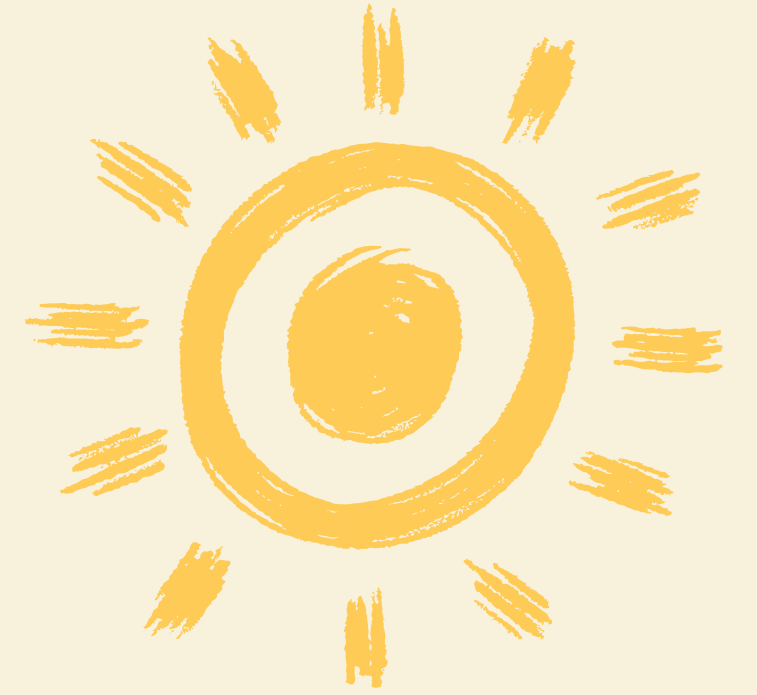


Excel By 5 Summit Agenda

- 8:45 Countdown Clock with Light Music
- 9:00 Video Testimonies
- 9:05 Welcome to the “Excel By 5 Summit 2025: Stronger Together for Child-Friendly Communities”
- Community Highlights
- Mentimeter Ice Breaker
- Word Cloud
- 9:10 “When you hear collaboration, what’s the first word that comes to mind?”
- 9:20 Theme Explanation, *Collaboration Station* Introduction, The Why, Reading of the Book
- Activity with the Book with Mentimeter
- Open Ended Questions
- 9:30 “What does collaboration look like in your community?”
- “Name an organization, business, or leader who has or could be a strong partner in your community?”
- 60 Seconds PSA from SPONSOR – University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy
- 9:45 Directions for Breakout Sessions and Rounds
- First Round of Breakout Session
- Practical Strategies: Back to the Basics for EB5 Coalitions
 - Community Inspiration: The Alice Report and How to Engage Parents/Community
 - Strengthening Partnerships with MECIC, MS Lift, Social Science Research Center, and MECDC
- 9:50
- 10:40 Report out of First Session
- 60 Seconds PSA from SPONSOR – Children Defense Fund
- Second Round of Breakout Sessions
- Practical Strategies: Back to the Basics
 - Community Inspiration: The Alice Report and How to Engage Parents/Community
 - Strengthening Partnerships with MECIC, MS Lift, and ECDC
- 10:50
- 11:40 Report out of Second Session
- 40 Seconds PSA from SPONSOR – Mississippi Public Broadcasting
- 11:45 A Message from the Board (Penny Mansell) and Closing Remarks



Welcome to

Excel By 5 Summit

Stronger Together for Child-Friendly Communities





Community Highlights



Certified

Greenville
Gunnison
Meridian/Lauderdale



Recertified

Biloxi
Corinth/Alcorn
Hernando
Indianola
Olive Branch
Petal
Senatobia

Honorable Mentions

Jefferson and Pass Christian are right on schedule for certification.

Hancock recently received a 5,000 grant from Coast Electric.

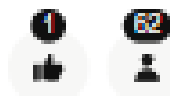


menti.com

Join at menti.com | use code 2819 6163

Mentimeter

When you hear collaboration, what's the first word that comes to mind?



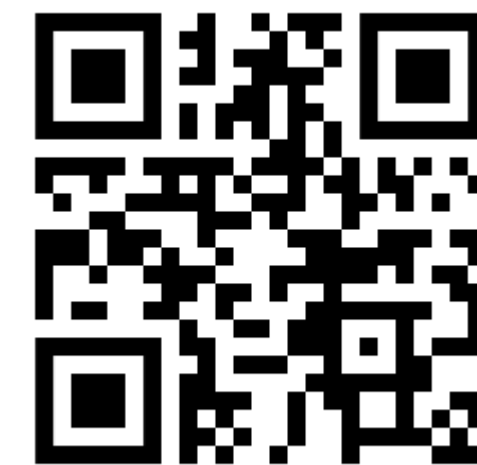


Stronger
Together for
Child-Friendly
Communities.





Let's Read Aloud



https://youtu.be/_liISw3ufJ0



menti.com

Join at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com/join/12600861) | use code 1260 0861

 Mentimeter

Name an organization, business, or leader has been or could be a strong partner in your community?



A Word from Our Sponsor

Provided by
University of
Mississippi
School of
Pharmacy

hkphan@u
mc.edu

Recommended Immunizations for Children Birth Through 6 Years Old

	Birth	1 month	2 months	4 months	6 months	8 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	19-23 months	2-3 years	4-6 years
RSV	✓	1 dose during RSV season				✓	1 dose during RSV season for those at high risk *					
HepB	✓	✓			✓							
RV			✓	✓	✓							
DTaP			✓	✓	✓			✓				✓
Hib			✓	✓	✓		✓					
PCV			✓	✓	✓		✓					
IPV			✓	✓	✓							✓
COVID-19					✓		Recommended for age group				✓	As recommended**
Influenza					✓		Yearly					
MMR							✓					✓
Varicella							✓					✓
HepA							✓	Dose 2: 6 months after dose 1				

For more information, visit [healthychildren.org/immunizationschedules](https://www.healthychildren.org/immunizationschedules).

*<https://www.healthychildren.org/rsv>

**<https://www.healthychildren.org/covid-19>



healthychildren.org

Powered by pediatricians. Trusted by parents.
from the American Academy of Pediatrics



Breakout Sessions

1



Practical Strategies

Back to the Basics
for EB5 Coalitions

2



Community Inspiration:

The Alice Report and
How to Engage
Parents/Community

3



Strengthening Partnerships:

MECIC, MS Lift, Social
Science Research
Center, and MECDC

A Word from Our Sponsor

Provided by
Children's
Defense
Fund
(Southern
Region
Office)

ofitzgerald
@childrens
defense.org



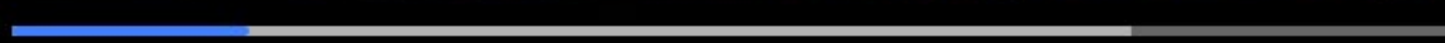
Excel By 5, Inc.

September 30 at 11:13 AM · 🌐

Thank you [Children's Defense Fund](#) Fund for sponsoring the Excel By 5 Summit! [#EB5MS](#) |



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<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Cz4JjScjL/>

Breakout Sessions

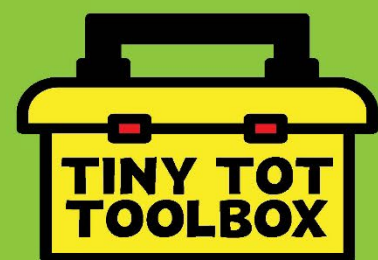
Session One – Practical Strategies: Back to the Basics for EB5 Coalitions with Randi Carter

Session Two – Community Inspiration: The Alice Report and How to Engage Parents/Community with Michelle Connely and Kelli McCorkle

Session Three – Strengthening Partnership with MECIC, MS Lift, Social Science Research Center, and MSCDC with Taylor Miller, Bethanne Mitchell, Laurae Bell, Connie Baird-Thomas, and Callie Poole



A Word from Our Sponsor



MPB LEARNING PRESENTS
SPARKING CURIOSITY: INTRODUCING AI TOOLS FOR LITTLE LEARNERS
OCTOBER 18 • 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.



Provided by
Mississippi
Public
Broadcast

keidra.hooks@mpbonline.org



**EARLY CHILDHOOD
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
2025-2026**

Learn to design lessons aligned to the Mississippi Department of Education Standards for Early Childhood Education. Expand your "toolbox" with practical strategies and resources for a successful school year. (5 In-Service Hours or 0.5 CEU Credits)

AUGUST 23, 2025

- 3 Cs in the Classroom: Culture, Climate & Communication

OCTOBER 18, 2025

- Sparking Curiosity: AI Tools for Little Learners

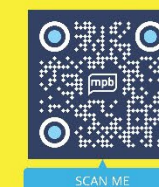
JANUARY 31, 2026

- PBS: Plug, Play & Learn

APRIL 18, 2026

- Teaching the Way They Learn: Understanding & Adapting to Learning Styles in Every Classroom

A collaborative partnership with your local libraries and the Mississippi Library Commission



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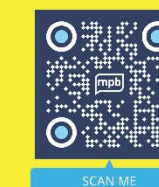
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APRIL 18, 2026

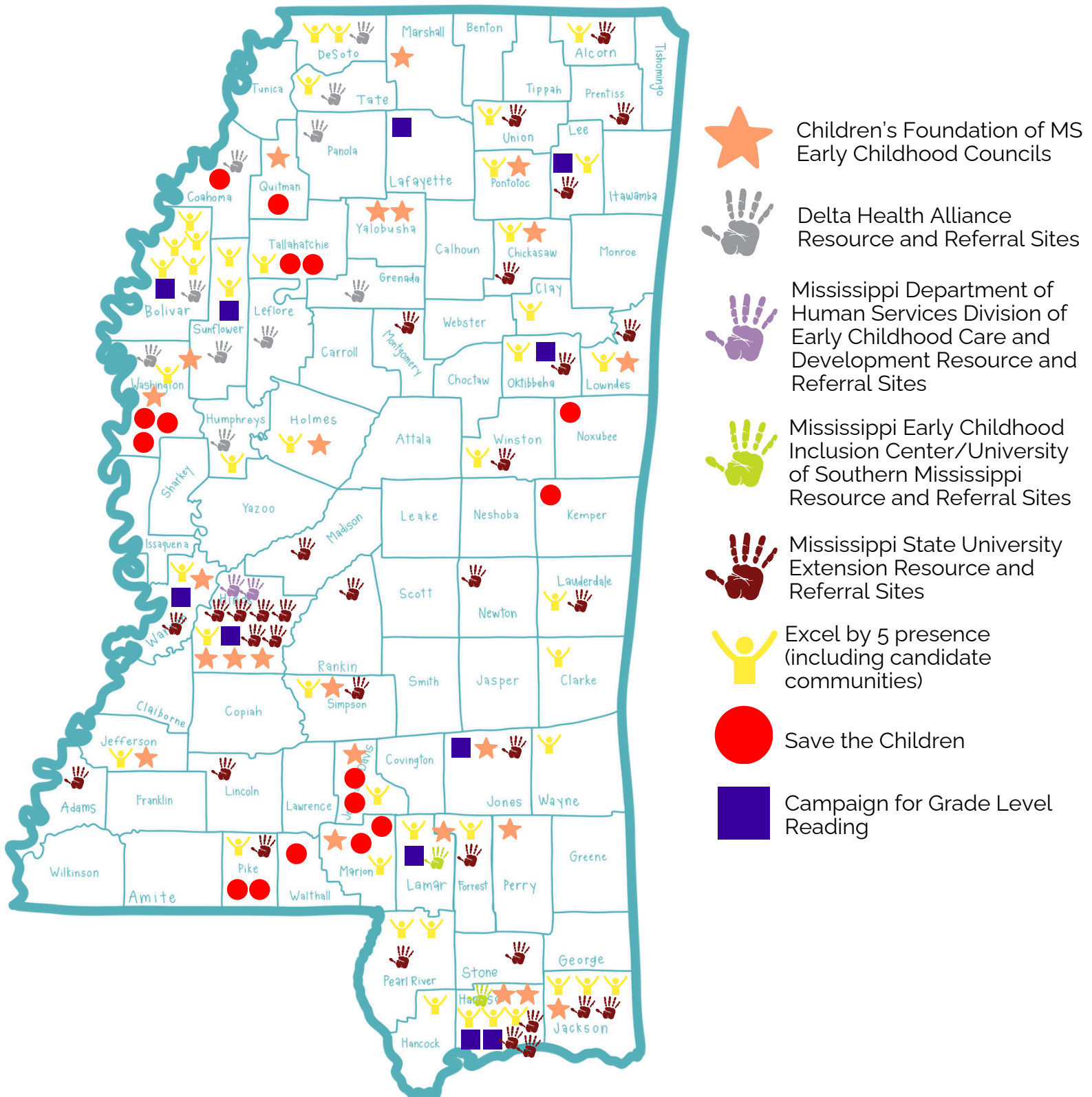
- Teaching the Way They Learn: Understanding & Adapting to Learning Styles in Every Classroom

A collaborative partnership with your local libraries and the Mississippi Library Commission



Early Childhood Community Support Entities - Small Group

This map shows which entities are active in various counties throughout MS. The purpose of this map is to show where there are high and low concentrations of specific outreach resources for families. This map does not necessarily reflect or pinpoint the exact location of the entity within the county, it just shows that the county has that entity presence in it.



EXCEL BY 5
BACK TO THE BASICS

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF COALITION LEADS WITHIN PARTNERSHIPS



COALITION MEMBER PURPOSE OF THE ROLE



01

Shares in the commitment to ensure their community is serving children, age birth to five, and their families.

02

Attends Coalition and Focus Group meetings, working collaboratively to meet community needs.

03

Utilizes their strengths and community connections to ensure children in the community enter kindergarten happy, healthy, and ready to succeed.



CHAIRPERSON PURPOSE OF THE ROLE



01

Communicates with Focus Group leads to ensure the roles and responsibilities of each Focus Group are completed annually.

02

Facilitates planning meetings, Coalition meetings, and Steering Committee meetings.

03

Coordinates with the Certification Manager, Lead Agency, and Fiscal Agency to ensure all records are up-to-date and meet requirements for Certification/Re-Certification.



CERTIFICATION MANAGER PURPOSE OF THE ROLE



01

The Certification Manager is the bridge between Coalition leads, Pre-K partners, and the Community Coach.

02

Coordinate assessments, surveys, strategies, and community engagement

03

Updating their Coalition at each Coalition meeting where the Coalition is within the re-certification process and where they are in the process (what still needs to be done).





CERTIFICATION MANAGERS ARE IMPORTANT

Certification
Manager ensures
quality,
consistency, and
growth

Commitment: Every
child birth–5 has
access to strong,
nurturing
community support

THANK YOU FOR
ALL YOU DO!



DOCUMENTATION & ACCOUNTABILITY



Maintain records of events, financial expenditures, training hours



Ensure childcare centers know licensure & training requirements



Track certification & training hours for community providers

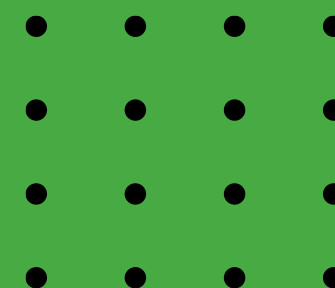


Share documentation with Community Coach for Quarterly Reports and Certification/ Re-Certification using Google Folders



3 WAYS TO SHARE THESE RESOURCES WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Excel By 5 Resource
Guide Requirement:
MS LYFT WEBSITE and
EXCEL BY 5 WEBSITE





Resources ^

Communities

About Us v

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Community-Based Collaboration To Ensure Children Excel By Age 5

ABOUT US

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

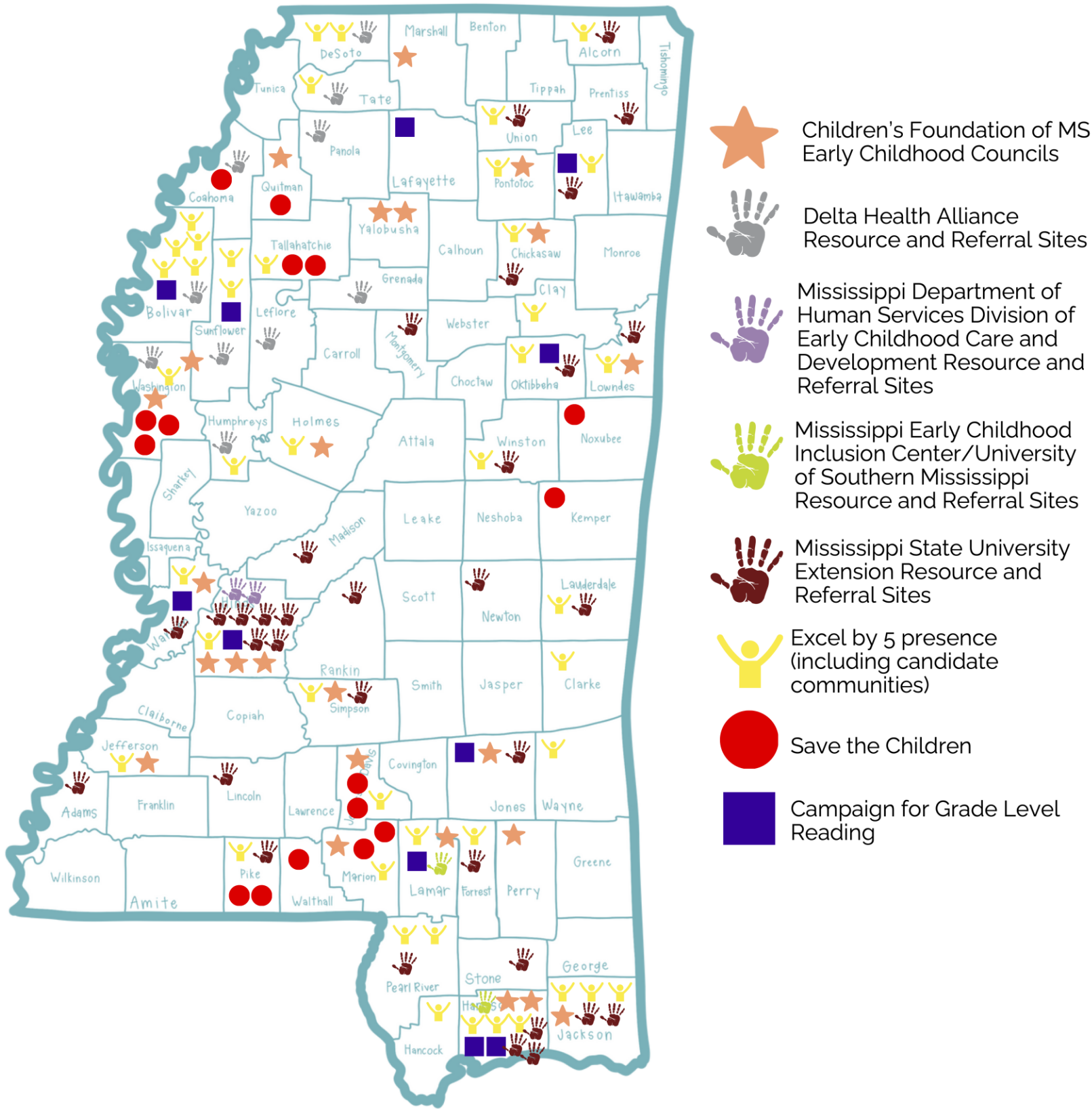


Ask a Question



Early Childhood Community Support Entities - Small Group

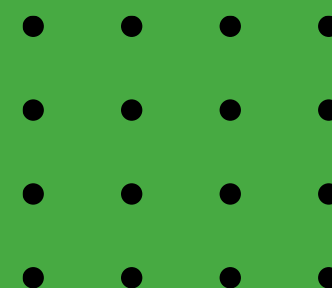
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*draft map for internal peer use only, has not been finalized and approved by partners or MS LIFT

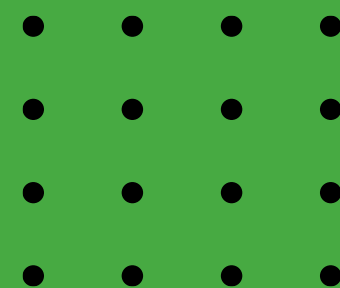
3 WAYS TO SHARE THESE RESOURCES WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Excel By 5 Resource
Center Requirement:
MECIC and MSU R&R



3 WAYS TO SHARE THESE RESOURCES WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Excel By 5 Partner in
Education Meeting
Requirement:
CANOPY and local
respite childcare &
education facilities



EXCEL BY 5

COMMUNITY COACH

NEW SCOPE OF WORK

Certification/Re-Certification Support

- Attend one Certification/Re-Certification meeting per community.
- Strategic Planning session, upon request, after each Certification/Re-Certification cycle.
- Virtually guide preparation of documentation and benchmarks.

Monitoring & Reporting

- Track community progress toward Certification goals.
- Maintain records of coaching interactions.
- Submit Quarterly Summaries to Excel By 5 leadership.

Community Engagement

- Participate in one additional event of choice per year (Coalition, Steering Committee, Partners Meeting, or Community Event).

Communication & Collaboration

- Build strong virtual relationships with community leaders.
- Encourage engagement in Excel By 5 statewide activities.
- Share success stories and lessons learned across communities.

Virtual Coaching

- Provide **unlimited virtual support** via phone, email, or video calls.
- Share resources, updates, and best practices.
- Respond promptly to community requests.



FRIENDS THAT MAKE GOALS TOGETHER STAY TOGETHER

Gmail Account for
each EB5 Coalition

Google Drive
folders for virtual
record keeping.

Google Calendar
for each Coalition.

WE CAN DO THIS!



LET'S CONNECT SOON



- Connect with your Community Coach to determine which Coalition Meeting and Community Event you wish for them to attend.
- Connect with your Community Coach to receive support in creating your Quarterly Report (electronic or paper version), Gmail account, Google Drive folders, and Google Calendar.
- Connect with your Community Coach to determine how they can best support your EB5 Coalition in 2026 and beyond.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?



Let's Set a Date!

Certification Manager:
Virtual Training
and Support



FOR CERTIFICATION
MANAGER TRAINING &
SUPPORT:



**PLEASE SCAN
THE QR CODE
AND COMPLETE
THE GOOGLE
FORM**



BREAKOUTSESSION:
STRATEGIES

THANK YOU
○ FOR ATTENDING ●
SUMMIT 2025



BREAKOUTSESSION:
STRATEGIES

Q & A SESSION





WHAT IS TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE?

5 PRINCIPLES OF TIC

SAFETY

Safety is both physical and emotional. More than locking doors and fire alarms, it involves creating a sense of felt safety in the environment and interactions.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

Trustworthiness involves transparency, honesty, and clear expectations.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration involves everyone working towards the same goal. It is about sharing power and welcoming input from others.

EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment is about developing strengths and skills, rather than focusing on short comings.

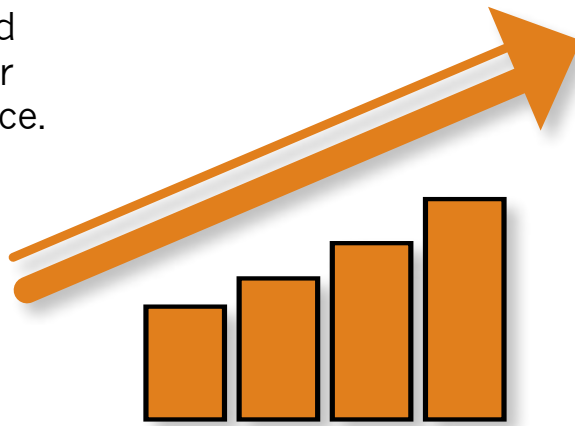
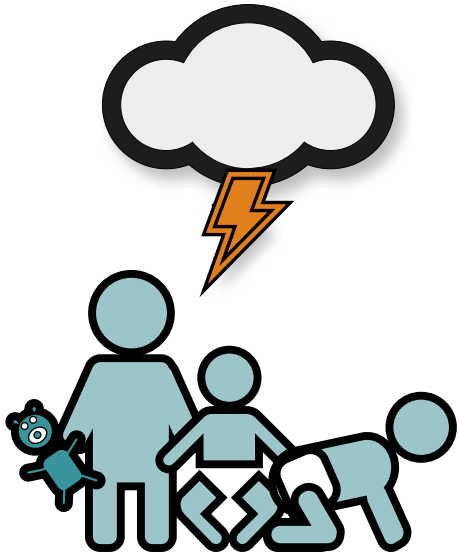
CHOICE

Choice is about honoring self-determination. It's your choice what we work on together.

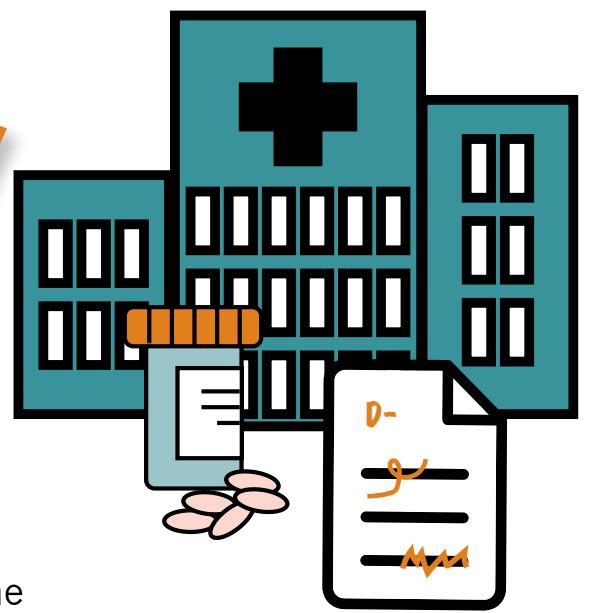
WHAT ARE ACES?

AND HOW DO THEY RELATE TO TOXIC STRESS?

“ACEs” stands for “Adverse Childhood Experiences.” These experiences can include things like physical and emotional abuse, neglect, caregiver mental illness, and household violence.

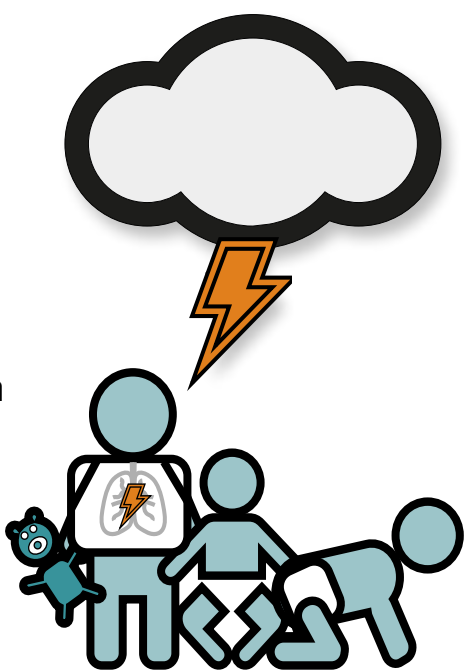


The more ACEs a child experiences, the more likely he or she is to suffer from things like heart disease and diabetes, poor academic achievement, and substance abuse later in life.



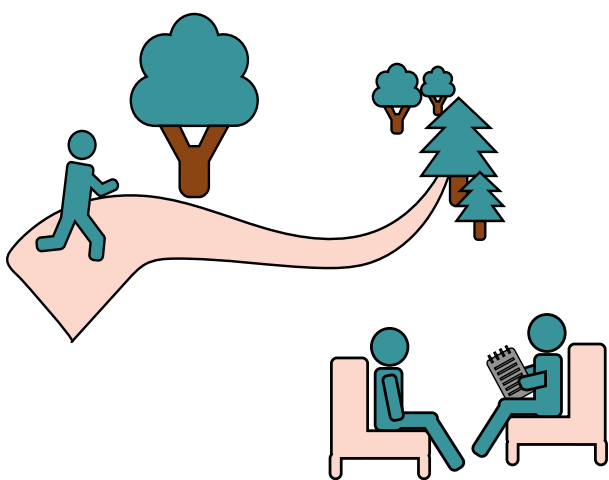
TOXIC STRESS EXPLAINS HOW ACES “GET UNDER THE SKIN.”

Experiencing many ACEs, as well as things like racism and community violence, without supportive adults, can cause what’s known as **toxic stress**. This excessive activation of the stress-response system can lead to long-lasting wear-and-tear on the body and brain.



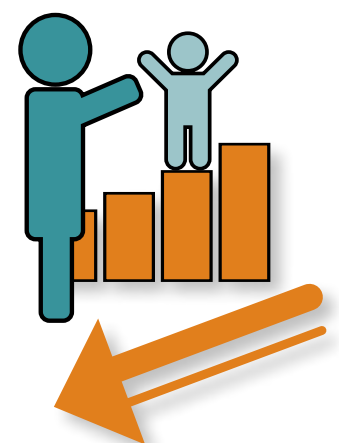
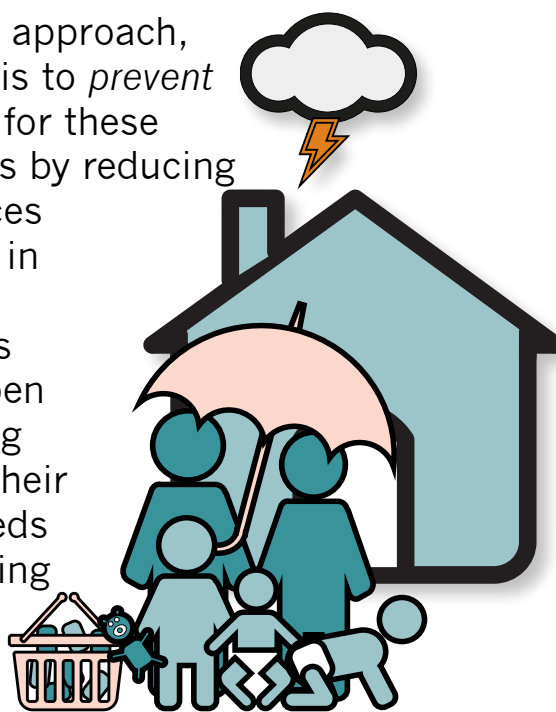
The effect would be similar to revving a car engine for days or weeks at a time.

WE CAN REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF ACES AND TOXIC STRESS.



For those who have experienced ACEs, there are a range of possible responses that can help, including therapeutic sessions with mental health professionals, meditation, physical exercise, spending time in nature, and many others.

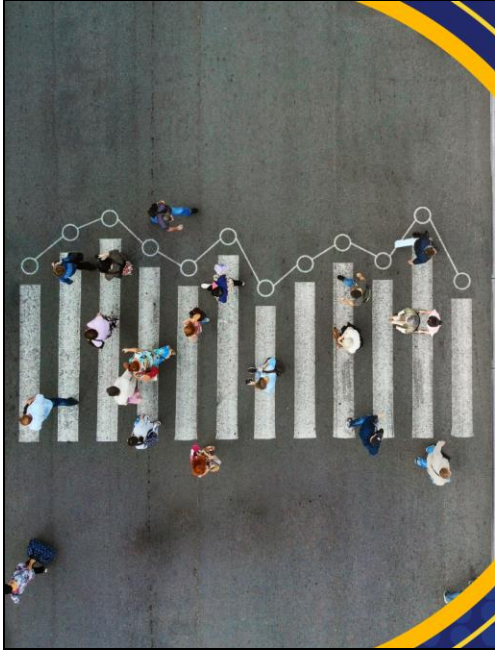
The ideal approach, however, is to *prevent* the need for these responses by reducing the sources of stress in people’s lives. This can happen by helping to meet their basic needs or providing other services.



Likewise, fostering strong, **responsive relationships** between children and their caregivers, and helping children and adults build **core life skills**, can help to buffer a child from the effects of **toxic stress**.

ACEs affect people at all income and social levels, and can have serious, costly impact across the lifespan.

No one who’s experienced significant adversity (or many ACEs) is irreparably damaged, though we need to acknowledge trauma’s effects on their lives. By reducing families’ sources of stress, providing children and adults with responsive relationships, and strengthening the core life skills we all need to adapt and thrive, **we can prevent and counteract lasting harm.**



UNITED WAY
West Central
Mississippi

THE STATE OF ALICE IN Mississippi

2025 Update on Financial Hardship



Who is ALICE® ?

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed



For thousands of families in Mississippi, no matter how hard they work, financial stability grows farther out of reach with each passing day. Hidden in plain sight, these struggling households are **ALICE®** –

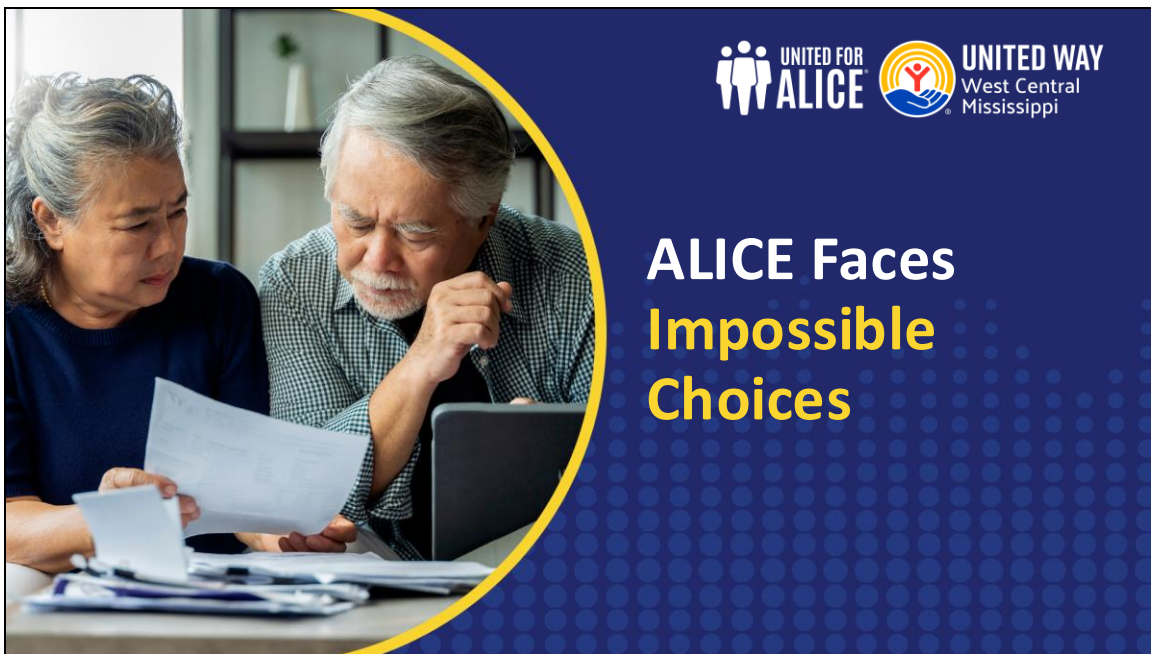
Asset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed.

ALICE households bring in income above the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the cost of basics in the counties where they live. While ALICE households have been struggling in the shadows for far too long, the irony is that we all know ALICE. In fact, we're already talking about ALICE. But many have used terms like "working poor," "the invisible," and "the forgotten" to describe ALICE because often we don't know what other term to use. United For ALICE, a national research organization from New Jersey whose work is backed by more than 300 experts nationwide, has given us a name and a way to quantify this population that we see – and rely on – each and every day.

ALICE is everywhere. ALICE can be a neighbor, a friend, a family member, or a colleague. ALICE workers typically include our child care providers, retail salespeople, cashiers, waiters, delivery drivers, gas station attendants, and caregivers.

Think for a moment about the ALICE workers you've encountered just today. Maybe you dropped off your kids at their child care center this morning. Then perhaps you filled your gas tank before you started your work day. Maybe you went to your favorite deli for lunch. Or went out to run an errand at the grocery store. There may even be an Amazon package sitting outside your door right at this very moment.

ALICE workers are the engine that makes our economy – and our daily lives – run smoothly. Yet all this time they've been overlooked and undercounted as they live each day priced out of survival and unable to make ends meet in Mississippi.



In a constant battle to make ends meet, ALICE families are forced to make impossible choices daily. Pay my heating bill, or buy healthy food for my family? Pay for child care, or work reduced hours to stay home with my child? Buy the medication I need, or pay the rent? Each day brings a new impossible decision, a new weight to lay on the shoulders of these already burdened and stressed families. And to make matters worse, many ALICE families can't access assistance that's needed – because often they bring in too much income to qualify.



Charlene is a single mother who works full time while raising her two young sons. While she works to improve the quality of area child care centers, she struggles to provide for her family. This is her story.



The True Extent of Hardship

19%

Households in
Poverty

30%

ALICE
Households

49%

Total Households Unable
to Afford Basics

Data Source: United For ALICE® (2025). *The State of ALICE in State*.

(Now that we've heard about ALICE's struggles from ALICE's perspective,) Let's pull back the curtain on the true extent of hardship in our communities. Here in Mississippi, nearly 221,155 households were living in poverty in 2023. That's 19% of our households. But another 345,210 households – that's 30% were ALICE, also struggling to get by.

Combined, more than 566,365 households – a staggering 49% – fell below the ALICE Threshold, the average income needed to live and work in today's economy. This is the reality of hardship in our state/county, concealed by outdated measures that have long been considered the standard.



The Demographics of Hardship

Households most likely to struggle financially include:

- Black Households
- Household headed by someone under the age of 25 years
- Single female headed households with children

Data Source: United For ALICE® (2025). *The State of ALICE in State*.



Now let's take a closer look at some ALICE demographics. ALICE households span all ages, genders, races, and ethnicities, living in urban, suburban, and rural communities all around the country – and all across our Mississippi. But some groups experience hardship at disproportionate rates because of systemic barriers. For example, in 2023, 65% of black households in Mississippi fell below the ALICE Threshold.

Others that are more likely to struggle financially than their counterparts include:

- Under the age of 25 years – 66%
- Single Female Headed Households with Children – 81% - that is 79,429 households in our state



UNITED FOR
ALICE



UNITED WAY
West Central
Mississippi

A Snapshot of Mississippi Counties

Percentage of Struggling Households:

Highest: Claiborne County, 75%

Lowest: Madison County, 36%

Data Source: United For ALICE® (2025). *The State of ALICE in State*.

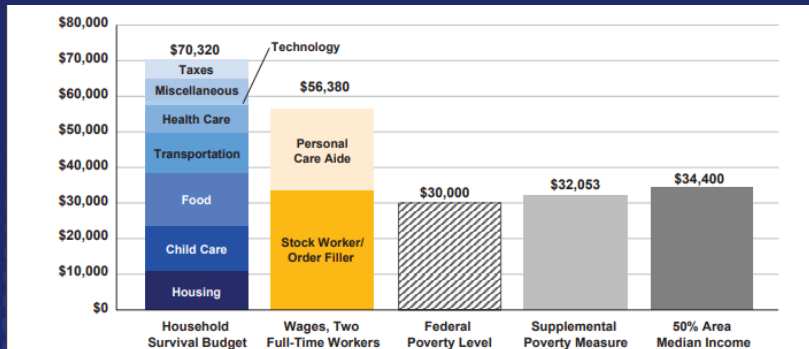


There are also variations in hardship by location. If we look at the entire state of Mississippi broken out by county, we can see that in 2023, households were more likely to struggle in Claiborne County – with 75% of households in hardship...and least likely in Madison County, at 36%.

Even within individual counties, the rates can fluctuate. For example, in Madison County, 69% of households lived paycheck to paycheck in the Camden area, while in the City of Madison area, it was 16%.



When Paychecks Don't Add Up



Data Source: United For ALICE® (2025). *The State of ALICE in State*.

So why is ALICE, ALICE? There are several factors that impact a household's ability to afford basics, including systemic barriers in our communities that are keeping ALICE financially trapped, no matter how hard ALICE works. But the crux of the problem is the mismatch between the ever-increasing cost of expenses, and the wages that just aren't keeping up. To understand this better, we need to look at the ALICE Household Survival Budget for families in our community – that is, the minimum cost of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology, plus taxes. For a family of four in Mississippi, the Household Survival Budget was \$70,320 in 2023. But when we combine the full-time wages of two of the most common jobs in the state – a personal care aide and a stock worker/order filler – we see that this family, with both adults working, brought in \$56,380 – \$13,940 short of the cost of basics.

And when we factor in the Federal Poverty Level, which was \$30,000, the dilemma facing countless ALICE families becomes clearer – when the Federal Poverty Level is used to determine eligibility for assistance programs such as SNAP, it's no wonder there are so many families locked out of the supports that are so desperately needed.

Essential Workers, Insufficient Wages



Only 20%

of working-age people
had a full-time salaried job

35% of workers

in Mississippi's 20
most common jobs couldn't
make ends meet

Data Source: United For ALICE® (2025). *The State of ALICE in State*.



Let's dig a little deeper into how ALICE fits into the labor landscape in our area.

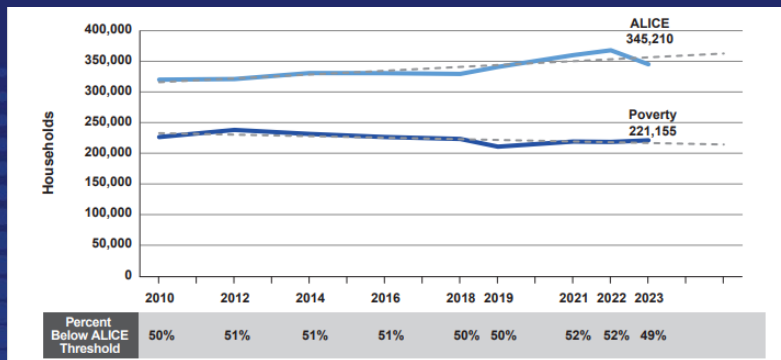
When we look specifically at the working-age population in Mississippi, only 20% had a full-time job with a salary in 2023.

Zeroing in on working-age adults specifically in the labor force, most in the state - 64% - were paid hourly and/or worked part time.

And if we look at the 20 most common jobs in the state, we can see that 16 paid less than \$20 per hour in 2023. To put that in perspective, an hourly wage of \$20 would equate to \$40,000 annually if working full time. So it's no surprise that of all the workers in these jobs, 35% struggled to make ends meet.



Financial Hardship Over Time



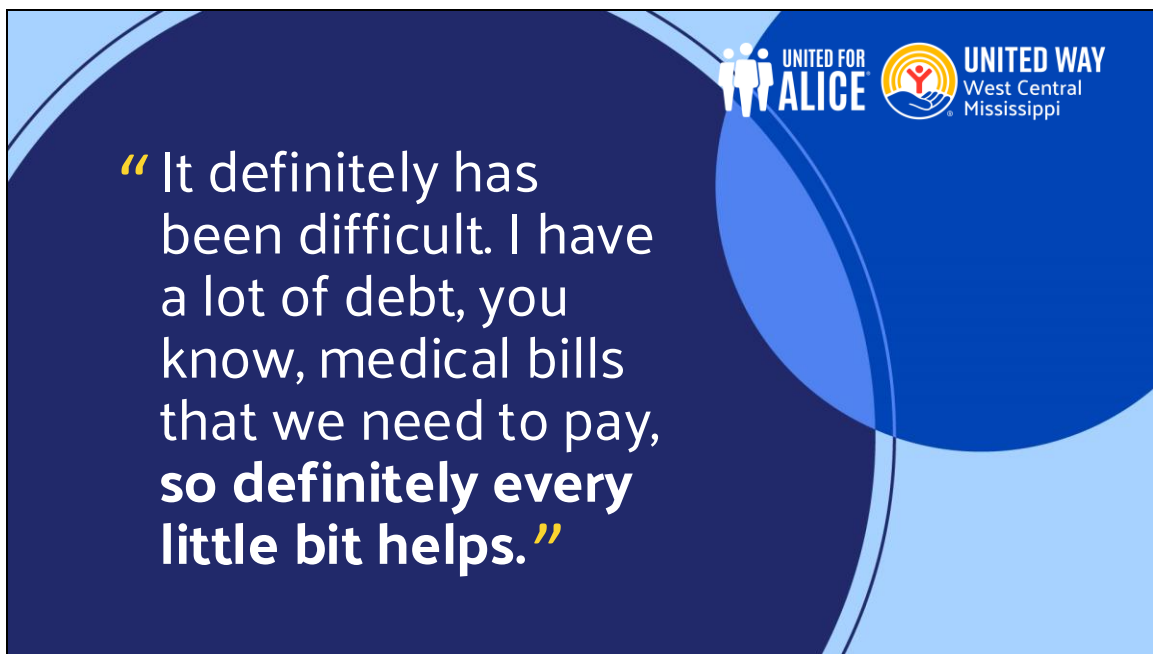
Data Source: United For ALICE® (2025). *The State of ALICE in State*.

When wages increase at a slower rate than basic expenses, purchasing power takes a hit. This is especially tough for ALICE households, who are already struggling to make ends meet without much assistance to cushion the blow.

How has this played out in the numbers? Over more than a decade, the total number of households statewide grew by 6%.

During the same period, the number of households living in poverty in Mississippi went down by 2%, and the number of ALICE households grew by 8%.

More recently, between 2021 and 2023, the percentage of total households struggling below the ALICE Threshold dipped from 52% to 49%.



We've seen how ALICE numbers have evolved over time. But what does the future hold? The answer to that is in our hands. We have the power to alter the course for ALICE families, shaping our future for the better because when we lift up ALICE, we lift up entire communities.

This type of transformative impact takes an all-hands-on-deck approach. We all have a role to play – and there's no role that's too small. In the words of this ALICE mother, every little bit helps.

UNITED IS THE WAY TO **HELP ALICE RISE.**



Donate



Volunte
er



Speak Out

Visit UnitedForALICE.org

Help amplify ALICE's voice: ALICEvoices.org



- Visit UnitedForALICE.org to dig into the data for Mississippi. Use the research to drive change within your sphere of influence, and share your findings with your peers to build awareness and spark change in even larger circles.

KEEP IT UP!

HOW TO ENGAGE PARENTS & COMMUNITY

Kelli McCorkle

Pascagoula-Gautier Excel By 5

KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

- *Understand the local workforce (hours, shifts, major employers, etc.,)*
- *Identify how many stay-at-home parents vs working parents.*
- *Consider transportation availability-buses, carpools, walking distance.*
- *Recognize culture norms, values and priorities*



Reminder: This takes time--don't expect to know everything at once. Stay curious and learning about your families.

INVITE & ENTICE PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- *Ask: What do parents need most right now?*
- *Offer flexible opportunities.*
- *Provide family friendly events.*
- *Create a welcoming environment--make parents feel valued.*
- *Highlight how participation benefits their child.*



Reminder: Parent engagement grows step by step. Be patient and celebrate small wins.

PROMOTE YOUR RESOURCES

- *Connect through one-on-one personal conversations with parents.*
- *Tap into local small groups.*
- *Use word of mouth---personal invitations are powerful.*
- *Share success stories---show how involvement makes a difference.*
- *Utilize multiple communication channels (social media, flyers, texts)**

 *Reminder: Trial and error is normal---what works for one group may not work for another. Learn as you go!*

LEVERAGE YOUR SUPPORT

- *Partner with local businesses.*
- *Collaborate with other organizations (United Way, churches, libraries, etc.,)*
- *Network with schools, health agencies and child care centers.*
- *Build a "village" approach--community supporting community.*



Reminder: Take your time to build trust--relationships form slowly but last long-term.

WRAP-UP/TAKEAWAY

- *Engagement is built on relationships, relevance, and respect.*
- *It's a process, not a one-time event--growth happens gradually.*
- *When parent feel valued and connected, they invest more.*
- *A strong partnership between families and community strengths children's success.*



Reminder: This takes time--don't expect to know everything at once. Stay curious and learning about your families.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INCLUSION CONSULTATION

Wednesday
12:00–2:00 and by appointment



OPTION 1:

Give an MECIC specialist a call at
601.266.4745

OPTION 2:

Join MECIC via Zoom:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/my/mecic>

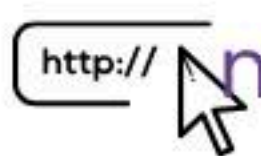
Consultation is free for teachers, center directors, and families. If you have inclusion questions, you do not have to navigate them alone!



601-266-4745



mecic@usm.edu



mecic-usm.org

Mississippi
EARLY CHILDHOOD
INCLUSION CENTER

MECIC

Social-Emotional Credential



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Attend two in-person trainings.



ON-SITE COACHING

Learn how to implement positive behavior strategies.



EARN CONTACT HOURS

Upon completion you will earn 26 contact hours!



New Trainings

Available Now!

REGISTER TODAY

Find us on:
<https://portal.lift-ed.ms>

Mississippi
EARLY CHILDHOOD
INCLUSION CENTER

Professional Development series are offered in-person, statewide, and virtually via Zoom.

Participants will receive four contact hours upon successful completion of the series.



Follow the steps below

- 01 Professional Development Opportunities
- 02 Advanced Search
- 03 Sponsoring Organization
- 04 MECIC





Mississippi Interactive Early Childhood Family Resource Maps Overview and How to Use



Background and Purpose

Origins:

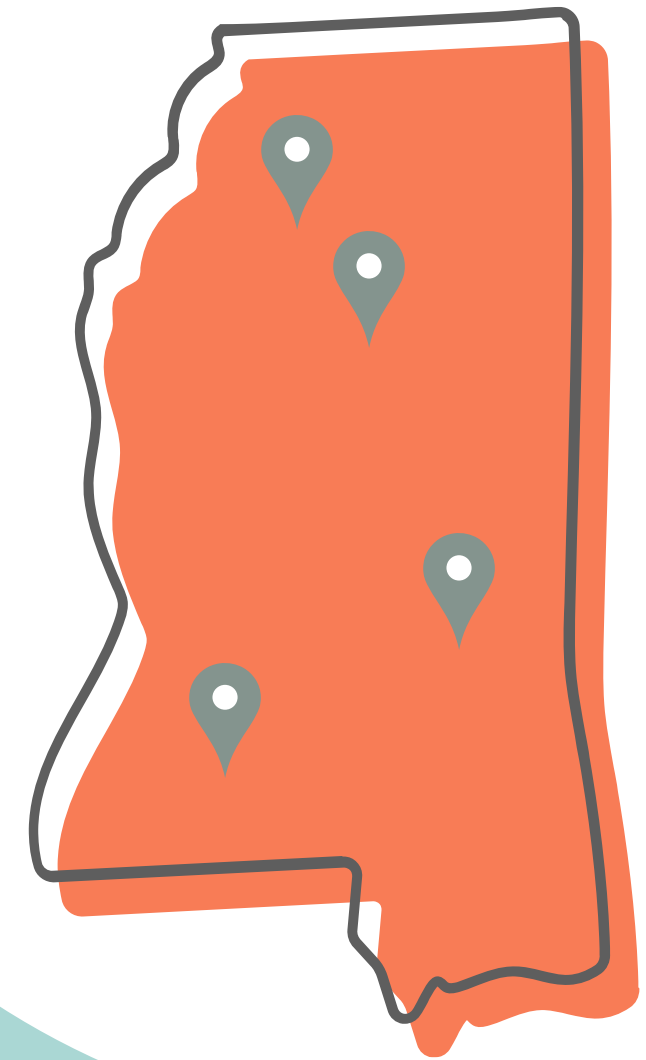
The interactive county resource maps originated with the five-year Early Child Health and Development Project: Mississippi Thrive!, which launched in 2017.



This was a collaborative effort between the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Children's of Mississippi and Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).



The project aimed to enhance developmental health for children in Mississippi from birth to five years old.



Background and Purpose

Current Support & Website:

Although the original project ended, the resources and maps are now sustained with funding from the Mississippi Department of Human Services' Early Childhood Care and Development Division and are housed on the MS Lift.org (Preschool Development Grant) website.



bit.ly/MSFamilyResource



bit.ly/MSFamilyResources

5

What Do the Resource Maps Offer?

The maps provide comprehensive, county-level information on early childhood resources for:

FAMILIES



**EARLY
EDUCATORS**



**CHILD CARE
PROVIDERS**



**HEALTH CARE
PROFESSIONALS**



**OTHER EARLY
CHILDHOOD
PROFESSIONALS**





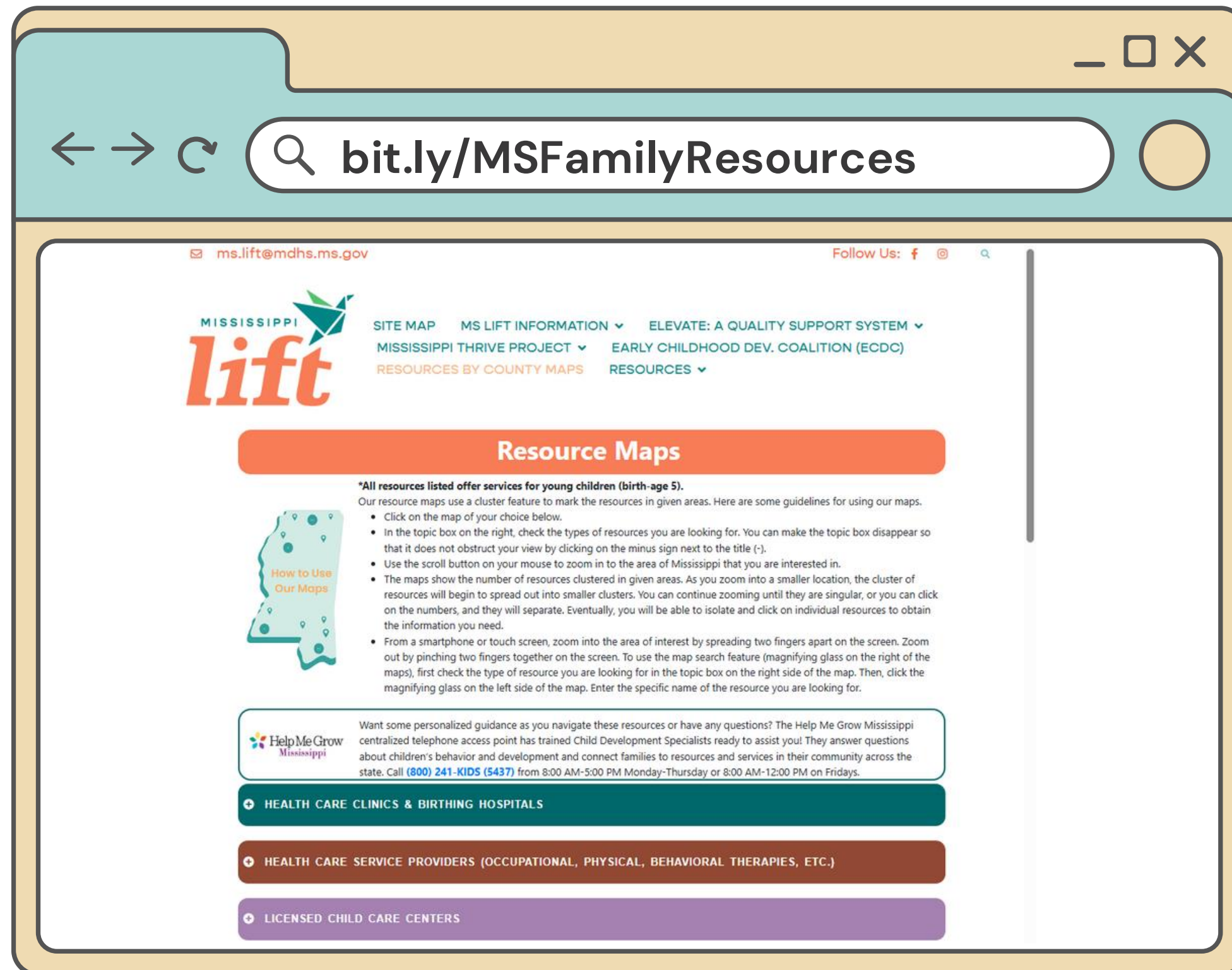
bit.ly/MSFamilyResource

5

There are six separate resource maps with the following categories:

- + HEALTH CARE CLINICS AND BIRTHING HOSPITALS**
- + HEALTH CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS (INCLUDING OCCUPATIONAL, PHYSICAL, BEHAVIORAL THERAPY, ETC.)**
- + LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS**
- + FAMILY RESOURCES (PARENT SUPPORTS, CARE COORDINATION, HOME VISITING, DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS, AND MORE)**
- + ESSENTIAL NEEDS (FOOD, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, ETC)**
- + ELEVATE A QUALITY SUPPORT SYSTEM (QSS) (CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL SITES AND MORE)**

How to Use the Interactive Mississippi Resource Maps



See
HOW IT
Works

1

Go to **MississippiThrive.com** or **MSLift.org**, and navigate to the resource map page from the menu.

You can also go directly to the map webpage using:

bit.ly/MSFamilyResources

2

Select the map you would like to view and click to open it.



bit.ly/MSFamilyResources

+ HEALTH CARE CLINICS & BIRTHING HOSPITALS

+ HEALTH CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS (OCCUPATIONAL, PHYSICAL, BEHAVIORAL THERAPIES, ETC.)

+ LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS

+ FAMILY RESOURCES (PARENT SUPPORTS, CARE COORDINATION, DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS, HOME VISITING, AND MORE)

+ ESSENTIAL NEEDS (FOOD BANK, HOUSING, BIRTH SUPPORT, TRANSPORTATION, ETC.)

+ ELEVATE: A QUALITY SUPPORT SYSTEM (QSS)

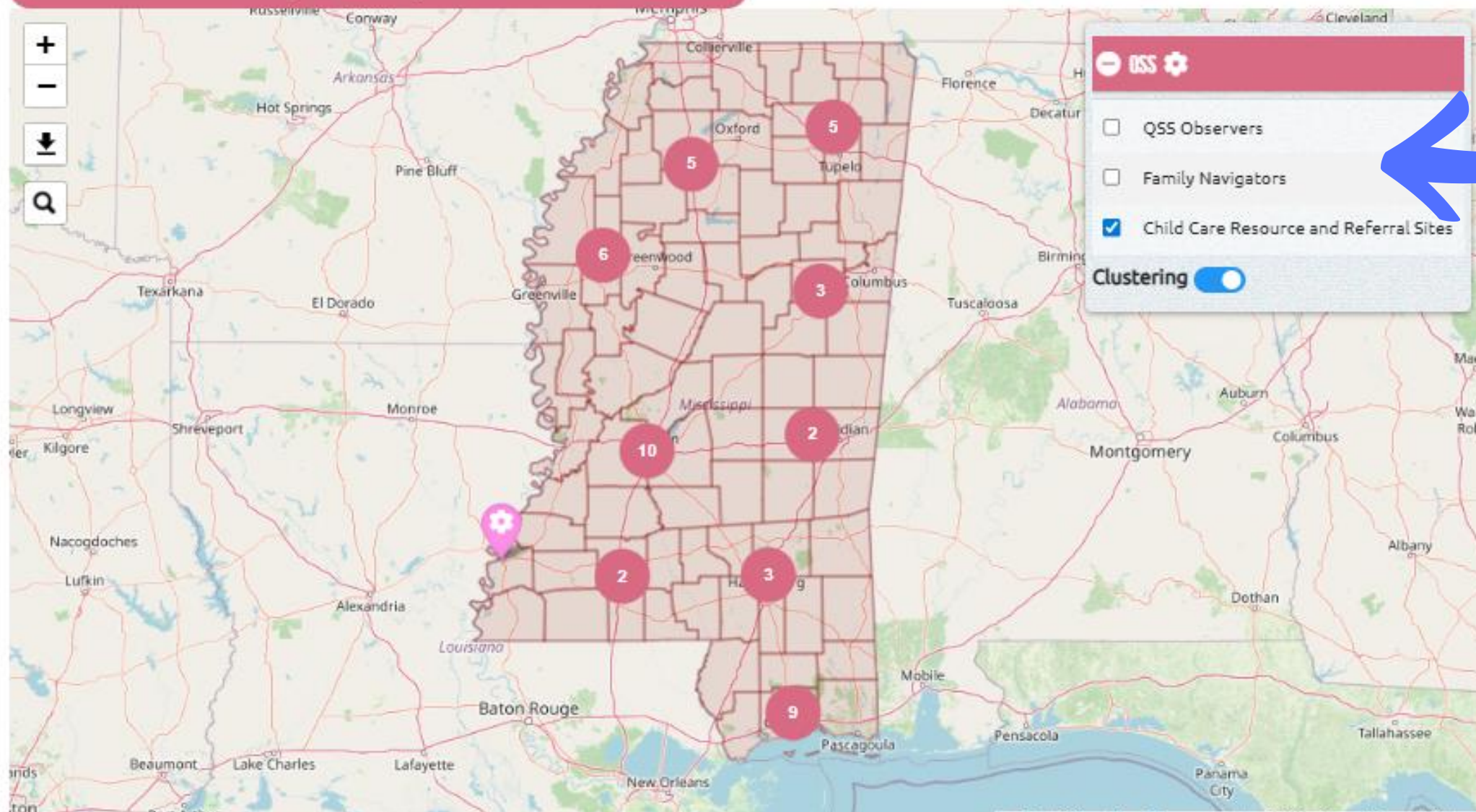


bit.ly/MSFamilyResources



ELEVATE: A QUALITY SUPPORT SYSTEM (QSS)

Zoom in to find resources in your community.



3

Check the
boxes of the
resource
categories
you want to
search for.



4

Zoom into the area of Mississippi where you are looking for resources and click on the resource to get location and contact information.

bit.ly/MSFamilyResources

ELEVATE: A QUALITY SUPPORT SYSTEM (QSS)

Zoom in to find resources in your community.

Program Name Copiah-Lincoln Community College (Natchez Campus)
Address : 11 Campus Drive, Howard C. Garner Building, Rm 432
Phone Number 601-446-1270

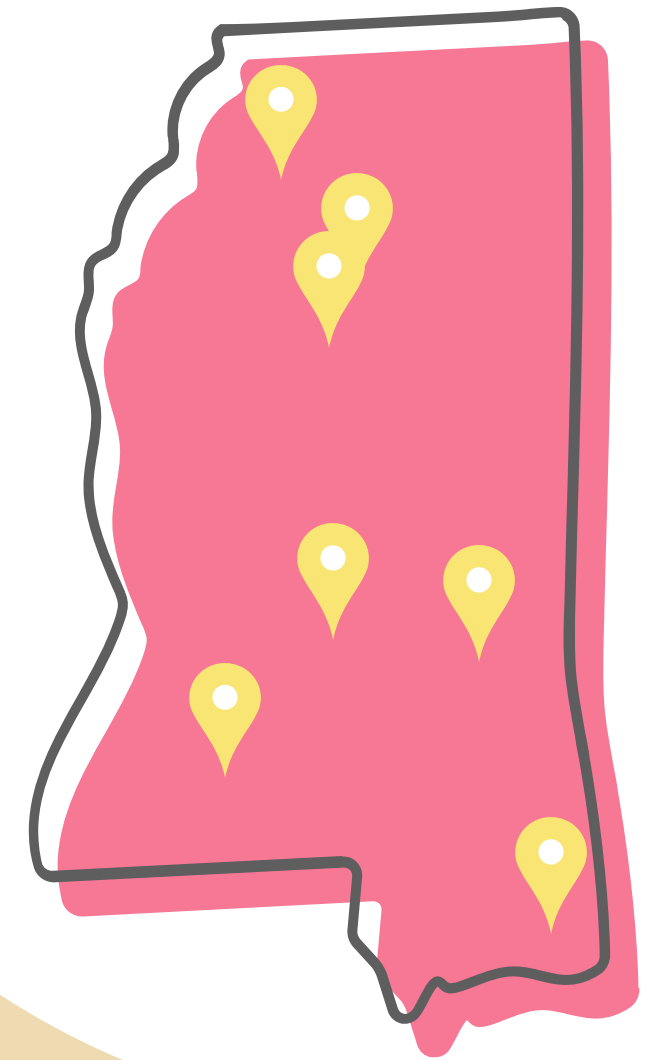
QSS Observers
Family Navigators
☒ Child Care Resource and Referral Sites
Clustering ☒

Sustainability and Partnerships

• **Continued Relevance:** The information on the resource maps is regularly checked, updated, and maintained thanks to ongoing funding from the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

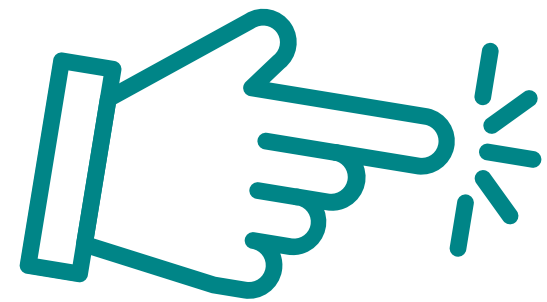
• **We welcome updates!** – Finding new resources that fit our map categories is challenging. If you know of new resources that we have not included, please let us know by emailing *mississippithrive@gmail.com*.

*Resources must fit into one of our categories and be of benefit to families of young children. With a few exceptions, we try not to include for-profit resources.



bit.ly/MSFamilyResource

Mississippi Interactive Early Childhood Family Resource Maps



bit.ly/MSFamilyResources



Laure Bell

 Laure.Bell@SSRC.MSSTATE.EDU

 [\(662\) 325-8079](tel:(662)325-8079)



Webinar:
2ND EDITION

Investing in Our Future



Why Data Matters • Report Highlights • Practical Use Case

Our Partners



Todd Klunk

W.K. Kellogg Foundation



Heather Hanna

MSU Social Science Research Center
(SSRC)



Connie Baird-Thomas

MSU Social Science Research Center
(SSRC)



Callie Poole

MSU Social Science Research Center
(SSRC)



Micayla Tatum

Mississippi First



Gina Rico Mendez

MSU Social Science Research
Center (SSRC)

FRAMING THE DISCUSSION

Why this matters

Transparency and Access

Strengthening our Work

Consistency and
Efficiency

Why is data so important to the well-being of children and families?



Decisions are
made daily.



High-quality,
accurate
information is
needed to inform
those decisions.

Publication Highlights

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36 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (MDHS)

- 36 Division of Early Childhood Care & Development (DECCD)
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Agency-
Level
Information

Publication Highlights

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46 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH)

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- 50 Child Access to Mental Health & Psychiatry (CHAMP)
- 53 Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence
- 54 Making a Plan (MAP)
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- 56 Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) & Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE)
- 58 Preschool Day Treatment Program
- 59 Vicksburg Family Development Services
- 60 Wraparound Facilitation

62 MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MSDH)

- 62 Child Care Licensure Bureau
- 64 First Steps Early Intervention Program (Part C)
- 68 Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies
- 70 Women, Infants, & Children's Nutrition Program (WIC)



Program
specific
details

ADOPTION

The Mississippi Adoption Program provides permanent homes for children who have been removed from their families due to abuse, neglect, or other unsafe conditions in cases where reunification is not possible. The primary goal is to bring potential adoptive children to families seeking adoption. Adoptive parents in Mississippi receive support through monthly maintenance payments and services.

The agency utilizes various programs to provide children with adoptive families. This includes the MS Heart Gallery, which lists all children who are ready for adoption. AdoptUSKids provides information for families on recruitment, engagement, and support. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption’s Wendy’s Wonderful Kids program helps match prospective families with potential adoptive children, supporting adoption recruiters in implementing an intensive, child-focused model that allows for thorough case reviews, face-to-face relationship building, and collaboration with internal and external services.

Budget*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$30,413,864	\$32,539,102
State General Funds	\$18,412,192	\$21,862,530
Other Funds (Specify if possible: i.e., lottery funds, donations)	\$643,275	\$450,000
Total Funds	\$49,469,331	\$54,851,632

**Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff. The amount of federal and state matching funds that MDCPS receives each quarter varies depending on the eligibility statuses of children in state custody.*

NOTE: This specific budget information was not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

Program Metric*	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Children Served	19,031	20,012
Number of Finalized Adoptions	636	560

**Data obtained through personal communications with agency staff*

NOTE: Data for these specific indicators were not collected for the inaugural version of this publication in Spring 2024.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (PART B, SECTION 619)

Children from ages three to five with disabilities or developmental delays are afforded the right to a Free Appropriate Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Section 619. This program has a duty to locate all children in the state who might be eligible for special education services and to conduct evaluations that determine their eligibility for these services. Eligibility is determined by a school district Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team, who look for criteria in the following categories:

- autism
- deafness/blindness
- hearing impairment
- visual impairment
- emotional disability
- intellectual disability
- language/speech impairment
- orthopedic impairment
- traumatic brain injury
- specific learning disability
- developmental delay*
- other health impairment
- multiple disabilities



When a child is eligible for program services, Part B, Section 619 staff oversee the creation and delivery of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that defines the supports and services the child will receive, which are tailored to the child’s specific strengths and needs. The services are provided through local school districts, known as Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). Services can include speech therapy, physical and occupational therapy, and special education support and are often integrated within preschool settings.

The Mississippi Department of Education is focusing on improving program standards and professional development for Part B, Section 619 providers to enhance the quality of services.

**The program defines a developmental delay as 1.5 standard deviations below the standard mean of an assessment or a developmental age that is 25% below the child’s chronological age on an assessment based on age equivalents in two or more areas.*

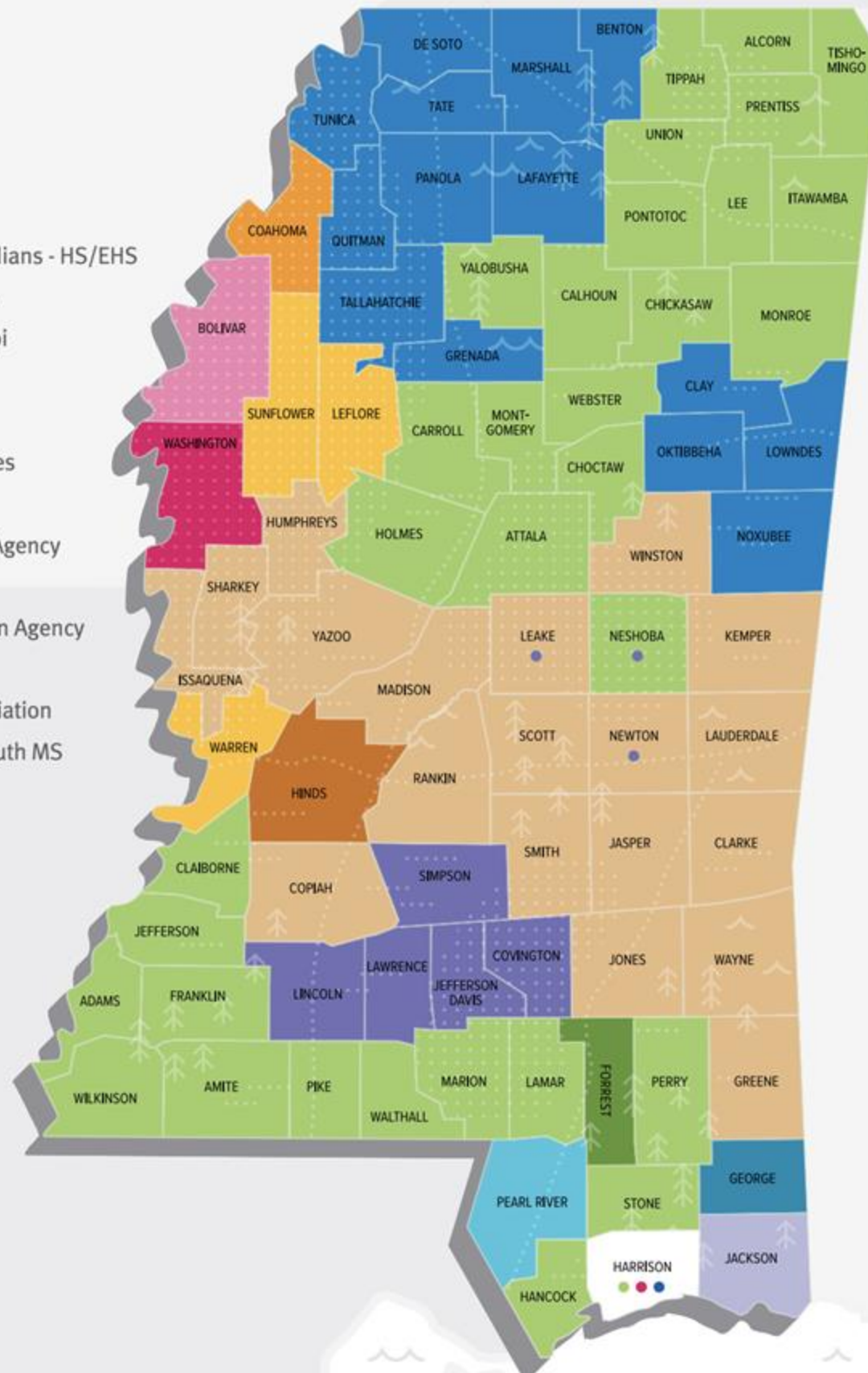
Budget*	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Federal Funds	\$4,348,127	\$4,398,557	\$4,282,435	\$4,544,778	\$4,649,156	\$4,649,156

**Data obtained from public records request.*
NOTE: Years 2019-2022 were also included in the inaugural version of this publication.

Mississippi Head Start Grant Recipients - November 2024

KEY

- MSU - Extension - HS/EHS
- Moore Community House - EHS
- Mississippi Action for Progress
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians - HS/EHS
- Institute of Community Services
- Friends of Children of Mississippi
- Five County Child Development
- Delta Health Alliance
- Washington County Opportunities
- Picayune School District
- Hinds County Human Resource Agency
- Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.
- Bolivar County Community Action Agency
- Pearl River Valley Opportunity
- Singing River Educational Association
- Community Action Agency of South MS



Geographic-Level
Information
(Provided when
available)

How Can YOU Use This Information?



How Has Data Been Used to Make Recommendations and Decisions About the Well-Being of Children and Families?

Mississippi Student Funding Formula

- K-12 student funding formula changed to create a tie between student needs and funding

Additional Hearings on Women, Children, and Families

- As a followup to the 2022 study group, the hearings highlighted important changes, such as the expansion of postpartum Medicaid coverage and updated Safe Haven laws

Early Intervention Taskforce

- Provided MSDH with recommendations to improve reimbursement for services, operations, and management

Early Childhood Educator Survey

- Surveyed early childhood providers about working conditions, training, and

Data and Revenue Changes Impacting Children & Families

State

- Revenue will start to shift due to the recent tax changes
 - Impact on funding is something we will have to measure over time

Federal

- Expect shifts to programs like SNAP and Medicaid
 - Eligibility requirements changing; state costs are expected to increase.
 - Changes rollout gradually
- Expect data shifts to occur - NCES

Legislative Changes Impacting Children & Families

- **House Bill 662** – Presumptive eligibility (Medicaid) for pregnant women
- **House Bill 1063** – Paid parental leave for state employees
- **Senate Bill 2267** – Feasibility study for the creation of statewide data exchange platform
- **House Bill 42** – Pre-K was level-funded
- **House Bill 20** – \$15M appropriated to state Child Care Payment Program (first-time state investment into childcare)



Questions or comments?

Reach out to

Dr. Gina Rico Mendez Gina.Mendez@ssrc.msstate.edu

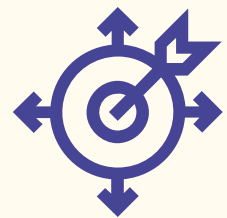
or

Callie Poole at chp16@msstate.edu



MISSION

We provide a platform where families and other stakeholders in early childhood service provision can share resources and expertise to co-create solutions that promote healthy early childhood growth and development.



WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The ECDC is a broad network of people from all parts of Mississippi's early childhood system. We are committed to working together to improve the lives of our state's young children and families.

We share resources and information and help inform policies related to early childhood development.

ECDC



MISSISSIPPI
EARLY
CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT
COALITION

ECDC ROOTS

- Originated from the Mississippi Thrive! Advisory Board, a 5-year Health Resources and Services Administration-funded initiative aimed at enhancing developmental health for children from birth to 5.
- Formed through collaboration among the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Center for the Advancement of Youth, Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center, Mississippi Families for Kids, and Families as Allies.
- Most of our members are volunteers, but the MSU SSRC team has some support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to devote to organizing the ECDC and compensating families. The webpage is funded by the Mississippi Department of Human Services' Division of Early Child Care & Development.



Membership

- University faculty and staff
 - Health care providers
 - Researchers
 - Staff from community organizations
 - Early childhood educators
 - Parents and family members of young children
 - Staff from state agencies & initiatives
 - Governmental staff
 - Community members
 - School district staff
- Approximately 140 members
 - According to bylaws, a requirement for active membership is to attend at least one meeting every six months.

Meeting Participation & Engagement



Getting Involved

- **Regular Meetings:** Participate in monthly full coalition meetings, which are held virtually on the second Thursday of each month. The meeting times alternate between 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM, lasting for 1 hour & 15 minutes.
- **Working Group Participation:** Engage with and support the activities of relevant working groups.
 - **Action Item Involvement:** Offer your skills and contribute to specific action items related to your area of expertise.
- **Quarterly Networking Lunches:** Join virtual discussions with other members. Bring topics to discuss!
- **Stipends for Parents/Caregivers:** Members who qualify will receive a stipend for attending meetings and working on action items.

ECDC Meeting Structure

Members can drive much of the content of our meetings, which are monthly. Our meetings typically follow this agenda structure:

- Quick icebreaker
- Review of community agreements
- Introduction of new members
- Spotlight Speaker (one of our members presenting about their early childhood system expertise)
- Questions
- Announcements
- Closing



Planning & Leadership Teams

- Planning Team:
 - Membership is open to all active ECDC members who have been part of the coalition for at least six months (or are part of an organization already represented on the planning team). Planning team members meet monthly and plan the facilitation of full coalition activities.
- Leadership Team: Joy Hogge (co-chair), Desiree States (co-chair), Callie Poole (lead backbone supporter)
- Advisor: Nadeane Cattrell (leader of backbone organization)
- Members meet monthly and prep for planning team meetings. Co-chairs are elected annually.
- Planning Team: Susan Buttross, Nadeane Cattrell, Lauren Elliott, Heather Hanna, Joy Hogge, Malcolm Huell, Melissa Luckett, Taryn McDonald, Callie Poole, Desiree States, Linda West, Sara Withrow, Nell Valentine



Family-Driven Practice

Families should have a primary decision-making role in the care of their children and the policies and procedures governing care for all children in their community.

Continuous Learning & Growth

Demonstrate a growth mindset and continuous learning. Look for what's working well in addition to how things can be improved.

Shared Expertise

Share your expertise, and allow room for others to provide input and feedback for the greatest collective impact.

Collaboration & Partnership

Use clear language and explain any unfamiliar terms. Share your thoughts and ask questions, as your perspective is important. Stay mindful of time by keeping the conversation focused and relevant. Support your points with evidence and suggest solutions to improve the discussion.

Community Agreements



Stay in touch!

Give us a like,
follow, & share to
stay up to date!



Our Facebook Page



Our Website

facebook: Mississippi Early Childhood
Development Coalition - ECDC

instagram: mississippi.ecdc

chp16@msstate.edu



REFERRAL GUIDE

**WE BELIEVE EVERY CHILD
CAN BE A SUCCESS STORY.**





TABLE OF CONTENTS

◦ Reliably Delivering Solutions	3
◦ Purpose of Referral Guide	4
◦ Canopy's Core Values	5
◦ Map of Statewide Solutions	7
◦ Behavioral Health Solutions	9
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◦ Educational Solutions	21
◦ We Believe in Outcomes	24

CANOPY CHILDREN'S SOLUTIONS

RELIABLY DELIVERING SOLUTIONS



Founded in 1912, Canopy Children's Solutions (Canopy) has served the children and families of Mississippi for more than 112 years. Canopy's

..... mission is to help children thrive and families overcome extraordinary challenges by providing a continuum of behavioral health, educational and family support solutions. Canopy is one of Mississippi's oldest and largest nonprofits providing children with innovative solutions for autism, behavioral and mental health, family support, therapeutic foster care, education and more.





PURPOSE OF REFERRAL GUIDE

Canopy's Referral Guide is a comprehensive resource of the organization's solutions and programs. From therapy, to in-home care, to stable housing, Canopy is here to help. Canopy's statewide Care Coordination is a "one call" approach to all solutions. On the following pages learn more about Canopy, see what solutions are in your local area, and discover our solutions serving all of Mississippi's 82 counties. **We believe every child can reach their full potential and thrive!**

A digital copy of Canopy's Referral Guide is located at **mycanopy.org**.

The online version may be downloaded in its entirety for non-commercial use. Canopy Children's Solutions owns all rights in the text, graphics and other content provided in the Referral Guide, and the selection, coordination and arrangement of such content. Last updated September 2025.

OUR CORE VALUES

CANOPY'S CORE VALUES DRIVE TRANSFORMATIONAL SOLUTIONS

Canopy's core values are the defining principles that keep us on mission and provide clarity as we drive innovation for children and families in Mississippi and beyond. Being a part of the Canopy team means committing to the four core values that define our day-to-day actions and decision-making at every level of the organization.





The **voice** of our children and families always comes first.

The voice of our children and families is the starting place for everything we do. Our family-driven, youth-guided solutions build upon the unique strengths and culture of each family. Canopy commits to a full partnership with those entrusted to our care.

.....



Relationships matter and our differences make us stronger.

Canopy understands the centrality of relationships in our work. We strive to form relationships throughout, within and beyond the organization that will help us create change. Relationships are the building blocks of our success. By embracing the unique differences of the child and families we serve, as well as our own team members, Canopy continually grows stronger, becomes more resilient and builds an environment where we all can thrive.

.....



We take great **joy** in service to others.

The heartbeat of our work is selflessly working for a cause greater than ourselves. Finding joy in meeting others' needs allows our team members to move beyond themselves while they serve, encourage and provide hope to children and families.

.....



Our families and our communities deserve our **very best**.

For more than 112 years, Canopy has endeavored to deliver care of the highest quality. We have been, and continue to be, at the forefront of emerging best practices and state-of-the-art service delivery. As stewards of over a century of progress, we work very hard at meeting the needs of Mississippi children and families. Nevertheless, we can and must get better – our families and our communities deserve it.

STATEWIDE SOLUTIONS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

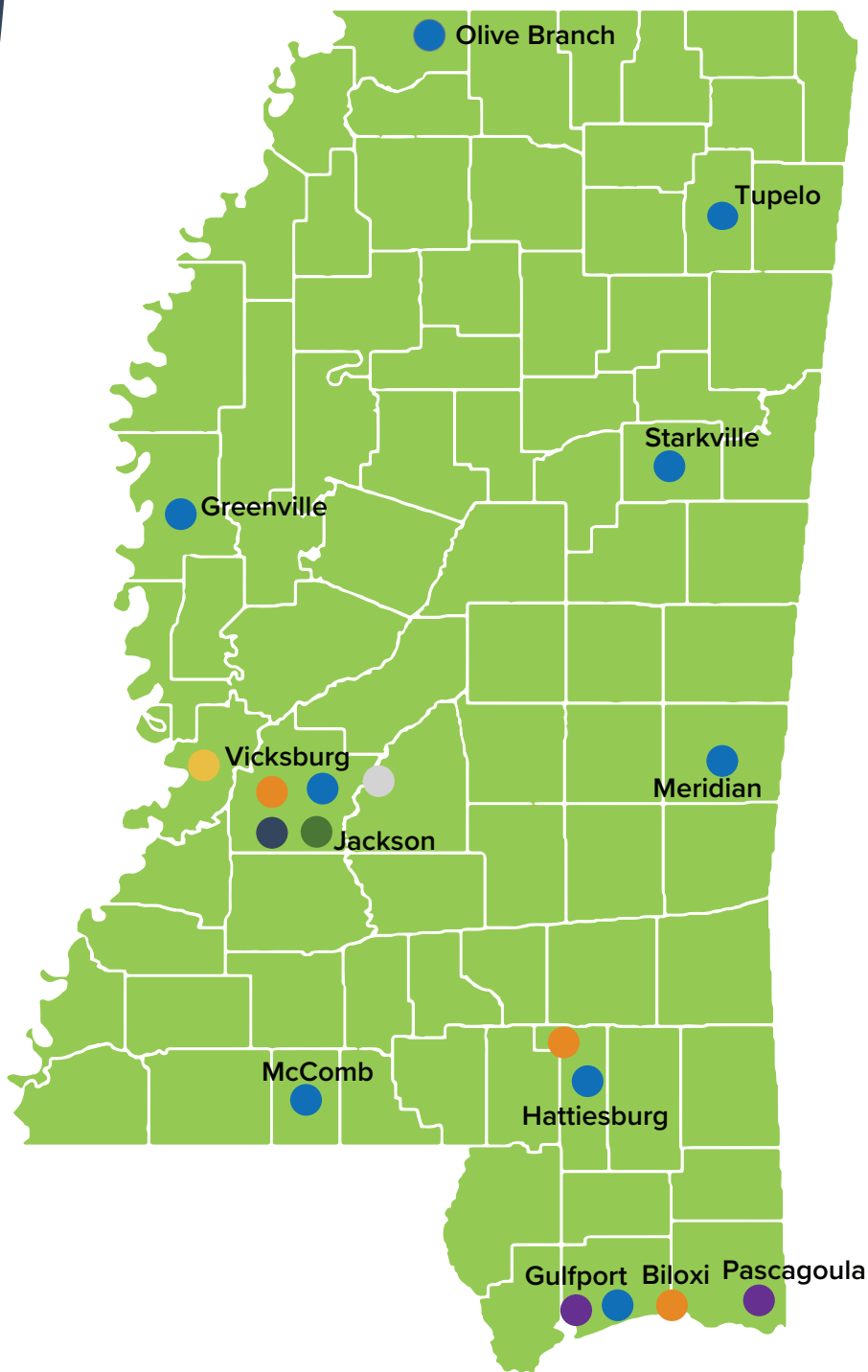
- Behavioral Health Clinics
Gulfport | Hattiesburg | Jackson
- Canopy Anywhere
Statewide
- CARES Center
Jackson
- Community-based Mental Health and Wraparound Solutions
Statewide
- Early Intervention Autism Clinic
Jackson

EDUCATIONAL SOLUTIONS

- CARES Schools
Biloxi | Hattiesburg | Jackson
- The Canopy School
Ridgeland

FAMILY SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

- Adoption and Maternity Solutions
Statewide
- Family Preservation and Reunification Solutions
Statewide
- Family Support Solutions
Statewide
- South Mississippi Child Advocacy Centers
Gulfport | Pascagoula
- Therapeutic Foster Care
Hattiesburg | Jackson | Vicksburg
- Warren County Children's Shelter
Vicksburg





BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS

Canopy's Behavioral Health Clinics offer a wide range of solutions for children and families including individual and family therapy, crisis management, medication management and psychiatric services.



STATEWIDE CARE COORDINATOR | 800.388.6247

GULFPORT | 769.777.1730 • 11975 Seaway Rd. | Gulfport, MS 39503
(Located in the Knight Non-Profit Building)



HATTIESBURG | 769.777.1630 • 124 Grand Drive, Ste. 1110 | Hattiesburg, MS 39401
JACKSON | 769.777.1130 • 1513 Lakeland Dr., Ste. 200 | Jackson, MS 39216



HOURS | Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.
*Therapy available after hours. Please call clinic for details.
Same-day access varies by location. Please visit mycanopy.org.*

LANGUAGE

English
*Translation services
are available*

TRANSPORTATION

If transportation is not available, services
are delivered via telehealth

SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD

In-person
Telehealth

MATERIALS TO BRING

- Driver's license
- Birth certificate
- Proof of insurance
- Social security card

ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED

Children and youth ages
5 to 21

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

- Convenient outpatient treatment for ADHD, depression, anxiety, trauma, eating disorders and other behavioral health challenges
- Provides access to individual and family therapy, crisis prevention and management, medication management and psychiatric services
- Community Support Specialist and Peer Support Specialist available
- Flexible scheduling for children and families
- Accepts most major health insurance plans and Medicaid

REFERRAL NEEDED

No

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION

Call 800.388.6247 or
local clinic

CARES CENTER

Canopy’s CARES Center is a psychiatric residential treatment facility for children and youth ages 6 to 17 with severe emotional and/or behavioral challenges.



STATEWIDE CARE COORDINATOR | 800.388.6247



Welcome Center located at 402 Wesley Avenue | Jackson, MS 39202



HOURS | 24-hour care facility

LANGUAGE

English
Translation services are available

SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD

In-person

ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED

Children and youth ages 6 to 17

REFERRAL NEEDED

- Yes. Admissions criteria:
- Children and youth between the ages of 6 and 17
 - IQ report with a score of 60 or above that must be within one year of admission
 - Psychiatric evaluation including psychiatric diagnosis and a recommendation for Long Term Psychiatric Residential Treatment conducted within 60 days of admission and signed by a psychiatrist

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION

Call 800.388.6247

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

- 24-hour, 60-bed facility
- Comprehensive services with multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners, registered nurses, family nurse practitioners, therapists, dietary staff and care support specialists
- Intensive individual, group and family therapy
- Medical services
- Therapeutic recreation
- Education services
- Social skills training
- Accepts Medicaid

EARLY INTERVENTION AUTISM CLINIC

Canopy’s Early Intervention Autism Clinic serves children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The clinics specialize in comprehensive applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy, and the children Canopy serves typically receive 20 or more hours of ABA therapy a week.



769.777.1100



1513 Lakeland Dr. | Jackson, MS 39216 **(Center of Excellence, 2nd Floor)**
1900 N. West St., Ste. A | Jackson, MS 39202



HOURS | Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.

LANGUAGE

English
Translation services are available

SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD

In-person

ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED

Children ages 18 months to 8 years old

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION

Call 769.777.1100

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy
- Promoting the Emergence of Advanced Knowledge (PEAK) language training system
- Required individualized parent training for all families
- Training for educators, social workers and related disciplines
- Behavioral consultation for school districts and daycare centers
- Provide comprehensive ABA assessment examining various aspects of child development such as language, behavior and what may serve as a motivation to learn
- Accepts most major health insurance plans and Medicaid

MISSISSIPPI YOUTH PROGRAMS AROUND THE CLOCK

Canopy’s Mississippi Youth Programs Around the Clock (MYPAC) is an intensive in-home and community-based behavioral health solution that is designed to keep youth thriving in the home as an alternative to residential care. MYPAC’s services are designed specifically with the youth and their family in mind and are tailored, measured and adjusted to meet the specific and unique needs of each family.



STATEWIDE CARE COORDINATOR | 800.388.6247

SERVING COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE

HOURS | Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST. | 24-hour care
Therapy sessions are scheduled to meet the individual needs of the youth and family.

LANGUAGE

English
Translation services are available

SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD

In-person
Telehealth

ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED

Children and youth who can be safely maintained in their homes and communities and meet the following requirements for admission:

- Individuals up to age 21 and demonstrate a capacity to respond favorably and positively to treatment
- Must be receiving benefits from Medicaid or MississippiCAN
- Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) diagnosis
- Child or youth must have received prior mental health services within the past 90 days
- Psychological or psychiatric evaluation conducted within the last 90 days that includes a recommendation for long-term psychiatric residential treatment or MYPAC as the level of care

REFERRAL NEEDED

- Yes. Call 800.388.6247, fax referral form to 601.709.1219 or email admissions@mycanopy.org
- Prior authorization needed

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION

Call 800.388.6247

MATERIALS TO BRING

- Driver’s license
- Birth certificate
- Proof of insurance
- Social security card

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

- Crisis intervention (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
- Psychiatric services
- Medication management
- In-home individual and family therapy
- In-home support

WRAPAROUND

Canopy's Wraparound solution is a care coordination process that partners with children, youth and their families to connect them with resources to help them succeed long-term. Wraparound Facilitators, in partnership with the family, work together to build a team of committed individuals to create a plan of care that is built around the family's strengths and vision for the future. A Wraparound Facilitator helps the team find lasting solutions so the family can focus on what matters most.



STATEWIDE CARE COORDINATOR | 800.388.6247



SERVING COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE



HOURS | Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST. | 24-hour care
Wraparound sessions are scheduled to meet the individual needs of the youth and family.

LANGUAGE:

English

Translation services are available

SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD

In-person

Telehealth

ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED

- Children or youth under 21 who are at risk for out-of-home placement
- Engaging with community systems such as Juvenile Justice systems or the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
- Must be receiving benefits from Medicaid or MississippiCAN
- Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) diagnosis

REFERRAL NEEDED

- Yes. Call 800.388.6247, fax referral form to 601.709.1219 or email admissions@mycanopy.org

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION

Call 800.388.6247

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

- Identifies family supports for long term success
- Collaboration for family goals and lasting outcomes
- Helps keep families together

A photograph of a man and a young boy in a park. The man, wearing a light blue button-down shirt over a black t-shirt and dark pants, is leaning over the boy, holding the handlebars of a red and blue bicycle. The boy, wearing a yellow and black striped shirt, denim overalls, and a yellow and black helmet, is smiling broadly. The background is a blurred park with trees and sunlight filtering through. The text "FAMILY SUPPORT SOLUTIONS" is overlaid in large white letters on the lower half of the image.

FAMILY SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

in-CIRCLE

Canopy’s in-CIRCLE is a comprehensive in-home and community-based family preservation, reunification and support solution for children and families. *in-CIRCLE is funded by a grant from the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services.*



STATEWIDE CARE COORDINATOR | 800.388.6247



SERVING COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE



HOURS | 24-hour care

LANGUAGE

English
*Translation services
are available*

SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD

In-person

ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED

All families must be referred to the solution by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTIONS

Call 800.388.6247

REFERRAL NEEDED

Yes

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

- Crisis intervention (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
- Child and family team meetings
- Individual and family therapy
- Case management
- Trauma-focused therapy
- Parenting and life skills training
- Wraparound services available
- Peer support services
- Family advocacy
- Flex funds for immediate needs
- Evidence-based assessment and interventions

LINK

Canopy’s LINK solution connects families with state, local and federal community resources to help prevent families from ending up in situations that lead to childhood trauma. *LINK is funded by a grant through the Mississippi Department of Human Services.*



LINK CARE COORDINATOR | 769.777.1232

REGIONAL OFFICES SERVING COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE

GREENVILLE | 2349 Hwy. 1 S | Greenville, MS 38701

GULFPORT | 11975 Seaway Rd., Ste. 230 | Gulfport, MS 39503

HATTIESBURG | 105 Asbury Circle | Hattiesburg, MS 39402

JACKSON | 1900 N. West St. | Jackson, MS 39202

MCCOMB | 407 Apache Dr., Ste. 2 | McComb, MS 39648

MERIDIAN | 2912 Hwy. 45 N | Meridian, MS 39301

OLIVE BRANCH | 9855 Hwy. 178 Ste. A & B | Olive Branch, MS 38654

STARKVILLE | 101 GT Thames, Ste. D | Starkville, MS 39759

TUPELO | 218 S. Thomas St., Ste. 212 | Tupelo, MS 38801



HOURS | Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.

LANGUAGE English <i>Translation services are available</i>	FEATURES / OFFERINGS • Provides families support systems to build stronger, healthier relationships • Connects families to community services • Provides increased assistance to access formal and informal support • Educates families on self-care and self-control • Connects families to mental health and substance abuse services • Provides training on teen pregnancy prevention and parenting skills • Free Community Education Classes include: • Healthy family values • Communication strategies • Addressing conflict • Self-care practices • Identifying mental health challenges • Teen pregnancy resources • Identifying drug use
SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD In-person Virtual	
ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED Free to all Mississippi families with a child in the home	
REFERRAL NEEDED No	
HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION Call 769.777.1232	

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Canopy’s South Mississippi Child Advocacy Center (SMCAC) provides forensic interviews and healing solutions for children involved in allegations of physical or sexual abuse, neglect or who may have witnessed a violent crime.



GULFPORT | 228.868.8686 • 2315 17th St. | Gulfport, MS 39501
PASCAGOULA | 228.868.8686 • 706 Watts Ave. | Pascagoula, MS 39567
Serving George, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, and Stone counties



HOURS | Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.

LANGUAGE English <i>Translation services are available</i>	FEATURES / OFFERINGS The SMCAC provides children a place where they can come and tell their story a single time. Following the forensic interview process, the SMCAC brings together many services and resources under one roof in order to protect the child and effectively prosecute the abuser. Offers: • Forensic interviews • Access to community resources • Court preparations for families • Court testimony • Mental health solutions • Parenting classes and community outreach • Victim advocacy • Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) reviews
SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD In-person	
ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED Children and youth ages 3 to 18 years old and vulnerable adults	
REFERRAL NEEDED Yes	
HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION Law enforcement or Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services	

THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

Canopy's Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) solution helps equip foster families to provide a treatment-focused and structured foster home setting to encourage healing and growth for children with trauma histories, moving beyond the foundation of being a caring and supportive home into a therapeutic and hope-giving family.



769.777.1650



105 Asbury Circle, Ste. A | Hattiesburg, MS 39402



HOURS | Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST
Outside of business hours, please contact a Care Coordinator at 800.388.6247 and someone will assist you within 24-hours or the next business day.

REFERRAL NEEDED

No

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION

Call 601.466.7168 or email
TFC@mycanopy.org

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

- Canopy's Licensed Therapeutic Foster Care Training
- Increased Financial Compensation
- Therapy Services
- Foster Parent Support Groups
- Family Team Resources

ADOPTION

Adoption and maternity solutions available statewide. Call **601.352.7784** or visit mycanopy.org to learn more.

Offers:

- Birth search
- Adoption planning
- Home study
- Adoption placements

WARREN COUNTY CHILDREN'S SHELTER

Canopy's Warren County Children's Shelter (WCCS) is an intake and assessment center (emergency shelter) providing therapeutic diagnostic/evaluation services for abused, neglected, runaway and homeless children and youth.



601.634.0640 • P.O. Box 820174, Vicksburg, MS 39182



HOURS | 24-hour care center

LANGUAGE

English
*Translation services
are available*

SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD

In-person
Telehealth

ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED

- Children and adolescents ages birth to 17 in Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services' custody
- Runaway and homeless youth

REFERRAL NEEDED

Children and adolescents ages 17 and younger in crisis and in need of emergency shelter who are runaways or homeless can be referred by self, law enforcement, school, SafePlace or other

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION

Call 601.634.0640 (*Select Option 1*)
Email: wccs@mycanopy.org

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

- Registered National Safe Place
- 24-hour, 7 days a week emergency shelter and diagnostic/evaluation services
- Medical, dental, vision and psychological care
- Crisis intervention
- Individual and group counseling
- Care support services
- Behavior management
- Aftercare counseling services
- Educational and life skills support
- Recreational activities
- Referrals to necessary agencies
- Shelter also provides free individual and family counseling via telehealth for **runway and homeless youth** who are residing or have resided in the shelter. This program is for at-risk adolescents ages 17 and younger for a period of 3 to 6 months.



A young woman with a long brown braid, wearing a tan knit sweater and a backpack, smiles in a school hallway with blue lockers. Another student is blurred in the background.

EDUCATIONAL SOLUTIONS

CARES SCHOOLS

Canopy’s CARES Schools are fully-accredited private, non-public, special purpose schools designed to meet the educational and behavioral needs of children whose behavior prohibits them from succeeding in a traditional classroom setting.



STATEWIDE CARE COORDINATOR | 800.388.6247



BILOXI | 769.777.1570 • 140 St. John Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530
HATTIESBURG | 601.264.0200 • 124 Grand Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
JACKSON | 769.777.1310 • 2001 North West Street, Jackson, MS 39202



HOURS | Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST.

LANGUAGE:

English
Translation services are available

SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD

In-person

ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED

- Students grades 1 through 12
- Special Education ruling in:
 - Autism (AU)
 - Developmentally Disabled (DD)
 - Emotionally Disabled (EMD)
 - Intellectual Disabilities (ID)
 - Multiple Disability (MD)
 - Other Health Impairment (OHI)
- Exhausted of all possible courses of intervention available to them within the public school setting

REFERRAL NEEDED

Yes – required by the student’s school district

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION

Call 800.388.6247 or local school

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation provided by student’s school district or parental transportation as coordinated with local and individual CARES Schools

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

- Small class sizes
- Trauma-informed classrooms
- Licensed teachers and Behavioral Educational Interventionalists in each classroom
- Intense, individualized educational and therapeutic services that meet the needs of each student
- Specialized classrooms for children on the autism spectrum
- Services designed to improve relationships at home and in the community
- Access to a full continuum of services
- Extended school year

THE CANOPY SCHOOL

The Canopy School is a nonprofit, accredited and individualized academic environment for children with an array of learning differences.



769.777.1500 • 888 Avery Blvd. N | Ridgeland, MS 39157



HOURS | Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST.

LANGUAGE

English
Translation services are available

SERVICE DELIVERY METHOD

In-person

ELIGIBILITY / AGES SERVED

- Grades K-12
- Traditional diploma and workforce development options for high school students

REFERRAL NEEDED

No, apply online at thecanopyschool.org



The
CANOPY
School

HOW TO ACCESS SOLUTION

Call 769.777.1500

FEATURES / OFFERINGS

Empowering the diverse abilities of students through an individualized approach to education in a supportive, innovative and transformative environment.

Support services include:

- Low student-to-staff ratio
- Eligible to accept dyslexia scholarships and Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs)
- Student support services could include:
 - Dyslexia therapy (up to 5 days/week)
 - Speech therapy
 - Occupational therapy
 - School and clinical health counseling
 - Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy

WE BELIEVE IN
outcomes

OVER 13,500
CHILDREN **SERVED**
plus their families in 2024

↑ **67%**
INCREASE

in children served from 2023-2024



SCAN TO
EXPLORE OUR
WEBSITE



SCAN TO VIEW
THE ANNUAL
REPORT

HOPE

starts

HERE



CANOPY
Children's Solutions

NAVIGATING THE REFERRAL GUIDE

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Reliably Delivering Solutions
for more than 112 years!

LICENSED | CERTIFIED | ACCREDITED





LET'S CONNECT

mycanopy.org



CANOPY CARE COORDINATOR · 800.388.6247

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE · 9-8-8

EMERGENCIES · 9-1-1

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE
REPORT ABUSE OR NEGLECT · 800.222.8000**

FINDHELP.ORG
