

About CAC's in South Carolina:

The 17 Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) in South Carolina provide a compassionate, coordinated investigative response to allegations in which children are named as victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, severe neglect, or a witness to a crime. The investigation of these allegations requires multiple agencies to determine whether or not the crime occurred. The CAC model promotes the multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach when handling these cases, in order to reduce trauma and increase communication and efficiency throughout the investigative process. This means when a child discloses abuse, the child is brought to the CAC, a child-friendly, neutral, safe facility, where they are interviewed by a highly trained forensic interviewer. The professionals involved in the investigation (law enforcement, DSS protective services, and others) convene at the CAC for the forensic interview, which provides the opportunity for all parties to be present to hear the child's disclosure, share case information with one another, and determine next steps in the investigation. It is also through the CAC that the family will receive continued advocacy and referrals for specialized mental health and/or medical services. It is through the CAC that child victims and their families can find comfort, healing, and justice.

CAC Coronavirus Response:

Last year CACs provided services to **over 10,600 child victims of abuse** in South Carolina. These child abuse victims were **referred to our CACs by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) and Law Enforcement agencies** across the state.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, CACs have modified operations to provide tele-health options for child forensic interviews and mental health services. CACs have had to find additional safe space to provide forensic interview services due to required social distancing and disinfecting of facilities after each service provided to a child and family. The South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers has worked to provide all CACs in SC with personal protective equipment (PPE) for CAC staff, multidisciplinary team partners, and the children and families CACs serve. We are already seeing and expect an additional increase in referrals from DSS and Law Enforcement as schools continue to reopen and unreported child abuse cases are discovered and referred for CAC services. The coronavirus response has placed a financial burden on SCNCAC and CACs at a time when fundraising and state funding has been reduced or eliminated due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

A number of states have provided CARES Act funding to CACs. In North Carolina, CACs received 4.5 million in funding.

See the back of this page for CAC locations and service areas.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS: Working with DSS & Law Enforcement to help children heal from abuse

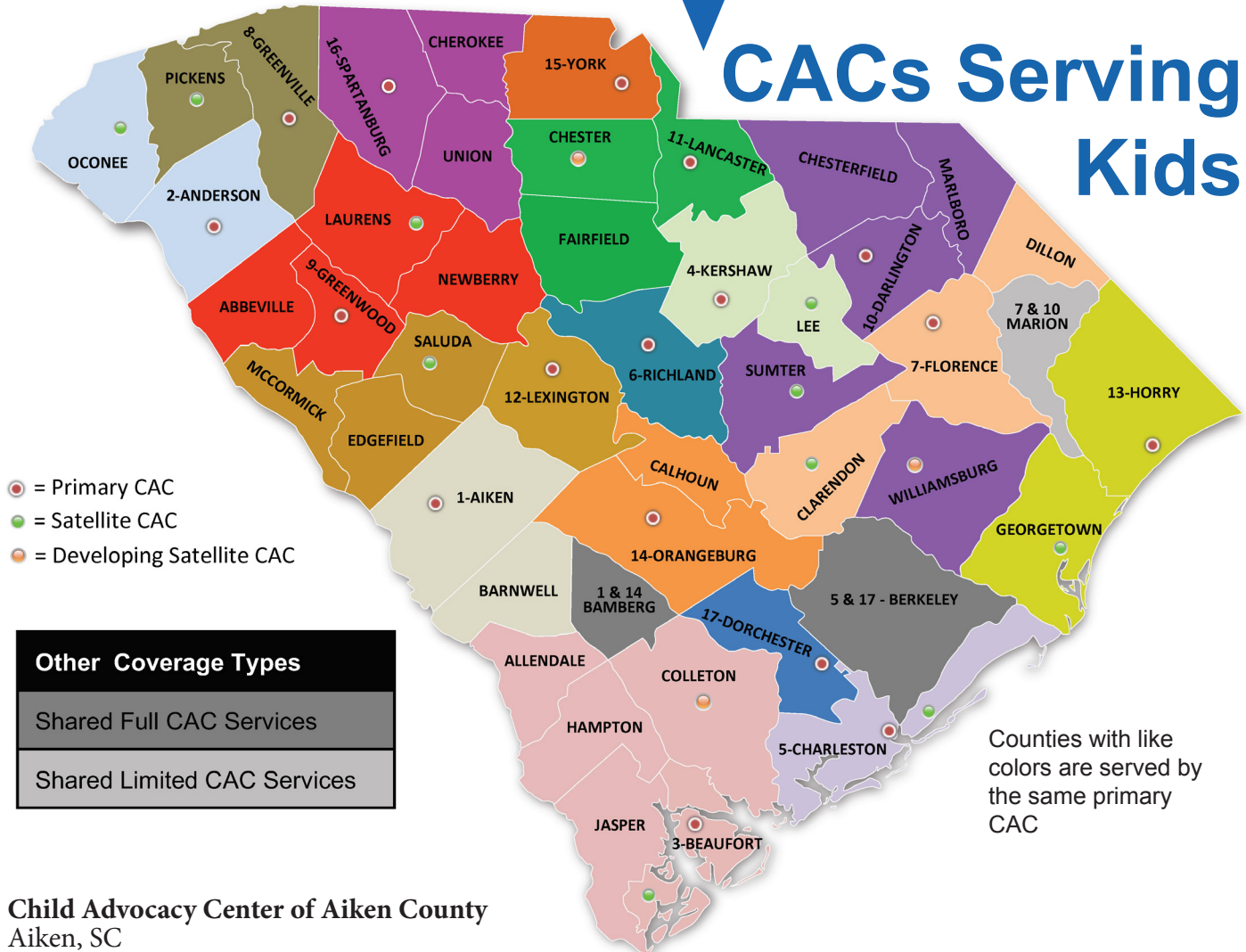


South Carolina Network
OF
**CHILDREN'S
ADVOCACY CENTERS**

Last year, CACs provided over 10,600 child victims of abuse in SC with multidisciplinary team investigations, forensic interviews, specialized medical and mental healthcare, and victim advocacy in all 46 SC Counties.



CACs Serving Kids



- 1. Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County**
Aiken, SC
- 2. Foothills Child Advocacy Center**
Anderson, SC
- 3. Hopeful Horizons**
Beaufort, SC
- 4. The Family Resource Center**
Camden, SC
- 5. Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center**
Charleston, SC
- 6. Metropolitan Children's Advocacy Center**
Columbia, SC
- 7. The Care House of the Pee Dee**
Florence, SC
- 8. Julie Valentine Center**
Greenville, SC
- 9. Beyond Abuse**
Greenwood, SC

- 10. Durant Children's Center 4th Judicial Circuit**
Hartsville, SC
- 11. Palmetto CASA - Children's Advocacy Center**
Lancaster, SC
- 12. Dickerson Children's Advocacy Center**
Lexington, SC
- 13. Children's Recovery Center**
Myrtle Beach, SC
- 14. Edisto Children's Center**
Orangeburg, SC
- 15. Safe Passage Children's Advocacy Center**
Rock Hill, SC
- 16. CAC of Spartanburg, Cherokee, & Union Counties**
Spartanburg, SC
- 17. Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center**
Summerville, SC