



FY2024-2025 Budget Presentation

House Ways and Means Committee
Healthcare Subcommittee

January 24, 2024



Achieving Stability. Strengthening Families.

Agency Attendees

Michael Leach – Agency Director

Don Grant – Deputy Director of Administration

Susan Roben – Chief Financial Officer

Connelly-Anne Ragley – Chief External Affairs Officer/Legislative Liaison

Agency Information

- The Department of Social Services (DSS) serves 1 in every 6 South Carolinians, while employing more than 4,400 professionals statewide, and operates offices in all 46 counties as well as regional offices, totaling nearly 80 locations.
- Our top priority is the safety and well-being of children, adults and families. DSS provides services for children and vulnerable adults, administering the child welfare and adult protective services programs for the state.
- We are also responsible for administering economic services programs throughout South Carolina, including the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Early Care and Education.
- The Department also administers the state's Child Support program, including paternity establishment and fatherhood initiatives.

Overarching Framework for Request

- Improving placement stability for children in foster care.
- Expanding permanent pathways for exiting children from foster care.
- Providing additional healthy foods for South Carolina seniors.
- Continuation of child care scholarships for working families no longer eligible due to the end of pandemic related funding.
- Improving key infrastructure for mission-critical information systems.

Overall Budget Request for FY2024-2025

State Recurring General Funds	\$ 25,498,313
State Non-Recurring General Funds	\$ 8,812,499
Federal Recurring Authorization	\$ 5,829,001
Federal Non-Recurring Authorization	\$ 8,812,499
Other Funds Recurring Authorization	\$ <u>336,078</u>
Grand Total Budget Request	\$ <u>49,288,390</u>

Child Welfare Placement Stability – Recurring

- Total Request - \$19,665,891; 85.00 FTE's
 - General Funds - \$14,352,105; 58.19 FTE's
 - Federal Authorization - \$ 4,977,709; 24.17 FTE's
 - Other Funds - \$336,077; 2.64 FTE's
- Foster Family Board Rate Increase - \$587,635 General Funds
- Group Home Quality Services –
 - Cost of Care Adjustment - \$3,889,871 General Funds
- DSS must properly allocate funds based on the level of care and support needed for foster children, and related services.

Child Welfare Outcomes & Progress

- Caseloads are lower
- Turnover is down
- Fewer children and youth in care
- Shorter lengths of stay
- More visitation with caregivers
- Completing more routine well-child and dental visits
- More children and youth placed with Kin
- Children & youth in Congregate Care meeting Michelle H benchmarks
- More siblings placed together
- More assessments, and completed timely
- More Child and Family Team Meetings

Senior Hunger and Food Insecurity – Recurring

- Total Request - \$ 1,331,044; 2.00 FTE's
 - General Funds - \$ 1,146,209; 0.40 FTE's
 - Federal Authorization - \$ 184,835; 1.60 FTE's
- Expansion of the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program to increase access to healthy food, like fresh fruits and vegetables, for older South Carolinians, so they can live an active, healthy life.
- Benefits South Carolina farmers.

Working Families Child Care Scholarships and Support – Recurring

- Total Request - \$ 10,666,457; 6.00 FTE's
 - General Funds - \$ 10,000,000; 0 FTE's
 - Federal Authorization - \$ 666,457; 6.00 FTE's
- Increased state funding to provide child care scholarships for an estimated 2,800 children per year in settings that participate in the state's voluntary ABC Quality program.

Economic Services System Application Modernization (ESSAM) – Non-Recurring

- FY25 Total Request - \$ 17,624,998
 - General Funds - \$ 8,812,499
 - Federal Authorization - \$ 8,812,499
- Replacement of the agency's 35-year-old legacy mainframe SNAP and TANF system, responsible for determining eligibility and issuing benefit payments to over 300,000 households and over 630,000 individuals annually.
- Continuation of multi-year request for total system replacement.

1988 SNAP/TANF Eligibility System

```
CAP2                                CASE PROFILE - PAGE 2                                103023 12:05
                                JOSE E
CASE NAME: █████, █████                CASE NUMBER: 00000030

LAST MR MAILED: 122120  SNAP ANNUAL REVW DUE: 0224  *SCCAP*  MIGRANT      :N
MR RECEIVED:                                HOMELESS      :N
                                ----- POTENTIAL FI TIME LIMITS ----- CAT. ELIGIBLE:Y
FI CERT THRU:  N/A    1ST AVAILABLE MTH: *N/A    NXT 6MTHS:

PROGRAM  PROGRAM  BENEFIT  APP  SIZE  TYPE  STATUS  DENIAL/  STATUS  CURRENT
ALERT    PRORATE  RECEIVED  SIZE  TYPE  STATUS  CLOSURE  DATE    MONTH
AF        052998  052998  04   NS  DENIED  VW       052998  0598
FS        020117  011221  01   SP  OPEN   012021  1223

CLIENT                                CLIENT  PART/RESN CODES
█████, █████                ALERT    DOB    REL  SEX  AF  FS
                                022454  PI   F   IN

                                NEXT--> █
```

2023 SNAP/TANF Eligibility System

```
CAP2                                CASE PROFILE - PAGE 2                                103023 12:05
                                JOSE E
CASE NAME: █████, █████                CASE NUMBER: 00000030

LAST MR MAILED: 122120  SNAP ANNUAL REVW DUE: 0224  *SCCAP*  MIGRANT      :N
MR RECEIVED:                                HOMELESS      :N
                                ----- POTENTIAL FI TIME LIMITS ----- CAT. ELIGIBLE:Y
FI CERT THRU:  N/A    1ST AVAILABLE MTH: *N/A    NXT 6MTHS:

PROGRAM  PROGRAM  BENEFIT  APP  SIZE  TYPE  STATUS  DENIAL/  STATUS  CURRENT
ALERT    PRORATE  RECEIVED  SIZE  TYPE  STATUS  CLOSURE  DATE    MONTH
AF        052998  052998  04   NS  DENIED  VW       052998  0598
FS        020117  011221  01   SP  OPEN   012021  1223

CLIENT                                CLIENT  PART/RESN CODES
█████, █████                ALERT    DOB    REL  SEX  AF  FS
                                022454  PI   F   IN

                                NEXT--> █
```

Impact if Not Funded

- The agency will not be capable of effectively pursuing the safety and well-being of South Carolina's children. This will also inhibit the ability of the agency to meet the basic needs of children and families.
- The agency will be unable to meet demand for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- \$2 billion in annual federal benefits, serving 630,000 SC individuals is at risk if the outdated mainframe/legacy SNAP and TANF system is not replaced.
- Certain working families will not meet eligibility requirements for child care scholarships.