

Chapter 4: Survey Analysis of State Agency Administered Programs and Services for Children Ages 0 to 5

Introduction

Information provided in earlier chapters of this report sought to illustrate who would be potentially eligible to be served by direct service state agency programs, including those state agencies which have direct or support programs which can help close the educational achievement gap. Additionally, some of the most revealing information was that related to the utilization of state taxable income by class as a proxy measure for family income, which showed the following facts:

- Slightly more than one out of every two families (52.81%) had taxable incomes of \$10,000 or less;
- Three of every five families (60.20%) had taxable incomes under \$15,000;
- Slightly over seven of every ten families in the state (71.30%) had taxable incomes under \$25,000;
- A majority of families in South Carolina possesses incomes which would qualify them for state administered programs where participants' incomes range from 100% to 200% of the poverty level;

Because the CMA did not have access to state agencies' administrative records data and was not able to complete a thorough analysis of such data, these four points provide insight regarding the need to identify which programs and services are currently administered in the state; which ones actually serve eligible children ages 0 to 5; which programs directly or indirectly are essential to helping to close the educational achievement gap; and which programs and services actually can help to sustain families in these efforts. Given the current economic downturn in the state, and the impact on families in poverty and the working poor, it is critical that the state carefully analyze data to determine which programs best serve children ages 0-5 and their parents. Doing so will help better utilize the limited resources of the state.

This chapter focuses specifically on survey research undertaken by the CMA related to identifying current programs and funding of state agencies which can help to close the achievement gap. From July 2008 through December 2009, the research staff of the Commission utilized *Proviso 55.5: Student Achievement and Vision Education (SAVE)* or the SAVE Proviso to collect survey information from state agencies currently administering programs and services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. The Commission is the state agency statutorily responsible for identifying the root causes of socio-economic poverty and deprivation and its impacts on overall well being. As such, the Commission's work to collect this survey data and program or service information from agencies is viewed as an important first step to help inform state legislators of the need to make continued investments in early education for all South Carolina children prior to their entering the first grade. This chapter and the Appendices provide an overview of the survey information and discuss the findings as noted in three areas:

- (1) Summary of State Agencies Completing the Needs Assessment Survey (Appendix A)
- (2) Findings from the State Agency Activity Inventory on Expenditures
- (3) Summary Implications for Investments in Ages 0 to 5 Early Education

Summary of State Agencies Completing the Needs Assessment Survey

To better identify all of the programs and services administered by state agencies which serve children ages 0 to 5, the research staff of the SC Commission for Minority Affairs collected information from state agencies during two time periods. The Needs Survey entitled ***“Improving the Odds for Young Children Ages 0 to 5 in South Carolina: SC-CFMA State Agency Needs Assessment”***, was administered in two four-month time periods during the 2008-2009, and 2009-2010 Fiscal Years.^{1,2} (See Appendix A)

Content of Needs Assessment Survey

To clearly identify if state agencies provide programs and services to children ages 0 to 5, the Needs Assessment Survey was divided into four key sections, which is summarized in the chart below.

**Improving the Odds for Young Children Ages 0 to 5 in South Carolina:
SC-CFMA State Agency Needs Assessment Survey**

Section of the Needs Survey	Type of Data Collected	Survey Statement Number(s)
I. Agency Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, address, primary phone number of state agency, and e-mail address. • Primary Contact Person (Agency Head) • Agency Code 	<p>1 through 3, and 5</p> <p>4</p>
II. Agency Services to Children and Families in South Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does state agency provide direct programs to children? • Age group of children in which programs and services are provided. • Does state agency partner with other state agencies to administer programs and services? 	<p>6</p>

Section of the Needs Survey	Type of Data Collected	Survey Statement Number(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does state agency partner with private sector or non-profit organizations to administer programs and services? 	
II. Agency Services to Children and Families in South Carolina (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does state agency provide direct programs to families? • Direct programs and services to families are based on (certain) eligibility criteria. • Does state agency partner with other state agencies to administer programs and services? • Does state agency partner with private sector or non-profit organizations to administer programs and services? 	7
	<p>How are primarily direct programs and services provided to children and families by each state agency?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Offices • Regional or District Offices • State Agency Partners • Private Sector Organizations 	8
	<p>Primary group receiving direct services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Only • Parents/Guardians Only • Both 	9

Section of the Needs Survey	Type of Data Collected	Survey Statement Number(s)
II. Agency Services to Children and Families in South Carolina (Continued)	Counties in South Carolina in which the services for children and families are provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area • District • Region 	10, 11
	Agency Partner(s) in providing programs and services to children and families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State agency partner • Regional or District state agency partner • Private sector business • Non-profit corporation 	12
III. Feedback of On-Going Program Activities, and Service Needs for Children And Families	Impact of state budget cuts on agency programs and services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of programs in (all) SC Counties • Reduction in Program Staff • Impact of state budget cuts on agency partners: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Other state agency partners 2. Private sector businesses 3. Non-profit organizations • Agency Wide Reorganization 	13 14
IV. Follow-Up Contact Information	Identification of Agency and Partner Contact for Follow-Up	15 - 18

Findings from the Needs Assessment Survey

The Appendices provide summary tables for statements 6 through 11 (Section II) of the Needs Assessment Survey. Collectively, statements 6 through 8 of the Needs Assessment Survey sought to obtain information from each state agency regarding the following information:

- (1) The agency's operation - whether or not, and how they provide direct services to children ages 0 to 5 (Statement 6) (Appendix B);
- (2) Whether or not the state agency provides direct services to the families of the children. If so, what is the basis of eligibility for the family including the children to receive direct services from the agency (Statement 7) (Appendix C);
- (3) An identification of the primary means that direct programs and services are provided to children and families in South Carolina (Statement 8) (Appendix D).

A summary of findings is provided below for these statements. Information on how an individual state agency responded (if applicable) can be found by reviewing the detailed tables in the Appendices.

Overall, 88.9% or forty (40) of the forty-five (45) state agencies completed this section of the Needs Assessment Survey. In examining the response information, a few key points are worth noting explicitly.

First, the (general agency classification) of technical colleges does not as a group, provide direct services to children ages 0 to 5. However, the technical colleges do, in some cases, utilize (mostly) federal and some state discretionary funds to assist students who are parents with children ages 0 to 5. These cases were noted in Appendix A for Statement 6 of the Needs Survey. In this case, four technical colleges (Trident, Horry-Georgetown, Florence-Darlington, and York) provided some tuition assistance and other related funding (Perkins and other school-based funding) to students with children ages 0 to 5 (See End Note 4). York Technical College actually provides student services in partnership with a childcare center located within close proximity to its campus.

Second, the four year colleges with education majors, or other disciplines related to education or community outreach, also provide services to children ages 0 to 5. Appendix A notes that the College of Charleston, Clemson University, and Francis Marion University each had one or more program initiatives focused on children ages 0 to 5.⁶

Third, in addition to serving children ages 0 to 5, both the technical and four-year colleges and universities worked individually, and in partnership with one or more state agencies or private sector organizations to provide direct services. Specifically, 8.9% of these schools provided direct services to children. Ages of children eligible to receive direct services ranged from six weeks to 4 years of age or three to five years of age. One technical college (Trident Tech) provided assistance to adult parents with children ages 0 to 10. Other information on direct programs and services can be found specifically in Appendix A.

Fourth, direct service state agencies comprise the next largest group of entities providing one or more direct services to children ages 0 to 5. These agencies are responsible for providing services to income eligible and other means tested poverty populations.⁷ Early education and childcare services are provided through the Head Start Centers, the Office of First Steps private child care centers, the SC Department of Education 3 – 4K programs and the Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP).

Fifth, general social service, community and family support agencies provide direct services that assist families with children ages 0 to 5. These agencies work in partnership with the SC Department of Health and Human Services to provide services for the state’s population based on various income and other eligibility criteria.

Primary Means of Service Delivery of Programs and Services

Appendix B also provides information regarding the primary means of delivery of programs and services for children ages 0 to 5 (Statement 8 of the Needs Survey). A total of twenty (20) of forty-five (45) respondents or 44.4% of all state agencies surveyed indicated that direct programs and services were provided to children ages 0 to 5. The mini-chart below provides a compilation of the information in Appendix B by type of agency and means of program and service delivery for children ages 0 to 5.

Classification of Agency Serving Children Ages 0 to 5 (Number of Agencies)¹¹	Total Agencies by Primary Means of Program or Service Delivery						
	County Staff Only	Area of Regional or District Staff	County and Region or District Staff	County Staff and State Agency Partner	Area, Regional District Staff and Partner	County Staff Non-Profit Partner	Area, Regional, District Staff and Private Partner
Direct Service (4)	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
Educational Support (3)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Social, Family and Community Support (6)	2	3	6	1	3	3	3

According to the mini-chart, of the twenty responding agencies:

- Three of the four Direct Service state entities stated that services for children ages 0 to 5 are provided by county staff located within county, region, district or area offices, or some combination thereof;
- One Educational Support Agency stated that direct programs and services for children ages 0 to 5 are delivered by area, district or regional staff in area offices;
- Agencies and entities classified as social, family and community support stated that direct programs and services for children ages 0 to 5 are delivered primarily by a combination of county and area (region or district) staff and less so by county staff only. This approach of service delivery may indicate a preliminary impact of state budget cuts.

Basis of Eligibility to Receive Direct Services

Appendix C provides information by agency regarding how families with children ages 0 to 5 become eligible to participate in programs and receive services (Statement 7 of the Needs Assessment Survey). A close inspection of Appendix C indicates that other than the four technical colleges that assist students with children ages 0 to 5 with childcare or tuition assistance, the four year and technical/community colleges as a group, do not provide direct services for the population ages 0 to 5 as a part of their mission.

Of the four direct service agencies, i.e., the South Carolina Department of Education (DOE); the South Carolina Head Start Collaboration Office (Head Start Centers); the South Carolina Office of First Steps; and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Child Health Programs, children ages 0 to 5 qualify to receive services directed for early education through existing federal poverty guidelines. Collectively, the thirteen agencies providing the majority of services for children ages 0 to 5 comprise 28.9% of all (45) state agencies surveyed (See Appendix C). Each of these agencies reported that federal poverty guidelines and the age of the child provided the basis for the children receiving direct services. In 13.3% of all agencies surveyed, the age of the person determined the eligibility for receiving services. Of particular importance, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides block grant funding, and partners with the six social/structural support state agencies: South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH), South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the South Carolina Department of Education (DOE). The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) also makes Medicaid payments to other partner agencies and in particular, two research universities as part of their responsibility for providing services to children ages 0 to 5: the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of South Carolina. In each of these instances, individuals qualifying to receive services range from ages 0 to either age 19 or 21, depending on the program.

Additionally, other ages or other specified criteria determined who [c]ould be eligible to receive direct services. This occurred among 22.2%, or ten (10) responding agencies. Specific criteria included ages other than the 0 to 5 age group, parents' employment status, disability status, or other agency or program specific criteria.

Primary Group Receiving Agency Direct Services

Appendix C provides detailed information by state agency regarding the primary group receiving direct services, with a focus on children ages 0 to 5. This table summarizes Statement 9 on the Needs Assessment Survey. The statement requested that state agencies indicate if the services they provide are primarily for children, parents or guardians, or both. Response data provided by state agencies were as expected. Namely, the research universities and technical colleges provided education and training services for adult students seeking two year or four year degrees. Exceptions included Clemson, Francis Marion, Lander University, and three University of South Carolina regional campuses.¹² These three campuses have early learning initiatives benefitting children ages 3 to 5. In particular, Francis Marion University has a Commission for Higher Education funded Center of Excellence which focuses on a regional initiative with nineteen (19) high poverty school districts in the I-95 Corridor. The other state entities who focus solely on early learning to address the achievement gap are the SC Department of Education, Head Start, and the Office of First Steps. Each of these entities focuses on early education and learning specifically for children ages three to five.

The remainder of Appendix D indicates agency direct services received by parents and guardians are limited in scope based on the mission of the agency by state statute. Exceptions pertaining to addressing early learning and the achievement gap were programs at the College of Charleston (focusing on tutoring and early learning for three to four year olds), Lander University, Trident and York Technical Colleges. Both technical colleges provide assistance to parents with children. This includes child care, transportation and tuition assistance. The remaining 14 technical colleges served only adult students, or worked in partnership with the Workforce Investment Area (WIA) programs.¹³ This accounts for 31.1% of all agencies surveyed.

Designated State Agency Service Areas

Appendix E provides information regarding the minimum and maximum number of counties for the area, regional, or district designation for each state agency that completed and returned the Needs Assessment Survey. This Table covers Statements 10 and 11 of the Needs Assessment Survey. These two statements requested each responding agency to provide the county designation for each service area. For agencies completing the Needs Assessment Surveys (in both Fiscal Year periods 2008-09 and 2009-10), any changes in the number of counties served might indicate a need to look closer at the impact of budget cuts on service delivery areas.¹⁴

State agency service areas for individual counties were most common among the technical institutions in the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education System. State agencies providing services from a central office to forty-six counties include the following agencies:

- SC Educational Television
- Public State Universities
- Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
- SC Department of Health and Human Services

District designations for the administration of programs for children and families were most common for those state agencies with central offices that utilized private sector partners to assist with service provision of children ages 0 to 5. These agencies include, but are not limited to:

- SC Department of Disability and Special Needs
- SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
- SC Department of Mental Health
- SC Commission for the Blind

Staff completing the Needs Assessment Survey form for these agencies indicated that direct services, while beneficial, were somewhat limited in scope from the central or district office. Partners in the private sector or qualified partners based on state law provide specialized services on behalf of the agencies for children and families.

Appendix E shows that five key state agencies provide direct agency programs and services to families and children ages 0 to 5 on a regional basis. These agencies are:

- SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
- SC Department of Social Services
- SC Head Start Collaboration Office
- SC Office of First Steps
- SC Department of Mental Health

Each of these agencies utilizes a combination of regional designations, with program operations providing direct services to children ages 0 to 5. Specific programs related to assisting with the educational development and early learning of children were not explicitly provided by these agencies.¹⁵

Findings from the State Agency Activity Inventory on Expenditures

In addition to identifying which state agencies provide programs for children ages 0 to 5 and their families, the research staff of the Commission sought to obtain information on agency expenditures for direct programs and services for children ages 0 to 5. The premise of requesting this information was multi-fold:

- (1) Identifying program expenditures for services by type and activity provides insight into agency priorities;
- (2) Identifying the amount of Fiscal Year program expenditures along with the number of persons actually served provides valuable information on where additional funding may be needed;
- (3) Comparing funding expenditures by activity and Fiscal Year can assist the Commission for Minority Affairs in providing recommendations to state officials on future investments in programs and support services for children and families in early education;
- (4) Information dissemination to key officials by the Commission for Minority Affairs on program expenditures can aid in partnerships with other direct service agencies concerned with early education and the closing of the educational achievement gap.

As part of the Student Achievement and Vision Education (SAVE) Proviso, the research staff of the Commission for Minority Affairs requested agency activity expenditure information as follows:

- (1) By agency activity;
- (2) By age group for the program activity or service;
- (3) Total funding for all services (federal, state, and other);
- (4) Duration of funding (one time, single year, or multi year);
- (5) Total persons served through agency funding expenditures by race and ethnicity (White, African American, Native American, Hispanic, Asian, Other Race)

Appendix Tables F through I provide respectively summary information on the estimated total funding and the estimated total population served by race and ethnicity by fiscal year. Tables F and H provide the estimated total funding by state agency for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 fiscal years. Tables G and I provide information on the total population served by race and ethnicity for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 fiscal years.

Summary of Agency Activity Inventory Expenditures

Appendix F shows that 21 of 45 state agencies (46.7%) expended funds on activities, programs or services for children ages 0 to 5.^{16, 17} Total estimated funding for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year was \$2.24 trillion dollars. This does not include Medicaid dollars. Slightly over half of this estimated funding was for comprehensive direct services within the State Department of Social Services. These included major program services including TANF, Family Assistance, SNAP (Food Stamps) Family Independence, Foster Care and related programs. Special consideration must be given here to note that these programs are for direct services for eligible children ages 0 to 21 and their families.¹⁸ Other funding included various Medicaid reimbursable health services provided for children ages 0 to 5 provided through the Medical University of South Carolina. Other significant funding amounts include total funds for other direct service state agencies. These agencies include:

- SC Department of Education
- SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
- SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority
- SC Department of Mental Health
- SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
- SC Department of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Services

In each case, actual agency expenditures for activities, programs and services provided to children ages 0 to 5 could not be determined absolutely. This is due to federal regulations governing the payment of program activities. Of particular importance also is composition of total funding. **Regardless of the direct service provided by the state agency, federal funding comprises at least sixty-five to seventy percent of total funding.** Estimated state appropriated dollars for direct programs and services for children and families ages 0 to 5, as well as for other age groups, comprised a smaller percentage of the estimated total funding. This probably reflects the percentage of state contribution needed to draw down federal funding, particularly in the larger direct service state agencies, and for programs and services for individual families and children in poverty.

Appendix G provides estimates for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 on the total population served through agency funded program activities. Again, it is emphasized that these are conservative estimates, and they reflect estimates for persons ages 0 to 19 or to age 21. **A consistent recurring problem with estimating the number of children served involved asking agency staff to provide information on the actual number of children served ages 0 to 5. With the exception of a few state agencies, most state agencies could not provide this information.** The primary explanation is that program budget or accounting systems only capture information by (broad) pay category, typically ages 0 to 19 (or 21). Appendix G verifies this point. Total estimated persons served by programs strictly for children ages 0 to 5 were small relative to

funded dollars. This could be explained partially by federal program requirements governing effective program outcomes. For this reason, estimates of total persons served should be considered with caution, until age specific numbers can be determined with certainty.¹⁹

Appendix H provides estimated funding for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year. Estimated total funding was 2.045 trillion dollars, a decrease of 8.8% from the previous fiscal year. A total of 20 state agencies (44.4% of all agencies surveyed) indicated that they provided funding for direct programs and services for children ages 0 to 5. As indicated in the previous sections for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, with the exception of Medicaid block grant funding, total funding for program and services for children ages 0 to 5 was highest in those state agencies which assist the State Department of Health and Human Services with providing direct services for children ages 0 to 5 and their parents or guardians. These agencies include DSS, Mental Health, DHEC, MUSC, USC and the Department of Education. Federal funds comprise the majority of total funding within these larger state agencies. State appropriations did increase over the previous Fiscal Year for the Department of Health and Human Services. However, estimated state funding for agencies specifically serving young children decreased.

Appendix I shows an overall decrease in the total population served by race and ethnicity. Estimated total persons served declined by approximately forty percent. Most of this decline however may be due to more agencies not making program information on children served available. A second explanation is the impact of decreased funding given the state of the economy overall. A similar trend can be seen when examining Table G. Namely, it appears based on estimates that regardless of race and ethnicity a smaller number of children ages 0 to 5 are being served through existing state programs. This will require further investigation.

Implications for Investment in Ages 0 to 5 Early Education

This chapter began by reemphasizing information on families in South Carolina, namely that a higher number of families were probably eligible to receive direct programs and services from direct service state agencies. This chapter provided a summary of key findings from survey work conducted by the research staff of the Commission for Minority Affairs. Two key sets of information were analyzed. First, the state agency Needs Assessment Survey identified how state agencies administered programs and provided direct services for children and families of all ages, but in particular for children ages 0 to 5. Secondly, this chapter sought to quantify the amount of funding spent by state agencies on programs and services, including those designed to close the education achievement gap. Emphasis here was agency expenditures over the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Fiscal Years. Conservative estimates were developed for program funding as well as the total population served.

Great care was taken to identify state agency programs and to collect the most accurate data possible. The majority of state agencies providing direct services for children ages 0 to 5 do an excellent job in tracking program funding in the aggregate. **However, specific information on programs and services strictly for children ages 0 to 5 is not accurately captured in most**

state agency budgets and financial systems. This is a major finding. Instead, aggregate financial data for persons ages 0 to 19 or 0 to 21 are captured.

In regards to the poverty population, several state agencies work in partnership with each other. These agencies assist the state Department of Health and Human Services through the provision of federally mandated services impacting the well being, health, nutrition, mental health, and social services of all South Carolinians. The research universities also provide assistance and are reimbursed through Medicaid Block grant funding.

Without accurate agency funding information on the population ages 0 to 5, it is difficult to determine if the proper investments are being made by the state to fund services that benefit children ages 0 to 5 and help to close the achievement gap. This is a major finding and poses a significant problem given the current economic and fiscal climates in the state. Without sustained investments in early education for children ages 0 to 5, the state will continue to lose ground relative to other states. Not having a clear picture of the amount of funding and the number of services being provided to this population, ages 0 to 5, clearly puts South Carolina at a disadvantage and will not contribute to global competitiveness. It is economically beneficial for the state in the long run to properly invest in early education to help close the achievement gap. Following the End Notes for Chapter 4 is a study entitled, “The Economic Benefits of Pre-School in South Carolina.” This study was funded by the Commission for Minority Affairs and provides key research on the economic benefits of investing in early childhood education in South Carolina.

Recommendations

- Create a legislative study committee to consider the feasibility of creating an entity to oversee all program services for children ages 0-5 and to serve as the fiduciary for all state and federal funds serving children ages 0-5.
- Direct the South Carolina Enterprise Information System (SCEIS) team to assist agencies to update their financial systems to determine how much funding is spent on direct service programs to children ages 0-5.
- Partnering agencies that provide direct services should conduct fiscal mapping to more accurately quantify the level of funding for direct services for children ages 0 to 5 and the number of children served. Findings should be reported to the legislature.
- Where possible, without violating HIPPA regulations, administrative data on direct services related to early education provided to eligible populations by state agencies should be shared to determine if all eligible populations who need services actually receive services. Findings can be reported by staff and agency heads as part of the annual state budgeting process.

Chapter 4 End Notes

¹During the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year, the Needs Survey was administered to 101 state agencies from September through December 2008. During 2009-2010 Fiscal Year, the Needs Survey was mailed out to forty-five state agencies, and was administered during the months of September through December.

²The listing of state agencies was reduced from 101 state agencies in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 to forty five (45) during Fiscal Year 2009-2010. This decision was made because the other fifty-six state agencies, according to statute, did not provide direct services to children ages 0 to 5 related to closing the achievement gap.

³State agencies completing the Needs Assessment Survey throughout both survey periods are included by classification below.

General Agency Classification	Total Number of State Agencies⁴		Total Needs Assessment Surveys Returned		Total Agency Inventory Spreadsheets Returned	
	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10
A. Direct Educational Agencies Serving Children 0 to 5	8	8	6	8	8	7
B. Educational Support Agencies	4	3	4	3	4	3
C. 4-Year Colleges	10	8	6	6	4	4
D. Technical Colleges⁴	16	16	4	4	4	4
E. All Other State Agencies	36	10	20	9	4	9
F. State Agencies Not Required to Return Surveys	27	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agencies	101	45	40	30	24	27

⁴Phone interviews regarding the use of Perkins and other federal funding to assist adult students with children were held with individual campus officials representing the Technical Colleges.

Discussions with staff from the State Office for Technical and Comprehensive Education were also held as needed. The State Tech System during the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year was impacted by state budget cuts resulting in the loss of twenty-two staff persons. This made obtaining feedback difficult regarding how a particular technical college could have the flexibility to utilize funding to assist students who have children, yet want to obtain a technical college degree or receive career training.

⁵The total number of state agencies surveyed did include all sixteen of the state’s technical colleges. However, only four of the schools provided information on how funding could be used to assist students with children, either in the form of childcare (or transportation) assistance, or other direct tuition assistance.

⁶The College of Charleston had one tutorial partnership program which was serving children ages 3 to 5 through early elementary school. This program was also discontinued during the 2009-10 Fiscal Year due to a loss in state funding.

⁷Distinction is made here between the direct service educational agencies serving children ages 0 to 5, three educational support state agencies, and six other state agencies responsible for social support and related safety net programs. These are arbitrary classifications made by the Report authors. The classification areas and listing of state agencies are provided below.

Classification of Agencies Serving Children Ages 0 to 5	Listing of State Agencies
Direct Service	SC Department of Education SC Head Start Collaboration Office SC Office of First Steps SC Educational Television
Educational Support	SC Arts Commission SC Department of Mental Health SC Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
Social, Community, and Family Support State Agencies	SC Department of Health and Human Services SC Department of Social Services SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs SC Department of Health and Environmental Control SC Department of Education – Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (Office of Exceptional Children) SC State Housing Finance and Development Authority

⁸One major area of difficulty experienced by the research staff of the SC Commission for Minority Affairs was the identification of funding specifically for children ages 0 to 5 within each agency. **Each of these agencies receiving funding through Medicaid to provide direct services, presently do not specifically track the amount of funding or number of children served by race and ethnicity for the ages 0 to 5. This is a major finding.**

As shown in each of the Tables in the Appendices, individuals age 0 to 18, or 0 to 21 which meet eligibility criteria can qualify to receive direct services.

⁹Information on specific agency programs was hard to obtain because jointly administered agency programs were in some instances occurring within different divisions in the same agency, as well as in conjunction with public and private sector partners.

¹⁰Included here but not shown in the Table are two entities: (1) the Medical University of South Carolina, and (2) the Individuals With Disability Education Act (IDEA Part B Program) which is housed within the State Department of Education, Office of Exceptional Children. The IDEA Part C Program (Baby Net) is the program that serves children ages 0 to 3, and is jointly administered through DHEC and, as of January 1, 2010, the Office of First Steps.

¹¹Refer back to End Note 7 listed above.

¹²Community Partnerships that help children ages 0 to 5 receive early elementary services were indicated for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year at three USC regional campuses, but detailed information was not available at the time of this report.

¹³WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker programs enable adults to receive training and assistance in order to obtain jobs as a result of that training. The state's technical colleges receive funding to provide academic training of individuals who qualify based on income and other WIA specific criteria. Attempts were made to identify individuals who may have children ages 0 to 5 and who also qualify for WIA academic and career training at technical colleges. Both the SC Department of Commerce and Technical College staffs stated that this information was unavailable.

¹⁴Statements 13 and 14 of the Needs Assessment Survey requested specific information regarding the impact of state budget cuts on agency restructuring, potential staff reorganization and service delivery. These findings will be discussed in more detail in the Executive Summary of this Report related to Recommendations on Closing the Achievement Gap.

¹⁵Many of the larger state agencies currently operate multiple programs which overlap within different divisions of the same state agency or, based on federal and state regulations, are administered by two or more state agencies. This should not, however, be interpreted as a duplication of effort. One example is the IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Parts B and C. The Part B program is administered through the Office of Exceptional Children. Part C (Baby Net) is jointly administered by DHEC's Division of Children Services Maternal and Child Health and the State Office of First Steps. Other examples of this collaboration exist within other state agencies. Finally, the utilization of Medicaid block grant funds by the State Department of Health and Human Services to pay for various essential services for children and families is a second example. As many as ten state agencies, the research universities, and many private partners provide reimbursable services for the Department of Health and Human Services.

¹⁶Estimated funding expenditures are conservative and do not include unreported funding from agencies that did not return the agency activity inventory spreadsheet.

¹⁷Details may not (will not) add to totals. This is done to avoid double counting, particularly with Medicaid block grant dollars. Medicaid payments or reimbursements are distributed to several direct service state agencies, at least two of the research universities, as well as private providers of services based on federal and state regulations.

¹⁸Estimated expenditures for children ages 0 to 5 accounted for a small percentage of total funding. It is important here to emphasize that these are estimated amounts.

¹⁹**Agency personnel responsible for program budgets were as cooperative as possible in providing estimates on persons served ages 0 to 5. However, without specific legislative mandates, or more cooperative work with administrative and financial data systems, accurate estimates on persons served will be impossible to determine.**