

SC DSS Accountability Report Measures, FY 2014 to FY 2018

A two-page summary of the performance measures the South Carolina Department of Social Services published in its annual accountability reports for FY 2013-14 through FY 2017-18.

Source: South Carolina Department of Social Services, Annual Accountability Reports to the General Assembly, FY 2014 to FY 2018.

What the accountability report is

South Carolina law requires each state agency to submit an annual accountability report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The report must contain the agency's mission, its objectives, and its performance measures, and the Executive Budget Office says the information is used to help decision-makers review each agency's budget. The DSS page on accountability reports lists a September 15 deadline each year.

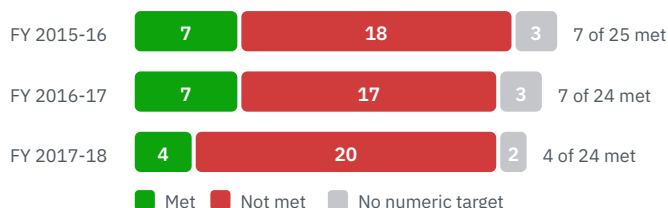
From FY 2013-14 on, each DSS report includes a Performance Measurement Template. Each row names a measure and prints its recent value, a target, the time period, the data source, and the calculation method. The column layout changed over the period, so this summary lines the five templates up in one table.

How this summary was built

All 145 measure rows were copied as printed from the five templates and grouped into 42 measure series. A measure is treated as the same series across years when its name and calculation match, or when a later report's Last Value repeats the earlier report's Current Value. All 73 of those Last Value comparisons agree, once the whole-number rounding in the FY 2017-18 report is allowed for.

A result counts as met when it reaches the target printed for the same year. Only FY 2015-16 to FY 2017-18 are scored, because the two earlier templates print a Target Value without saying which year it applies to.

Scored results by report year



Program area	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
Child Welfare	0 of 10	0 of 10	0 of 10
Adult Protective Services	0 of 3	1 of 3	1 of 3
Economic Services	1 of 3	0 of 3	0 of 3
Child Care	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
Child Support	6 of 8	6 of 7	2 of 7

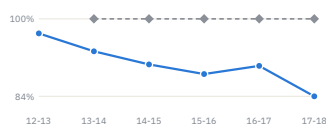
Counts show targets met out of measures with a numeric value and target. Child care licensing targets are printed as text, so they are not scored.

Targets met in each scored year. FY 2015-16: SNAP benefit accuracy, child support cases with orders established, child support collected, cases paying on arrears, license revocation notices, insurance match collections, and wage withholding collections. FY 2016-17: APS cases with monthly activity, child support cases with orders established, child support collected, cases paying on arrears, financial institution data match collections, insurance match collections, and wage withholding collections. FY 2017-18: APS cases with monthly activity, child care vouchers, child support cases with orders established, and cases paying on arrears.

Four measures carried through the whole period

— Published result — Published target (FY 2012-13 values come from the FY 2013-14 report's Last Value column)

CPS assessments initiated timely



Children placed in county of origin



APS assessments completed timely



Child support collected



What the measures show over the period

Child welfare. The share of CPS assessments initiated timely was 97.00% in FY 2012-13, 88.60% in FY 2015-16, and 84% in FY 2017-18, against a target of 100%. Assessments completed timely ranged from 91.70% (FY 2014-15) to 98.50% (FY 2012-13), and monthly visits in foster care ranged from 93.70% (FY 2014-15) to 97.66% (FY 2012-13). The share of children placed in their county of origin went from 62.50% in FY 2012-13 to 36% in FY 2017-18, against a 70% target. The five federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) case review measures, scored by DSS quality assurance reviews, were below their targets in every scored year. Placement stability on that review was 60.10% in FY 2016-17 and 75.00% in FY 2017-18 (target 80.80%), and permanency and stability was 18.50%, 20.40%, and 26.90% in the three scored years.

Adult protective services. APS assessments initiated timely ranged from 82% (FY 2017-18) to 92.00% (FY 2012-13). Assessments completed within 45 days were 66.51% in FY 2014-15 and 78% in FY 2017-18. APS cases with monthly activity rose from 81.47% in FY 2015-16 to 97.13% in FY 2016-17, which met the 95% target, and the measure met its target again in FY 2017-18.

Economic services. Family Independence is the program DSS now calls TANF. Its timeliness measure counts days from application to case disposition, so a lower number is better. It was 26.30 days in FY 2012-13, 19.42 in FY 2014-15, and 21 in FY 2017-18, against a target of 19. SNAP benefit accuracy was 98.90% in FY 2015-16, which met that year's 98.90% target, and 96.32% and 96% in the next two reports. SNAP applications processed timely ranged from 85.36% (FY 2012-13) to 95.22% (FY 2013-14).

Child care. Child care vouchers went from 28,523 in FY 2012-13 to 21,386 in FY 2016-17 and 22,659 in FY 2017-18, which met the FY 2017-18 target of 22,455 (5% increase). The FY 2017-18 report describes this measure as children served for any duration from 1 week to 52 weeks, and the FY 2014-15 value covers April 2014 to March 2015, so those two years are not defined the same way as the others. Licensing visits and family child care home visits are counts with text targets.

Child support. Child support collected grew from \$250,756,629 in FY 2012-13 to \$301,419,050 in FY 2017-18. It met its target in FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 and came in under the \$305,000,000 target in FY 2017-18. The share of cases with support orders went from 70.46% to 84%, and the share of cases paying on arrears went from 49.65% to 60%. Both met their targets in all three scored years, although the FY 2017-18 results (84% and 60%) are printed as whole numbers equal to their targets.

Notes on reading the data

- The FY 2017-18 template header reads "Fiscal Year 2016-2017," but its Last Value column repeats the FY 2016-17 results, so its Current Value column is read as FY 2017-18.
- SNAP accuracy uses the federal fiscal year, and the CFSR case review measures use the review periods printed in each report.
- The FY 2016-17 report prints a future child support target of \$3,050,000,000.00. The FY 2017-18 report shows a current target of \$305,000,000. Both are kept as printed.
- In the FY 2017-18 report, the cell layout for the two child care licensing rows is not clear from the PDF text, so their FY 2017-18 values (3,391 and 858) are read by position.

Sources

South Carolina Department of Social Services, Annual Accountability Reports, published by the South Carolina General Assembly:

- FY 2012-13: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/Archives/aar2013/L04.pdf> (older format, no template)
- FY 2013-14: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/Archives/aar2014/L04.pdf>
- FY 2014-15: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aar2015/L04.pdf>
- FY 2015-16: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aar2016/L040.pdf>
- FY 2016-17: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aar2017/L040.pdf>
- FY 2017-18: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aar2018/L040.pdf>

Background on the accountability report: SC Department of Administration, Executive Budget Office, "Agency Accountability Reports," admin.sc.gov/services/budget/agency-accountability-reports; SC Department of Social Services, "Accountability Reports," dss.sc.gov/about/data-and-resources/state-agency-reporting/accountability-reports; SC DSS, "TANF Frequently Asked Questions," dss.sc.gov/assistance-programs/tanf/frequently-asked-questions.