



SCDSS Child Welfare Services Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Better Together: Enhancing Practice, Transforming Lives



VISION

To advance a well-being system that partners with children, youth and families and prevents further harm to communities of color.

VALUES

Better Together: Enhancing Practice, Transforming Lives is grounded in our vision and embodied through our values.

- Every agency, every community, and every individual plays a critical role in keeping children safe.
- All families have the strength and the capacity to maintain and restore healthy togetherness.
- Children, youth and families are understood within the context of their own family rules, traditions, history, and culture (by acknowledging biased decisions and healing trauma).
- Services and supports are community designed, implemented and reflect the individualized needs of families to maintain strong, healthy families.
- All children and youth have enduring relationships that provide a family, stability, belonging, and a sense of self that connects them to their past, present, and future.



THE STRATEGIC PLAN WILL BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH KEY EMPHASIS AREAS AND STRATEGIES:

- Identify and enact change in the areas DSS has the power, influence, and responsibility to advance racial equity and eliminate disproportionality.
- Collaborate with provider and community partners to enhance capacity to deliver timely, quality, and robust services to meet the needs of children, youth and families.
- Deepen DSS' commitment to family and equity by enhancing kinship services and supports that build and strengthen the family's capacity to stay together.
- Implement permanency strategies so that children and young people leave the system with a permanent family or a responsible, caring adult in his, her, or their life.
- Build the competencies, skills, knowledge and abilities of our professionals and create a safe and supportive environment to effectively partner with youth, families and community to carry out the values of DSS.

