

AGENCY NAME:	DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES		
AGENCY CODE:	L040	SECTION:	038

Fiscal Year 2020–2021 Accountability Report

SUBMISSION FORM

I have reviewed and approved the data submitted by the agency in the following online forms:

- Reorganization and Compliance
- Strategic Plan Results
- Strategic Plan Development
- Legal
- Services
- Partnerships
- Report or Review

I have reviewed and approved the financial report summarizing the agency’s budget and actual expenditures, as entered by the agency into the South Carolina Enterprise Information System.

The information submitted is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

AGENCY DIRECTOR (SIGN AND DATE):	Signature on file.
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	Michael Leach, State Director

BOARD/CMSN CHAIR (SIGN AND DATE):	
(TYPE/PRINT NAME):	

AGENCY NAME:	Department of Social Services		
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Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

DSS continues to expand partnerships while creating new relationships to provide more services to jobseekers and employers. DSS participated in the 2020 development of an interagency Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan, to incorporate SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) and TANF. Workforce consultants and SNAP E&T coordinators are co-located in SC Works centers statewide and continue to use the SC Works Online Services (SCWOS) website, the state’s largest workforce development database and labor market repository, to assist jobseekers with real-time employment opportunities.

SNAP Employment and Training Program (SNAP E&T)

South Carolina continues to be a national leader in expanding the SNAP E&T third-party reimbursement program with community-based organizations, technical colleges, state agencies, and for-profit entities. The program assists able-bodied adults without dependents (“ABAWDs”) by providing educational, training, and volunteer opportunities that allow them to remain SNAP-eligible while pursuing self-sufficiency. SNAP E&T continues to utilize the internally developed South Carolina Comprehensive Employment and Training System (SCCETS) to transform and modernize business and administrative operations.

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative

South Carolina completed the first year of the \$11.1 million three-year Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five awarded by the US Department of Health and Human Services and the US Department of Education. DSS partnered with other state agencies and non-profit organizations to coordinate activities, including a statewide needs assessment. DSS was awarded \$11.1 million for the second year of the grant.

Background Check Requirements for Child Care Providers

As a result of new federal and state requirements, new and existing child care providers are now subject to a comprehensive criminal background check every five years that includes both in-state and national fingerprint-based criminal history, child abuse and neglect registry, and sex offender registry checks. The same checks will be conducted in any state a provider resided in within the last five years. DSS has been granted a one-year COVID-19 extension to complete updated background checks on all existing providers by September 30, 2021.

ABC Quality (ABCQ) – Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Revisions

ABCQ, the state’s voluntary quality rating improvement system (QRIS) for child care facilities is a broad five-tier quality structure designed to assist providers in enhancing their program beyond basic licensing standards and to help parents choose quality care. The ABC quality rating determines the ABC quality level, which in turn determines the tiered payment rate for providers from the SC Voucher reimbursement system.

During 2019-2020, ABC Quality began implementing a revised and consolidated strengths-based assessment tool. The evaluation reviews mandatory requirements, policies and procedures, and classroom standards. All new classroom standards will be completed by October 1, 2021.

ABC Quality completed a pilot of a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process known as “Building for Our Future.” Providers partnered with Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) and SC Endeavors to get teachers enrolled in the SC Endeavors’ Workforce Registry system. This process offered providers an incentive when they met incremental goals toward improving their ABC quality rating, and subsequently, their ABC quality level.

Early Care and Education Infrastructure Improvements

DSS continues to work toward an integrated data system for the Division of Early Care and Education which includes SC Endeavors, ABC Quality, Child Care Licensing, SC Voucher, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Data integration will reduce duplicate data entries and increase overall data quality.

