SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE			POLICY NUMBER 600-05	PAGE NUMBER 1 OF 3
			DISTRIBUTION:	Public
			SUBJECT:	Offender Sweat Lodge Accounts
RELATED STANDARDS:	None		EFFECTIVE DATE:	August 01, 2026
			SUPERSESSION:	08/01/2025
DESCRIPTION: Business and Finance		REVIEW MONTH: July	**NICK LAMB** **SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS**	

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the South Dakota Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish an account at each DOC correctional facility to receive and distribute funds to be utilized for the maintenance and operation of an approved sweat lodge located on the grounds of a DOC correctional facility.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the management of funds within DOC correctional facilities related to the offender sweat lodge accounts.

III. DEFINITIONS

Inipi Endowment Fund:

A permanent endowment fund for charitable purposes which receives monetary contributions in accordance with the provisions of a set agreement and the provisions of Articles of Incorporation, by-laws, and policies of the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.

Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation:

A South Dakota 501(c) nonprofit organization that attracts, manages, and distributes charitable gifts by building permanent charitable endowments and using the proceeds to strengthen local communities.

Sweat Lodge:

A dome shaped structure typically constructed of willow branches or tree saplings and covered by blankets, tarps, canvas, or animal skins. The lodge is heated by steam produced when water is poured over heated rocks in a pit located inside of the lodge. The sweat lodge is used by various Native American tribes and cultures and is common among the Lakota Sioux. The sweat lodge is used as a place to conduct the sweat ceremony or Inipi Ceremony, which is believed to aid physical and spiritual purification.

IV. PROCEDURES

1. Application and Depositing of Funds:

A. Each DOC correctional facility may establish and maintain an account designated to receive and distribute funds to be applied exclusively towards the development, maintenance and operation of an approved sweat lodge and related activities.
   1. The institution's cultural activities coordinator (CAC), or DOC staff member designated by the warden or designee, shall request and apply for funds available within the Inipi Endowment Fund, as needed and as available.

B. Applications for the Inipi Endowment funds are available through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.

C. All funds received from the fund shall be used for the sweat lodge.

D. Sweat lodge activities shall be monitored and approved by the facility CAC or designated staff.

E. Funds deposited into an institution's sweat lodge account may be redistributed to sweat lodge accounts maintained at another DOC institution by accounting staff, with approval from the CAC or designated staff, in accordance with the endowment agreement, as set forth by the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.

F. The DOC shall act as the custodian for all funds deposited into, or distributed from, the accounts.

G. Regular or one-time contributions to an institution's sweat lodge account will be reported to the CAC or designated staff.
   1. Members of the community, organizations, businesses, etc., may contribute to institutional sweat lodge accounts by business check, United States cashier's checks, or money orders issued in U.S. dollars. Refunds are not allowed once a donation is made.
   2. Offenders may contribute to the facility's sweat lodge account through the approved offender banking process, as specified in DOC policy 600-02 – *Offender Accounts and Financial Responsibility*. Refunds are not allowed once a transfer is made to the sweat lodge account.

2. Purchases:

A. The CAC or designated staff is responsible for authorizing any withdrawal of funds from the institutional sweat lodge account.
   1. Purchases paid from the sweat lodge account for sweat lodge related expenses must be approved in advance by the facility's CAC or designated staff prior to the materials, supplies, and/or services being ordered or purchased.

B. Approved materials, supplies or services may include, but are not limited to:
   1. Rocks.
   2. Removal of spent rocks.
   3. Firewood.
   4. Renting, repair or service of log splitters, chain saws, or other equipment.
   5. Tarps or other coverings.
   6. Other expenses, as approved by the CAC or designated staff.

C. The CAC or designated DOC staff is responsible for retaining a copy of all bills of sale and receipts for sweat lodge materials or services. The paperwork should include a description of the materials, supplies, or services purchased.
   1. The paperwork may be in the form of a billing statement or itemized receipt.
   2. The sweat lodge account may not by overdrawn or operate with a negative balance.

D. Business office staff shall provide the CAC or designated DOC staff person with regular account statements.

3. General Account Information:

A. Sweat lodge accounts are non-interest bearing and, as such, will not be charged transaction fees.

B. Reasonable charges and fees, including postage and handling to process an order for supplies or services, may be applied to an institutional sweat lodge account, as deemed appropriate.

C. If, for any reason, an institution no longer has a need to provide or maintain a sweat lodge for a period exceeding one (1) year, the funds remaining in the account may be used for the benefit of Native American cultural/religious activities offered to offenders at the institution.

V. RESPONSIBILITY

The director of Finance & Administration is responsible for the annual review of this policy.

VI. AUTHORITY

None

VII. HISTORY

August 2026
August 2025
September 2024
August 2023
June 2021

ATTACHMENTS

None.