



Re-Open SC
Senate Subcommittee Meeting
May 27, 2020

Agency Attendees

- Michael Leach – DSS State Director
- Emily Parks – Chief of Staff
- Don Grant – Chief Financial Officer
- Amber Gillum – Deputy Director of Economic Services
- Connelly-Anne Ragley – Legislative Liaison
- Susan Roben - Controller

Steps Taken to Serve DSS Staff

- Consistently exceeded over 83% of staff working remotely, with the average being 85-87%
- Published COVID specific information on intranet for staff and established a COVID Q&A email for receiving and responding to staff questions across the agency
- Sent at least weekly emails to agency staff to update on COVID response and provided critical information and self-care advice
- Held weekly calls with approximately 100 DSS program leadership to provide guidance and ensure work was progressing
- Additional technology tools deployed to staff for enhanced teleworking

Steps Taken to Serve SC Citizens: Economic Services

- Provided an emergency supplement to bring eligible SNAP households up to the maximum benefit allotment for March-May.
- Temporarily suspended ABAWD and TANF work requirements
- Adjusted SNAP recertification periods
- Provided internet and tablets to select SNAP clients
- Adjusted SNAP application process

Steps Taken to Serve SC Citizens: Economic Services

- Issued \$102.4 million in SNAP benefits in April
 - Compared to \$67 million benefits issued in February
- Since the week of 3/7/2020, DSS has increased SNAP recipients by approximately 27,000 cases and over 51,000 clients.
- Processed 44,262 SNAP and TANF applications in March, which was a 150% increase over the number of applications received in February
- Provided SNAP replacement for 15,000 SNAP households, totaling \$4.2 million in federal benefits, due to power outages from April storms

Steps Taken to Serve SC Citizens: Child Care

As the federal grant recipient, DSS received \$63 million in additional federal child care funding through the CARES Act. DSS is deploying this funding for three primary assistance strategies:

1. Child Care Assistance Vouchers

- 6,551 applications received
- Approved 3,665 in amount of \$17.3 million; 2,518 applications still pending
- Application period closed May 8, 2020

2. Cleaning Grants

- 701 grant applications received in the amount of \$1.28 million
- Still accepting applications

3. Operation Grants

- Application period opened May 20, 2020
- 1,180 applications received thus far in the amount of \$12.194 million

Steps Taken to Serve SC Citizens: Child Care



Steps Taken to Serve SC Citizens: Child Welfare

- Currently 4,359 children in foster care
- For the week of 5/11-5/17, we saw a 51% decrease in child abuse and neglect reporting and a 7% decrease in adult abuse reporting, compared to one year ago
 - Developed partnerships to deploy billboards and a PSA encouraging reporting
- Provided guidance to staff and partners on steps to take for protection during visitation and investigative practices
- Worked with courts to conduct more virtual hearings
- Temporarily waived requirements for older youth and young adults in After Care
- Provided an additional \$90 per month temporary increase in board rates to foster families and group homes for over 3,000 children in care

Steps Taken to Serve SC Citizens: Adult Advocacy

- Continue to investigate referrals of adult abuse
- Collecting critical incident reports on all APS clients who test positive for COVID-19
- Incorporating virtual visitation mechanisms when face-to-face visits are not possible
- Continued support of local Domestic Violence programs across the state

Steps Taken to Serve SC Citizens: Child Support Services

- On May 5, 2020, DSS CSSD had its largest and second largest collection days since PACSS has been statewide
- Relaxing administrative enforcement remedies
- Quicker processing of CSSD mail
- Responding to over 1100 referrals weekly
- Maintaining contact with individuals affected by court closures

Federal Funding Received by DSS

- \$63.6 million in CARES Act funding for child care response
- \$534,027 in a CARES Act Supplement for Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA)
- \$797,811 in a CARES Act Supplement to Title IV-B funding

Personal Protective Equipment

Requested Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for DSS offices and staff includes:

- 130,000 pairs of gloves
- 20,000 containers of sanitizing wipes
- 15,000 face masks
- 15,000 bottles of hand soap
- 4,000 face shields
- 2,500 bottles of hand sanitizer
- 1,000 sneeze guards
- 250 plexiglass barriers

COVID-19 Expenses: Incurred & Anticipated

Category	Actual Cost 3/1/20 through 5/13/20	Estimated Additional Cost through 12/30/20	Total Projected Cost 3/1/20 - 12/30/20
Response Efforts	\$ 947,346.64	\$ 7,763,067.42	\$ 8,710,414.06
Payroll	\$ -	\$ 5,295,866.00	\$ 5,295,866.00
Remote Working & Learning	\$ -	\$ 3,206,817.00	\$ 3,206,817.00
Technology	\$ 106,562.92	\$ 494,933.40	\$ 601,496.32
Janitorial	\$ -	\$ 50,625.00	\$ 50,625.00
PPE	\$ 5,960.94	\$ 14,584.09	\$ 20,545.03
Grand Total	\$ 1,059,870.50	\$ 16,825,892.91	\$ 17,885,763.41