

# Agency Overview

2025



# Our Mission

The South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) serves South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families.

This mission is accomplished through the core principles of competence, courage and compassion.

## Report Abuse and Neglect

The statewide, 24/7 hotline for reporting abuse/neglect is 1-888-CARE-4-US (1-888-227-3487). Non-emergency reports of abuse and neglect can be made [online](#). For emergencies, please contact 911 or your local law enforcement office.



# Programs and Services

## Child Welfare

### **CHILD WELFARE SERVICES INVESTIGATIONS**

Child Welfare Services Investigations Unit investigates reports of suspected child abuse and neglect by parents, guardians, and caregivers. After receiving a report, the DSS Intake Unit decides whether the report meets the state law's definition of child abuse and/or neglect. Accepted reports are investigated and needed services are offered to children and families with a goal of lowering risk and increasing the family's ability to protect children. In some cases, a safety plan can be developed with a protector or kinship caregiver to ensure the child's safety and well-being while DSS works with the family.

### **FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION**

Children who cannot safely remain in the home while DSS provides services to the family are placed in the legal custody of DSS. Children may be placed in a licensed kinship foster home, a non-kin foster home or group-care facility that can best meet their needs while their parents work with DSS toward reunification. When children in foster care cannot be reunited with their biological families, permanency is sought through a subsidized kinship guardianship arrangement or through termination of parental rights and adoption. Youth remaining in foster care receive assistance to make a successful transition into adulthood.

## Economic Services

### **TANF (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES)**

TANF is South Carolina's welfare program which provides temporary financial assistance to needy families with dependent children who meet federal eligibility guidelines. [Apply online for benefits.](#)

### **SNAP (SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)**

SNAP benefits, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provide eligible, low-income households with nutrition assistance by increasing the household's food purchasing power. SNAP benefits are issued monthly to the recipient's EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card. [Apply online for benefits and receive real-time application and case status notifications.](#)

### **WORK PROGRAMS / SNAP EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Employment training and job search assistance are available to SNAP recipients, which may help some recipients satisfy the work requirement for time-limited benefits. Services are provided by DSS county office staff as well as through partnerships with other state agencies and community-based organizations.

### **SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (SFMNP)**

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) is a seasonal USDA grant program that provides participants with access to fresh, nutritious, unprocessed fruits and vegetables from local farmers' markets and is designed to increase awareness and use of community markets.

### **HEALTHY BUCKS PROGRAM**

The "Healthy Bucks" program allows SNAP recipients to obtain additional fresh fruits and vegetables when they use their SNAP benefits to purchase fresh produce at participating Healthy Bucks Vendors.

### **CLAIMS**

The Benefit Integrity Unit is responsible for the collection of SNAP and TANF claims of overpayment or fraud. The Unit leads the Southeast and nation in ensuring benefits are administered according to federal regulations.



# Programs and Services *(cont.)*

## Economic Services *(cont.)*

### **CHILD CARE (LICENSING, QUALITY, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

SCDSS is the licensing and regulatory agency for child care providers and administers the Child Care Scholarship program to help low income families afford quality child care so parents can work. The agency manages the ABC Quality rating and improvement system and the professional development system for South Carolina's child care workforce. Learn more at [SCChildCare.org](https://www.sccare.org).

### **CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Child Care Scholarship Program makes child care more affordable for families by making all or a portion of provider payments directly to child care providers so parents can work or attend school or training. [Apply online.](#)

## Adult Advocacy/Domestic Violence Prevention

Adult Protective Services (APS) protects the health and welfare of elderly, disabled and vulnerable adults who are 18 or older and victims of actual, or potential abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation. DSS contracts with local shelters and community agencies throughout the state to prevent or reduce the incidence of domestic violence.

## Child Support Services

The Child Support Services Division provides administrative services to obtain child support. Services include establishing, modifying, and enforcing support obligations, locating parents and establishing paternity. There is no cost to apply for these services. [Apply for services and check case information online.](#)

## Office of General Counsel (OGC)/County Legal Teams

The OGC provides advice, counsel, and legal representation to the DSS, its executive leaders and management at the state level in all program and support areas, as well as leadership and oversight of DSS Legal Operations statewide. County and Region-based trial attorneys pursue the agency's objectives in a wide range of child abuse and neglect matters and adult protective service matters in Family Court as well as appeals.

## Office of Inspector General (OIG)

The OIG exists to increase accountability and oversight of the major program functions and operations of the DSS statewide system. The OIG consists of complaint intake and investigations, audits, quality improvement, compliance, and policy units as well as a law enforcement liaison. [Online contact form.](#)

## Constituent Services

The Constituent Services Unit assists members of the public who have questions or concerns about DSS programs and services. For general information or help resolving an issue, call (803) 898-7601.

[Online contact form.](#)

## Disaster Services

During an emergency or disaster, such as a hurricane or ice storm, the staff at South Carolina Department of Social Services provides immediate support to South Carolina citizens. Our staff works to ensure minimal disruption of services in the aftermath of a disaster and provide social services or benefits to qualifying families. DSS also offers disaster preparedness information and training throughout the year for foster parents, group homes and child care providers in South Carolina.



# DSS Leadership Contacts

## CHIEF TRANSFORMATION OFFICER

### Steven Ferrufino

(803) 898-1805

Steven.Ferrufino@dss.sc.gov

## CHILD WELFARE

### Dawn Barton

Interim Deputy Director

(803) 898-9051

Dawn.Barton@dss.sc.gov

### Brianna Kaldenbach

Foster Parent Liaison, Program Coordinator

(803) 898-4174

FPhelp@dss.sc.gov

## ECONOMIC SERVICES

### Amber Gillum

Deputy Director

(803) 898-7474

Amber.Gillum@dss.sc.gov

### Erika Anderson

Director, SNAP/TANF

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### Michele Bowers

Director, Early Care and Education

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## CHILD SUPPORT

### Tim Mose

Director

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### Brenda Cummings

Midlands Child Support Regional Director

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Brenda.Cummings@dss.sc.gov

### Crystal Jenkins

Pee Dee Child Support Regional Director

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Brenda.Cummings@dss.sc.gov

### Patrick Dungan

Lowcountry Child Support Regional Director

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Mack.Dungan@dss.sc.gov

### Georgia Cornelius

Upstate Child Support Regional Director

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Georgie.Cornelius@dss.sc.gov

## ADULT ADVOCACY

### Kelly Cordell

Director

(803) 898-7654

Kelly.Cordell@dss.sc.gov

## LEGISLATION LIAISON/COMMUNICATIONS

### Connelly-Anne Ragley

Chief External Affairs Officer

(803) 898-4357

Connelly.Ragley@dss.sc.gov

# DSS County Contacts

## **ABBEVILLE COUNTY DSS**

**Tammy Patton, Director**  
909 West Greenwood St., Suite 1  
Abbeville, SC 29620  
(864) 366-5481

## **AIKEN COUNTY DSS**

**Christine Wright, Director**  
**Aiken Office:**  
1410 Park Ave., SE  
Aiken, SC 29802  
(803) 649-1111

## **North Augusta Office:**

802 East Martintown Rd.  
Suite 183  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
(803) 202-3500

## **ALLENDALE COUNTY DSS**

**Salley Branch, Director**  
521 Barnwell Hwy.  
Allendale, SC 29810  
(803) 584-7048

## **ANDERSON COUNTY DSS**

**Bailey Johnson, Director**  
224 McGee Rd.  
Anderson, SC 29625  
(864) 260-4100

## **BAMBERG COUNTY DSS**

**Mellinda B. Tyler, Director**  
374 Log Branch Rd.  
Bamberg, SC 29003  
(803) 245-4363

## **BARNWELL COUNTY DSS**

**Ethel Milhouse-Williams, Director**  
10913 Ellenton St.  
Barnwell, SC 29812  
(803) 541-1200

## **BEAUFORT COUNTY DSS**

**Sandra Polk, Interim Director**  
1905 Duke St.  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
(843) 255-6081

## **BERKELEY COUNTY DSS**

**Valerie Davis, Director**  
2 Belt Dr.  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
(843) 761-8044

## **CALHOUN COUNTY DSS**

**Theresa Spellman, Director**  
2831 Old Belleville Rd.  
St. Matthews, SC 29135  
(803) 874-3384

## **CHARLESTON COUNTY DSS**

**Darrell Morris, Director**  
3685 Rivers Ave., Suite 101  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
(843) 953-9400

## **CHEROKEE COUNTY DSS**

**Shyniece Anderson, Director**  
113 West Buford St.  
Gaffney, SC 29340  
(864) 487-2704

## **CHESTER COUNTY DSS**

**Sandra Johnson, Director**  
115 Reedy St.  
Chester, SC 29706  
(803) 377-8131

## **CHESTERFIELD COUNTY DSS**

**Tumeka Watson, Director**  
203 Perry Wiley Way  
Chesterfield, SC 29709  
(843) 623-2147

## **CLARENDON COUNTY DSS**

**Amanda Quinlan-Head, Director**  
236 Commerce St., Suite 2  
Manning, SC 29102  
(803) 435-4303

## **COLLETON COUNTY DSS**

**Sandra Polk, Director**  
215 S. Lemacks St.  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
(843) 549-1894

## **DARLINGTON COUNTY DSS**

**Adrienne Wingate, Director**  
**Hartsville Office:**  
130 E. Camden Ave.  
Hartsville, SC 29551  
(843) 332-2231

## **Darlington Office:**

300 Russell St.  
Darlington, SC 29532  
(843) 398-4420

## **Lamar Office:**

528 Cartersville Hwy.  
Lamar, SC 29069  
(843) 326-3000

## **DILLON COUNTY DSS**

**Karen English, Director**  
1211 Hwy. 34 W.  
Dillon, SC 29536  
(843) 774-8284

## **DORCHESTER COUNTY DSS**

**Kristi Bear, Director**  
**Summerville Office:**  
1452 Boone Hill Rd., Suite C  
Summerville, SC 29483  
(843) 821-0444

## **St. George Office:**

201 Johnston St.  
St. George, SC 29477  
(843) 563-9524

## **EDGEFIELD COUNTY DSS**

**Daniel Lott, Interim Director**  
120 W.A. Reel Dr.  
Edgefield, SC 29824  
(803) 637-4040

## **FAIRFIELD COUNTY DSS**

**Kermisha Golden, Director**  
1136 Kincaid Bridge Rd.  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
(803) 635-5502

# DSS County Contacts *(cont.)*

## **FLORENCE COUNTY DSS**

**Orbree Friday Widder, Director**

***Florence Office:***

2685 S. Irby St.  
Florence, SC 29505  
(843) 669-3354

***Lake City Office:***

345 S. Ron McNair Blvd.  
Lake City, SC 29560  
(843) 394-8575

## **GEORGETOWN COUNTY DSS**

**Delora Vereen, Director**

330 Dozier St.  
Georgetown, SC 29440  
(843) 546-5134

## **GREENVILLE COUNTY DSS**

**Edward "Ned" Moore, Director**

352 Halton Rd.  
Greenville, SC 29607  
(864) 467-7700

## **GREENWOOD COUNTY DSS**

**Moronda Talley, Interim Director**

1118 Phoenix St.  
Greenwood, SC 29648  
(864) 229-5258

## **HAMPTON COUNTY DSS**

**Charlene Nimmons, Interim Director**

102 Ginn Altman Ave., Suite A  
Hampton, SC 29924  
(803) 943-3641

## **HORRY COUNTY DSS**

**Richard Culbertson, Director**

***Conway Office:***

1951 Industrial Park Rd.  
Conway, SC 29526  
(843) 366-1600

***Loris Office:***

3815 Walnut St.  
Loris, SC 29569  
(843) 756-3256

***Myrtle Beach Office:***

1203 21st Ave. North  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
(843) 915-4710

***South Strand Office:***

9630 Scipio Ln.  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588  
(843) 915-8951

## **JASPER COUNTY DSS**

**Rochelle Priester, Director**

10908 North Jacob Smart Blvd.  
Ridgeland, SC 29936  
(843) 726-7747

## **KERSHAW COUNTY DSS**

**Sandra Johnson, Interim Director**

110 E. Dekalb St.  
Camden, SC 29020  
(803) 432-7676

## **LANCASTER COUNTY DSS**

**Nakia Griffin, Director**

1837 Pageland Hwy.  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
(803) 286-6914

## **LAURENS COUNTY DSS**

**Dr. Shebby Neely Aiken, Director**

93 Human Services Rd.  
Clinton, SC 29325  
(864) 833-0100

## **LEE COUNTY DSS**

**Kijuana Tate, Director**

820 Brown St.  
Bishopville, SC 29010  
(803) 484-5376

## **LEXINGTON COUNTY DSS**

**Greg Frohnappel, Director**

1070 S. Lake Dr., Suite A  
Lexington, SC 29073  
(803) 785-7333

## **MARION COUNTY DSS**

**Melissa Alexander, Director**

137 Airport Ct., Suite A  
Mullins, SC 29574  
(843) 423-4623

## **MARLBORO COUNTY DSS**

**Denise O'Neal, Director**

713 S. Parsonage St. Ext.  
Bennettsville, SC 29512  
(843) 479-7181

## **MCCORMICK COUNTY DSS**

**Daniel Lott, Director**

215 N. Mine St., Hwy 28 N.  
McCormick, SC 29835  
(864) 465-2140

## **NEWBERRY COUNTY DSS**

**Antionette Alston, Director**

2107 Wilson Rd.  
Newberry, SC 29108  
(803) 321-2155

## **OCONEE COUNTY DSS**

**Stephanie Gentry, Director**

223A Kenneth St.  
Walhalla, SC 29691  
(864) 638-4400

## **ORANGEBURG COUNTY DSS**

**Charlene Nimmons, Director**

114 Howard Hill Dr.  
Orangeburg, SC 29118  
(803) 531-3101



# DSS County Contacts *(cont.)*

## PICKENS COUNTY DSS

**Cynthia Wolthuis, Director**  
212 McDaniel Ave.  
Pickens, SC 29671  
(864) 898-5810

## RICHLAND COUNTY DSS

**Monita Dawkins, Director**  
**Columbia Office:**  
3220 Two Notch Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29204  
(803) 714-7300

**Eastover Office:**  
117 Henry St.  
Eastover, SC 29044  
(803) 353-3295

## SALUDA COUNTY DSS

**Angela Erhardt, Director**  
3191 Newberry Hwy.  
Saluda, SC 29138  
(864) 445-2139

## SPARTANBURG COUNTY DSS

**Brian Gotses, Director**  
630 Chesnee Hwy.  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
(864) 596-3001

## SUMTER COUNTY DSS

**Amanda Quinlan-Head, Interim Director**  
105 N. Magnolia St.  
Sumter, SC 29151  
(803) 773-5531

## UNION COUNTY DSS

**Jesse Kaylor, Director**  
200 S. Mountain St.  
Union, SC 29379  
(864) 429-1660

## WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY DSS

**Tara Bradshaw, Director**  
121 Hampton Ave.  
Kingstree, SC 29556  
(843) 355-5411

## YORK COUNTY DSS

**Jeffery Sanders, Director**  
933 Heckle Blvd.  
Rock Hill, SC 29732  
(803) 909-7446  
(803) 684-2315

## Adoptions Regional Offices

### MIDLANDS OFFICE

**Kermisha Golden,  
Interim Administrator**  
**Columbia Office:**  
2638 Two Notch Rd.  
Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29204  
(888) 711-7095

**Rock Hill Office:**  
454 South Anderson Rd.  
BTC 515, Suite 101  
Rock Hill, SC 29730  
(800) 922-1537

**Orangeburg Office:**  
2570 St. Matthews Rd  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
(803) 515-1852

### PEE DEE OFFICE

**Cynthia Abson,  
Administrator**  
181 East Evans St.  
BTC-112  
Florence, SC 29506  
(800) 763-6637

### LOWCOUNTRY OFFICE

**Tangela Carr,  
Administrator**  
3346 Rivers Ave.  
Suite F  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
(800) 922-1518

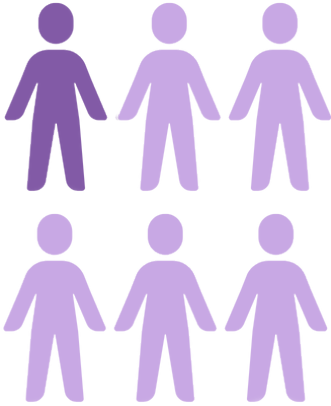
### UPSTATE OFFICE

**Catherine Harmon,  
Administrator**  
714 N. Pleasantburg Dr.  
Greenville, SC 29607  
(800) 868-6595

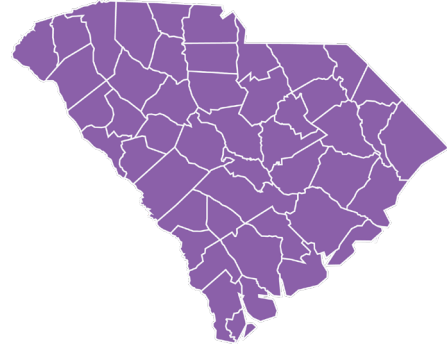


# DSS Facts & Resources

DSS serves 1 in every 6 South Carolinians.



DSS employs more than 4,600 professionals across the state and operates a county office in each of the state's 46 counties.



## Foster Care Data Dashboard

Daily data on the number and demographics of children in foster care in South Carolina by county. [View online.](#)

## Adult Protective Services Dashboard

Current number of open services provided by DSS to protect vulnerable adults from harm caused by themselves or another person. [View online.](#)

## Child Support Dashboard

Provides a visual map of total collections, caseloads, and key demographic stats (age, gender and race) for custodial/non-custodial parents as well as child support collections distributed to families via active cases. [View online.](#)

## Finalized Adoption Dashboard

Provides a visual map of Foster Care children whose finalized adoption was achieved, by calendar year. [View online.](#)

## Reunification Dashboard

Provides a visual map of foster care children who were returned to the custody of a parent/guardian, by calendar year. [View online.](#)

# Connect With Us!



[dss.sc.gov](https://dss.sc.gov)



DSS Connect: 1-800-616-1309



Text "DSS" to 211-211



South Carolina  
Department of Social Services



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