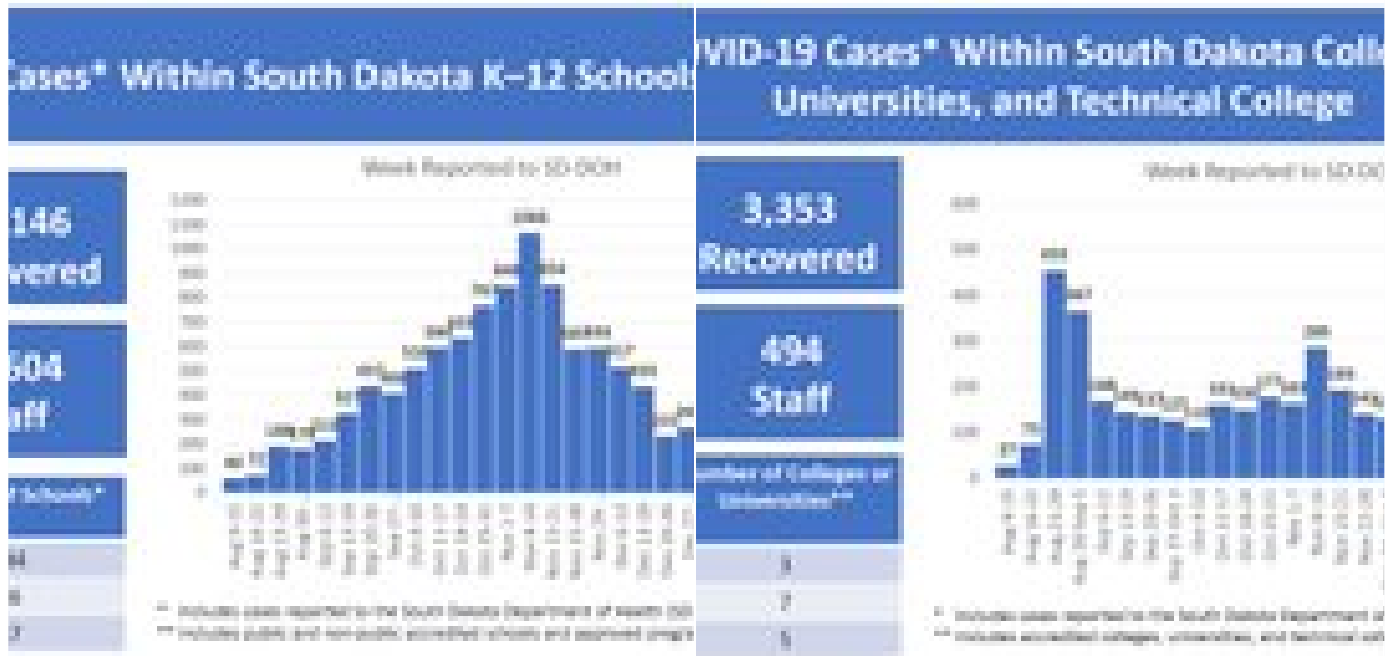
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Department of Health @SDDOH

#COVID19 cases within #SouthDakota K-12 #Schools and #Colleges, Universities, and Technical Schools has been updated: ow.ly/pVI450BDng8



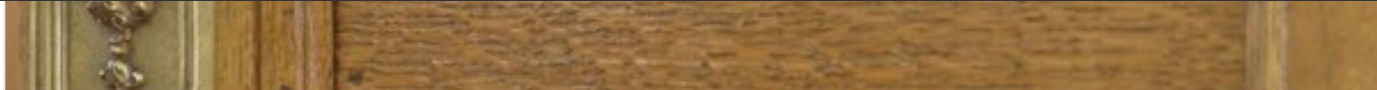
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KELO Bob Mercer @pierremercer



House panel blocks attempt to make polling places provide copies of S.D. ballot measures keloland.com/news/capitol-n...





**House panel blocks attempt to make polling places provide copies of S.D. ballot measures**

PIERRE, S.D. (KELO) — South Dakota shouldn't be forced to have copies of ballot measures available at each voting boo...  
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**KELO Bob Mercer**

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South Dakota Legislature roundup for Monday, January 25, 2021 [keloland.com/news/capitol-n...](https://keloland.com/news/capitol-n...)



**South Dakota Legislature roundup for Monday, January 25, 2021**

CHANGING WORLD: The governor's proposal to open South Dakota's medical laws to the practice of telehealth is filed. S...  
keloland.com



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**SD Finance & Mgmt**

@SDBFM

As of this morning, nearly \$368.5M has been paid out in Small Business and Healthcare Grants. [bfm.sd.gov/covid/grant\\_st...](https://bfm.sd.gov/covid/grant_st...)

**Small Business and Healthcare Grant Status**



Community Providers	118	\$ 4,759,106	98	-	1	\$ 36,118	19	\$ 4,472,103
Small Business	4,992	\$ 207,233,904	322	1,478	835	\$ 18,207,590	2,357	\$ 162,825,660
Small Nonprofit	598	\$ 19,401,495	41	173	119	\$ 1,611,613	265	\$ 14,393,993
Startup	356	\$ 9,236,766	39	31	145	\$ 1,281,327	141	\$ 3,661,372
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>6,099</b>	<b>\$ 256,150,918</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>\$ 21,136,648</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>\$ 200,872,775</b>
High Impact/Safety Net	209	\$ 130,454,100	8	-	1	\$ -	200	\$ 129,954,100
Small Business 2	3,506	\$ 114,530,823	265	1,059	1,468	\$ 79,526,570	714	\$ 33,990,521
Small Nonprofit 2	382	\$ 9,197,866	25	124	170	\$ 6,398,451	63	\$ 2,839,733
Startup 2	171	\$ 2,802,605	4	22	107	\$ 2,103,721	38	\$ 823,871
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,268</b>	<b>\$ 256,985,394</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>1,746</b>	<b>\$ 88,028,743</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>\$ 167,608,224</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,367</b>	<b>\$ 513,136,312</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>2,887</b>	<b>2,846</b>	<b>\$ 109,165,391</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>\$ 368,480,999</b>



5h



**KELO Bob Mercer**

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NEW: Scull family protects more land in South Dakota with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. [rmef.org/elk-network/wi...@keloland](https://www.rmef.org/elk-network/wi...@keloland)



**Wildlife Habitat Protected Thanks to South Dakota Family | Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**

MISSOULA, Mont. — A conservation-minded family with a long history of safeguarding the wildlife values of its land collab... [rmef.org](https://www.rmef.org)



6h



KELOLAND On The Go Monday, January 25

- A healing opportunity for the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
- Match challenge for Sioux Falls Area Humane Society met
- Chilly this week for much of KELOLAND [bit.ly/3a5N71k](https://bit.ly/3a5N71k)



**KOTG: Healing opportunity for the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate; USD prepares for vaccines; Flurries in...**  
 SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (KELO) — Welcome to Monday's KELOLAND On The Go! Find everything you need to know in news ...  
[keloland.com](https://keloland.com)



9h

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**Black Hills NF**  
@BlackHillsNF

More pile burning happening this week on the Black Hills National Forest. Follow [gpfireinfo.blogspot.com](https://gpfireinfo.blogspot.com) to receive notifications & updates.





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