



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
(803)734-3780 • RFA.SC.GOV/IMPACTS

This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H.3517	Introduced on January 12, 2021
Author:	Robinson	
Subject:	Adverse Childhood Experiences	
Requestor:	House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs	
RFA Analyst(s):	Payne	
Impact Date:	February 16, 2021 Updated for Additional Agency Response	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill is expected to increase General Fund expenditures of the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for training to increase awareness of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), their impact on health, collecting and disseminating data, building a prevention-planning network, and promoting policies to address ACEs statewide. Depending upon the amount of additional appropriations, DHEC's plan for implementing the provisions of the bill would increase total expenditures by \$10,567,538 annually beginning in FY 2021-22. This estimate is based upon DHEC's plan to contract with the Children's Trust of South Carolina to expand their existing county-level programs statewide as detailed below and includes \$503,876 for an additional 7.5 FTEs, \$1,205,264 to expand capacity-building programs, \$265,000 for data collection and evaluation, \$895,286 for operating expenses, and a total of \$7,698,112 to expand their current prevention programming statewide, which includes Healthy Families America, Triple P, and the Strengthening Families Program and would assist their current development efforts to launch a statewide network of Family Resource Centers.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Updated for Additional Agency Response

Introduced on January 12, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill requires DHEC to allocate appropriated state funds and any federal funding or private grants to raise awareness of ACEs and implement strategies to reduce the occurrence of ACEs and mitigate their impact on the health and well-being of residents. This bill defines ACEs as "a traumatic event that occurs in a child's life before the age of eighteen, which can harm a child's brain and its development and can result in long-term negative health and social outcomes, and includes emotional, physical, or sexual abuse; physical or emotional neglect; substance use and mental illness of someone in the household; being separated from parents, including incarceration and divorce; food insecurity; and homelessness."

The bill requires DHEC to:

- Collect, analyze, and disseminate comprehensive, relevant data and information about ACEs
- Facilitate ongoing education and training to raise awareness

- Facilitate the creation and operation of multi-disciplinary, public-private stakeholder groups to investigate, catalogue, and analyze existing resources to reduce ACEs and to implement research and evidence-based programs and services to mitigate the impact of ACEs

DHEC may contract with an external organization to assist in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating of adverse childhood experiences information, providing education or training, organizing and convening meetings of the committee, and performing other tasks as may be incident to these activities, including providing the necessary data, information, and resources to ensure successful completion of the ongoing oversight required by this section. Annually, DHEC is also required to report to the General Assembly on the state of ACEs in South Carolina and existing and needed resources to mitigate the effects of ACEs.

To accomplish the requirements of this bill, DHEC will contract with an external organization with experience in implementing strategies to reduce the occurrence of ACEs. DHEC asked the Children's Trust of South Carolina to estimate the additional expenditures necessary to take its county-level programs and apply those strategies statewide. Currently, the Children's Trust of South Carolina operates several programs in this state that are part of their efforts to raise awareness of, and mitigate the impacts of ACEs. Some of these programs include Healthy Families America, Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), and the Strengthening Families Program. These programs are designed to help Children's Trust gather and analyze data on childhood experiences as well as provide counseling services for families with children.

Children's Trust estimates the cost to increase statewide public awareness of ACE's, facilitate local and state-level prevention efforts, build capacity of child serving professionals and evaluate the impact of these efforts to be \$10,567,538. This amount would be used to expand their current prevention effort programming statewide, expand community workforce development initiatives, expand evaluation services, and provide for additional personnel and operating expenses. Children's Trust currently supports organizations that serve children and families through capacity-building initiatives such as workforce development. Children's Trust estimates they would require an additional \$1,205,264 annually beginning FY 2021-22 to expand their current initiatives and programs. Children's Trust currently collects and studies child, family and community data, as well as data collected through their prevention effort programs to target prevention efforts and to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs. Children's Trust estimates they will require an additional \$265,000 annually beginning in FY 2021-22 to expand their current data collection and evaluation efforts. Children's Trust estimates they would require an additional seven and a half FTEs to provide a Director of Community and Workforce Development, a Director of Research, two program coordinators, a program assistant, an evaluation manager, an evaluation specialist, and half an FTE for a Thriving Families Coordinator. Children's Trust estimates these additional FTEs will require an additional \$503,876 annually beginning in FY 2021-22. Based on their current federally approved indirect cost rate, Children's Trust estimates their other operating costs will increase by \$895,286 annually beginning in FY 2021-22. These other operating expenses may include additional

finance, human resource, communications and operational support staff, rent, and technology and support.

Children's Trust estimates a total of \$7,698,112 to expand their current prevention effort programming statewide. These programs include Healthy Families America, Triple P, and the Strengthening Families Program and would assist their current development efforts to launch a statewide network of Family Resource Centers. The Healthy Families America program is one of three home visiting programs currently operated by the Children's Trust as the State's administrator for the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. The program aims to reduce child maltreatment, improve parent-child interactions and children's social-emotional well-being, and promote children's school readiness through in-home visits that may begin before or after birth and continue until a child is several years old. Children's Trust estimates expanding their current programming statewide would require an additional \$2,600,000 annually beginning in FY 2021-22. Triple P is a program that works with families to develop good parenting strategies, Children's Trust currently operates this program in limited areas of the state through a grant from the Duke Endowment. Children's Trust estimates expanding their current programming state-wide would require an additional \$2,480,159 annually beginning in FY 2021-22. The Strengthening Families Program is a fourteen-session weekly program that hosts families who work with others and each other to build stronger family relationships. Children's trust currently operates this program through funding from several state agencies, and estimates expanding their current programming state-wide would require an additional \$540,000 annually beginning in FY 2021-22. Children's Trust is currently in the program development phase of launching a statewide network of Family Resource Centers, with funding provided through a designated portion of their Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant. Children's Trust estimates expanding their current programming state-wide would require an additional \$2,077,953 annually beginning in FY 2021-22.

In summary, this bill is expected to increase General Fund expenditures of DHEC by \$10,567,538 in FY 2021-22 to contract with an outside organization to expand their current prevention effort programming to be state-wide, expand community workforce development initiatives, expand evaluation services, provide for additional personnel, and operating expenses.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A

Introduced on January 12, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill requires DHEC to allocate appropriated state funds and any federal funding or private grants to raise awareness of ACEs and implement strategies to reduce the occurrence of ACEs

and mitigate their impact on the health and well-being of residents. This bill defines ACEs as “a traumatic event that occurs in a child's life before the age of eighteen, which can harm a child's brain and its development and can result in long-term negative health and social outcomes, and includes emotional, physical, or sexual abuse; physical or emotional neglect; substance use and mental illness of someone in the household; being separated from parents, including incarceration and divorce; food insecurity; and homelessness.”

The bill requires DHEC to:

- Collect, analyze, and disseminate comprehensive, relevant data and information about ACEs
- Facilitate ongoing education and training to raise awareness
- Facilitate the creation and operation of multi-disciplinary, public-private stakeholder groups to investigate, catalogue, and analyze existing resources to reduce ACEs and to implement research and evidence-based programs and services to mitigate the impact of ACEs

DHEC may contract with an external organization to assist in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating of adverse childhood experiences information, providing education or training, organizing and convening meetings of the committee, and performing other tasks as may be incident to these activities, including providing the necessary data, information, and resources to ensure successful completion of the ongoing oversight required by this section. Annually, DHEC is also required to report to the General Assembly on the state of ACEs in South Carolina and existing and needed resources to mitigate the effects of ACEs.

To accomplish the requirements of this bill, DHEC will contract with an external organization with experience in implementing strategies to reduce the occurrence of ACEs. DHEC asked the Children’s Trust of South Carolina to estimate the additional expenditures necessary to take its county-level programs and apply those strategies statewide. Currently, the Children’s Trust of South Carolina operates several programs in this state that are part of their efforts to raise awareness of, and mitigate the impacts of ACEs. Some of these programs include KIDS COUNT, Triple P (Positive Parenting Program), and the Strengthening Families Program. These programs are designed to help Children’s Trust gather and analyze data on childhood experiences as well as provide counseling services for families with children.

The fiscal impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon an estimate from DHEC and the Children’s Trust of South Carolina.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director