



House Healthcare Subcommittee of the  
Legislative Oversight Committee  
Presentation  
March 17, 2015



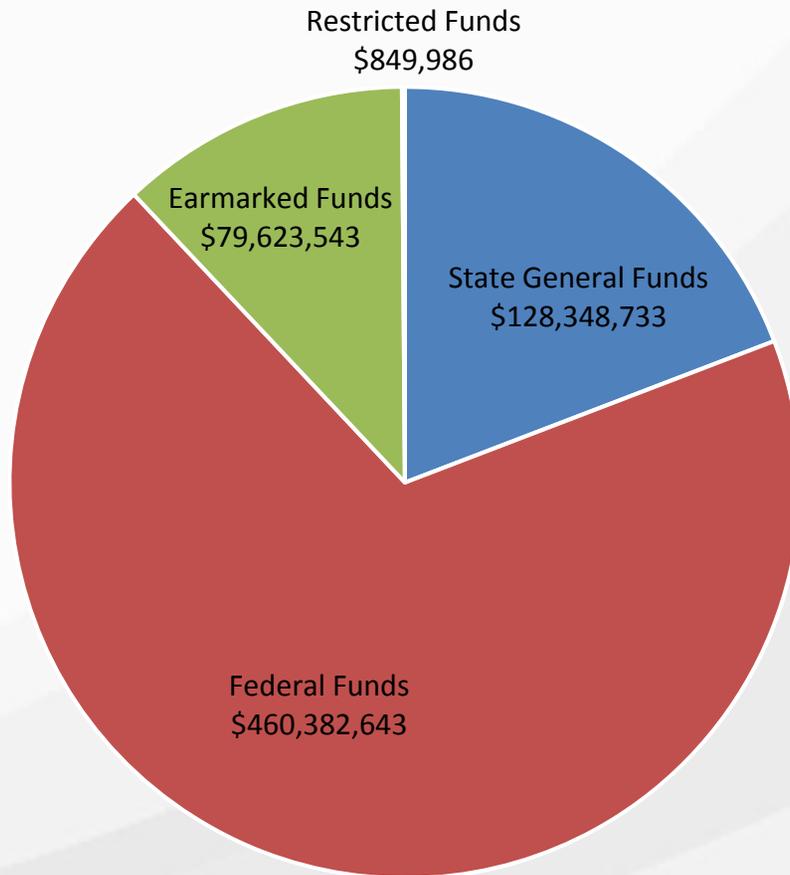
# Executive Staff

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# Agency Mission

To effectively and efficiently serve the citizens of South Carolina by ensuring the safety of children and adults who cannot protect themselves and helping families achieve stability through child support, child care, financial and other temporary benefits while transitioning into employment.

# DSS State FY 2014-15 Appropriations



Total Funds: \$669,204,905

# DSS State and Regional Locations

## State Office-Columbia, SC

- Confederate Avenue (Primary)
- Harden Street (Child Support)
- Browning Road (IT/Security/CSES)

## Adoptions

- 6 regional offices across the state

## Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services(IFCCS)

- 14 regional offices

## Child Care

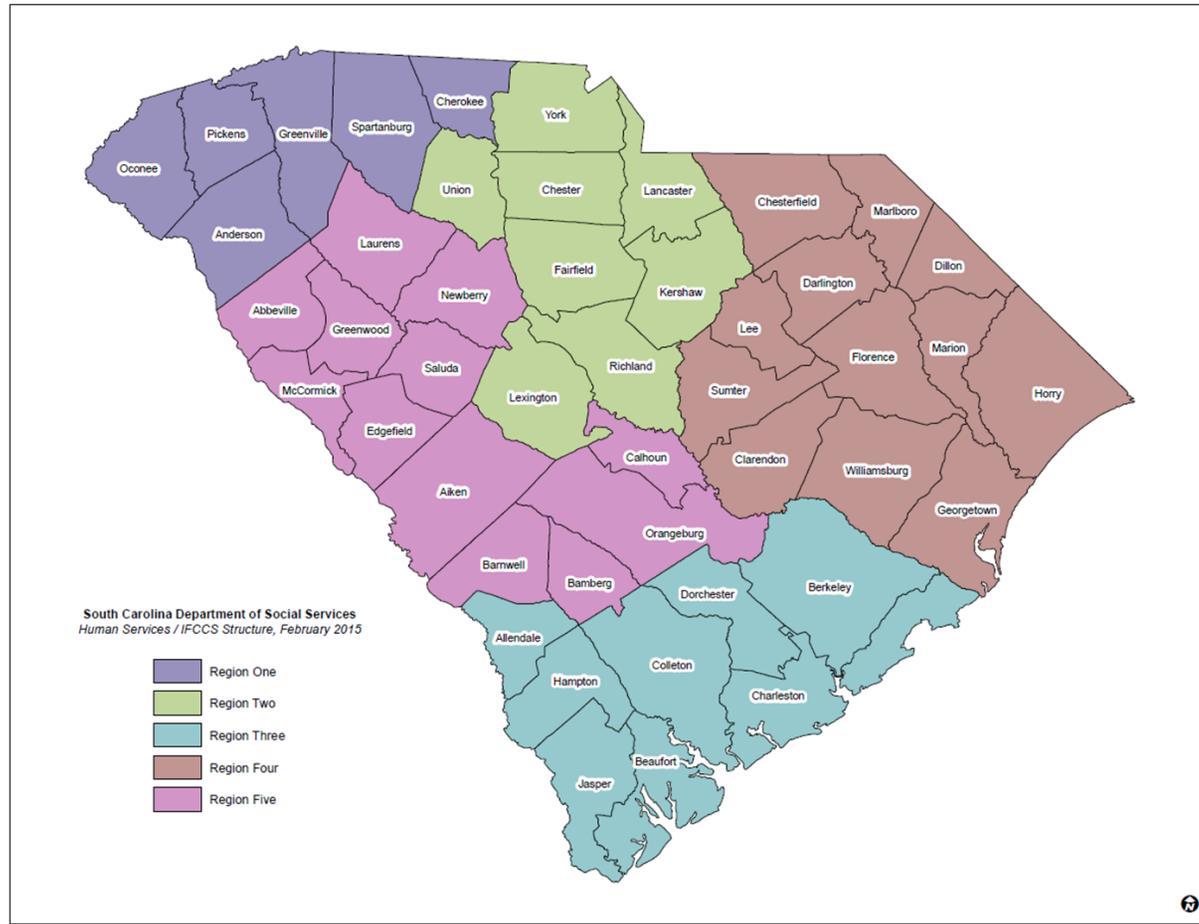
- 4 regional offices

## Child Support

- 4 regional offices

Note: Some of these regional offices share physical space.

# Map of Primary County Offices



# Major Functions of DSS

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- Human Services
- Economic Services
- Integrated Child Support Services

# Major Functions of Human Services

- Child Protective Services
- Adult Protective Services
- Foster Care
- Adoption
- Domestic Violence Services
- Independent Living



# Child Protective Services



- Serves children 0 to 18 years old
- Child Protective Services receive and investigate reports of child abuse and neglect. These services, provided or coordinated by DSS, are designed to maintain children safely in their own homes when possible, reunite the family as soon as possible or place the children with relatives or in foster or group care, when necessary.

# Child Protective Services

Law enforcement has the sole authority to remove children and place into emergency protective custody, or a Family Court Judge can issue an ex parte order for the removal of the child. The Family Court system determines whether children are placed in DSS custody due to abuse or neglect and if termination of parental rights is warranted.



# Adult Protective Services

APS – Adults 18 years old and up

Adult Protective Services protect the health and welfare of elderly and disabled adults. These services are provided to individuals who are 18 or older and are victims of actual or potential abuse, neglect or exploitation. This mistreatment may be caused by others or it may be self-inflicted. DSS is authorized to investigate all reports and provide services to meet the adults' basic needs and ensure their safety.

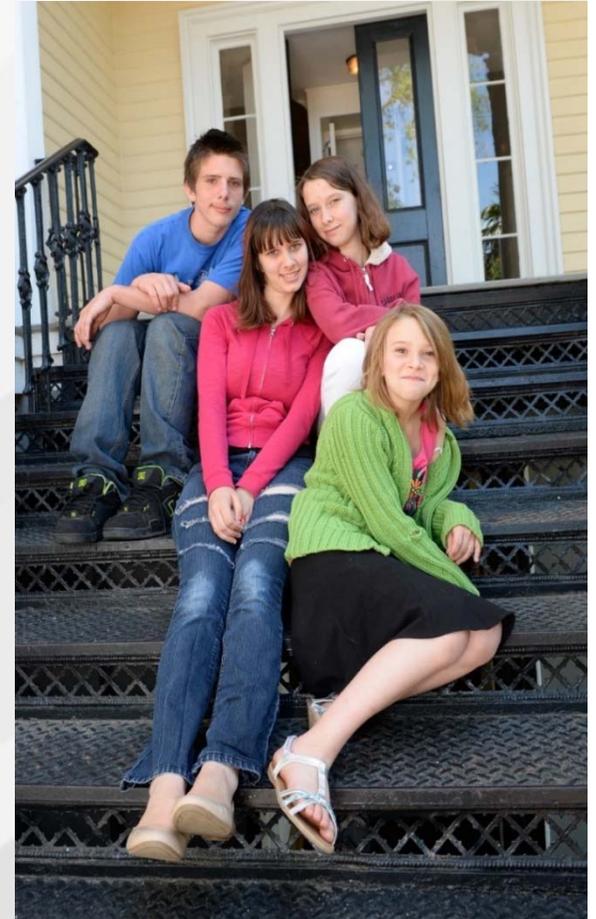


# Foster Care

Foster Children – Children 0 to 21 years old

Foster care provides temporary services for children removed from their families because of abuse, neglect or exploitation by a parent or guardian. The SCDSS recruits and licenses temporary foster homes and group care for children, while plans are implemented for permanent placements.

DSS also has specialized treatment and support services for children in foster care who have emotional and behavioral problems through the Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services Office (IFCCS). When a child is identified with emotional/behavioral problems, DSS arranges for an interagency staffing on the child, to determine whether the child needs services through the Interagency System for Caring for Emotionally Disturbed Children (ISCEDC), and to identify the most appropriate services that can best meet the individual child's needs.



# Adoption

DSS facilitates adoption for the children in its custody who are unable to be returned to their homes. Adoption services include assessment and preparation of children for adoption, recruitment of adoptive families, placement of children in adoptive homes, and financial subsidization of the costs of the adoption proceeding.

A large number of children available for adoption are older, from ethnic minorities or racially mixed backgrounds, have physical or emotional handicaps or are members of sibling groups.



# Domestic Violence Services

DSS partners with other state agencies such as the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Health and Environmental Control in an effort to develop and maintain best practices in domestic violence prevention and works closely with shelter programs and batterer intervention providers by providing technical assistance related to policy and best practices development.

# Independent Living

Independent Living is defined as an array of services provided to adolescents ages 13 to 21. The purpose of the Independent Living program is to provide the developmental skills necessary for foster adolescents to live healthy, productive, self-sufficient and responsible adult lives. The program's overall goal is to provide foster adolescents with opportunities to learn needed independent living skills and increase the likelihood of their successful transition from the foster care system.

# Human Services Key Outcomes

- Timely Initiation of CPS Assessments
- Timely Completion of CPS Assessments
- Monthly Visits in Foster Care
- Stability of Foster Care Placements (2 or fewer placements)
- Timely Initiation of APS Assessments
- Timely Completion of APS Assessments

# Major Functions of Economic Services

- Family Independence (TANF cash assistance)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (“food stamps”)
- Food Assistance Programs
- Child Care Licensing and Vouchers
- Employment & Training Programs

# Family Independence (TANF)

- Family Independence (FI) is South Carolina's TANF program. FI is a 24-month time-limited program that provides cash assistance and employment & training services for parents with dependent children. Persons caring for a relative's child are also eligible.

In January 2015:

- Families Served = 12,387
- Average Benefit Amount = \$216
- Average Household Size = 2.27

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP (“food stamps”) is a federal program designed to help families and individuals buy the food they need for a nutritionally adequate diet. Benefits are distributed through Electronic Benefits Transfer, or “EBT cards”.

In January 2015:

- Households Served = 382,860 (809,770 individuals)
- Average Monthly Benefit = \$264
- Average Household Size = 2.11

SNAP policy is based on federal regulations. DSS determines eligibility and administers employment & training programs for recipients.

# Food Assistance Programs

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP): provides fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to low-income seniors. Serves approximately 25,000 each year.

Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): provides meal reimbursements to child care centers and adult day care centers for serving nutritious meals. Over 20 million meals served in FFY 2014.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): provides low-income Americans, including elderly people, with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost. Administered through local food banks.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): food purchased by USDA, and distributed through local food banks. Available to low-income individuals over age 60 in 15 Counties. Participants receive a monthly package of food and are provided nutritional education.

Emergency Shelter Program (ESP): provides meal reimbursements to emergency and homeless shelters, battered women's shelters, and facilities that provide temporary shelter to children age 18 and younger and their families.

# Child Care

DSS licenses and regulates child care centers and family child care homes across the state, and provides child care assistance for parents participating in TANF work programs, working parents transitioning from Family Independence, and families in active CPS cases. DSS maintains a listing on its website of childcare facilities registered or licensed by the Department.

DSS also administers the Advocates for Better Care (ABC) Quality Program, a voluntary quality rating and improvement system for childcare providers.

Registered Family Childcare Homes	1,157
Licensed Family Childcare Homes	14
Registered Faith-Based Centers	215
Licensed Childcare Centers and Group Homes	1,531
Total Facilities	2,917

# Employment & Training

TANF Employment & Training activities include: Employment Preparation, Supervised Job Search, Work Experience, On-the-Job Training, and Community Service.

SNAP Employment & Training activities include: Job Search Training, Supervised Job Search, Education, Vocational Training, Work Experience, and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) services.

Participation is mandatory in both programs for certain populations (e.g., work-eligible TANF recipients, Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents receiving SNAP).

# Economic Services Key Outcomes

- Timely Processing of FI Applications
- Timely Process of SNAP Applications
- SNAP Benefits Issued Accurately
- ABC Child Care Vouchers Disbursed
- Annual Child Care Licensing Visits
- Annual Visits to Registered Family Child Care Homes

# Integrated Child Support Services

By establishing paternity and establishing and enforcing court ordered child support, the Integrated Child Support Services Division (ICSSD) seeks to ensure that non-custodial parents live up to their financial responsibilities in the raising of their children. These services are available to all citizens regardless of their income.



# Major Functions of ICSSD

- Establishment of Paternity
  - Ensuring both parents are known for every child
- Collection and Distribution of Child Support to Custodial Parents
- Enforcement of Child Support Orders
- Fatherhood Program
  - Engaging fathers for the financial, emotional, and physical support of their children.
- Child Support Enforcement System (CSES)

# Integrated Child Support Services

## Key Outcomes

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- Percentage of Child Support Cases with Child Support Orders Established
- Amount of Child Support Collected
- Percentage of Child Support Cases Paying on Arrears
- License Revocation Notices
- Wage Withholding Collections
- Non-custodial Parents Referred to Fatherhood Programs

# Examples of DSS Partners

- Child Care Facilities
- Foster Care Review Board
- Citizen Review Panels
- State Child Fatality Advisory Committee
- Guardian Ad Litem Program
- SC Foster Care Parent Association
- Group Homes
- Law Enforcement
- Family Court System
- Universities
- Non-profits
- Children's Services agencies(DJJ, DMH, DHEC, DAODAS, DDSN)
- Children's Trust

# Fast Facts About DSS

Number of DSS Staff

3,873

Demographics of DSS Staff

13% Male

87% Female

57% African American

41% Caucasian

1% Hispanic/Latino

1% Other

Number of Children in Foster Care

3,851

Foster Care Homes 1,244

Therapeutic Foster Care Homes 1,101

Demographics of Children in Foster Care

51% Male

49% Female

37% African American

54% Caucasian

9% Other

# Currently In Focus



# Child Welfare Reform Agenda

- Caseload reduction
- Reduction of staff turnover
- Onboarding Caseworkers
- Streamlining hiring processes
- Career Ladder and staff salary increases
- Regional Intake process
- Recruitment of Foster Home Beds
- Reduction of staff turnover
- Oversight of alternative caregivers
- Business redesign for foster care licensing

# Child Welfare Reform Agenda

- Implementation of CQI-use of data reports
- Staff Training Plan-records management, continuous training
- Plan for utilization of group home beds
- Formal Methodology for caseload distribution and allocation of staff
- Community Based Prevention Services
- County Office Needs-physical plant, resources, etc.
- Development of dashboard indicators
- Increasing adoptions
- Relationships with Law Enforcement
- Child fatality statistics
- Health Services for children/adults

# Sources Available For Review by House Oversight Committee

- **Senate General Committee – DSS Oversight Committee**

Report Pending

- **Legislative Audit Council**

October 2014 – A Review of Child Welfare Services at the  
Department of Social Services

- **DSS Annual Accountability Report**

FY 2013-14

# Appendix

# Major Federal Funding Sources

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) - Primary focus of the program is to assist low income families meet basic needs.
- Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) – This program assists low-income families with child care services.
- Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) – This program provides funds to assist states in delivering social services directed towards the needs of children and adults.

# Major Federal Funding Sources

- Foster Care: Title IV-E - This program helps to provide safe and stable out-of-home care for children under the jurisdiction of the state or tribal welfare agency until the children are returned home safely.
- Adoption Assistance: Title IV-E - This program provides assistance in the adoption subsidy costs for the adoption of children with special needs and who can meet certain eligibility tests.

# Major Federal Funding Sources

- Child and Adult Care Food Program - This grant assists states, through grants-in-aid and other means, to initiate and maintain nonprofit food service programs for children and elderly or impaired adults enrolled in nonresidential day care facilities, children attending afterschool care programs in low-income areas, and children residing in emergency shelters.
- Child Welfare Services (Title IV-B Part 1) - This program funded through the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, promotes states in the development and expansion of a coordinated child and family services program.
- Title IV –D – This program enforces the support obligations owed by absent parents to their children, locate absent parents, establish paternity and obtain child, spousal and medical support.

# Major Federal Funding Sources

- State Administrative Matching Grant for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP Admin.) - This program serves as the foundation of America's national nutrition safety net, working to end hunger and improve the health of low-income households by helping families buy the food they need for a nutritionally adequate diet.
- **Non-Budgeted Federal Program**
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP Benefits)
  - Food Stamp Coupons are used to improve the diet of low-income households by increasing their food purchasing ability. *(SNAP Benefit funds are never in the custody of the State.)*