

Legislative Priorities



Voluntary Home Visiting Programs

Professionals work one-on-one with mothers to help them learn how to give their babies a strong start in life. Evidence shows that voluntary home-visiting programs prevent child abuse and lower maternal and infant mortality and childhood obesity.

LESS THAN
10% of eligible families receive voluntary home-visiting services

South Carolina can serve more families with home visiting through a state financial investment of \$250,000. This funding would be matched 3-to1 by the federal Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting grant administered by Children's Trust.



Child Care

Child care in South Carolina remains one of the top ten barriers to workforce entry. Workers without stable child care are also more prone to calling out, showing up late and leaving early.

MORE THAN
15% of unemployed women can't work because of a lack of child care

Update the existing business child care tax credit so that more will use it.



Hunger

No child in South Carolina should go hungry, yet many still do. Research shows that hungry children are more likely to be disruptive in class and have lasting health complications.

28% of children in S.C. live in households where children are not eating enough because food is unaffordable

Expand free breakfast and lunch programs in public schools to cover all children in South Carolina.



Behavioral and Mental Health

Children are struggling with record-high mental health concerns in South Carolina.

41% of S.C. high school students stopped doing activities because of poor mental health

Prioritize crisis stabilization units for children and youth throughout the state.

Children's Trust is the only statewide organization focused on preventing child abuse and neglect in South Carolina. We lead and support a network that shares our belief that all children should thrive, live in secure families and be surrounded by supportive communities. We advocate for investments to make prevention services available to more children and families, saving the state from costly interventions such as social services, law enforcement, court systems and out-of-home placement.

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Sources - S.C. Home Visiting Needs Assessment Update Infographic, Children's Trust of South Carolina, https://scchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/SC_Home_Visiting_Needs_Assessment_2020_Infographic.pdf. S.C. Labor Force Participation, S.C. Labor Force Participation, <https://dew.sc.gov/sites/dew/files/Documents/FinalReportSEP30.pdf>. Children Living in Households That Were Food Insecure at Some Point During the Pandemic, Annie E. Casey Foundation Data Center, <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/5201-children-living-in-households-that-were-food-insecure-at-some-point-during-the-year#>. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Questionnaire. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/yrbs>

***“An ounce of prevention
is worth a pound of cure.”***

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, 1735

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