



# Epworth Children's Home

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## *Supporting South Carolina's Children and Families: Request for Funding*

### *Funding Request - \$600,000*

Since 2018, Epworth has made significant strides in advancing and expanding our array of services to various regions of the state in order to provide intensive in-home services, community behavioral health services, parent support programs, and foster care to children and families in need. Today, Epworth is serving more than 350 children, youth, and families weekly through our programming, and year to date we have served over eight hundred children and youth under the umbrella of the Institute of Child and Family Wellbeing.

To date, Epworth has launched regional centers of excellence in Greenville, Spartanburg, Charleston, Florence and Rockhill where teams provide community behavioral health, prevention, and foster care services. Although the Institute expanded into these areas of the state, there is still a great need for additional support in the coastal regions of the state.

The South Carolina Department of Social Services Child Welfare Dashboards (2021) show that year-to-date the Department has served 28,618 children. Yet with all those children in need, almost all counties in this region have been designated as a behavioral health professional shortage area (SC HealthViz, 2021).

We believe that by establishing a regional center in Beaufort and the coastal region, we can support these families in need, we can create conditions of change to improve their well-being which with the secondary impacts of reducing conditions that contribute to child maltreatment and lifting children out of poverty. This funding will further our expansion with community-based prevention and foster care services. Not only will our services continue to benefit the community-at-large but also reduce the fiscal burden on the state that comes with of nonfatal child maltreatment which is estimated to be \$830,928 per child over the child's lifetime (Casey Family Programs, 2019).

The total request is \$600,000. This funding will advance community-based services as well as foster homes through the creation of a new regional center of in the lower coastal region of the state.

Epworth currently raises \$4,000,000 annually from private sources to initiate both prevention and remedial services to children and families who are currently underserved. Since 2019, the Duke Endowment has funded Epworth's Institute of Child and Family Wellbeing initiative with 1,600,000 and has committed \$400,000 toward future growth in 2022.