

Agency Name:
Agency Code:

Department Of Social Services
L040

Section:

38



**Fiscal Year FY 2022-2023
Agency Budget Plan**

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

**OPERATING
REQUESTS
(FORM B1)**

For FY 2022-2023, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

**NON-RECURRING
REQUESTS
(FORM B2)**

For FY 2022-2023, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

**CAPITAL
REQUESTS
(FORM C)**

For FY 2022-2023, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

**PROVISOS
(FORM D)**

For FY 2022-2023, my agency is (mark "X"):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Darlene Gathers, Budget and Reporting Manager	(803) 898-7247	Darlene.Gathers@dss.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	David O'Kelly, Controller	(803) 898-3987	David.Okelly@dss.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2022-2023 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

SIGN/DATE:	<u>Agency Director</u> 	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Michael Leach	

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services
Agency Code:	L040
Section:	38

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Caring for South Carolina's Children	39,278,347	11,092,339	0	0	50,370,686	215.58	70.42	0.00	0.00	286.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Annualization for Title IV-E Entitlement Erosion and Unfunded Cost Increases	9,000,000	0	0	0	9,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Improving the Quality of Life and Safety for Adults in South Carolina	3,145,352	772,344	0	0	3,917,696	15.84	7.16	0.00	0.00	23.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Technology Infrastructure	2,345,712	1,284,178	0	0	3,629,890	8.45	4.55	0.00	0.00	13.00
5	B2 - Non-Recurring	Annualization for Title IV-E Entitlement Erosion and Unfunded Cost Increases	9,000,000	0	0	0	9,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			62,769,411	13,148,861	0	0	75,918,272	239.87	82.13	0.00	0.00	322.00

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services		
Agency Code:	L040	Section:	38

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Caring for South Carolina's Children
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$39,278,347 Federal: \$11,092,339 Other: \$0 Total: \$50,370,686
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	286.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Healthy and Safe Families (Goal 1, Strategy 1, Measure 1.1.1; 1.1.2; Strategy 2, Measure 1.2.1)</p> <p>The agency has been engaged in child welfare transformation efforts for several years related to improving outcomes for children, including outcomes set forth in implementation plans approved in early 2019 under the Michelle H. class action lawsuit final settlement agreement (FSA). Funding requested in this decision package ties directly to the specific activities and milestones outlined in these plans and required in the federal Child and Family Service Review Program Improvement Plans and is needed to continue the state's ability to draw down federal dollars under the Social Security Act.</p>
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	<p>Group Home Facilities, Child Placing Agencies, DSS Case Managers and Case Manager Support Staff. Allocation of funds is based on various child welfare implementation plans and related targets associated with ongoing transformation efforts.</p>
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What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Placement Plan Staffing \$3,613,344 Total Funds – 42.00 Total FTEs

\$2,865,575 State General Funds – 33.35 FTEs

\$ 747,769 Federal Authorization – 8.65 FTEs

DSS is committed to providing in home, trauma-informed, evidence-based prevention services to children and families to prevent removal into foster care and better serve children when removal to foster care is necessary. Fundamental to this work is that the system has the placement and service array to meet the needs of children and their families. The service array (kinship, foster family and residential placements, in home and community-based treatment and supportive services) will support family centered casework practices that leverage naturally occurring family, community and cultural resources to help children in foster care thrive and families to become stable and functional. Despite progress made, DSS's placement system continues to have a number of serious issues, including lack of services to meet the needs of children placed in congregate care; lack of a meaningful system to match children's needs to services and placement; lack of meaningful youth and family engagement in placement decision making; underutilization of kinship care placements; insufficient foster and therapeutic foster homes, and others. All of these issues make it difficult for DSS to place children close to their home community and with their siblings in the least restrictive, most family like placement.

Kinship Navigator Program \$2,500,000 Total Funds

\$1,975,000 State General Funds

\$ 525,000 Federal Authorization

DSS believes it is in the best interest of children and youth, whenever possible, to seek placement with kin and fictive kin to reduce the trauma of placement in foster care. The agency is requesting funds for a Kinship Navigator program to link kinship families to resources such as financial assistance for food and health care, support groups and professional care, enhanced case management, community, volunteer and donation programs, and legal assistance.

Qualified Residential Treatment Program \$5,786,659 Total Funds

\$5,786,659 State General Funds

Family First Prevention Services Act, which states are required to implement by October 1, 2021, restricts the allowability of Title IV-E funding for certain congregate care placements. Unless a congregate care facility is certified as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), Title IV-E funds are limited to the first 14 days of placement. After that time, no federal funding can be used.

Over the course of State fiscal year 2021, DSS case management staff and our provider community made excellent progress in reducing unnecessary utilization of congregate care. Days spent in congregate care settings for the month of July 2020 was 17,679. For June 2021, that census had declined 4,340 days (24.45%) to 13,339 care days. That trend continues to date, with the preliminary care census for August 2021 being 12,511 days which is a reduction of 828 days (6.21%) from the June census. Expressed as case mix share, in July 2020 care days experienced in congregate care settings represented 16.73% of all care days experienced in all settings that month. In July 2021, congregate care's case mix share had declined to 13.56%, and congregate care's preliminary case mix share for August 2021 is 12.69%. The national average case mix share is about 14%.

Our successes to "right size" our congregate care use, have been, and will remain, a collaborative achievement by DSS leadership, case management staff, and our provider community working with a shared vision and enduring commitment to place children in foster care in family like settings, whenever it is safe and appropriate to do so. Notwithstanding the success that we have achieved to date, and our efforts going forward, changes in Federal Government reimbursement policy as mentioned above for congregate care placement costs are going to create structural cost increases for

the State General Fund portion of our congregate care costs. Beginning October 1, 2021, federal reimbursements for congregate care costs that do not meet certain standards of care defined and required by the Federal Government, will decline by approximately 92%. Had those new policies been fully in effect during State fiscal year 2021, we estimate that every \$1 in State General Fund share incurred for congregate care placement costs would have cost instead \$1.34 in State General Fund share. In an effort to mitigate the adverse impact of these Federal changes, DSS and DHHS/Medicaid is working pro-actively with the congregate care provider community to identify the investments that will be required to raise our standard of care to meet, if not exceed, the new Federal standards in a measured and iterative manner over a 2-3 year investment horizon, and fairly compensate providers for the same.

Our request for FY2023 reflects both the initial investment required to make those changes and the increased State General Fund cost that will be required due to the structural revenue loss stemming from the change in Federal reimbursement policy.

Extension of Foster Care \$3,941,295 Total Funds - 21.00 Total FTEs

\$2,686,927 State General Funds - 15.00 FTEs

\$1,254,368 Federal Authorization - 6.00 FTEs

The purpose of this legislation is to enable voluntary participation by young adults aged 18-21 to continue DSS supports during young persons' transition to adulthood, and very importantly to enable federal subsidy for these supports. DSS can draw down additional federal dollars to help these youth transition to successful adulthood rather than them simply aging out of foster care and becoming homeless or involved in criminal activity or returning to their abusers. Supports covered with federal funds include payments for rent, college or training programs, car insurance and other expenses. The agency will need to add 13 case managers, two case manager supervisors and four case manager assistants for the extended foster care program. The agency will also need to add one foster care administrative review coordinator and one additional Title IV-E eligibility staff.

Fictive Kin Support \$460,000 Total Funds

\$460,000 State General Funds

Kinship care, often referred to as relative caregiving, is a long-standing practice in our state. Through its own support groups for kinship caregivers, DSS knows that caring for loved ones in times of crisis is something many South Carolinians have experienced first-hand. More than 69,000 children rely on the care of grandparents, extended family members, and family friends. Legislation like H.3214, which seeks to define fictive kin – those with a non-blood connection such as a teacher, coach, or family friend – as eligible for licensing as a kinship foster parent, will mean that more caregivers receive critical support and resources, like those provided to foster parents, to ensure children in kinship care are safe and their needs are being met. Allowing children to maintain stable, healthy relationships with fictive kin is a strong start to addressing children's emotional and mental health while helping to heal the impacts of trauma.

Service Array Development \$3,000,000 Total Funds

\$2,370,000 State General Funds

\$ 630,000 Federal Authorization

DSS believes that children and youth do best remaining with their family of origin to reduce trauma. In order to accomplish this, there is a significant need for appropriate treatment services for children, youth and families. If accomplished the agency believes this will reduce repeat maltreatment, foster care entries, and length of stay for children in foster care services and supports that promote family stabilization and reunification, create and bolster placements for children currently placed out of county or to make available an in county alternative to an out of county placement, or a step-down from congregate care.

Home Remediation for Licensure \$106,400 Total Funds

\$84,056 State General Funds

\$22,344 Federal Authorization

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

DSS is continually focused on recruitment and retention of foster parents to provide family like settings to meet the needs of children and youth in foster care. Funds are needed to assist with items that may have costs which would burden a potential foster family and could prohibit or significantly delay licensure. Examples include attending training, cost of medical exams, installing interconnected smoke detectors, hard wiring and fire extinguishers.

Care Continuum Model \$99,624 Total Funds

\$78,703 State General Funds

\$20,921 Federal Authorization

Technical assistance is requested to develop a care continuum model that allows providers flexibility in designing services for children and families, the ability to facilitate rapid movement of children through the services system toward permanency, and the ability to customize the delivery of services in the least restrictive setting, including after the child returns home.

Performance Based Contracting – \$288,600 Total Funds

\$227,994 State General Funds

\$ 60,606 Federal Authorization

Technical assistance is needed to develop a performance-based contracting system (PBC). Components includes technical support with rate setting and outcome monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and contract development.

Assessment Tool for Children \$25,000 Total Funds

\$25,000 State General Funds

As recommended in previous Legislative Oversight reports, the agency is in the process of implementing an evidence informed assessment tool to capture assessment information for placement and service planning. The agency needs to provide ongoing training and technical assistance for assessment implementation.

Evidence and Trauma Informed Training \$61,400 Total Funds

\$48,506 – State General Funds

\$12,894 Federal Authorization

As the needs of children and youth in foster care become more complex, there is an increased need for elevated training curriculum to equip foster parents with the knowledge and skills to address these needs. The agency is requesting funding for an evidence and trauma informed training curriculum that will better prepare families for fostering. It will equip them with the skills necessary to meet the varying needs of children placed in their homes.

Health Care Staffing Plan \$2,738,485 Total Funds – 20.00 Total FTEs

\$1,596,550 State General Funds – 11.84 FTEs

\$1,141,935 Federal Authorization – 8.16 FTEs

DSS is committed to implementing a comprehensive health care plan that provides foster children access to needed physical, dental and mental health treatment. In partnership with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), DSS is redesigning the way health care services are organized and delivered to children in foster care. Our vision is a fundamentally transformed system that can be a model for other child welfare systems around the country. DSS understands that the commitments made to health care must work in concert with other commitments, including those related to placements for children in foster care. In addition to the necessary integration of health care and placement work, DSS's health plan implementation activities will also be important as DSS begins planning for the implementation of new federal legislation – *The Family First Prevention Services Act*. Importantly, the new legislation requires states to move away from nonclinical group residential settings to family foster care and community based preventive services.

DSS has translated its commitments into four child centered goals as follows:

1. Each child in foster care is linked to a care coordinator matched to the child's needs.
2. Each child in foster care has a primary care provider, preferably a medical home, and receives timely screening, assessment and follow-up.
3. Each child in foster care has timely access to quality health, behavioral health and dental services.
4. Each child in foster care has improved health outcomes.

Case Managers and Case Manager Supervisors and Related Staffing

\$17,722,271 Total Funds – 187.00 Total FTEs

\$13,513,636 State General Funds – 143.17 FTEs

\$ 4,208,635 Federal Authorization – 43.83 FTEs

DSS believes that there are three primary drivers which will make the most significant impact on child welfare transformation in South Carolina. They are a well-qualified, stable workforce; a strong and well-defined framework of family centered practice; and a network of resources and supports for families and children that includes prevention as well as child maltreatment intervention and placement services. Taking actions to achieve reasonable workload standards, to investigate and report Out of Home Abuse and Neglect, to stabilize the frontline workforce, and to strengthen workforce knowledge and skills are a priority. This priority recognizes that, in child welfare, there is absolutely no substitute for a stable, sufficient, and high quality frontline workforce.

The approved workload standards are: 1 case manager to 12 children for foster care cases, and 1 case manager to 8 cases for Out of Home Abuse and Neglect. Approved supervision caseloads are 1 supervisor to 5 case managers. DSS has approved targets that at least 90% of case managers and supervisors shall have a workload within the applicable workload standard and that no case manager or supervisor shall have more than 125% of the applicable workload standard.

The agency is also requesting funding for staff to focus on Title IVE and Medicaid Revenue Maximization, Random Moment in Time study work and the cost allocation process and related procedures. These positions will advise case managers in recording their time accurately and timely to maximize the amount of federal funds the agency is able to draw down. The agency will also need additional Human Resource positions due to the increased staff and related workload in each region and at the State office.

Staff Equity Increases – \$7,046,260 Total Funds

\$5,284,695 State General Funds

\$1,761,565 Federal Authorization

The agency is also requesting a five percent increase for the remaining workforce not included in the recently funded and implemented FY22 child welfare salary plan to address salary inequities among staff. The significant increases that were required for child welfare case managers under the Workload Implementation Plan have created significant salary inequities among staff not covered under the Plan. Many of these staff earn less than \$25,000 per year.

Information Technology Staffing \$296,815 Total Funds, 2.00 Total FTEs

\$192,930 State General Funds – 1.30 FTEs

\$103,885 Federal Authorization – 0.70 FTEs

DSS requests funding to meet the high demand to support the CAPSS (the agency's child welfare data system) enhancement needs and to meet the Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) goals and the terms of the Final Settlement Agreement.

Office of General Counsel Staffing \$2,684,533 Total Funds, 14.00 Total FTEs

\$2,082,117 State General Funds - 10.92 FTEs

\$ 602,416 Federal Authorization – 3.08 FTEs

The current Administrative Assistant Paralegal positions are essential to support the

child welfare court activities of agency attorneys and to provide general legal office support for all attorney staff. Timely completion of hearings and progression of court cases leads to timely permanency for children. Turnover among paralegal positions inhibits the timely progression of cases with resulting delays to children's permanency, reunification, and adoption. The agency is requesting to reclassify these 95 currently Administrative Assistant positions to the newly created Paralegal classification and provide a commensurate increase in salary to provide stability to this workforce.

As with caseworkers, the burdens of high caseloads and turnover among attorney staff are detrimental to the maintenance of timely legal case progression and resolution and negatively impact timely permanency for children. The agency requires 14 additional attorneys to help achieve timely permanency. This will allow for 120 cases per attorney, which is still twice the recommended caseload established by the American Bar Association.

Impact if Not Funded

If these recurring funds are not approved for FY 2023, the agency will not be able to meet the needs of South Carolina's children and their families. The agency will not be able to implement a comprehensive health care plan that includes ensuring children receive quality medical, dental and behavioral health care, and our case managers, supervisors and related staff will continue to be overworked. The agency will continue to experience a high turnover rate among underpaid staff in divisions outside of Child Welfare.

The United States District Court has held that the State is not meeting its obligation to foster children and a significant investment of recurring funding is required for necessary reform. Agency reform efforts would stall and would possibly result in additional judicial enforcement action by the federal court.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services		
Agency Code:	L040	Section:	38

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Annualization for Title IV-E Entitlement Erosion and Unfunded Cost Increases
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$9,000,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$9,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 5	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Goal 1, Strategy 1, Measure 1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4, Strategy 2, Measure 1.2.1;1.2.2</p> <p>Goal 2, Strategy 1, Measure 2.1.1; 2.1.2</p> <p>Goal 3, Strategy 2, Measure 3.2.1; 3.2.2; 3.2.3, Measure 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 3.3.3; 3.3.4</p> <p>Goal 4, Strategy 1, Measure 4.1.1; 4.1.2, Measure 4.2.1; 4.2.2; 4.2.3</p> <p>The loss of federal Title IV-E entitlement funding, coupled with over \$40m in general funds reduction that occurred during the Great Recession, have yet to be replaced in the Department's budget. These factors, along with an increase in unfunded foster care placements annually, have negatively impacted capped funding sources that are necessary for effectively serving the children and vulnerable adults covered under all program areas, as outlined under goals and related Accountability Reports strategies.</p>
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

These recurring funds will be used to restore full funding for existing positions in Child Welfare, Economic Services and Adult Protective Services program areas, and will also be used to fund increased costs of foster care and other payments to families and entities that serve the children and vulnerable adults of South Carolina.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Federal Title IV-E Entitlement loss \$9,000,000

Recurring Related Request \$9,000,000 Non-Recurring

The Federal Title IV-E entitlement loss coverage of \$9M requested in recurring and \$9M requested in nonrecurring increase in General Funds will be utilized to offset the effect of decreased federal entitlement participation in DSS program funding. Largely due to the decline in the Title IVE eligibility rate over a 5-year period, fewer uncapped federal dollars are available for child welfare expenditures for foster care board payments and related case manager costs, during a period of significant (over 50%) growth in Child Welfare expenditures.

South Carolina's Title IV-E eligibility rate has decreased from 55% in FFY 2015 to approximately 46% in FFY 2020 and FFY 2021. The cumulative impact of the decreased rate, represents a total loss of approximately \$90M in uncapped revenue from FY 2014 through FY 2021, which has been absorbed by capped state and state equivalent funds (TANF, Title IVB, etc.), initially liquidating all carryforward flexibility, then forcing several major funds to operate at deficits. While most states have experienced reductions in IVE eligibility over time due to the outdated federal IVE eligibility income thresholds (which have remained static since 1996), the agency has undertaken focused efforts in the last two years to improve Title IVE eligibility processes, establish measurement tools and communicate potential improvement opportunities to all staff that have the ability to impact the diligent and timely determination of IVE eligibility.

Due to these efforts, the average IV-E eligibility rate has increased from approximately 36% for Federal FY 2019, to approximately 45% for the month of August 2021. This increase was considered in forecasting the amount of federal participation in the agency's request for additional Child Welfare staff in its SFY 2022-2023 budget request. Title IV-E entitlement dollars are matched at either the FMAP rate (foster care board payments) or 50% (administrative costs), after the eligibility rate is applied to an allowable cost.

Even after considering the projected future cash-flow improvements of an increased IV-E eligibility rate, \$9M in additional recurring and \$9M in additional nonrecurring general funds are required to offset the actual annual losses in TANF and state funding, allowing those fund sources and supported programs to operate within their respective budgets, and avoiding TANF running a deficit in the State's accounting records.

The agency included consideration of the need for IV-E replacement funding in its Three-year General Fund Outlook submission to RFA last year.

If this request is not fully funded, the agency will be forced to cover a TANF grant deficit, requiring adjustments to move expenditures from TANF and other capped federal funds to the General Fund at the end of each federal fiscal year. With no non-earmarked General Funds carryforward available, the agency would be constrained to use new fiscal year state appropriations to replace federal funds expended during the prior state fiscal year.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services		
Agency Code:	L040	Section:	38

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Improving the Quality of Life and Safety for Adults in South Carolina
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	<p>General: \$3,145,352</p> <p>Federal: \$772,344</p> <p>Other: \$0</p> <p>Total: \$3,917,696</p>
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	23.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	<p>Goal 1, Strategy 1, Measure 1.1.3 and Measure 1.1.4</p> <p>Goal 2, Strategy 1, Measure 2.1.1 and Measure 2.1.2</p>
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	Adult Advocacy and Economic Services Case Managers and Case Manager Support Staff, Vulnerable Adults, Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities.
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What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Emergency Stabilization Beds \$1,296,000 State General Funds

In order to meet the actual wellbeing needs of our adult clients, DSS is also requesting funding to secure 18 temporary emergency stabilization beds that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the state to establish short term emergency placement (emergency beds) for vulnerable adults who are in the custody and/or care of the DSS Adult Protective Services Program until long-term appropriate placement and/or services can be secured, and Medicaid approval is received. Best practices have stated that 18 temporary emergency stabilization beds are standard for a state with a population size of South Carolina. This request will allow DSS to meet that standard and better serve more citizens that need assistance.

Adult Advocacy Case Managers, Supervisors and Related Staff \$1,610,361 Total Funds 12.00 Total FTEs

\$1,243,943 State General Funds 9.27 FTEs

\$ 366,418 Federal Authorization 2.73 FTEs

DSS is continuing to expand and improve its capacity to effectively serve the unique needs of South Carolina's vulnerable adults. This growing population faces distinct economic, legal and health concerns best addressed by case management and legal staff well-versed in evaluating and responding to this population's specific challenges. With current caseloads and staffing, DSS often is forced to rely on case management and legal staff whose primary experience and focus are in Child Welfare. The agency needs to add four (4) case managers, seven (7) program coordinators and one (1) experienced attorney dedicated to serving this adult population in order to meet service needs.

Economic Services Case Managers, Supervisors and Related Staff \$887,290 Total Funds 10.00 Total FTEs

\$524,780 State General Funds 5.92 FTEs

\$362,510 Federal Authorization 4.08 FTEs

DSS's highest percentage of errors in SNAP eligibility determinations occurs in the processing of applications/renewals for the South Carolina Combined Application Project (SCCAP). Management believes that centralization of this processing will enable more efficient and effective training and monitoring of this process to reduce the errors and improve the accuracy of benefit payments. Four (4) eligibility staff are needed to establish this centralized unit.

The agency also needs two (2) Economic Services trainers to provide basic certification training for the Economic Services program area statewide.

In addition, the technical assistance required by SNAP and TANF eligibility personnel is currently provided by support staff who also handle a variety other systems-related and administration duties, and those support staff incur costly overtime in handling the current workload. The demands on support staff time will intensify as the agency proceeds with new system development projects now being planned. To eliminate overtime while assuring needs for technical assistance continue to be met, and to free-up support staff to work on system development, the agency proposes to establish a dedicated, four-person Economic Services helpdesk to address all technical assistance needs of the SNAP and TANF eligibility staff, in all state and county offices.

Accountability, Data and Research Staff \$124,046 Total Funds 1.00 FTE

\$80,630 State General Funds – 0.65 FTE

\$43,416 Federal Authorization – 0.35 FTE

DSS needs to add a highly experienced statistician to enable its Data, Accountability

and Research team to more fully meet the data analysis and translation needs of the agency's Economic Services, Child Care, Child Support and Adult Advocacy divisions. This position will also provide much needed backup to existing staff to help maintain current service levels of data production to drive performance improvement.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services		
Agency Code:	L040	Section:	38

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Technology Infrastructure
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$2,345,712 Federal: \$1,284,178 Other: \$0 Total: \$3,629,890
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	13.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 3, Strategy 1, Measure 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.1.3; Strategy 2, Measure 3.2.1, 3.2.2; Strategy 3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2; Strategy 4, 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	Information Technology Staff, Contractors and Vendors
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What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

System Administration Staff \$1,841,472 Total Funds – 13.00 Total FTEs

\$1,196,957 State General Funds – 8.45 FTEs

\$ 644,515 Federal Authorization – 4.55 FTEs

The Agency's Division of Technology Services (DTS) must enable DSS's workforce and partners to achieve DSS's mission by providing them with secure, high-quality technology-based services. DTS is seeking 13 positions to achieve the essential IT staffing necessary to maintain network security, prioritize and manage project implementation, and expand user support services. These employees will engage in the expansion of the Enterprise Imaging System, rollout of the digital signature project, Business Intelligence, and upgrade of legacy internal administrative systems.

IT Upgrade to MS E5 \$525,000 Total Funds

\$339,518 State General Funds

\$185,482 Federal Authorization

To attain a generally accepted standard of security, DSS needs to upgrade its Office 365 Tenant from E3 to E5. E5 provides a broad spectrum of security enhancements and offers users a wide variety of tools to improve productivity, while gaining greater mobility. The majority of large State agencies, including DHHS, SOR, DEW, and DHEC, have already completed this transition. With the volume of PII data DSS handles, the improved data security alone justifies the change.

Upgrade to MS Unified Advanced Support \$143,906 Total Funds

\$93,064 State General Funds

\$50,842 Federal Authorization

Microsoft is changing the support options for the MS suite of products in use by DSS. We are choosing to move to the MS Unified Advance Support from Premier Class Support, which includes training materials at no additional cost, and an advanced suite of on-demand reports that will improve our ability to secure and monitor our network.

Bandwidth Upgrade \$260,000 Total Funds

\$168,142 State General Funds

\$ 91,858 Federal Authorization

DSS is requesting funding to cover its ongoing increased costs associated with providing increased bandwidth in its 57 offices to support changes in staff work approaches due to COVID-19. These changes initially included the use of tools, such as Microsoft TEAMS and Broadworks, a web-based call center solution, to allow work to continue during mandated office closures. Since returning to work in the offices, staff have continued to meet virtually with internal staff and external partners and customers to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 exposure and decrease costs associated with travel and lodging for cross-regional meetings and events. The added use of these web-based tools to support safe and efficient operations created extreme network slowness as system loads reached or exceeded network capacity. Bandwidth upgrades restored system speeds to acceptable levels.

Information Technology Contract Staff \$592,600 Total Funds

\$375,420 State General Funds

\$217,180 Federal Authorization

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Agency is requesting funding for contract information security staff to enable extension of security support beyond normal business hours for the Agency's critical 24/7 programs. Support will include security services such as phishing email investigations and web site unblocks, and it will provide extended hours of monitoring for security breaches and potential network penetrations. These staff will also work with first shift staff to address and complete security helpdesk tickets, audit investigations and requirements, and compliance reporting. This measure will expand the capacity of DSS's Security office to proactively block the daily average of 2.1 million attacks.

Antivirus Software Maintenance \$187,910 Total Funds

\$121,522 State General Funds

\$ 66,388 Federal Authorization

DSS is requesting the annual maintenance for its CISCO Advanced Malware Protection software. The agency upgraded to this antivirus software in fiscal 2021 to obtain a more robust security posture and protection level, and to enable seamless integration with the CISCO Core Network Devices it already owned. This cloud-based solution monitors all devices for security threats and attacks and isolates affected/infected hosts to respond and remediate security risks, and it has been invaluable in identifying and remediating potential threats of data breach and compromise of Agency systems and services.

Network Management Software Maintenance \$29,000 Total Funds

\$18,754 State General Funds

\$10,246 Federal Authorization

DSS is requesting recurring funding of annual maintenance and support for SolarWinds software purchased to monitor, analyze, and reduce risk to the Agency communications network. These products are used to streamline network alert monitoring from multiple sources, centralize and collect network logs, and monitor bandwidth usage and application and network SolarWinds IP Address Manager component if that is purchased.

Cyber Security Liability Insurance \$50,000 Total Funds

\$32,335 State General Funds

\$17,665 Federal Authorization

DSS's Division of Technology Services, Information Security Office, has recommended a request for \$50,000 in recurring funds to procure cyber security liability insurance. This would provide coverage of up to \$5 million for DSS in the event of a data breach and cover direct costs to cover legal, public relations, notification, identity theft restoration, credit monitoring and forensic investigation expenses. DSS has received quotes from three approved insurers. The amount requested represents the estimated annual premium.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services		
Agency Code:	L040	Section:	38

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Annualization for Title IV-E Entitlement Erosion and Unfunded Cost Increases
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$9,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # Annualization for Title IV-E Entitlement Erosion and Unfunded Cost Increases	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 1, Strategy 1, Measure 1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4, Strategy 2, Measure 1.2.1; 1.2.2
	Goal 2, Strategy 1, Measure 2.1.1; 2.1.2
	Goal 3, Strategy 2, Measure 3.2.1; 3.2.2; 3.2.3; 3.2.4, Measure 3.3.1; 3.3.2; 3.3.3; 3.3.4
	Goal 4, Strategy 1, Measure 4.1.1; 4.1.2, Measure 4.2.1; 4.2.2; 4.2.3
	The loss of federal Title IVE entitlement funding has negatively impacted capped funding sources that are necessary for effectively serving the children and vulnerable adults covered under all program areas, as outlined under goals and related Accountability Reports strategies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	Goals 1 through 4: These recurring funds will be used to restore full funding for existing positions in Child Welfare, Economic Services and Adult Protective Services program areas, and will also be used to fund increased costs of foster care and other payments to families and entities that serve the children and vulnerable adults of South Carolina.
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What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Federal Title IV E Entitlement Loss: \$9,000,000

(Related Request \$9,000,000 Recurring State Funds Priority #2)

The Federal Title IV-E entitlement loss coverage of \$9M requested in recurring and \$9M requested in nonrecurring increase in General Funds will be utilized to offset the effect of decreased federal entitlement participation in DSS program funding. Largely due to the decline in the Title IVE eligibility rate over a 5-year period, fewer uncapped federal dollars are available for child welfare expenditures for foster care board payments and related case manager costs, during a period of significant (over 50%) growth in Child Welfare expenditures.

South Carolina's Title IV-E eligibility rate has decreased from 55% in FFY 2015 to approximately 46% in FFY 2020 and FFY 2021. The cumulative impact of the decreased rate, represents a total loss of approximately \$90M in uncapped revenue from FY 2014 through FY 2021, which has been absorbed by capped state and state equivalent funds (TANF, Title IVB, etc.), initially liquidating all carryforward flexibility, then forcing several major funds to operate at deficits. While most states have experienced reductions in IVE eligibility over time due to the outdated federal IVE eligibility income thresholds (which have remained static since 1996), the agency has undertaken focused efforts in the last two years to improve Title IVE eligibility processes, establish measurement tools and communicate potential improvement opportunities to all staff that have the ability to impact the diligent and timely determination of IVE eligibility.

Due to these efforts, the average IV-E eligibility rate has increased from approximately 36% for Federal FY 2019, to approximately 45% for the month of August 2021. This increase was considered in forecasting the amount of federal participation in the agency's request for additional Child Welfare staff in its SFY 2022-2023 budget request. Title IV-E entitlement dollars are matched at either the FMAP rate (foster care board payments) or 50% (administrative costs), after the eligibility rate is applied to an allowable cost.

Even after considering the projected future cash-flow improvements of an increased IV-E eligibility rate, \$9M in additional recurring and \$9M in additional nonrecurring general funds are required to offset the actual annual losses in TANF and state funding, allowing those fund sources and supported programs to operate within their respective budgets, and avoiding TANF running a deficit in the State's accounting records.

The agency included consideration of the need for IV-E replacement funding in its Three-year General Fund Outlook submission to RFA last year.

If this request is not fully funded, the agency will be forced to cover a TANF grant deficit, requiring adjustments to move expenditures from TANF and other capped federal funds to the General Fund at the end of each federal fiscal year. With no non-earmarked General Funds carryforward available, the agency would be constrained to use new fiscal year state appropriations to replace federal funds expended during the prior state fiscal year.

**JUSTIFICATION
OF REQUEST**

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services		
Agency Code:	L040	Section:	38

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER

38.14

Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE

DSS: Family Foster Care Payments

Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM

II. Programs and Services (B. Foster Care)

Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST

Priority #1 Caring for South Carolina's Children

Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2022-2023? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION

Amend

Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED

None

Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION

This proviso was first adopted in FY2002-03. The rates in this proviso were amended to their current rates in FY2021-22 as part of the Child Welfare transformation. DSS is committed to increasing the rates paid to foster parents as outlined in the approved placement implementation plan as follows:

Ages - Old Rate

0-5 \$619 Per Month

6-12 \$723 Per Month

13+ \$764 Per Month

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

This amendment would result in an increase in the amount foster parents receive for the needs of their foster children and would meet the US Department of Agriculture cost of raising a child study.

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

38.14. (DSS: Family Foster Care Payments) The Department of Social Services shall furnish as Family Foster Care payments for individual foster children under their sponsorship and under kinship care:

ages 0 - 5 ~~\$605~~ \$619 per month

ages 6 - 12 ~~\$708~~ \$723 per month

ages 13 + ~~\$747~~ \$764 per month

These specified amounts are for the basic needs of the foster children to include kinship care assistance. Basic needs within this proviso are identified as food (at home and away), clothing, housing, transportation, education and other costs as defined in the U.S. department of Agriculture study of Annual Cost of Raising a Child to Age Eighteen. Further, each agency shall identify and justify, as another line item, all material and/or services, in excess of those basic needs listed above, which were a direct result of a professional agency evaluation of clientele need. Legitimate medical care in excess of Medicaid reimbursement or such care not recognized by Medicaid may be considered as special needs if approved by the sponsoring/responsible agency and shall be reimbursed by the sponsoring agency in the same manner of reimbursing other special needs of foster children.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services		
Agency Code:	L040	Section:	38

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	38.22
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	(DSS: SNAP Coupons)
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	NA
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	NA
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2022-2023? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	<p>The Healthy Bucks Program, authorized under a proviso in the 2013-14 Appropriations Act, provides coupons allowing SNAP recipients to obtain additional fresh fruits and vegetables when purchasing fresh produce at grocery stores or farmer’s markets with SNAP benefits through their EBT cards. The proviso directs the Department of Social Services (DSS) to utilize all funds received in the prior and current fiscal years from the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a bonus for reducing the error rate in processing SNAP applications to fund the [Healthy Bucks] program. In order to fight food insecurity among SNAP recipients and to promote economic stability for Healthy Bucks vendors whose businesses were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, DSS is requesting to adjust Proviso 38.23 to increase the total additional increase in buying power to \$20 per month (a recipient spends \$5 in SNAP, receives \$15 equivalent in Healthy Bucks tokens to use at the same location).</p>
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

NA

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

The Department of Social Services shall continue the Healthy Bucks program established to provide coupons that allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to obtain additional fresh fruits and vegetables when purchasing fresh produce at ~~grocery stores or~~ authorized farmers markets and vendors with SNAP benefits through their EBT cards. ~~Each Healthy Bucks coupons shall allow the beneficiary to double~~ increase the amount of produce purchased, up to ~~ten~~ twenty dollars per month. The agency shall utilize all funds received ~~in the prior and current fiscal years~~ from the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a bonus for reducing the error rate in processing SNAP applications during federal fiscal year 2012 to fund the program. The agency shall work to identify and utilize funds as matching dollars for the continued success of the Healthy Bucks program and shall report semi-annually to the General Assembly on the status of the program. The report shall include, at a minimum, the number of recipients, counties served, and cumulative expenditure data for the program.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services		
Agency Code:	L040	Section:	38

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$6,987,874
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	N/A
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	<p>To meet a three percent reduction in general funds expenditures, DSS would reduce by five percent the amounts of its active contracts with other parties, excluding those under which services are delivered directly to clients. The reduction of these contracts may hinder the agency’s ability to continue to perform certain services necessary for the proper administration of DSS. The agency would also execute a two-week furlough of all staff whose compensation is \$50,000 or more, putting a strain on staff and their families.</p> <p>Lastly, DSS would eliminate its current forecasted vacant positions, excluding frontline case managers, putting a heavier burden on current staff who are already absorbing an increased workload.</p>
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY	<p><u>3% Reduction State General Funds Reduction \$6,987,874 Total Funds</u></p> <p><u>\$6,987,874 Total State Funds</u></p> <p>Description of Reduction Amount:</p> <p>5% Contract Reduction \$1,305,911</p> <p>Furlough staff making \$50,000 and over for 10 days \$538,026</p> <p>Eliminate forecasted vacant positions, except frontline case managers \$5,143,937</p>
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Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

NA

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Department Of Social Services		
Agency Code:	L040	Section:	38

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Direct Relief to Stabilize Public Businesses and Citizens during the Public Health Crisis
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	See narrative with amounts below.
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What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark "X" for all that apply:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Repeal or revision of regulations.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	NA
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Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	NA
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Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	NA
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Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

COMMENTS	<p>Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Agency employees and partner organizations have worked in near miraculous fashion to continue mission-critical operations. Employees still work tirelessly to provide services under unprecedented circumstances. Every area of the Agency continues to pivot its practices and processes. Employee and customer feedback continue to guide decisions on how best to manage key functions.</p> <p>Even as the pandemic continued into SFY 2020-2021, the Agency has sustained improvements in child welfare performance metrics, including continued increases in placements with kinship caregivers and decreases in congregate care placements. Agency practice has remained focused on the timely and proper investigation of allegations of child abuse and neglect while employing COVID-19 protocols.</p> <p>CARES Act funding also provided \$534,000 for survivors of domestic violence through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). These funds were dispersed to the 13 programs that receive FVPSA funding to provide supportive services, alternative shelter options, and supplies to reduce their risk of COVID-19.</p> <p>In addition, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided \$1.8 million for grants to help survivors of family violence become or remain independent in lieu of staying in a shelter. DSS has begun distributing the funds to the 13 programs that receive FVPSA funding. This funding will also support the Catawba Nation and the Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina to provide crisis counseling for survivors of domestic violence.</p> <p>DSS has issued five rounds of child care operating grants, totaling nearly \$180 million during SFY 2020-2021 and SFY 2021-22 through September 13, 2021, to licensed and registered child care providers to help those who had to close or who remained open and lost revenue due to low enrollments. These grants are available to assist providers in</p>
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SUMMARY

paying their operating expenses.

In October 2020, DSS began offering child care assistance (vouchers) for working parents. To qualify, a parent must be working at least 15 hours a week or attending school or training and the family's gross income must be at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. As of October 5, 2021, 15,848 children have been approved and placed in a slot. Approximately \$137 million has been allocated for these vouchers to date.

The Agency received federal approval to streamline the application process for new SNAP applicants. In addition, a federal waiver allows for an emergency supplement payment to existing SNAP households, as well as new applicants who meet eligibility requirements. This temporary benefit brought all current SNAP households up to the maximum benefit amount beginning in March 2020. For example, a single eligible individual would typically receive a \$16 monthly benefit. With the emergency supplement, that amount increased to \$234. As of April 2021, all SNAP households were receiving at least \$95 in emergency supplements each month.

Due to the federal emergency supplements, the amount of SNAP benefits going to families and supporting the state's economy is nearly double what it was prior to the pandemic. As of June 2021, DSS is issuing an average of \$69.9 million in additional federal SNAP benefits each month, as compared to pre-COVID levels.

DSS, in collaboration with the SC Department of Education, launched a second round of federal Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits for students attending school virtually during the 2020-2021 school year. Nearly \$256 million in benefits have been issued to over 483,000 students who would have received meals at school under the free and reduced-price meal provisions of the National School Lunch Program. This initiative puts more SNAP benefits into the hands of families and the state's economy.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?