



*Serving Children and Families*

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## **SC Dept. of Social Services Report for Special Senate Committee Regarding Flood Relief Efforts in SC**

### **Shelter Support**

SCDSS, working with the Red Cross, provides shelter support in emergency situations. At the peak, there were 26 shelters opened in 19 counties serving 941 people. 384 DSS staff members provided 4298.55 hours of shelter coverage during the flood event. Shelters were open in the following counties: Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Clarendon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Greenwood, Orangeburg, Anderson, Williamsburg, Darlington, and Sumter.

### **D-SNAP Operation**

DSS staff implements the D-SNAP program. A total of 24 counties were approved by Dept. of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services to receive this emergency benefit. As of the end of the day, Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup>, we have served 11 counties and processed approximately 62,814 applicants. The approval rate is approximately 90%. To date, this effort has been staffed by approximately 755 DSS employees and 175 volunteers/law enforcement officers. The remaining counties are scheduled throughout November and the first weeks of December. The following counties were approved: Bamberg, Calhoun, Clarendon, Colleton, Lee, Newberry, Williamsburg, Lexington, Richland, Sumter, Dorchester, Florence, Horry, Berkeley, Charleston, Darlington, Georgetown, Greenwood, Kershaw, Orangeburg, Fairfield, Marion, Greenville, and Spartanburg. DSS received assistance from other state agencies in traffic control, security, and processing applications.

### **Office Facility Assessment**

Our offices did not receive significant damage that was not addressed by landlord or counties. One county office has been relocated. There was no vehicle damage. Eleven staff members were displaced by the flood and the agency has provided support as needed.

### **Other Agency Activities**

The Division of Early Care and Education monitored 253 Child Care Facilities that were closed at some point during or following the flood event. If damage reports were received, DSS assessed the facilities for damage to determine if they were able to operate safely. DSS approved temporary relocations and expanded capacity for child care facilities.

DSS continues to provide case management to those who were placed in motels after the shelters in Richland County closed because they had no sufficient housing. Initially 27 people-22 adults and 5 children were placed in motels. These numbers are down to 15 individuals-12 adults and 3 children. These efforts continue in conjunction with partner agencies.