2013 was a year of accomplishment for the Institute for Child Success (ICS). This report highlights the year.

- **Research**
  Pages 3-4
  A review of ICS led research in 2013

- **Policy**
  Pages 5-6
  A look at our policy initiatives

- **Integration**
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  Integration efforts undertaken in 2013

- **Moving Forward**
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  Looking ahead to 2014

- **Financials**
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  An overview of the last fiscal year

- **Support**
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  Recognition of contributors
I am pleased to report that the past year has been one of remarkable accomplishments for the Institute for Child Success (ICS). Working in concert with our many supporters and stakeholders, we are fulfilling the vision of the Institute’s founders by creating a culture and system that fosters the success of South Carolina’s youngest children.

This annual report highlights our accomplishments over the past twelve months and provides an overview of our work. You will learn how ICS research, policy, and integration efforts are transforming the early childhood system throughout South Carolina and influencing decisions and conversations underway at the national level. New policies, innovations, and cutting-edge financing mechanisms are moving forward as a result of ICS led initiatives, the support of our donors, and the collaboration of our many partners.

We look forward to working with each of you in the coming year and thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensuring the success of our youngest citizens.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Shi
Chair, Board of Directors
Institute for Child Success

The past twelve months have been an exciting time for ICS and for early childhood in South Carolina. In the pages that follow, we briefly describe ICS impact on school readiness legislation, Pay for Success (PFS) financing, expansion of voluntary 4K, research, and other important early childhood issues.

The success of ICS is an accomplishment shared with many. These collaborators and partners include early childhood nonprofit service providers, foundations, corporations, lawmakers, healthcare professionals, universities, those in government, as well as parents and caregivers.

The recognition that the success of young children is the collective responsibility of many people representing multiple sectors will propel South Carolina toward a more prosperous future. Thank you all for your partnership and your support of the ICS mission.

Cordially,

Jamie Moon
President
Institute for Child Success
120 professionals representing academia, health care, government, and nonprofits attended the inaugural South Carolina Early Childhood Research Symposium. This event, held in Greenville in October 2013, explored the latest early childhood research with a focus on building a stronger early childhood system.

6 studies and analyses were completed this year advancing early childhood research. These include:

- **Public 4K in South Carolina.** A comprehensive analysis of publicly-funded 4K in the state with recommendations for policymakers.
- **Using Pay for Success Financing to Improve Outcome for South Carolina’s Children.** Authored by ICS Fellow Megan Golden, this feasibility study concludes that Pay for Success financing is a feasible and promising way to improve outcomes for children.
- **School Readiness: Moving Toward a Shared Definition, Standardized Assessment, and Unifying Language.** This ICS white paper makes the case for a standard definition, description and measurement of school readiness. The study explores the benefits and essential considerations of a kindergarden assessment, and typically assessed domains.
- **Gap Analysis of Three Rural Counties.** In partnership with Clemson University, this study examines the early childhood assets and gaps in rural areas of the state—particularly Barnwell, Bamberg, and Williamsburg Counties—and is informing the ongoing work of several projects.
- **Climbing the Pay for Success Learning Curve.** Describes how the ICS-convened PFS working group was able to bring together key stakeholders, analyze real-life examples, and encourage challenging questions and creative ideas to move PFS forward in South Carolina.
- **Pay for Success Financing for Early Childhood Programs.** ICS shares lessons learned from analyzing the feasibility of PFS for the Nurse-Family Partnership and addresses how PFS financing might apply to the broader field of early childhood interventions.

Pictured (left to right): Paul Dworkin, Help Me Grow Founder; Richard Riley, Former US Secretary of Education; Minor Shaw, Micco Corporation
(building consensus)

21 organizations from across the state endorsed the first *South Carolina Early Childhood Common Agenda*, providing a united voice for the many groups working to advance early childhood issues. The agenda offers policymakers a framework for building a smart, comprehensive early childhood policy for the Palmetto State.

(building support)

51 civic, social and corporate leaders participated in the South Carolina Pay for Success (PFS) working group led by ICS. This group oriented stakeholders to the opportunities presented by PFS financing and the steps necessary to prepare for PFS.

(building funding)

4,000+ new Medicaid-enrolled mothers and babies may soon be eligible for home visiting services as a result of ICS leadership in exploring Pay for Success as a financing mechanism for early childhood interventions. In September 2013, South Carolina issued a Request for Information (RFI) to create a Pay for Success project to expand prenatal and early childhood home visiting. The RFI was substantially based upon work of ICS and the PFS working group. SCDHHS is pursuing final necessary approvals to enable it to contract with Nurse-Family Partnership to expand services using Pay for Success.

3,000 additional children were provided the opportunity to attend 4K in 2013-2014 as 17 additional school districts became eligible under the CDEPP program’s expansion. Many state lawmakers and business leaders cite the Institute’s positioning and framing of this issue as contributing to the successful inclusion in the 2014 South Carolina state budget of $26 million to expand 4K.

Pictured (left to right): Joe Riley, Mayor of Charleston; Richard Riley, former US Secretary of Education; Joe Waters, Institute for Child Success; Chandra Dillard, South Carolina House of Representatives; Shannon Erickson, South Carolina House of Representatives; John Weinberg, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.
(increasing knowledge)

2,647 nonprofit, government, early childhood, business, academic, and policy professionals are informed of trends, research, and policies impacting healthy early childhood development through the monthly ICS e-newsletter and bimonthly News and Tools Digest.

52 cities and towns in South Carolina and beyond were visited by ICS in 2013. To further the Institute’s mission, ICS hosted forums, led convenings, presented research, and participated in stakeholder meetings to discuss the impact of early childhood investment, the importance of evidence-based programs, and to advance research and policy objectives.

Purple indicates counties in South Carolina visited by ICS.

(promoting collaboration)

67 stakeholders participated in the first convening of Ensuring the Success of Young Children in Rural South Carolina Summit hosted by ICS in conjunction with Francis Marion University. ICS is working with decision-makers across rural communities in South Carolina to define the unique challenges faced by rural children and their families and to develop solutions and policies to address these problems.

300+ families were helped through the initiation of Help Me Grow (HMG) in the Upstate. Together with the Children’s Hospital of the Greenville Health System, ICS helped launch Help Me Grow (HMG) South Carolina in 2013. HMG expects to reach 1,000 Upstate families annually by 2014 and to expand the program to include several Lowcountry communities in 2015.

300+ families helped through the initiation of Help Me Grow
In addition to its ongoing research, advocacy and integration work, major ICS objectives for the upcoming year include:

**(policy)**

**Together** with our partners, leading efforts to develop a *2015 South Carolina Early Childhood Common Agenda* endorsed by early childhood organizations across the state.

**Facilitating** final passage of the School Readiness legislation to reform and reauthorize South Carolina First Steps drafted by ICS and introduced in the General Assembly in January 2013.

**Working** with stakeholders to put forward a common description of “School Readiness” and the implementation of a common kindergarten entry assessment tool containing measurement along multiple domains. In particular, ICS will support knowledge-development regarding implementation of assessments based on the experiences of other states.

**Facilitating** passage of legislation updating the “Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Act” to comply with current Federal law under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C.

**Seeking** codification and continuation of the expansion of the Child Development Early Education Pilot Program (CDEPP) consistent with the ICS recommendations related to the expansion of quality, voluntary 4K in both public and private settings.

**Convening** an independent study group to review state child care regulations and child care subsidy rules in light of changing Federal policy and state needs, and make recommendations to policymakers.

**Hosting** the second annual South Carolina Early Childhood Research Symposium. In 2014, the Research Symposium will be held on October 17 at Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital in Columbia and will be co-sponsored by the Children’s Hospital of the Greenville Health System and the Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital.
Implementing the ICS Early Childhood Databook and online database to provide all stakeholders with timely, practical, and accessible early childhood information and statistics.

Working with the PASOs Program of the USC Arnold School of Public Health and the USC Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies to publish a research brief examining the status of Hispanic Children under age five in South Carolina and offering related policy recommendations.

In cooperation with Carolina Health Centers in Greenwood, publishing a case study examining the implementation of multiple home visiting models within the context of family-centered medical homes.

Launching the ICS Design Thinking Initiative focused on applying the insights of design thinking to the transformation of early childhood systems. “Design thinking” proposes new ways of seeking solutions to challenges in government, business, the social sector, and health care that will lead to systems more empathetic and effective in addressing the needs of young children and their families.

Together with ReadyNation/America’s Edge, working with states and other jurisdictions across the country to build the enabling environment in which early childhood Pay for Success projects can develop successfully. ICS will do this by raising awareness about early childhood Pay for Success and providing technical assistance to accelerate early childhood PFS deal flow.

Continuing the Early Childhood Opportunities and Challenges in Rural South Carolina Initiative in conjunction with our statewide partners, which aims to define the unique challenges faced by rural children and their families, and to develop solutions and policies to advance these challenges.

Expanding the ICS Speaker Series, bringing national early childhood and social sector thought leaders to South Carolina to increase awareness, launch dialogue, catalyze partnerships, and identify emerging early childhood issues and solutions.

In partnership with Connecticut, conducting a feasibility study to determine whether PFS financing could be used to reduce child maltreatment and improve children’s lives, by determining whether PFS financing can be used to expand the Triple P (the Positive Parenting Program), an evidence-based parenting program that significantly reduces child maltreatment.
The innovative and transformative work of ICS is made possible by the generosity of our supporters. We thank those individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations that contribute to the sustainability and success of ICS.

**Founded and Fueled by**

The Institute for Child Success is fueled by Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

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