



# Darlington County Community Action Agency 2016-2017

## Annual Report

904 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hartsville, SC 29550





## Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote sustainable economic self-sufficiency by eliminating the causes of poverty through partnerships and programs to improve the standard of living of low income individuals and families.

## Vision Statement

To be the premiere agency in delivering exceptional services to low income children and families through effective program implementation and innovative partner collaboration.

# A Message from the Board Chair

2016 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Darlington County Community Action Agency. New challenges and new opportunities come with each year, especially as we ponder/investigate the best strategies to use in servicing our clients and stakeholders.

Trust, commitment, tenacity and partnership are all words that come to mind when anniversaries are celebrated. These are on our minds each day as we think about service to clients—many of whom we call friends or family members; yet, they are all a part of the communities and county that we serve.

Our mission remains as relevant today as it did when DCCAA began its journey of service a half-century ago. While each year of service provides a “golden” opportunity to reflect on success and challenges, this year gave us even more to contemplate. A changing landscape, funding challenges and evolving changes in social services and among social service providers requires an even greater focus on our core objectives.

The board of commissioners of Darlington County Community Action Agency remains committed to DCCAA’s mission, its clients, communities and stakeholders. While challenges remain, we are determined to ensure that DCCAA delivers a continuum of high quality programs and services. The agency’s mission compels us to work with our clients to produce constructive and quantifiable outcomes to improve their quality of life and to help them move to self-sufficiency. To underscore that commitment, we pledge that DCCAA’s activities will positively affirm the mission, code of ethics and promise of all Community Action Agencies.

We are looking forward to celebrating more years of serving our clients with due diligence, excellence and commitment to service.

Thank you,

Thelma P. Dawson, DMD  
Board Chair



# Board of Commissioners

Dr. Thelma Dawson, Board Chair  
Mr. Thomas Heatley, Vice Chair  
Mr. Troy Abraham (Private)  
Ms. Jeronell Bradley (Public)  
Ms. Pheobe Clark (Attorney)  
Mrs. Barbara Cooper (Private)\*  
Mrs. Joann DeLong (Private)\*  
Ms. Lisa Fagan (Homeless Collaboration Advisor)  
Mrs. Melanie Gadson (Public)\*  
Ms. Adlena Graham (Emeritus)  
Ms. Angela Grooms (Elected-Poor)  
Mrs. Susan Ingram (Private)\*  
Mr. Clarence Ings (Elected-Poor)  
Mrs. Yolanda Jackson (Elected-Poor)  
Mr. Albert Johnson (Private)  
Ms. Jannie Lathan (Public)  
Ms. Shari McFadden (Private)  
Ms. Sheila Squire (Elected-Poor)  
Mrs. Maureen Thomas (Public)

\*Denotes past board member.

# Head Start Policy Council

Ms. Tiffany Hines, Chair (MGB)  
Ms. Denis Brockington, (St. Joseph)  
Ms. Eloise Jackson, (Comm. Rep.)  
Ms. Carolyn McCall, (Butler)  
Ms. Darnell McPherson  
(Comm. Rep)



The Darlington County Community Action Agency is proud of the successes it has achieved over the past 50+ years to enhance and enrich the lives of thousands of children, families and individuals within Darlington County. What we do can only be done through the sharing of expertise and resources from many sources, including federal, state and local government and other non-profit networks and service organizations. Only in these ways can the lives of our clients be positively impacted. Hence, we are committed to fulfilling the mission of DCCAA to continue and strengthen community collaborations and to promote sustainable economic self-sufficiency by eliminating the cause of poverty through partnerships and programs to improve the standard of living of low income individuals and families.

By striving daily to fulfill our mission, we are certain to make our vision real of becoming the premiere agency in delivering exceptional services to low income children and families through effective program implementation and innovative partner collaboration.

We are appreciative of our funders, our governing Board and Policy Council members, our partners, our employees, our volunteers, our parents and so many other contributing sources, as without each of you, our efforts would be ineffectual. We will continue to maximize our resources and take meaningful steps to defeat the war on poverty as we enhance and improve the well-being of Darlington County communities, one child, one family and one individual at a time.

Jacquelyn James Slayton  
**Executive Director**



# About Us . . .

*“The Community Action Agency changes peoples’ lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and help each other.”*

The Darlington County Community Action Agency (DCCAA) is a public, non-profit agency that was established in 1965 by the County Delegation under the authority granted by the General Assembly of South Carolina in Act #314 as part of the Great Society programs under President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty. As the county’s designated poverty prevention agency, DCCAA is responsible for the fulfillment of the Economic Opportunity Act, including families and low-income individuals to attain the skills, knowledge, and motivation to become self-sufficient.

The Darlington County Community Action Agency’s service area includes all cities and communities in Darlington County. The central office is located in Hartsville, SC with satellite offices in Darlington, Lamar, and Society Hill.

DCCAA is governed by a Board of Commissioners that consists of representatives from various populations: 1) public officials or their designees; 2) elected representatives of the poor; and 3) representatives from community organizations that provide service to low income families. DCCAA provides human and economic developmental services and related activities that are designed to alleviate the causes and characteristics of poverty in Darlington County. The agency establishes partnerships with other community agencies and organizations, the State of South Carolina, and the Federal Government to accomplish its mission.

The agency assists economically disadvantaged individuals and families with increasing and improving their education level, job skills, parenting skills, asset management skills and other areas needed to ensure empowerment and self-sufficiency. DCCAA operates utilizing the following service programs: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Project Share, Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Youth Leadership Program (YLP), Head Start, and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

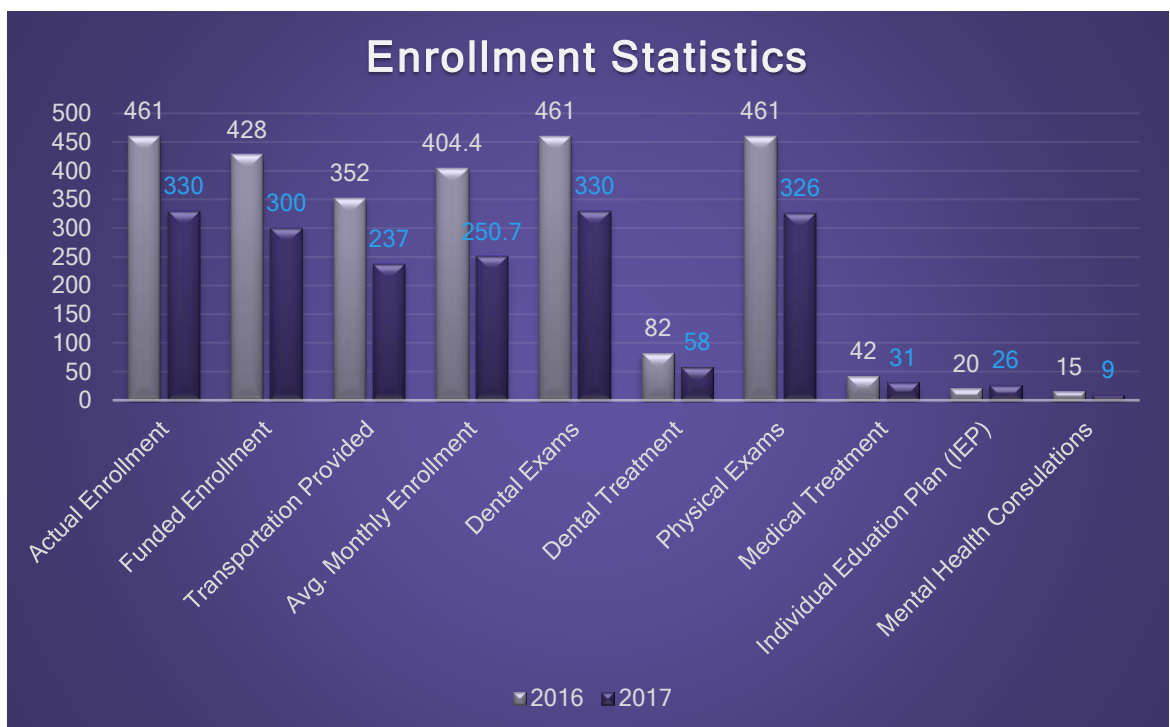
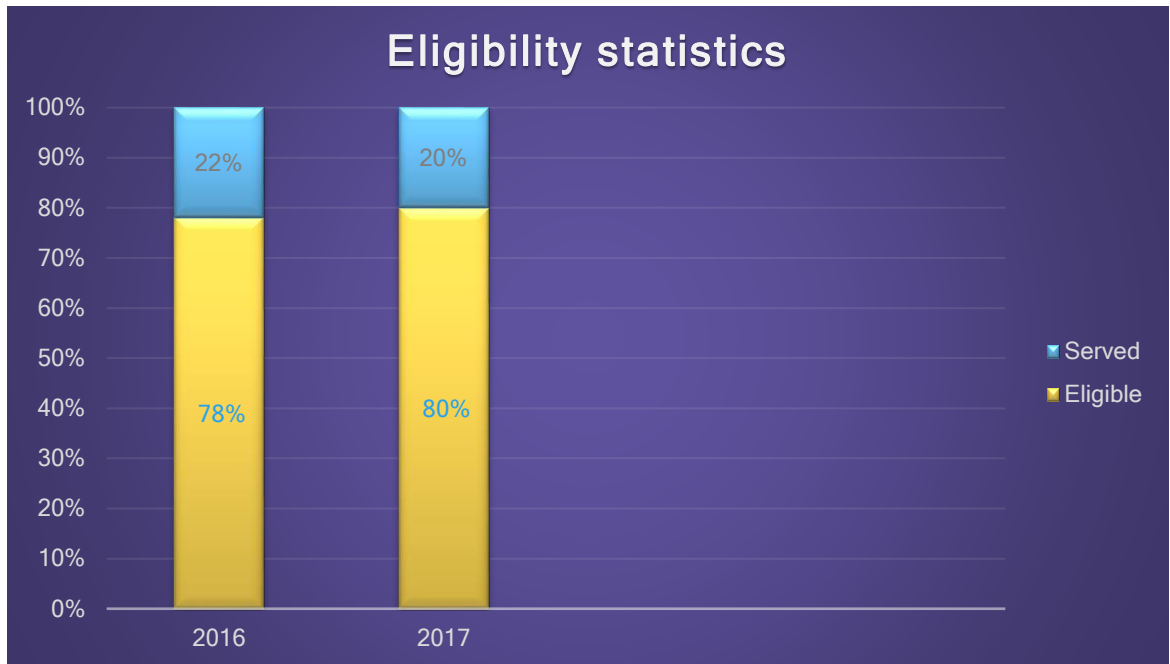
## HEAD START IMPACT

The Darlington County Community Action Agency's Head Start program is designed to improve the educational, emotional, social and physical well-being of preschool children and their families. Our program provides services to families with children ages 3 and 4 years old within Darlington County, which includes Darlington, Hartsville, Lamar, Oates, and Society Hill towns and communities.

During the 2015/2016 school year, we provided services to 428 children in six (6) centers housing 23 classrooms. Our 2016/2017 school year involved restructuring, thus, resulting in services being provided to 300 children in three (3) centers with only 16 classrooms. Nonetheless, we were able to strengthen each of our Head Start components through quality improvements which greatly enhanced our service delivery.

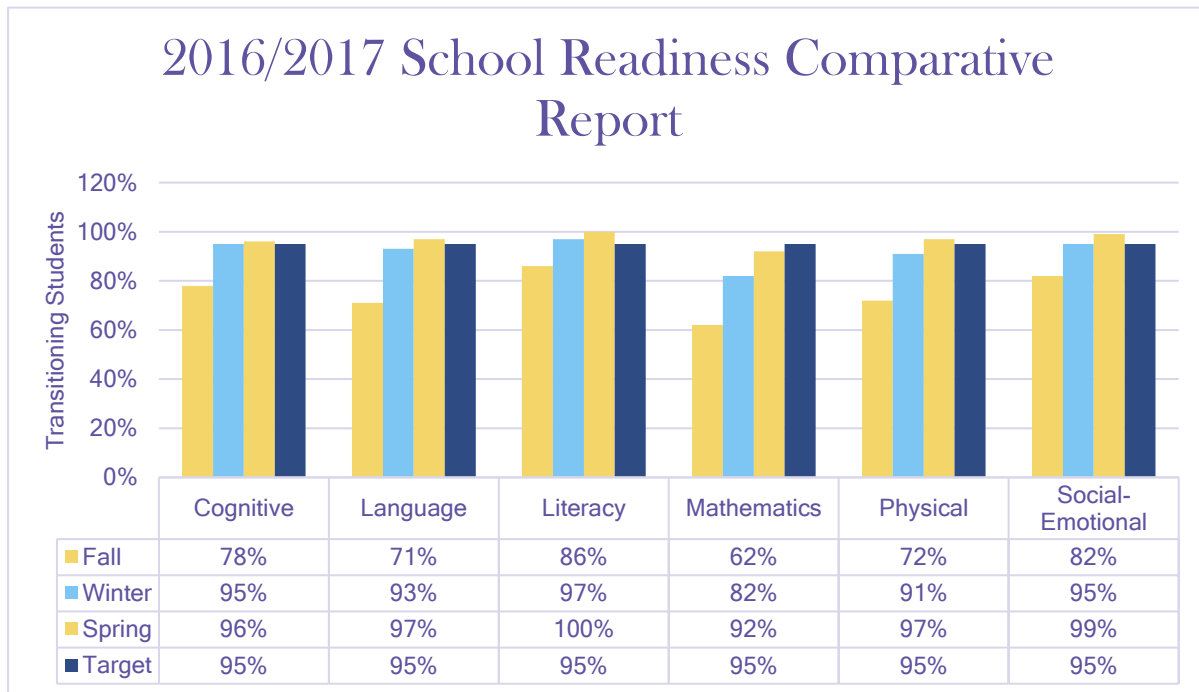
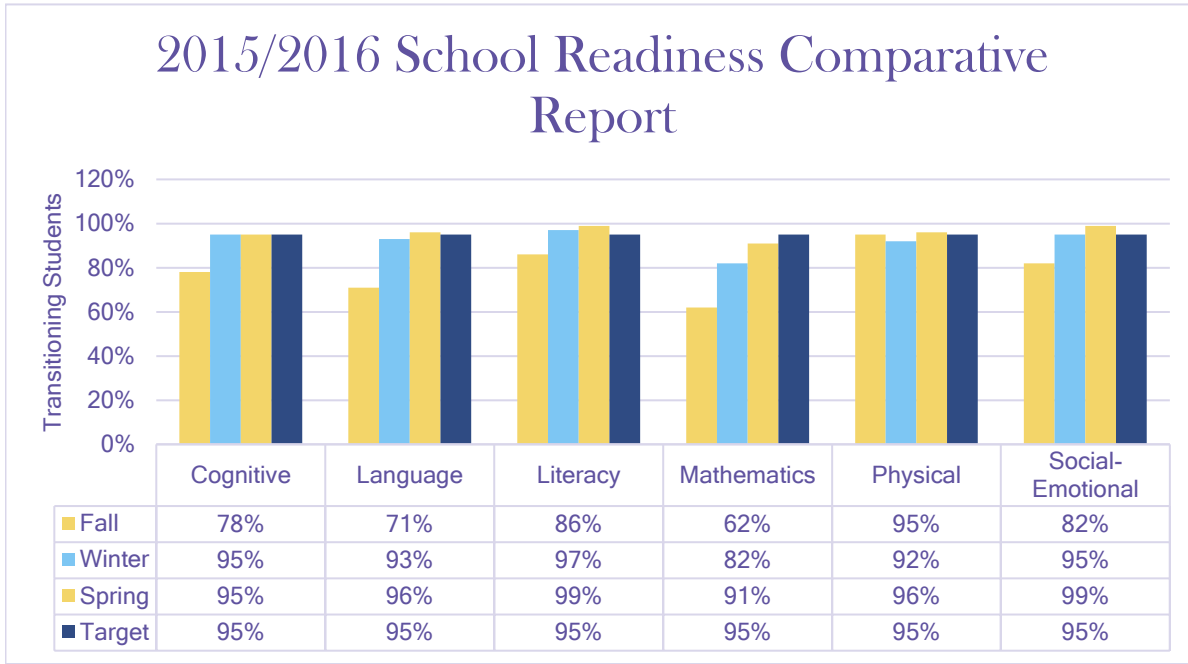
Having enrolled children from all over the county, our enrollment included children of various nationalities, ethnicities and educational abilities. Abilities that are assessed and addressed accordingly so that regardless of where a child might be educationally, his/her needs can be met. We ensured **Education/School Readiness** through our School Readiness Plan of Action which included five (5) program goals: (1) To improve children's learning outcomes encompassing all aspects of a child's development and learning through the use of the Creative Curriculum, Head Start Outcomes Framework, Good Start Grow Smart State Pre-K Standards and the Results of Assessment Data; (2) To ensure that children are in a safe and healthy learning environment; (3) To develop and expand health/nutrition services, strong community partnerships, increase levels of family/parent engagement to sustain and support child outcomes; (4) To guarantee an effective organization based on the revisions of program systems for continuous improvement, providing professional development opportunities and recruiting of qualified/credentialed staff; and (5) To promote school readiness through family/community engagement. We measured the success of our plan through the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) and the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS).

# Head Start Statistical Data



\*2016 data has been audited. 2017 data was compiled prior to the annual audit.

## Head Start Statistical Data continued. . .

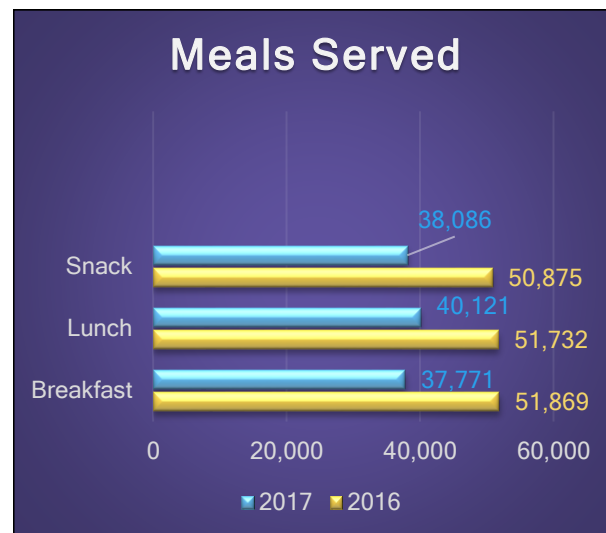
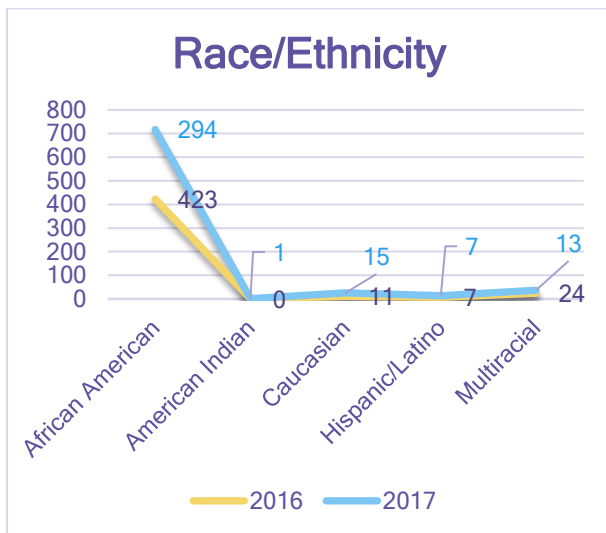
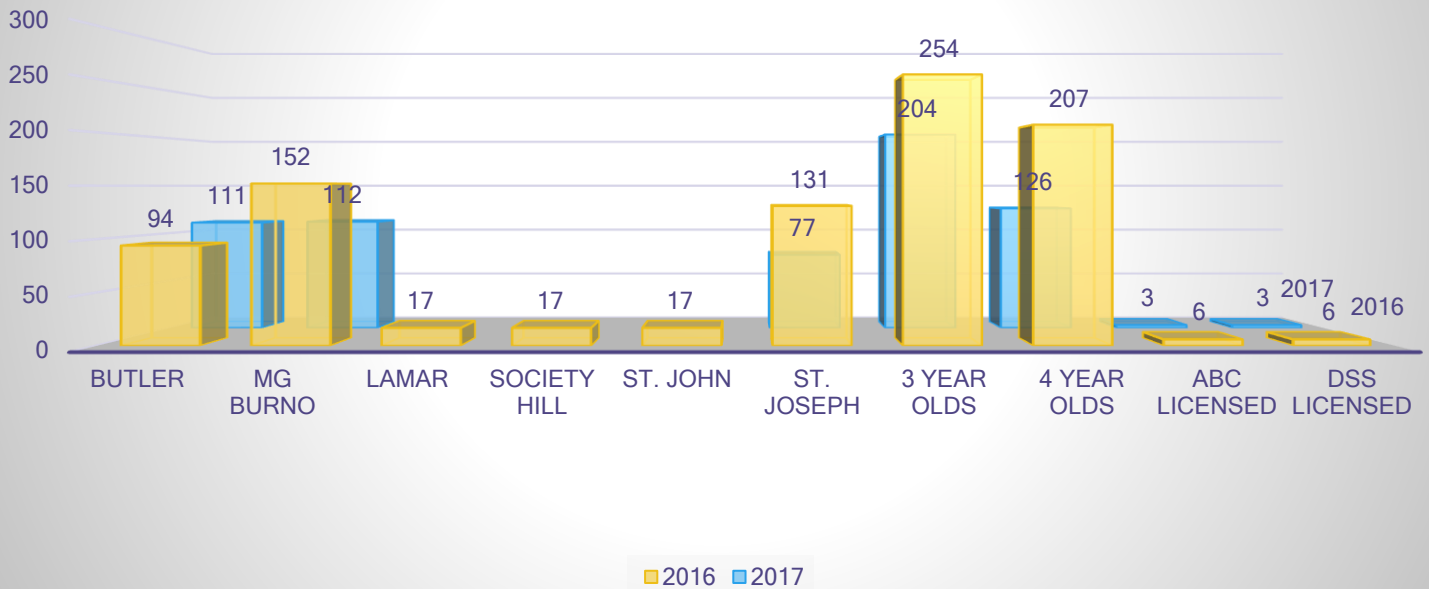


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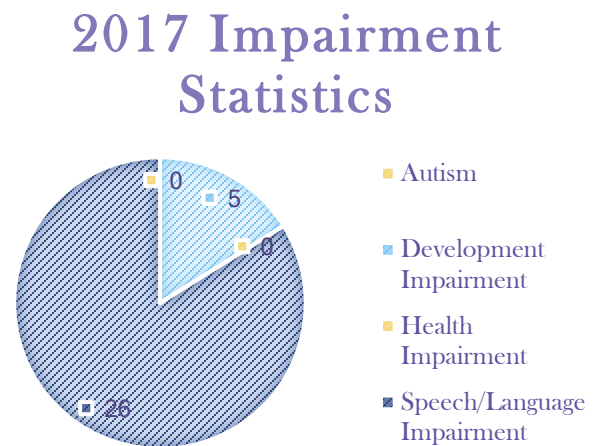
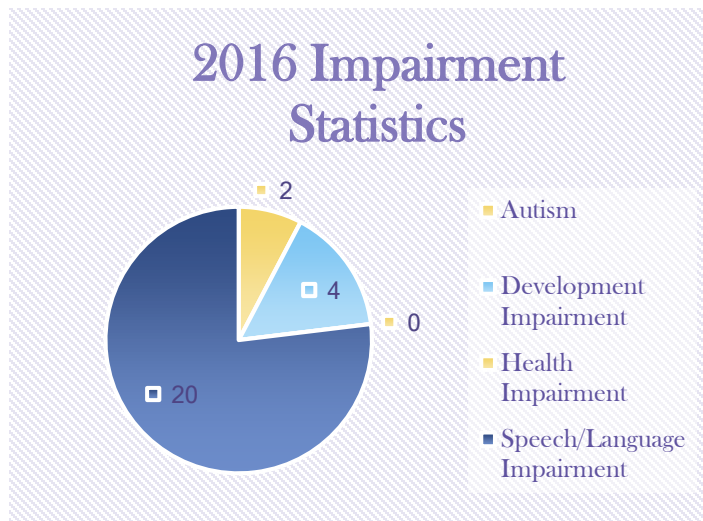
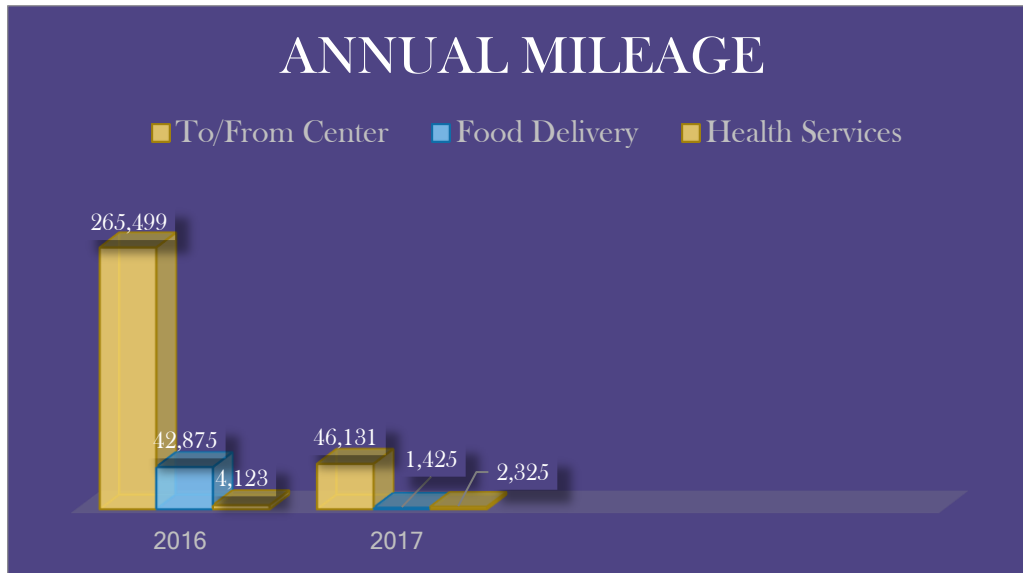
# Head Start Statistical Data continued. . .

## Center Information



\*2016 data has been audited. 2017 data was compiled prior to the annual audit.

## Head Start Statistical Data continued. . .



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“Head Start is designed to ensure that all children-regardless of their family’s income, race, or ethnic background-are able to enter kindergarten ready to learn.”

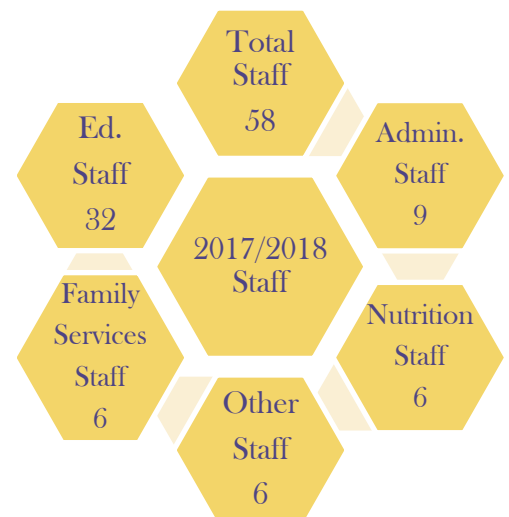
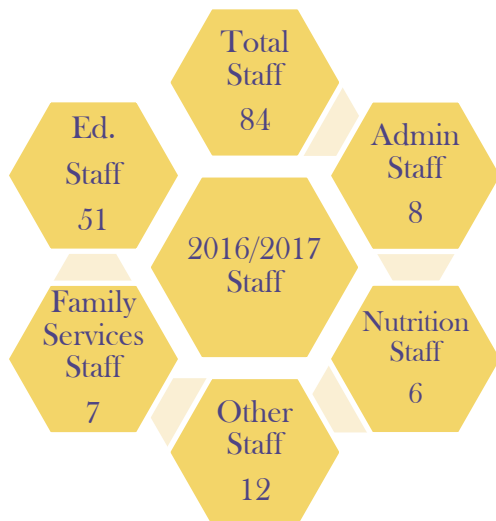
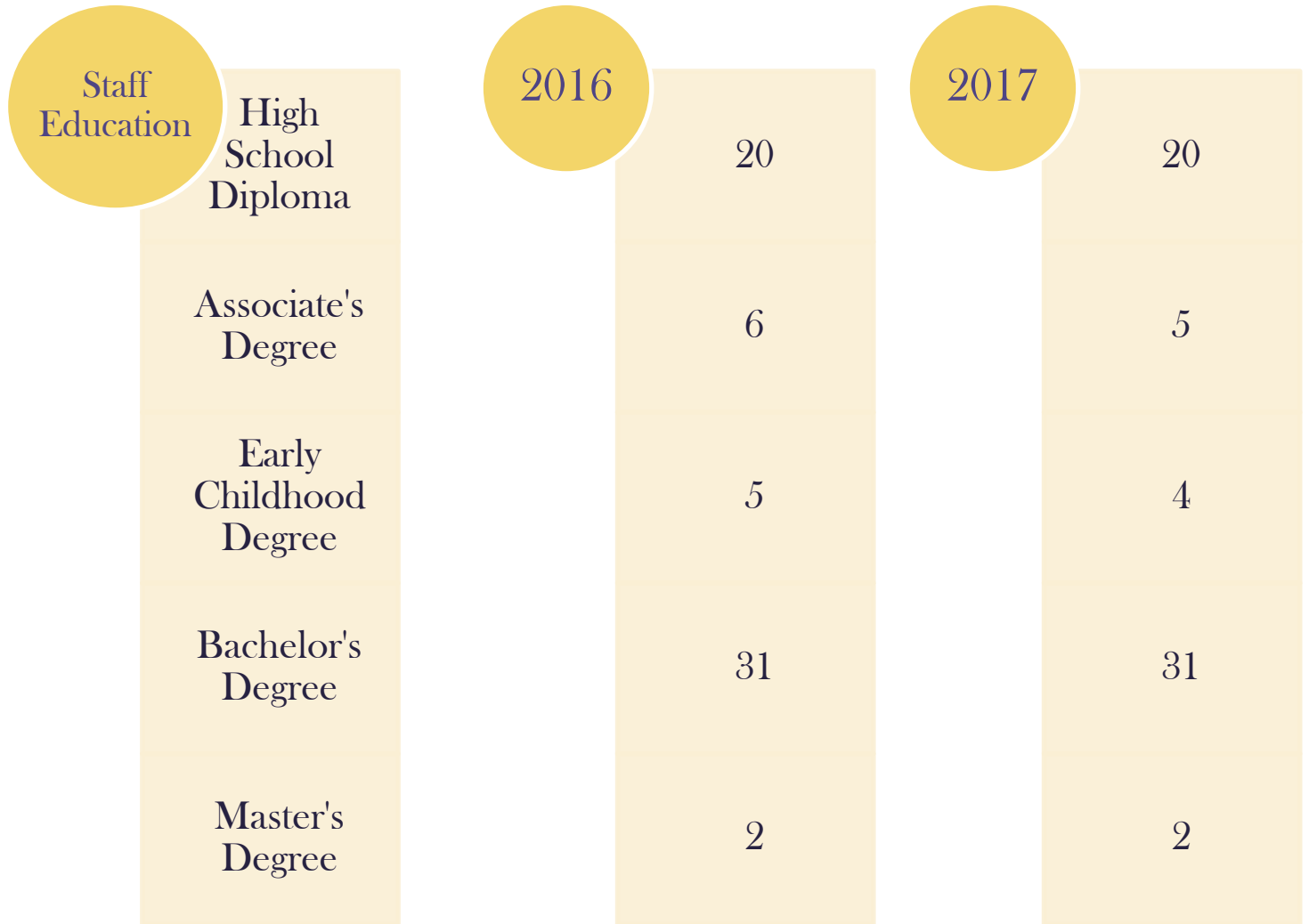
~ Lucille Roybal-Allard, U.S. Congresswoman

Family Type

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
• <b>Number of parents/guardians:</b>		
• In Program	402	282
• Employed	348	216
• In job training	33	22
• Two Parent Families	75	87
• One Parent Families	329	195
• Below Poverty	389	247
• Receiving Public Assistance (TANF, SSI, WIC, SNAP)	356	295
• Medicaid Eligibility	295	418
• Private Insurance	34	34
• <b>Parent Education Level</b>		
• Less than High School	71	13
• High School Diploma/GED	219	199
• Above High School	112	41
• <b>Receiving Homeless Services</b>	4	9

\*2016 data has been audited. 2017 data was compiled prior to the annual audit.

# Head Start Staff Statistics



# Head Start Community Partners





# Community Services Programs

The community services programs of DCCAA are The Community Services Block Grant, Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant. Funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity, these programs eliminate the causes of poverty, increase self-sufficiency, prevent homelessness and revitalize communities.

## Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The CSBG provides an array of funding for local community initiatives, including assistance for program eligible households in areas such as education, employment, emergency, energy, health, housing, nutrition, and youth leadership. Each program was established to reduce poverty while revitalizing families toward self-sufficiency. DCCAA's local initiatives are the Youth Leadership Program (YLP) and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

1. **The Youth Leadership Program (YLP):** designed to empower children to grow into successful, contributing members of our communities by building character, providing academic support and imparting essential life skills.
2. **The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA):** offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

## Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP provides funds to local Community Action Agencies that are used to help eligible families with energy costs. With the support of LIHEAP funding, Darlington County Community Action Agency provides federally funded assistance to individuals in need to help manage costs associated with: home energy bills, energy crises, and weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs through Direct Assistance (DA) and Emergency Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP).

1. **Direct Assistance (DA):** designed to provide financial assistance to applicants to proactively prevent an emergency situation. The total assistance amount awarded to an individual is sent to the necessary energy supplier in the form of a voucher, which when applied to the applicant's account, will reduce the bill by the award amount. The minimum amount awarded is \$225, but may reach up to \$500, depending on the circumstances of the individual household.

2. **Emergency Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP):** allows individuals who have a documented emergency to apply for and qualify for assistance with an energy-related crisis situation, helping alleviate some of the stress associated with an emergency. The maximum award amount individuals may receive for ECIP services is \$1,000, which is sent directly to the energy supplier in the form of a voucher.

## Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

DCCAA receives and uses ESG funds to support two (2) programs available to Darlington County residents: homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance.

1. **Homelessness Prevention Program:** designed to provide an individual who is “at-risk” of becoming homeless housing relocation and stabilization services and short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to prevent the individual or family from moving to an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation. An individual eligible to receive ESG assistance already has an eviction notice, or one who currently lives in a motel/hotel.
2. **Rapid Re-Housing Program:** designed to provide an individual or family who is homeless, or will become homeless within the next fourteen (14) days and lacks income housing relocation and stabilization services and/or short-and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

	<b>CSBG</b>	<b>YLP</b>	<b>LIHEAP</b>	<b>Project Share</b>	<b>ESG</b>
<b>2016 Clients Assessed</b>	134	20	1337	77	288
<b>2016 Clients Assisted</b>	97	17	1179	73	13
<b>2017 Clients Assessed</b>	193	15	1383	61	120
<b>2017 Clients Assisted</b>	117	12	1225	44	32
<b>Combined Total % Assisted</b>	65%	83%	85%	85%	11%

\*2016 data has been audited. 2017 data was compiled prior to the annual audit.

# FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Darlington County Community Action Agency’s fiscal operations are managed and maintained in accordance with the standards set forth by our funding sources to make certain our accountability method complies with mandated laws, regulations and provisions of our agency’s various funding sources. Our agency has sustained fiscal management standards in FY 2016 and FY 2017. Our annual audits are prepared by BAS Partners Certified Public Accountants and are submitted to all sources that provide funding to Darlington County Community Action Agency.

DCCAA’s fiscal team monitors and disburses our agency’s revenues in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and agency policies and procedures. DCCAA administers federally funded programs that require matching funds and/or in-kind contributions to remain in compliance with grant requirements. Eligible match-contributions that are integral program operations are cash donations, equipment, materials, occupancy space, professional services, supplies and volunteer time. Over this reporting period we’ve had nearly 1,000 volunteers donate their time and talents to Darlington County Community Action Agency. This in-kind support is essential to our programs’ operations and is valued at \$1,512,060.

Federal grants, some of which are funneled through state and local grantors, provide substantial funding for DCAA. Our agency has diligently used these funds to improve our communities through the purchase of goods, services, employment opportunities and the payment of taxes. Expenditures totaling \$8,162,844 have created an economic impact of \$24,488,532 for FY 2016 and FY 2017 collectively.

The invaluable services of volunteers and the opportunities provided to those we serve all makes it possible for DCAA to remain compliant with funding sources.



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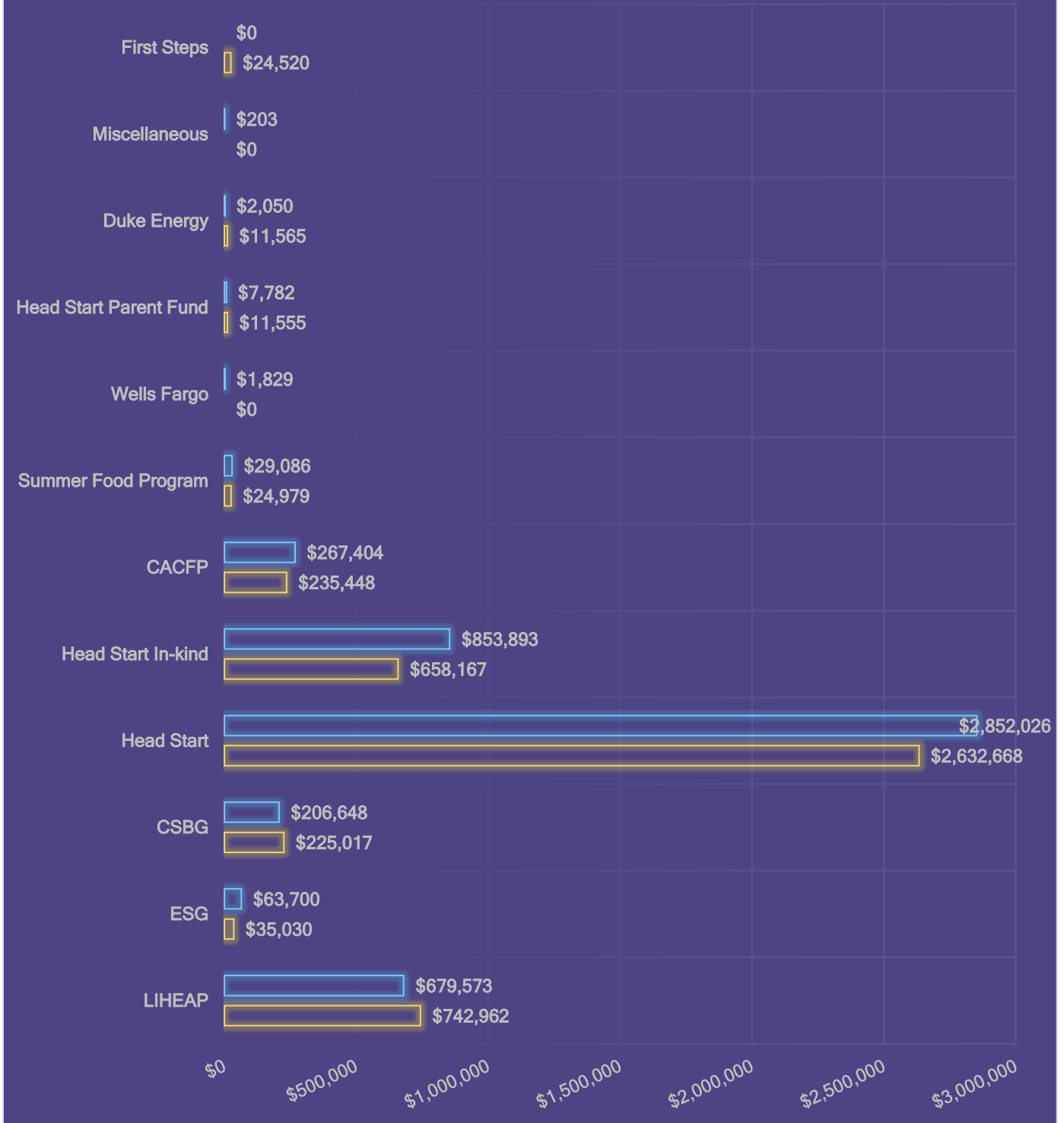
Darlington County Community Action Agency		
Expenditures		
	FY 2016	FY 2017
Program		
LIHEAP	\$679,573	\$742,962
ESG	\$63,700	\$35,030
CSBG	\$206,648	\$225,017
Head Start	\$2,852,026	\$2,632,668
Head Start In-kind	\$853,893	\$658,167
CACFP	\$267,404	\$235,448
Summer Food	\$29,086	\$24,979
Parent Fund	\$7,782	\$11,555
Duke Energy	\$2,050	\$11,565
First Steps	\$0	\$24,520
Indirect Cost	\$212,080	\$270,098
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>\$5,174,242</b>	<b>\$4,872,009</b>

Darlington County Community Action Agency			
	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Program	Expenditures	Expenditures	Projections
Head Start	\$3,705,919	\$3,290,853	\$3,457,255
CACFP	\$267,404	\$225,204	\$260,000
Cash Contributions	\$7,782	\$11,555	\$12,000
Summer Food	\$29,086	\$25,000	\$30,000
<b>Total Agency</b>	<b>\$4,010,191</b>	<b>\$3,552,612</b>	<b>\$3,759,255</b>

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### Agency Fiscal Community Impact

2016 2017



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# Site Locations

## Central Office

904 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hartsville, SC 29550  
Phone: 843-332-1135 Fax: 843-332-3971

## Butler Head Start Center

1103 C South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Hartsville, SC 29550  
Phone: 843-339-9660 Fax: 843-878-0050

## Darlington Outreach Site

223 Law Plantation Road, Darlington, SC 29540  
Phone: 843-393-4049 Fax: 843-968-6083

## Hartsville Outreach Site

904 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hartsville, SC 29550  
Phone: 843-332-1135 Fax: 843-332-3971



## Lamar Outreach Site

528 Cartesville Highway, Lamar, SC 29069  
Phone: 843-326-5430 Fax: 843-326-5430

## MG Bruno Head Start Center

223 Law Plantation Road, Darlington, SC 29540  
Phone: 843-395-8036 Fax: 843-968-6085

## Society Hill Outreach Site

223 Hall Street, Society Hill, SC 29593  
Phone: 843-755-0042 Fax: 843-755-0042

## St. Joseph Head Start Center

305 Washington Street, Hartsville, SC 29550  
Phone: 843-332-6593 Fax: 843-878-0045



## Darlington County Community Action Agency

904 South Fourth Street  
Hartsville, SC 29550

[www.darlingtoncountycaa.com](http://www.darlingtoncountycaa.com)