

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

SCDSS could not safely care for children and youth in foster care without the foster and kinship parents who say YES!

YES to the teenager outside of the normal age range. YES to the middle of the night call. YES to the placement that meant a cancelled vacation or activity. And, all of you who continue to say YES within the daily grind of foster care.

Your YES impacts the children and youth in your home, along with their parents and your community at large. By saying YES to the unknown you serve as a catalyst for positive change. We see you!!! Words do not seem sufficient for your tireless advocacy, support, love and care you share with our children, youth and families. We know there is still much work to be done around support for our South Carolina foster and kinship families!

FOSTER PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

SCDSS and SCFPA want to extend our sincere thanks to the foster parents serving on the Foster Parent Advisory Council (FPAC)!

The FPAC was formed in 2020 and meets monthly to provide SCDSS staff with guidance, assistance, and recommendations for addressing the service and support needs of foster parents, children in foster care, and their families. If you have an idea you would like for this group to discuss or are interested how you can get involved, e-mail Anna@SCFPA.COM

Thank You!

THE GARCIA FAMILY

While originally licensed for younger placements, when the Garcias learned of the urgent need for foster families open to older placements, they quickly came to the rescue! Now their home and hearts are for the teenagers.

As a bi-lingual household the Garcias are a huge asset with Spanish speaking placements and allow children to feel safe and heard while in care. Through the Garcia's commitment to every teen feeling like a member of their family - each placement thrives in their home! The Garcia's are truly an asset to the youth in the foster care community and worthy of recognition!



REMINDER

Foster parents can only consent to medical care as Secondary Medical Consenters AFTER completing "Health Care Oversight and Psychotropic Medications".

This includes Routine Medical Care!

When Psychotropic Medications are prescribed to a child in the care of an Approved Secondary Consenter, [Form 2056](#) - Psychotropic Medication Informed Consent – must be filled out by medical provider prior to drugs being prescribed.

Please review [Health Care Consent Policies](#) to make sure you stay in compliance.

LEVEL UP SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Students (ages 14-19) can develop employable skills and gain work experience during the summer through the Columbia Urban League's, Level Up Program. If you have any questions or would like to refer a youth to participate, please contact Juanita Dean-Bates, Program Director, 803-799-8150 Ext. 141 or jidean@culsc.org

AGES 14-21

Level Up Program

Program Offers:
College Fairs
Workshops: SAT AND ACT PREP, FASFA
Community Service
Involvement
Mentorship and Tutoring

The purpose of Level UP is to provide a constant and stable environment for youth in family preservation and foster care who are considered at risk.

Level UP serves 400 disadvantaged youth in Allen, Clarendon, Fairfield, Greenville, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Marion, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter and York Counties.

For More Information:
Contact Program Director
Juanita Dean-Bates
Telephone: (803)799-8150 Ext.141
Email: jidean@culsc.org
Address: 1400 Barnwell St.
Columbia SC, 29201

Summer Employment \$ Monthly Stipend

Columbia Urban League, Inc.

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

Child care vouchers can cover some summer child care providers for elementary age kids!

To find out if a provider is covered either call the provider directly or search the [SC Child Care website](#) for eligible programs.

Once you identify a program let your child's worker know or email fosterchildcare@dss.sc.gov directly to get the process started.

SAT TEST PREP

Fostering Great Ideas' Tutor Match program is offering **virtual SAT Prep free** this summer for any student who may be interested in taking or improving their SAT scores for college!

- Complete the Tutor Match Referral online at www.fgi4kids.org/referrals
- Select "SAT Prep Course"

If you have any questions, please contact the Program Manager - Kendal W. Farmer (864) 923-8098

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW FOSTER PARENT LIAISON, BRIANNA KALDENBACH!

Brianna brings to our team her experience as a Licensed Foster Parent (6 years and counting) of all ages and stages. Her passion is seeing everyone work together for the children and families we serve - especially through clear communication!

Outside of work Brianna spends every moment possible outside - exploring new places and spending time with her family.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



EXTENSION OF CARE

The ceremonial signing of the Extension of Foster Care bill (H.3509) happened on May 11, with Governor Henry McMaster surrounded by youth and supporters. DSS offers a state funded VPA program to support DSS placement of young people age 18 until their 21st birthday. This new law extends supportive resources and a variety of housing options to young people. More information about the Extension of Care implementation will soon follow! We are most proud of our YEA! members who shared their truth during the legislative process. Please take a moment and watch the recording of the youth testimony: [YEA Testimony](#)

DSS needs foster parents who are willing to support teens as they launch into adulthood. If Extended Foster Care is something you are interested in reach out to FPHelp@dss.sc.gov for more information!

KINSHIP CARE

The Kinship Bill, S.222, was signed into law by Governor McMaster in May 2022 and seeks to define 'fictive kin' in state law as well as provide supports for licensed kinship foster parents.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

The Birth Certificate Access bill, S.1025, was signed into law by Governor McMaster in May 2022 and expands who can obtain a birth certificate on behalf of a child. This allows Kinship Caregivers with a court order to enroll a child in their custody in school, sports, and obtain IDs easier than before.

South Carolina Numbers



Licensed Foster Homes

2653



Children in Foster Care

4073



Age Breakdown

0 -6: 1585

7-12: 1110

13-17: 1378



*Numbers as of 6.1.2022

RESOURCES

Direct Deposit

- Complete the [form for direct deposit](#)
- Email the form and a voided check to DSS-EPAY@dss.sc.gov. Be sure to include the word ENCRYPT in the subject line of the email to protect your information.



Child and Adult Information Portal (CAIP)

A virtual platform to view and share health, education, and well-being information about children in foster care.

To Gain Access:

1. Complete Training – <https://caip.itechcarolina.org/>
2. After successfully completing training, receive a username and password from SCDSS to access CAIP.
This can take up to a week from training completion. If you do not receive login information after a week please reach out to FPHelp@dss.sc.gov
3. Log into CAIP within 24 hours of receiving email.
4. Access CAIP using a smartphone, tablet, desktop or laptop computer.
5. View and update important information about the children in your care.

SC Voucher Program

- Parents choose the provider who will care for their child and DSS pays the provider directly.
- At time of placement, Foster Families need to let Licensing and Placement staff know if child care is needed.
- Licensing and Placement staff forward Foster Parent contact information and name of child care provider.
- SC Voucher Program staff contact Foster Parent to request any additional information to process request.
- Visit the official [SC Child Care](#) website for more information.
- Email questions to: fosterchildcare@dss.sc.gov



CONTINUED TRAINING

SCFPA offers courses in two convenient ways

Live Webinars

1. Go to [SC Foster Parents Training & Resources \(scfpa.com\)](https://www.scfpa.com)
2. Click on “Open Training Calendar.”
3. Search by event type or just scroll down to the bottom and select the blue link that says click for more details.
4. Register directly with the trainer.
5. Receive an invite via email from **Let's Talk Video** notifications@letstalk.video.
6. RSVP to confirm (if you do not receive an email invitation be sure to **check your junk mail**).

*You will need to download zoom to your device

Recorded Trainings

SCFPALMS has 69 recorded trainings that you can access anytime day or night! Just go to www.scfpalms.com and create a FREE account.

Subscribe to the SCFPA Email List for a weekly email with training opportunities.

Visit www.scfpalms.com and select “Click Here to Join the SCFPA Email List” and add your e-mail address.