



South Carolina Commission for the Blind

**WAYS AND MEANS HEALTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE
FY 2022-23 BUDGET HEARING**

Agency Attendees

- ▶ Darline Graham, Commissioner
- ▶ Matt Daugherty, Operations Director
- ▶ J. Michael Daniels II, Quality Assurance Director
- ▶ Karma Marshall, Consumer Services Director

Agency Information

South Carolina Commission for the Blind



Our mission is to provide quality individualized vocational rehabilitation services, independent living services and prevention-of-blindness services to blind and visually impaired consumers, leading to competitive employment and social and economic independence.

Agency Information

South Carolina Commission for the Blind

We offer **specialized and personalized services for individuals age 3 and up who are blind or have vision loss** that lead to social and economic independence.

- ▶ **Employment:** In our Vocational Rehabilitation program we help eligible consumers find, maintain, or regain employment. We provide counseling and guidance, educational opportunities, vocational training, and assistive technology to prepare them for career opportunities.
 - ▶ Our Business Enterprise Program helps qualified individuals become entrepreneurs and operate their own vending or food service business.

Agency Information

South Carolina Commission for the Blind

- ▶ **Independence:** We help consumers remain independent within their homes and communities:
 - ▶ Children's Services assists children ages 3 to 12, ensuring they have assistive technology available at home (not just in school) and building confidence and self-sufficiency from an early age.
 - ▶ Older Blind Services assists those 55 and older in remaining independent by providing specialized training and low vision devices.
- ▶ **Prevention:** We provide financial assistance for sight-saving surgeries for individuals who don't have insurance and otherwise could not afford it. Education on blindness prevention and eye safety is also provided around the state.

Agency Information

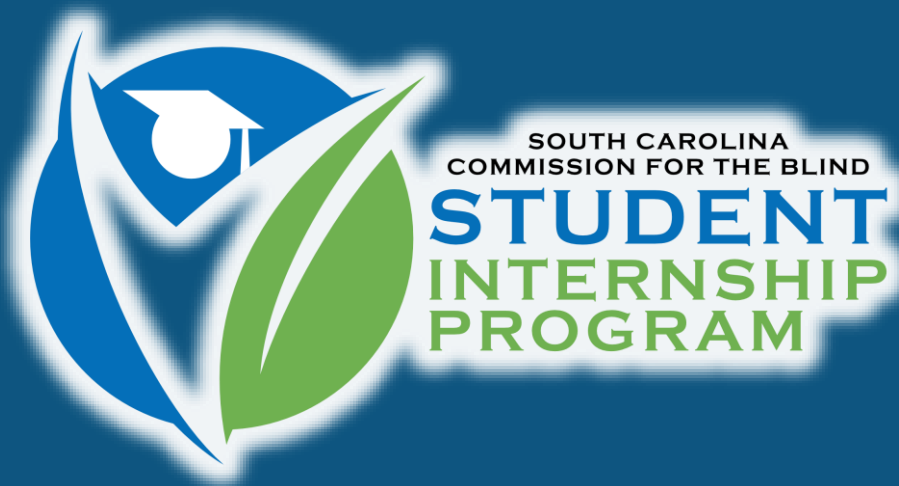
South Carolina Commission for the Blind

Summer Teen 2021

Launch Your Way to Success



Agency Information



“Interning with the Richland County Public Defender’s Office was an awesome experience. The judicial field is a lot more complicated than I thought and it makes me even more appreciative of the work that those involved do.”

—Zion Askins

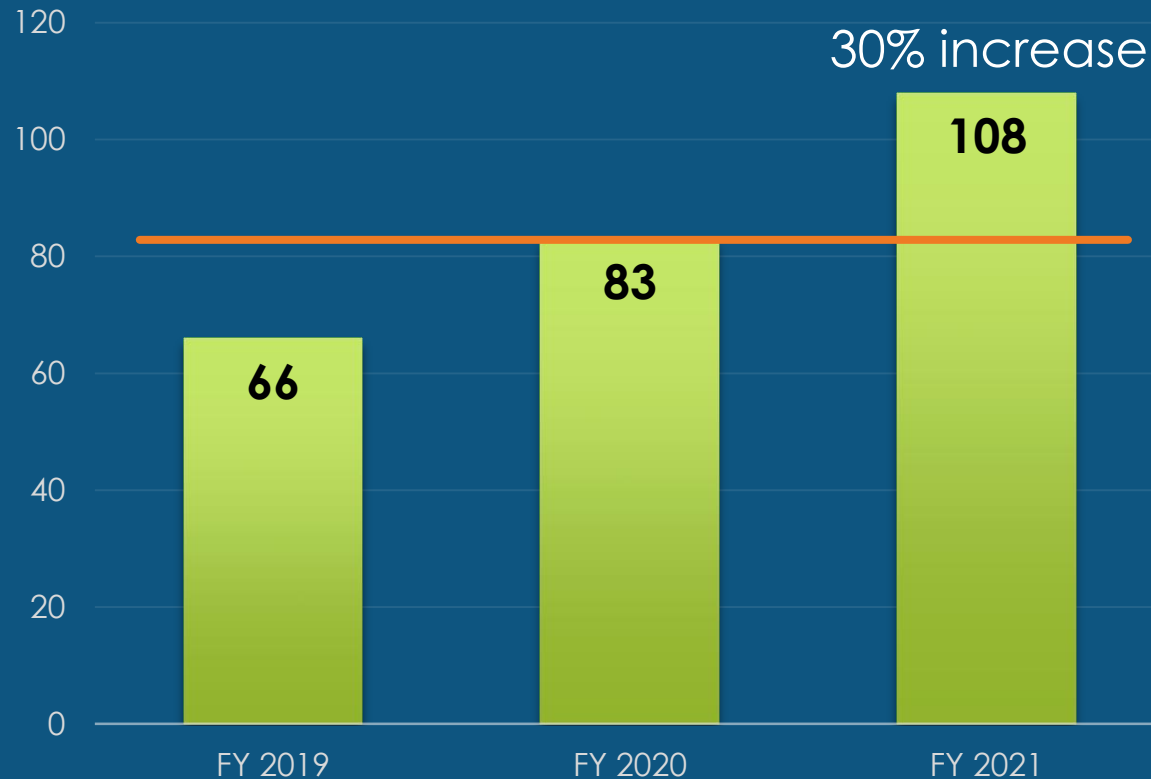


“I learned how to create a lesson plan, how to talk to children, organize a classroom and about various resources. I am so thankful that I got to work with Ms. Candice. She shared so many great tips about working in early childcare.”

—Staycee Etheredge

Agency Information

Successful Employment Outcomes

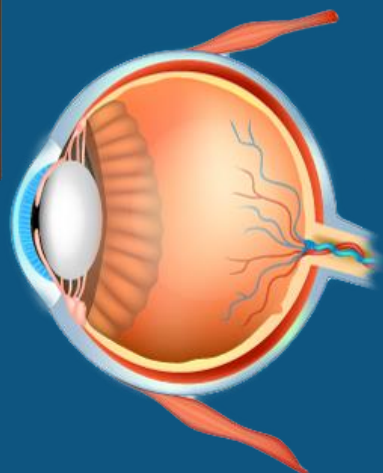
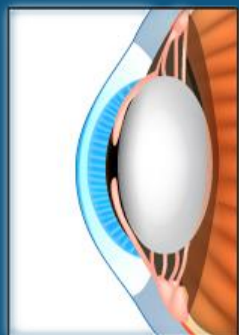


Position	Hourly Wage
Chemical Engineer	\$32.69
Automotive Materials Handler	\$20.38
Massage Therapist	\$20.00
Business Operations Specialist	\$36.06
Computer and Information Systems Manager	\$29.28

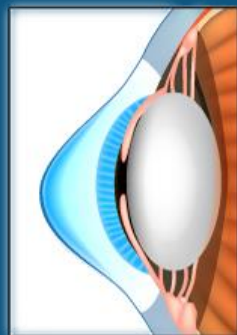
Average hourly wage \$14.81

Prevention of Blindness

Keratoconus



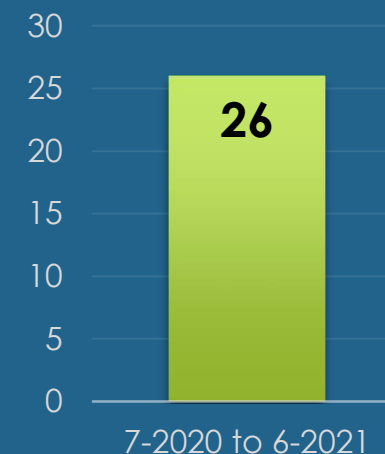
Normal cornea



Keratoconus

Cross-linking Treatments for Keratoconus

Cases



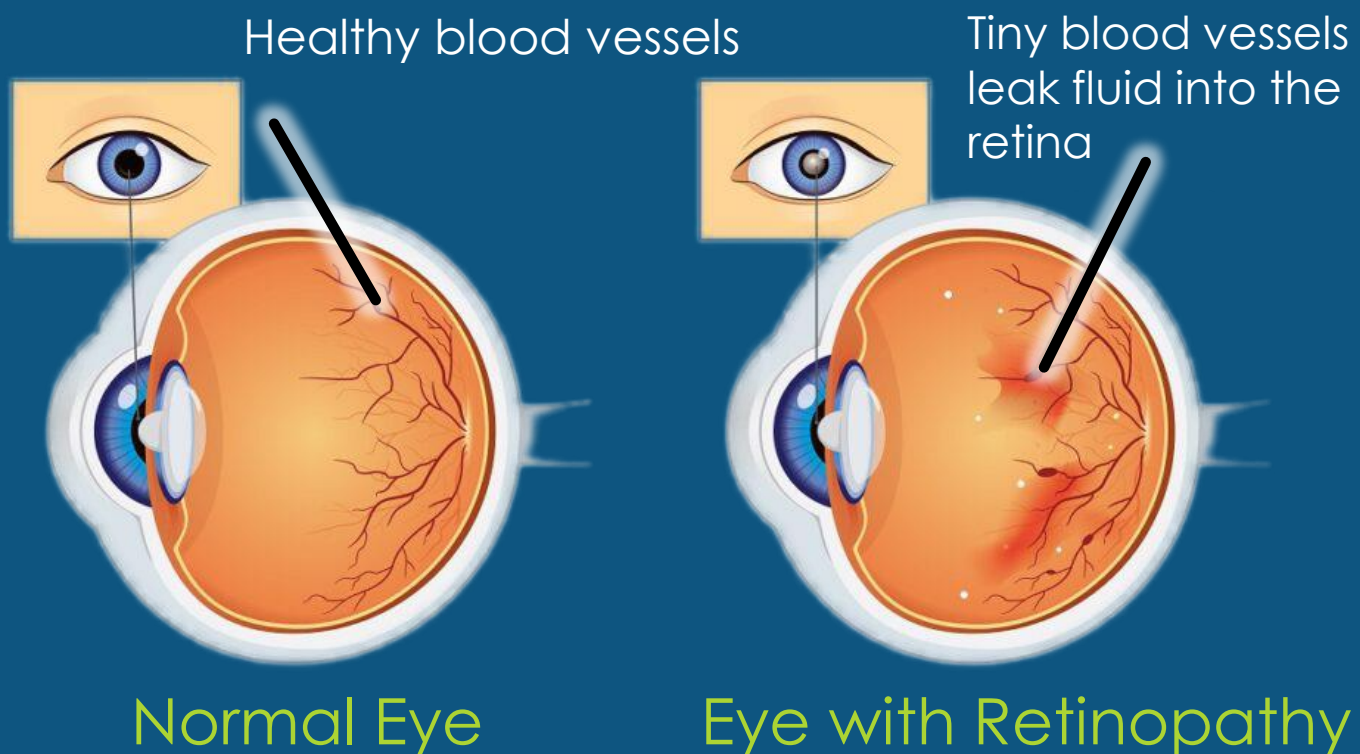
Children's Services



Prevention of Blindness Program

Challenges: Limited Services

Diabetic Retinopathy



SC Citizens with Diabetes

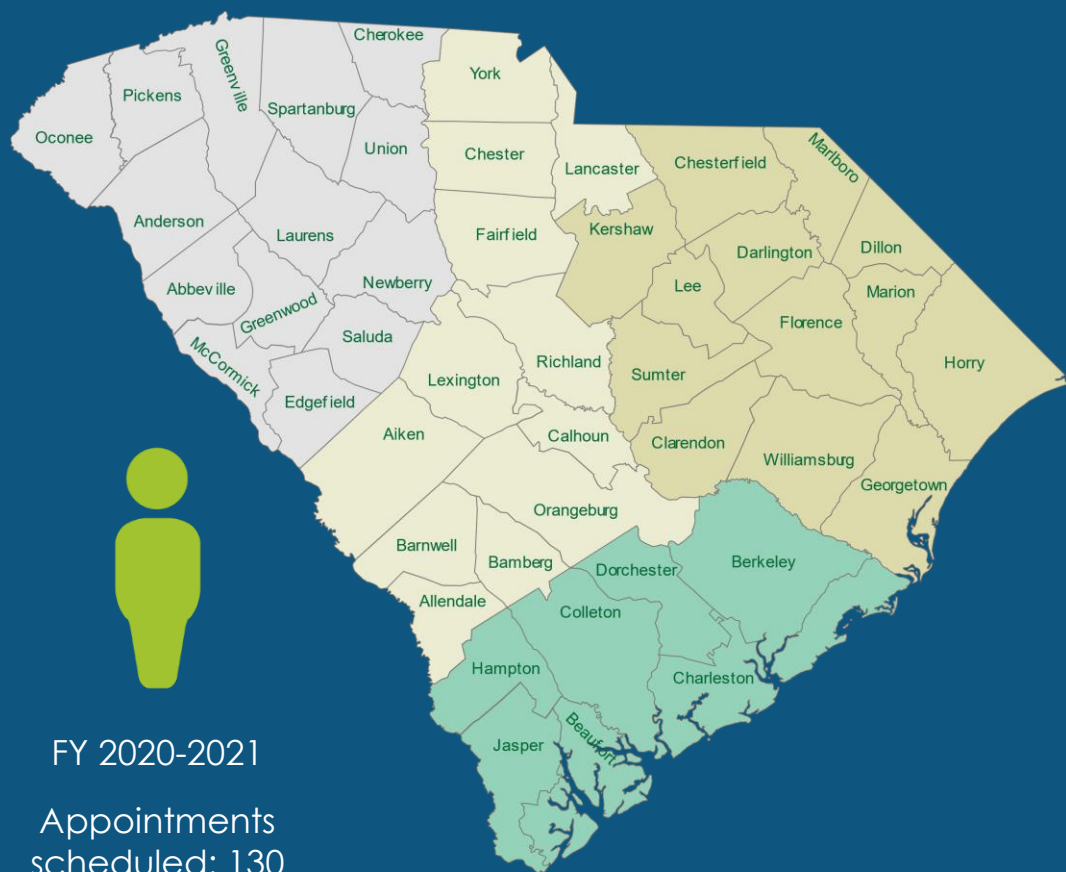


1 in 7 South Carolinians have diabetes;
SC the 5th highest in the nation

50% of people with diabetes will have
some form of retinopathy

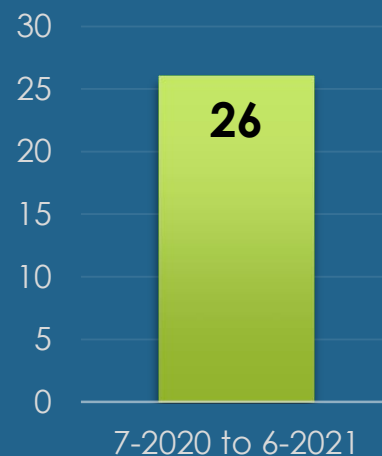
Prevention of Blindness Program

Challenges: Staff shortage & Increased Costs

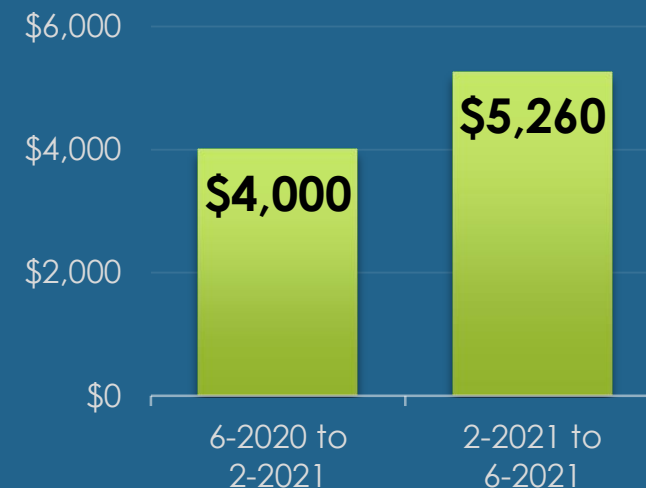


Cross-linking Treatment for Keratoconus

Cases



Increase in Costs per Case



Total for cross-linking treatment in SFY 2021: \$80,471

Children's Services

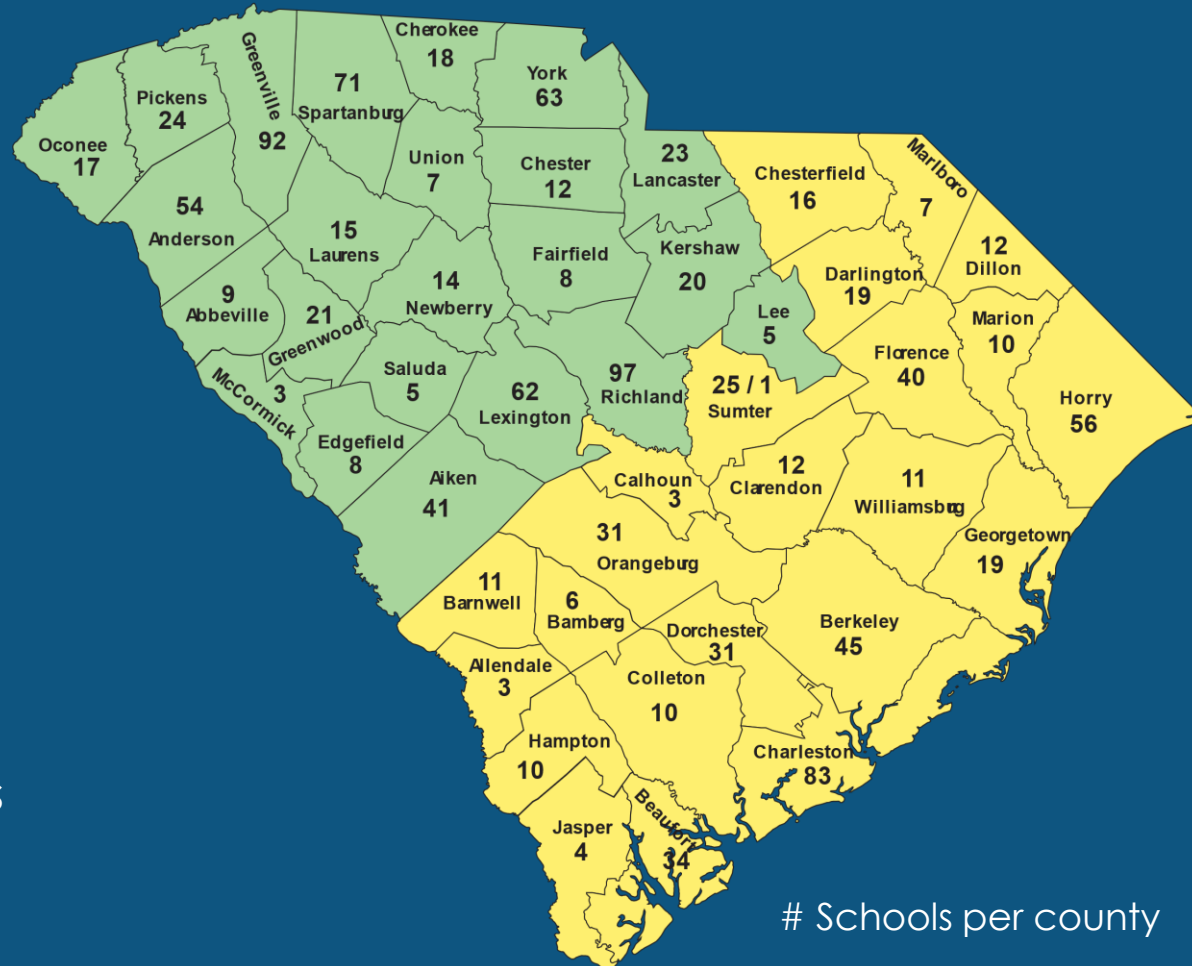
Challenges: Staff Shortage



Serves 122
consumers



Serves 122
consumers

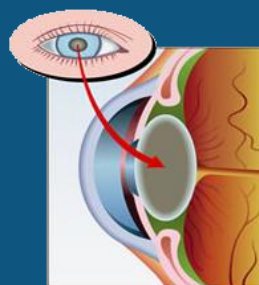
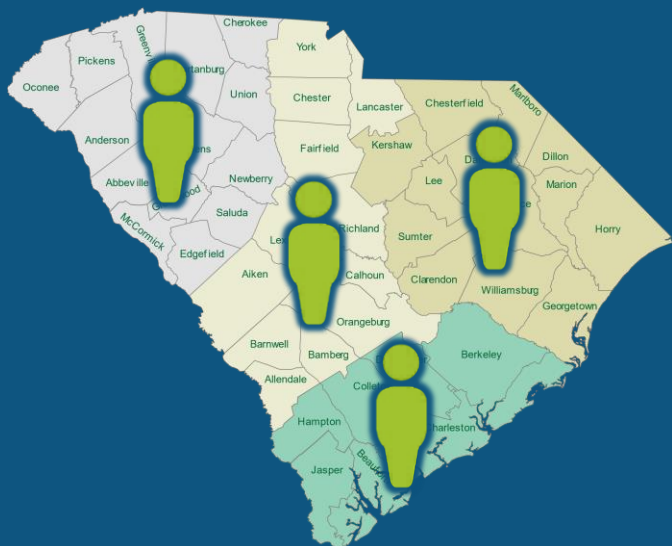


Recurring Budget Request

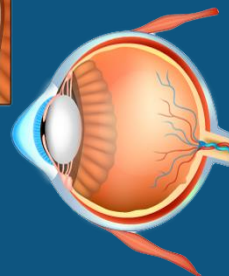
Prevention of Blindness program

- ▶ Add three (3) FTEs to assist with arranging more time sensitive services
- ▶ Additional program funds to increase provision of a broad range of preventative eye care treatment and sight-restoring procedures (\$163,486)
- ▶ Bring funding closer to pre-2008 operating levels

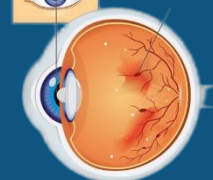
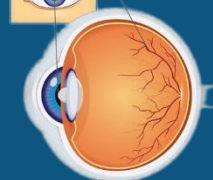
Priority
1



Cataract



Keratoconus



Diabetic Retinopathy

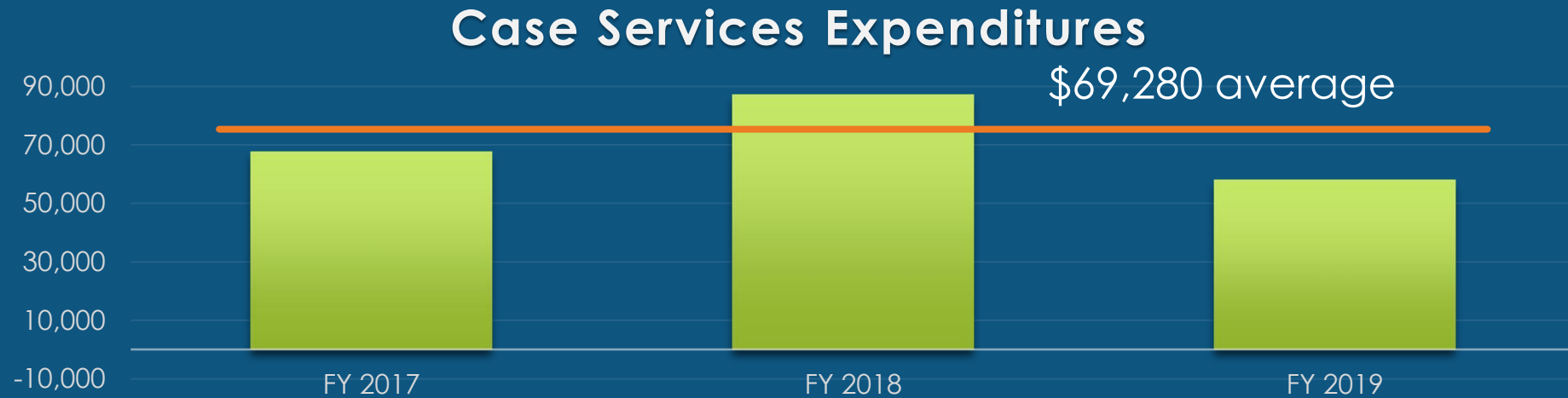
\$145,113 (3 FTEs) + \$65,301 (fringes) + \$163,486 (case services) + \$92,100 (operating) = \$466,000

Recurring Budget Request

Children's Services

- ▶ Add one (1) FTE
- ▶ Additional program funds
 - ▶ Exceeded its budget for each of the three years prior to 2020

Priority
2



$\$40,000 \text{ (1 FTE)} + \$18,000 \text{ (fringes)} + \$54,000 \text{ (case services)} + \$15,000 \text{ (operating)} = \$127,000$

Recurring Budget Request

Authorization Increases & FTE funding change

- ▶ \$40,000,000 earmarked authorization increase
- ▶ \$162,569 federal authorization increase
- ▶ Change earmarked FTE to federal FTE



Recurring Budget Request

Provisos

- ▶ I: Deferred Maintenance — Create an account with the Treasurer's Office to store funds that can be used for deferred maintenance, capital projects, and ordinary repairs until needed
- ▶ II: Remodeling — Transfer unused funds allocated for a canceled remodeling project to current capital improvement projects
- ▶ III: Reallotment Funds — Allow SCCB to spend funds that may be received after the initial grant period

Carryforward

- ▶ \$371,074.04 — Regular carryforward
- ▶ \$30,000.00 — Capital project carryforward
- ▶ We plan to spend carryforward towards the state portion of:
 - ▶ Replace generators that are out of compliance
 - ▶ Replace handrails for ADA compliance
 - ▶ Major landscape projects
 - ▶ HVAC costs in addition to original appropriation

Federal Relief Funds Summary

Amount	Date Received	Date Required to be Spent	Relief Bill or Fed Grant Title	Summary of Need/Use	Spent	Remaining
\$849,858.00	5/7/2021	9/30/2021	FRRP	Randolph-Sheppard Financial Relief and Restoration Payments; financial relief payments to Blind Licensed Vendors	\$849,858.00	\$0
\$134,914.01	4/1/2020	12/31/2020	CARES Act	Funds received as a reimbursement after 12/31/2020 for cleaning and sanitization of facilities, PPE (in addition to what was state-provided), small business relief	\$134,914.01	\$0

- ▶ No funds pending federal approval
- ▶ No relief funds requested

SCCB Success Stories



Landon Bryson
Children's Services



Kenneth Meredith
Prevention Services

Success stories provided in notebook

Wrap-Up

- ▶ Thank you for your time and attention in considering our funding requests.
- ▶ SCCB provides services to South Carolina citizens who may otherwise be reliant on greater public support.
- ▶ Federal mandates require us to obtain just over a 20% match from the state of South Carolina in order to receive our full federal funding.
- ▶ Our programs offer specialized and personalized services that lead to employment and independence, provide hope for an individual's future, and makes them proud and honored to be a citizen of this great state.