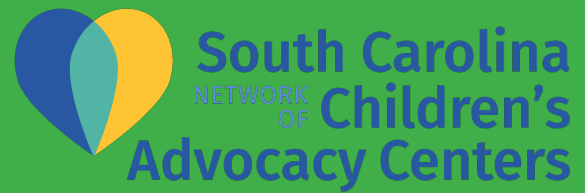


State Funding Support for Children's Advocacy Centers

February 2024

cac-sc.org



The state of South Carolina is currently home to 17 primary Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and 12 satellite CACs located throughout the state and serving all 46 counties. CACs help abused children by providing a single-stop for forensic interviews and coordinating trauma-informed treatment response for those children. CACs reduce the trauma in children by eliminating the need for children to relive their trauma through multiple interviews with multidisciplinary team professionals, or others, while improving collaboration among all agencies involved in the response to child abuse.

Children's Advocacy Centers in South Carolina provided services to 13,413 children in 2023 which represents a 4% increase over 2022 and a 41% yearly increase over the past 7 years. The South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (SCNCAC) is in the final year of a 5-year development plan which added a number of Satellite CACs to the 17 primary CACs in the state. There are additional satellite CACs in development to further remove barriers to accessing services for children and families across the state.

QUICK FACTS

- CACs reduce trauma and improve outcomes for abused children, while reducing costs for the state agencies they support.
- CACs play a primary role in the response to child abuse in South Carolina by providing forensic interviews of children for law enforcement agencies and the Department of Social Services (DSS), conducting forensic medical examinations, offering mental health therapy for child abuse victims and caregivers, and more.
- SCNCAC and local CACs coordinate and support the Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) in each county that consists of professionals who provide a first response to child abuse, ongoing investigations, and prosecution.
- The SC Child Abuse Response Protocol Act formalizes the use of CACs in the statewide response to child abuse and mandates that SCNCAC and the SC CJA Task Force provide training on the protocol.
- SCNCAC is the accredited state chapter of the National Children's Alliance and provides support, statewide services and quality improvement for all CACs in South Carolina.
- **CACs in South Carolina have received cuts in federal funding of \$3,180,254 which represents up to a 39% decrease in funding for individual CACs with additional cuts projected in 2024. It is critical that the Legislature increase recurring state funding to CACs to support the mandated services CACs provide for children and families as part of the statewide response to child abuse.**

RECOMMENDATION

In 2018, the SC General Assembly first allocated state funding to support the work of SCNCAC and CACs in the statewide response to child abuse. The total funding from the state in fiscal year 2023-2024 was \$1,160,000. Of that amount, only \$80,000 were recurring funds. The balance of the appropriation was in one-time funding. State funding supports the SCNCAC statewide forensic interview recording evidence management system and other statewide services to CACs which includes direct services to children and families provided by CACs.

Child maltreatment in South Carolina is on the rise and the demand for CAC services continues to increase. **SCNCAC and the CACs in SC respectfully request the General Assembly consider increasing state funding to \$1,500,000 in recurring dollars for support of statewide programs used by all CACs and multidisciplinary team partners, and direct services to clients that support the statewide response to child abuse in South Carolina.**

Updated 2-9-24 (see the back of this page for more information)

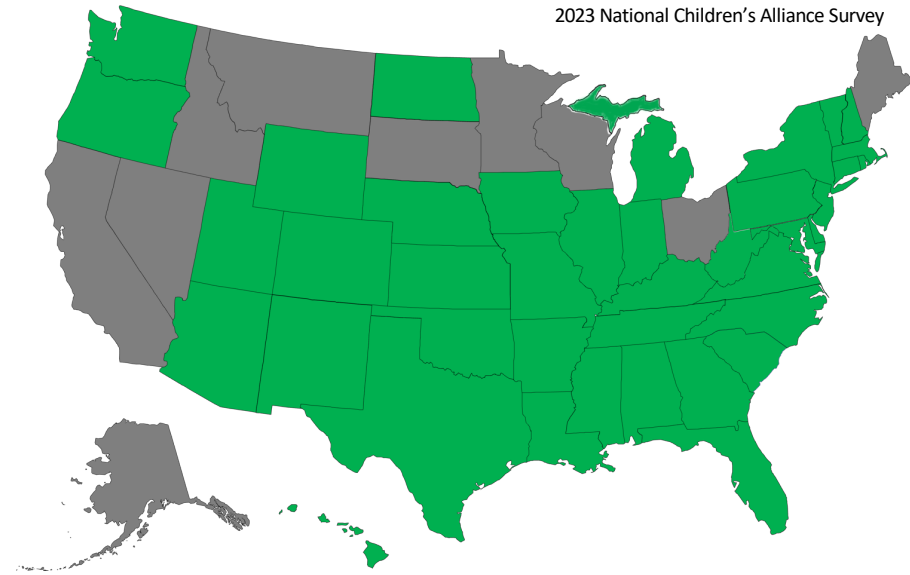
- There are 17 primary and 12 satellite CACs in South Carolina serving all 46 counties.
- SC CACs provided services for **13,413 children** in 2023, a 4% increase over 2022.

**Over the past
7 years, SC
CACs have
seen a 41%
increase in the
number of kids
helped each
year**

CACs SUPPORTED by state funding

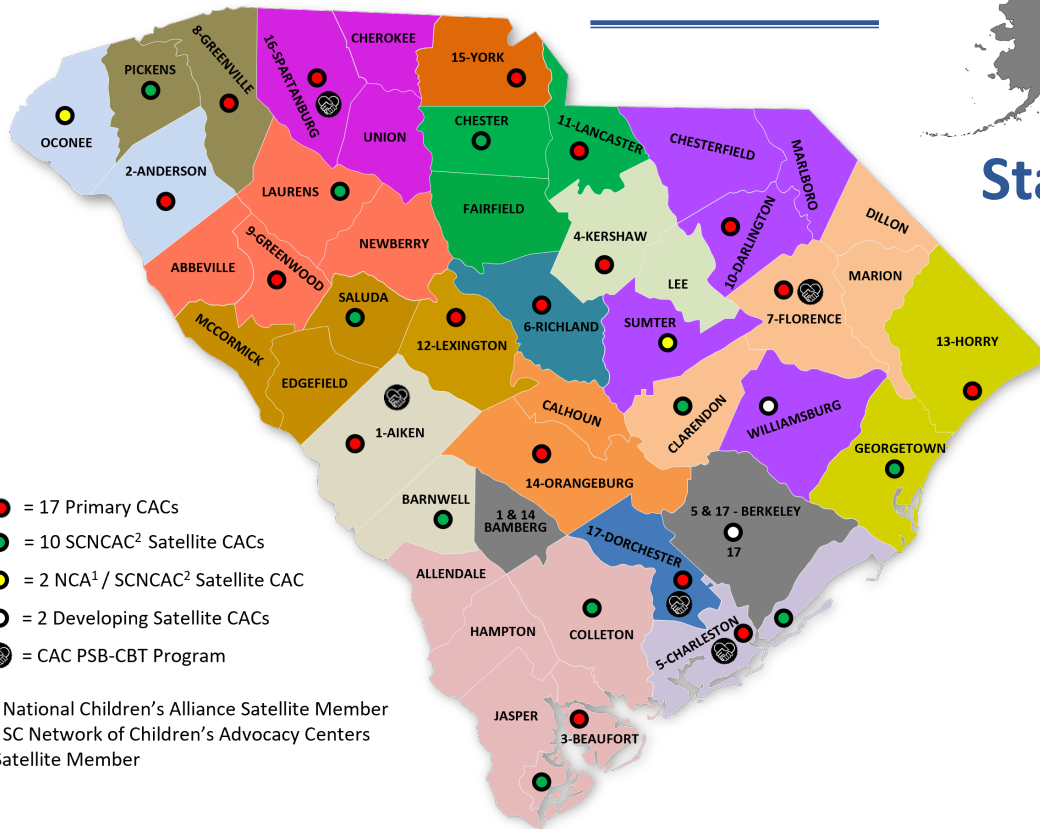
CACs NOT supported by state funding

2023 National Children's Alliance Survey



State Funding Support for CACs

State *	2022 Census Data Population	Yearly CAC State Funding
Kentucky	4,512,310	\$10,000,000
Tennessee	7,051,339	\$8,500,000
Arkansas	3,045,637	\$2,900,000
North Carolina	10,698,973	\$10,000,000
Alabama	5,024,356	\$2,750,000
Louisiana	4,590,241	\$1,500,000
Florida	22,244,823	\$5,973,500
South Carolina	5,282,634	\$1,160,000



- = 17 Primary CACs
- = 10 SCNCAC² Satellite CACs
- = 2 NCA¹ / SCNCAC² Satellite CAC
- = 2 Developing Satellite CACs
- ⊗ = CAC PSB-CBT Program

¹ National Children's Alliance Satellite Member

² SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers
Satellite Member

* States are listed in order of per capita CAC state funding
CACs in Georgia receive state administered TANF funding