

Partners in Prevention

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



With Prevention, Everyone Wins.

When parents and families have the right tools and resources, they raise happy, healthy and safe children. And that is what everyone wants – a South Carolina where children thrive and grow into productive citizens. By working upstream through proven prevention programs and family strengthening services, the positive effects are immediate and long-lasting.

Parenting programs help families stay together and spare children from the long-term, devastating effects of maltreatment. Communities can focus on building the next generation rather than spending limited resources on costly expenses associated with physical and mental health, social services, law enforcement, foster care and the justice system.



Invest in proven prevention programs to help young children and their families.

13,397



children in substantiated investigations of abuse and neglect in South Carolina last year



51%
ages 0-6



29%
ages 7-12



52%
neglect



48%
abuse

Data Source: South Carolina Department of Social Services, state fiscal year 2023 - 2024.

Our Legislative Priorities



Stop Child Abuse and Neglect Before It Occurs

Preventing child abuse reduces the long-term financial burden on taxpayers by minimizing costly interventions like foster care, medical treatments, and welfare, ultimately promoting stronger, more stable families and communities.

13,397 children in substantiated investigations of abuse and neglect in South Carolina last year

SOLUTION - Allocate funds to Children’s Trust of South Carolina to expand evidence-based prevention programs that provide family support services, parenting education and home visitation.



Provide School Meals to All Children

No child in South Carolina should go hungry, yet many still do, with almost 200,000 experiencing food insecurity. Chronically hungry children are more likely to be disruptive in class and have lasting health complications.

28% of children in South Carolina live in households where children are not eating enough because food is unaffordable

SOLUTION - Pass legislation to provide healthy and nutritious breakfast and lunch free of charge to all students in South Carolina public schools, eliminating the stigma and administrative burden associated with free and reduced-price meal programs.



Address Child Care Challenges

Child care in South Carolina remains among the top ten barriers to workforce entry. Workers without stable child care are also more likely to have unplanned absences, get to work late or leave early.

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

SOLUTION - Expand access to affordable, high-quality child care to ensure that parents can fully participate in the workforce.

Sources - Children in Substantiated CPS Investigations for SFY 2023-2024 by Age of the Child, S.C. Department of Social Services, <https://dss.sc.gov/about/data-and-resources/child-welfare-data/child-protective-services-data/>. S.C. Labor Force Participation, S.C. Labor Force Participation, <https://dew.sc.gov/sites/dew/files/Documents/FinalReportSEP30.pdf>. Annie E. Casey Foundation, <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/11131-households-with-children-where-children-were-not-eating-enough-because-food-was-unaffordable?loc=1&loct=2#detail/2/2-52/true/2484/any/21494>.

2025 Prevention Partners in South Carolina

Children's Trust is the state chapter for Prevent Child Abuse America and leads Child Abuse Prevention Month for South Carolina. Recognizing that we all must work together, the following partners have made a commitment to stand together during

14th Circuit Solicitor's Office SAFE Program <i>Beaufort</i>	Central Police Department <i>Pickens</i>	Foster Care Review Board <i>Greenville and Richland</i>	Lee County First Steps <i>Lee</i>	The Parenting Place <i>Pickens</i>
Axis I Center of Barnwell <i>Barnwell</i>	Charleston HALOS <i>Charleston</i>	Front Porch Housing <i>Anderson</i>	Lee County Public Library <i>Lee</i>	ParentSMART FRC <i>York</i>
Barnwell County First Steps <i>Barnwell</i>	Cherokee County First Steps <i>Cherokee</i>	FVC Daycare <i>Marlboro</i>	Leington Two School District <i>Lexington</i>	PASOs <i>Richland</i>
Baxter-Patrick James Island Library of CCPL <i>Charleston</i>	Child Abuse Prevention Association <i>Beaufort</i>	GLEAMNS Head Start <i>Greenwood</i>	Lighthouse Ministries <i>Florence</i>	PASOs-BJHCHS <i>Beaufort</i>
Beaufort County First Steps <i>Beaufort</i>	Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County <i>Aiken</i>	Greenville First Steps <i>Greenville</i>	M.S. Bailey Child Development Center <i>Laurens</i>	Pee Dee Community Action Partnership <i>Marion</i>
Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services <i>Beaufort</i>	Children's Advocacy Center of Spartanburg <i>Spartanburg</i>	Greer Relief and Resources Agency, Inc. <i>Greenville</i>	Maternity Health and Resource Centers <i>Sumter</i>	Pee Dee Community Action Partnership, Head Start <i>Florence</i>
Bell Carrington Price and Gregg, LLC <i>Richland</i>	Children's Attention Home <i>York</i>	Griggs Road Elementary School <i>York</i>	McCracken Middle School <i>Spartanburg</i>	Pendleton Place <i>Greenville</i>
Benedict College <i>Richland</i>	Children's Place, Inc. <i>Aiken</i>	Growing Home Southeast, Inc. <i>Richland</i>	Middle Tyger Community Center <i>Spartanburg</i>	Pickens City Police Department <i>Pickens</i>
Bethany Elementary School <i>York</i>	Children's Recovery Center <i>Horry</i>	Hampton County First Steps <i>Hampton</i>	Midlands Orphan Relief <i>Lexington</i>	Piedmont Community Action Early Learning Center <i>Spartanburg</i>
Bethel Elementary School <i>York</i>	A Child's Haven <i>Greenville</i>	Health Care Partners of South Carolina <i>Horry</i>	Mine Creek MBC <i>Saluda</i>	Pine Street Elementary <i>Spartanburg</i>
Bethesda Learning Center <i>Sumter</i>	City of Clemson Police Department <i>Pickens</i>	Healthy Families <i>Georgetown</i>	National Youth Advocate Program <i>Richland</i>	Prisma Health, Bradshaw Institute for Community Child Health and Advocacy <i>Greenville</i>
Beyond Abuse <i>Greenwood</i>	Cleveland Academy of Leadership <i>Spartanburg</i>	HealthySteps at Prisma Pediatrics-Powdersville <i>Anderson</i>	Nazarene Missionary Baptist Church <i>Barnwell</i>	Prisma Health, Office of Community Health <i>Richland</i>
Bikers Against Child Abuse <i>Horry</i>	Clover High School <i>York</i>	Helping Hands, Inc. <i>Aiken</i>	New Foundations Home for Children <i>Anderson</i>	Richland School District Two <i>Richland</i>
Blue Dragonfly <i>Anderson</i>	Clover Ninth Grade Campus <i>York</i>	Hopeful Horizons <i>Beaufort</i>	Newberry County First Steps <i>Newberry</i>	S.C. Association of Community Action Partnerships <i>Richland</i>
Boiling Springs Elementary <i>Spartanburg</i>	Collaboration2gether, Inc. <i>Darlington</i>	HopeHealth <i>Florence</i>	Nightlight Christian Adoptions <i>Greenville</i>	S.C. Department of Social Services <i>All counties</i>
Browns Ferry Community Outreach <i>Georgetown</i>	Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center <i>Charleston</i>	Jesus Forever Family Ministry <i>Lexington</i>	Oakridge Elementary School <i>York</i>	S.C. Department of Social Services Advisory Board <i>Anderson</i>
Calhoun County First Steps <i>Calhoun</i>	Dorchester Road Library of CCPL <i>Charleston</i>	Joyful Moms Club <i>Berkeley</i>	Oakridge Middle School <i>York</i>	S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy <i>Anderson, Charleston, Chester, Florence, Greenville and Richland</i>
CARE House of the Pee Dee <i>Florence</i>	Drayton Mills Elementary <i>Spartanburg</i>	Kane Jollas <i>Richland</i>	OCAB Head Start Center <i>Bamberg</i>	S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy, Guardian Ad Litem <i>Charleston, Lancaster, Laurens, Oconee and Spartanburg,</i>
Carolina Family Services <i>Spartanburg</i>	Dream Preparatory Academy <i>Greenville</i>	Kay Phillips Child Advocacy Center <i>Dorchester</i>	Opportunity Calls Everyone Family Development Center <i>Orangeburg</i>	
Carolina Health Centers, Inc. <i>Greenwood</i>	Edgefield County Healthcare <i>Edgefield</i>	Kindard Elementary School <i>York</i>	Otranto Road Library of CCPL <i>Charleston</i>	
Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program <i>Lexington</i>	Family Outreach of Horry County <i>Horry</i>	Lancaster County First Steps <i>Lancaster</i>	Our Kulture Club <i>Greenville</i>	
Cayce Police Department <i>Lexington</i>		Laurens County First Steps <i>Laurens</i>	Pageland Police Department <i>Chesterfield</i>	

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S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
Richland

S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice
Greenville

S.C. Department of Public Health
Anderson, Greenville,
Greenwood and Spartanburg

S.C. Department of Social Services CFTM Team
Anderson

S.C. Department of Social Services, Pee Dee Region Foster Family Licensing and Support
Florence

S.C. Forb
Greenwood

S.C. Mentor
Richland

S.C. National Guard
Richland

S.C. Synod LCY
Spartanburg

Safe Kids Charleston Area, MUSC Children's Health
Charleston

Safe Kids Sumter County
Sumter

School District of Oconee County, Department of Early Learning
Oconee

Spartanburg County District 7
Spartanburg

St. James Santee
Georgetown

St. Paul's Hollywood Library of CCPL
Charleston

Stacy Nance
Georgetown

University of South Carolina STARR Lab
Richland

University of South Carolina Upstate
Spartanburg

Upstate Family Resource Center
Spartanburg

Waccamaw EOC, INC.
Georgetown

The Wetter Family Foundation
Greenville

Williamsburg County First Steps
Williamsburg

YMCA of Columbia
Richland

York School District 1 Parenting Partnerships
York

York YMCA
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The Zone Services, Inc.
Anderson

Sponsors

Children's Trust is grateful for the generous financial support of our corporate and foundation partners.

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