



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance



NRFC State Profile: South Carolina September 2016

This profile describes state and federally funded programs and policies that aim to strengthen families. These programs and policies support parenting and father involvement, promote strong family relationships, enhance fathers' economic stability, and provide support during incarceration and reentry. The profile lists phone numbers and websites for the programs. This information was correct when the profile was written (in 2016) but may change over time.

Programs to Support Responsible Fatherhood and Strengthen Families

Responsible fatherhood programs focus on issues such as enhancing parenting and relationship skills, keeping fathers involved with their children, improving their economic stability, helping them pay child support, and generally helping to strengthen families.

The following state and federally funded programs are available in the state:

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Children's Trust of South Carolina	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability Preventing Unwanted/ Early Fatherhood	The state and federally funded Children's Trust of South Carolina has several programs to encourage healthy, nurturing home environments and prevent child abuse, neglect, and unintentional injuries. <i>Strengthening Families</i> builds parenting and life skills; and <i>Community Supports for Young Parents</i> offers educational, family planning, parenting, and access to other services.	Serves the entire state. Website (803) 733-5430
Compass of Carolina	Fatherhood/Parenting Healthy Relationships Domestic Violence	The state funded Compass of Carolina offers the <i>Family Counseling Program</i> , which provides counseling for individuals, couples, and children; the <i>Family Violence Intervention Program</i> , which provides education in a group setting for domestic violence victims and abusers; and the <i>Second Chance</i> program, which helps youth ages 10-17 and their parents improve communication and relationship skills.	Greenville and Simpsonville. Website (864) 467-3434 (800) 203-9692

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Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina	Economic Stability	The state funded Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina runs the <i>Job Connections</i> program, which helps individuals identify their job-related skills and experience and provides assistance with resumes, interview preparation, and other job search skills. <i>Job Connections</i> also offers on-site internet/phone access, free workshops, direct referrals, and community resource information.	There are 24 Job Connection offices throughout South Carolina. Website with location information. (877) 538-7975
Job Corps	Economic Stability	<i>Job Corps</i> is a federal job training program to help low-income young men and women ages 16 to 24 with educational and career goals.	There is one Job Corps in South Carolina. It is located in Bamberg. Website (803) 245-5101
Pee Dee Healthy Start Inc.	Healthy Relationships Fatherhood/Parenting	Pee Dee Healthy Start Inc. was awarded a federal grant from the Office of Family Assistance in September 2015. The organization uses the <i>Prevention & Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP)</i> to help African American families in rural South Carolina strengthen relationships and marriages. The program also provides services to improve the well-being of children, encourage positive relationships between custodial or noncustodial fathers and their children, and encourage fathers and mothers to share parenting responsibilities.	Chesterfield, Darlington, Marion, Florence, Dillon, Marlboro, and Williamsburg counties. Website (843) 662-1482
SC Works	Economic Stability	The state funded <i>SC Works</i> assists unemployed workers, veterans, dislocated workers, individuals with disabilities, and other South Carolina residents with their job search. <i>SC Works</i> provides skills assessments, training opportunities, and employment services. The website includes employment resources and a state job bank.	There are 56 <i>SC Works</i> centers throughout the state. Website Website with locations and phone numbers.

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (SCCF)	Fatherhood/Parenting	The state and federally funded SCCFF works with six local fatherhood programs to deliver fatherhood, parenting, and healthy relationship classes throughout South Carolina. Services vary by program. Programs include <i>A Father's Place</i> , <i>Father to Father, Inc.</i> , <i>Lancaster Father Project</i> , <i>Man 2 Man</i> , <i>Midlands Fatherhood Coalition</i> , and <i>Upstate Fatherhood Coalition</i> .	Serves several counties in South Carolina. Website with locations and phone numbers.
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)	Domestic Violence	The state and federally funded SCCADVASA is a statewide coalition of 22 domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy programs and shelters in South Carolina. Services vary by county and include a 24-hour hotline, emergency and temporary shelter, support groups, counseling, legal advocacy; and children/youth programs. The coalition also trains service providers and raises community awareness of domestic violence and ways to prevent it.	Serves the entire state. Website Website of agencies and hotlines by county. (803) 256-2900
South Carolina Department of Corrections	Fatherhood/Parenting Incarceration/Reentry Economic Stability	The South Carolina Department of Corrections offers two programs with parenting and reentry components: the <i>Young Offender Parole and Reentry Services Program (YOPRS)</i> and the <i>Short Term Offender Program (STOP)</i> . The programs include classes on parenting, life skills, reentry, employment assistance, education, and vocational training.	Serves correctional facilities in South Carolina. Website (803) 896-8550
South Carolina Department of Social Services	Domestic Violence	The South Carolina Department of Social Services offers help for victims of domestic violence. Services include shelters and transitional housing, referrals, needs assessments, counseling, transportation assistance, employment assistance, and legal and medical advocacy. The department also provides batterer's intervention programs for perpetrators.	Serves the entire state. Website (803) 898-7318

Policies to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

Paternal Establishment

Establishing paternity gives a child born outside of marriage the same legal rights and privileges as a child born to married parents. Children gain access to family medical history and rights to inheritance, fathers' medical and life insurance benefits, social security and veterans' benefits, and child support. In addition, Native American children gain tribal enrollment rights.

In South Carolina, an unmarried couple may establish paternity by signing a Paternity Acknowledgement Affidavit in the hospital. The hospital will then forward it to the Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Vital Records for free. The affidavit may be rescinded within 60 days of the last signature; this will cancel the father's rights and responsibilities toward the child, but will not remove his name from the birth certificate. If paternity is contested, then the child's mother or possible father can request genetic testing through South Carolina's Child Support Services Division. Testing takes three or four weeks to complete. If the presumed father is confirmed to be the father, he may be required to pay for the test.ⁱ

Child Custody

If unmarried or divorced parents cannot reach agreement concerning child custody or visitation, a legal order can be made through the court system. Either parent may be granted custody of the child, or both may share equally in physical custody and/or decision-making responsibilities. There is no legal connection between payment or non-payment of child support and rights to visitation.

In South Carolina, the court awards custody based on the best interests of the child. Parents can have either joint or sole custody. Noncustodial parents may seek visitation rights by establishing an order in family court. Courts generally follow state parenting time guidelines to establish visitation arrangements.ⁱⁱ

Child Support

The Federal Child Support Enforcement Program was established in 1975 as Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to locate noncustodial parents, establish paternity and establish and enforce child support orders. General services available in all states and territories include voluntary in-hospital paternity acknowledgement, genetic testing, explanation of state guidelines for determining child support orders, and review of child support orders at least every three years at the request of either parent. State child support offices are responsible for the collection and distribution of child support payments and can modify orders when appropriate. If a parent is behind in their payments, the office may use enforcement tools such as license revocation (including drivers, professional, recreational or occupational licenses), seizure of assets, property liens, passport denial, and federal and state tax refund offsets.ⁱⁱⁱ

South Carolina's Child Support Services Division (CSSD) establishes child support orders and enforces child support payments, parent locate services, paternity establishment, and visitation. CSSD has four Regional Offices in South Carolina. Go to the [website](#) or call (800) 768-5858 for more information.

The Family and Medical Leave Act

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protects employees who have worked with the same organization for at least twelve months and worked at least 1,250 hours within the past year. It contains provisions for both fathers and mothers to take time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or during a serious illness, without fear of losing their jobs. Employees in companies with 50 or more employees are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave, over a one-year period, to care for a new child, recuperate from a serious illness, care for a seriously ill family member, or handle issues arising from a family member's call to active military duty. The FMLA also gives employees the right to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a family member who is seriously injured or becomes ill while on active military duty.^{iv}

South Carolina has no additional provisions for paid or unpaid leave.

Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded school readiness program for young children from low-income families. The program, currently delivered by about 1,700 local organizations – public and private, non-profit and for-profit – provides preschoolers with comprehensive services, such as education and health screenings, with the goal of building their skills across five school readiness domains: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical development and health, and social and emotional development. Head Start encourages the role of parents (both mothers and fathers) as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Early Head Start, also managed by the federal Office of Head Start, is directed toward children up to the age of three and their parents. While the program is federally funded and managed, local agencies make decisions regarding service delivery based on the specific needs of their communities; for example, some may opt to include home-based services for families in their programs. Most states have multiple Head Start programs providing services for fathers.

To find information on Head Start programs in South Carolina, go to this [website](#).

Policies to Promote Economic Stability

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) works with states to provide support for children and their low-income families. Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers), grants, or contracts with providers. Fathers and mothers may select a child care provider that satisfies applicable state and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements.^v

The South Carolina Voucher Program makes payments to child care providers for children from low-income families so their parents can work. Parents can choose the provider who will care for their child, whether it is a child care center, family or group child care home, church, synagogue, school, employer, or a family member, friend or neighbor. Parents often pay a portion of the child care costs. Copayments are based on family size and income and can vary from \$6 to \$20 a week per child. To be eligible for the program, parents must 1) be working or attending school or training and 2) have a combined income less than 150 percent of the federal poverty level based on family size.^{vi}

Rental Assistance

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rental assistance to low-income families and individuals through a number of methods. HUD subsidizes privately owned apartments, allowing low-income tenants to rent them at reduced rates. In the Public Housing program, local housing agencies manage rental housing for low-income tenants, while HUD provides professional and technical assistance in their planning, development, and management. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, better known as Section 8, provides eligible families and individuals with vouchers that they can use to pay for all or part of the rent at housing units of their choice. Generally, eligibility for the HUD rental assistance programs is based on annual gross income, assets, family size, and other considerations such as elderly or disabled status. Local housing agencies generally set the fixed eligibility rules for their regions, determine assistance amounts, and manage waiting lists for assistance.^{vii}

South Carolina has no additional state provisions for rental assistance.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp program, provides low-income individuals (both men and women) and families with funds delivered in an electronic benefit transfer card, or EBT card) that can be used to purchase food. SNAP is administered within the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services and is federally funded, but applications, delivery, and outreach are handled at the state or local level. In

general, individuals and households are eligible to receive SNAP if they have less than \$2,250 in countable resources and earn less than 130 percent of the poverty line in gross monthly income. However, characteristics of recipients (for example, age or disabled status) can affect eligibility requirements, and states have flexibility in determining eligibility, particularly with regard to what is considered a countable resource. In many states, individuals over the age of 18 and under the age of 50 are limited to three months of SNAP benefits every three years unless they are working or in a work or training program 20 hours a week. Some states have waivers to this rule for all or part of the state – for detailed state eligibility requirements, consult the [state SNAP agency](#).^{viii}

Households in South Carolina can apply for SNAP online or by mailing or faxing the application to their local Department of Social Services (DSS) office. SNAP eligibility and benefits are based on 1) the number of people in the household and 2) how much money the household has left from its monthly income after certain household expenses are subtracted.^{ix}

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program grants federal funds to states for developing and implementing their own welfare programs that provide assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

Family Independence, the TANF program in South Carolina, assists low-income families by providing cash assistance, supportive services, and training and employment opportunities. Families will also work with a case manager to develop a plan to achieve self-sufficiency within 24 months. Work activities may include employment planning and placement classes, on-the-job and vocational training, community service, and job search and readiness. Child care and transportation assistance may be available.^x

References

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- ⁱ For more information on Paternity Establishment in South Carolina, see <http://www.state.sc.us/dss/csed/patest.htm>.
- ⁱⁱ For more information on Child Custody in South Carolina, see <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t63c015.php>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css.
- ^{iv} For more information on the Family and Medical leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>.
- ^v For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>.
- ^{vi} For more information on the SC Voucher program, see <http://www.scchildcare.org/departments/sc-voucher.aspx>.
- ^{vii} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance.
- ^{viii} For more information on SNAP and to find services in your state, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply>.
- ^{ix} For more information on SNAP in South Carolina, see <https://dss.sc.gov/content/customers/food/foodstamp/index.aspx>.
- ^x For more information on Family Independence, see <https://dss.sc.gov/content/customers/finance/fi.aspx>.