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INSTITUTE *for* CHILD SUCCESS

2014 annual report

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dear friends of **ics**

Natalma McKnew
Chair, Board of Directors

Jamie Moon
President

As we celebrate our 5th year anniversary, we are pleased to report on the significant achievements of The Institute for Child Success (ICS) over the past year. When the founders of ICS came together nearly half a decade ago, these like-minded early childhood champions were guided by the belief that sound research, coupled with a deep commitment to our youngest citizens and their families, could guide policy and foster integration and innovations that would positively impact the lives of thousands of children and their families. These visionaries organized the work of ICS around three interconnected pillars: Research, Policy, and Integration.

With its groundbreaking, systems-based approach, ICS has remained true to the vision of our founders and is creating change that is exponential in its scope and innovative in its approach. Through the three pillars, ICS brings a depth and breadth of experience to the most pressing issues facing early childhood and is making remarkable headway in developing and implementing solutions to these challenges.

However, we at ICS share our accomplishments with our many collaborators and partners. Our ongoing success would not be possible without the generosity and commitment of the many foundations, corporations, organizations and individuals who share the ICS vision. We deeply appreciate your commitment to ICS and its mission. Together, we will we continue to initiate change and create high-quality early childhood systems that ensure the success of all young children.

In Gratitude,

Natalma McKnew

Jamie Moon

The Institute for Child Success is a great partner in helping achieve our vision of creating a more just and vibrant society... and that starts from the time children are born. ICS believes deeply in programs, but also believes—as we do—that strong organizational infrastructure and financial sustainability are critical to ensuring the success of programs that positively impact young children and their families. We are pleased to partner with ICS to strengthen the capacities of early childhood providers across the United States to serve even more young children with excellence.

— Nima Krodel, Director, *Nonprofit Finance Fund, Chicago, IL*

ICS works to ensure that America's youngest children have the adult leaders, sound policies, and infrastructure they need for success in school and in life."

— Joan Lombardi, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of *Health and Human Services for Early Childhood Development, Washington, DC*

ICS is a powerful force in our region and across the country for building a smart early childhood policy. They are innovative, entrepreneurial, fast-moving, and deeply passionate about ensuring the success of every child in school, their lifelong health, and contribution to a prosperous society. I am proud to serve on the ICS Board because I believe that what they are seeking to achieve is, simply put, a brighter, more competitive future for us all.

— Liz Winer, *ICS Board of Directors, Charlotte, NC*

policy and research accomplishments

(school readiness legislation)

Thousands of South Carolina children and their families are immediate beneficiaries of new School Readiness Legislation. Over the past two years, ICS worked with numerous stakeholders to craft legislation to reform and reauthorize South Carolina First Steps. This legislation was passed by the South Carolina General Assembly and became law in June 2014. The legislation includes a definition of "school readiness", incentivizes the use of strong evidence in program funding, and establishes the Office of First Steps Study Committee, which will make recommendations about the future structure of state-funded early childhood programs in 2015. ICS was included in the legislation as the only non-government entity to participate on the Committee, giving our organization the ability to influence policy and ensure the best outcomes for young children.

(continued expansion of four-year old kindergarten)

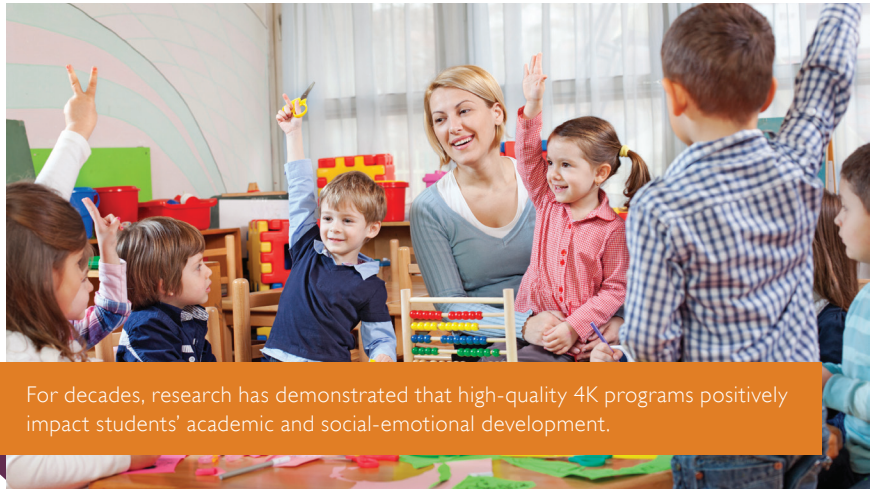
In 2014, 2,380 additional children in South Carolina were provided the opportunity to attend four-year old kindergarten (4K) as a result of the General Assembly's expansion of 4K services in ten additional school districts. Many leaders cite expansion of publicly-funded 4K in South Carolina as a direct result of ICS's framing of the issue and work with business leaders and lawmakers. By expanding into the 10 new districts, the total number of children eligible to attend 4K in South Carolina's poorest 61 school districts increases to 8,282.

(research studies)

ICS completed six new research publications in 2014, including comprehensive analyses on school readiness assessments, Pay for Success financing, as well as a case study on the integration of home visiting services in the patient-centered medical home. Additionally, ICS released the first-ever South Carolina Early Childhood Annual Data Report, providing a picture of the status of young children across the domains of the family environment, physical health, emotional well-being, and cognitive development.

(common agenda)

In collaboration with the Children's Trust of South Carolina and the United Way Association of South Carolina, ICS continued to lead development of the South Carolina Early Childhood Common Agenda. This agenda of policy recommendations, first released in January 2014 and subsequently updated, provides a united voice for the many organizations working to advance early childhood issues. The updated Common Agenda is now being used by policy makers and advocates during the 2015-2016 legislative session to guide and determine legislative priorities for early childhood policy.



For decades, research has demonstrated that high-quality 4K programs positively impact students' academic and social-emotional development.

convenings innovation and integration

(design-thinking blitz)

In November, ICS hosted more than 40 educators, early childhood development professionals, authors, public leaders, designers, marketers, civil leaders and parents at an Early Childhood Design Thinking Blitz. The Blitz was an intensive, immersive, three-day effort to generate ingenious solutions to a challenge facing the children of South Carolina and beyond: How might we disrupt the existing ways of doing things for children so that they and their families might have more opportunities for greater success in school and in life—earlier in their lives? Held in conjunction with the Blitz, ICS premiered the film *Small Steps*, which is a short documentary that explores the lives of young mothers, their children, and opportunities for design.

(early childhood research symposium)

160+ professionals representing academia, health care, government, and service providers participated in the Institute's second South Carolina Early Childhood Research Symposium. Held in October 2014, and sponsored by the Palmetto Health Children's Hospital and the Children's Hospital of the Greenville Health System, the symposium brought together a rich diversity of disciplines and leaders from across the region to inform the creation of high-quality early childhood health, education, and safety systems.

(kindergarten-entry assessment think tank sessions)

In 2014, "think tank" sessions were convened by ICS specifically focused on describing school readiness for South Carolina and exploring considerations for kindergarten-entry assessments. Held across the state, these sessions brought together a group of more than 40 knowledgeable education and early childhood development leaders to guide creation of a school readiness description. A description of school readiness is critical to providing a common framework for understanding and promoting kindergarten readiness as defined by law in June 2014. This independent group of stakeholders included early care and learning professionals, family representatives, kindergarten and elementary school teachers, school administrators, and researchers from across South Carolina.

(rural working group)

At gatherings held in Hartsville, Greenwood, and Blackville, ICS hosted a year-long working group focused on addressing the unique challenges faced by rural communities in ensuring the success of very young children and their families. In interactive sessions including rural community stakeholders, the Southern Education Foundation, and academics from Duke University, Clemson University, and the University of South Carolina, among others, the working group explored strategies aimed at aligning rural stakeholders, supporting action, and spurring innovation.

(speaker series)

In 2014, ICS expanded its annual speaker series, featuring scholars from across the nation focused on issues that impact young children and families. Sessions focused on early literacy programming and policy, implementation science's impact on interventions for young children and implications for future policy, and young children who are dual language learners. Speakers included scholars representing the Harvard Center on the Developing Child's Frontiers of Innovation Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Implementation Research Network at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP).

advancing pay for success

ICS continues to lead efforts to bring Pay for Success (PFS) financing mechanisms to the early childhood sector.

PFS financing is an innovative type of public-private partnership that employs private capital to invest in social programs that have proven success. PFS scales programs that have a positive social impact and save government money, using capital from philanthropic funders and impact investors—not government. Nonprofits deliver the programs and the government pays for the outcomes (which produce net long-term savings) if the program succeeds.

(bringing PFS to South Carolina)

ICS continues to lead efforts to bring PFS financing to South Carolina. Based on work ICS initiated in 2013, Nurse-Family Partnership is working with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to develop a PFS model to dramatically expand home visiting for low-income mothers and their babies in 2015. ICS was pleased to lead the effort and conduct initial feasibility assessment to bring PFS for evidence-based home visiting to South Carolina.

(helping to implement PFS for early childhood programs)

The Institute for Child Success, a Grantee of the Social Innovation Fund's (SIF) Pay for Success program, announced the selection of the first five organizations to receive technical assistance from ICS under that program in March. This technical assistance will help jurisdictions move towards implementing Pay for Success financing

to improve outcomes for young children. Our five jurisdictions are the state of Connecticut, the state of North Carolina, Sonoma County in California, the city of Spartanburg in South Carolina, and the state of Washington. Although PFS is an exciting model with a range of benefits, it is also technically difficult to deploy and few organizations in the early childhood community have developed the required expertise. The Social Innovation Fund's investment in ICS, along with matching funds from ReadyNation, the Pritzker Children's Initiative, the United Way of Greenville County, and the Children's Hospital at the Greenville Health System, is fueling this initiative to build that expertise and capacity for PFS within the early childhood community. We are interested in PFS financing because we believe that it is a tool with exciting potential to bring new resources to support young children and their families.

Broad interest in PFS is growing across the country. As activity increases, there is an opportunity to improve understanding and facilitate substantive and meaningful dialogue among stakeholders in the public, private, and social sectors. In 2014, ICS led several key early childhood PFS convening opportunities:

(PFS convenings)

MARCH

ICS partnered with ReadyNation to organize a conference on using PFS financing to scale up effective early childhood interventions. Hosted by Bank of America at their headquarters in Charlotte, the conference brought together leaders representing 133 organizations, from 27 states and 3 countries. Bankers, non-profit executives, business leaders, and government representatives from the White House to local school systems came together to learn about the financing mechanism and how to apply it.

ICS partnered with the Duke University Center for Child and Family Policy to host a group of government, provider and research stakeholders from North Carolina and South Carolina to discuss implementing PFS to expand early childhood interventions.

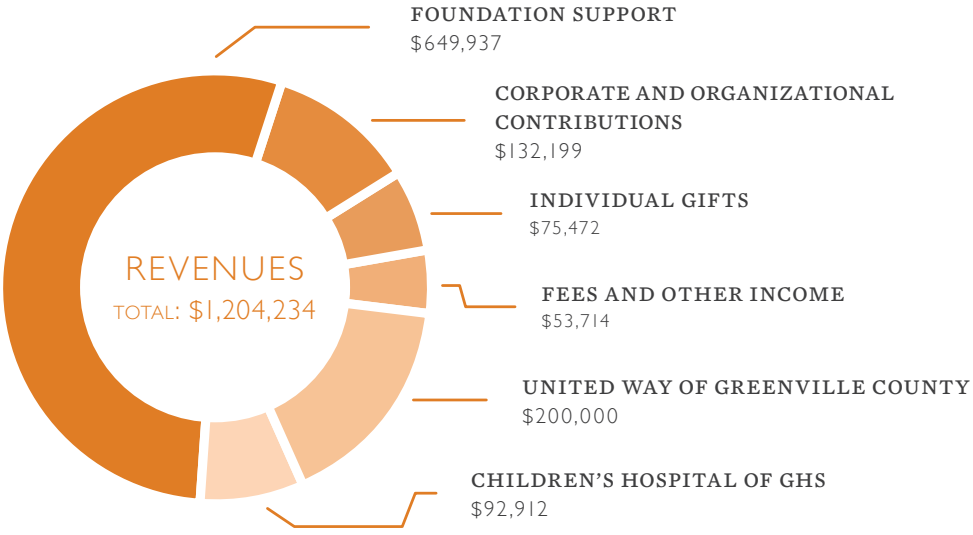
JUNE

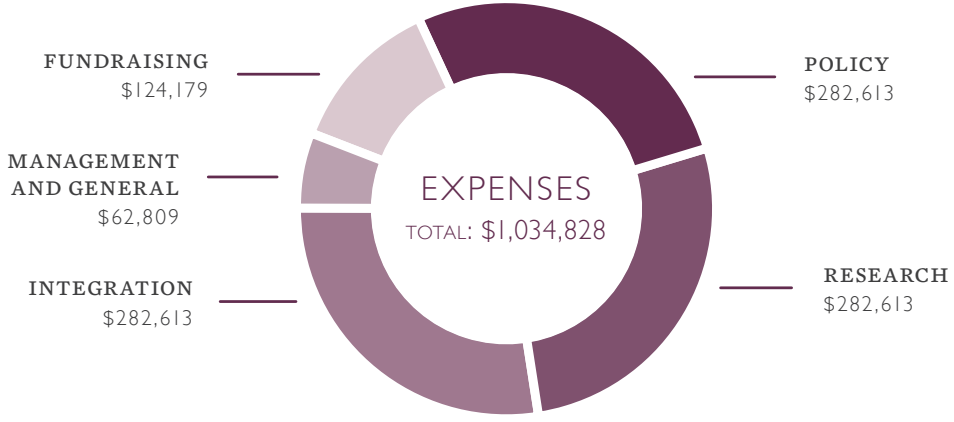
ICS co-hosted a roundtable with the Aspen Institute that explored the potential for the emerging practice of PFS financing to scale proven solutions in the early childhood education field. This roundtable brought together notable early childhood experts and innovators with investors, advisors, and intermediaries actively contributing to the PFS.

OCTOBER

30+ national early childhood leaders gathered in Washington, D.C. to discuss ICS's paper, *Pay for Success Financing for Child Care*.

finances and support





*2014 FINANCIALS (UNAUDITED)

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)

(fueled by)

The Institute for Child Success is also fueled by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, an independent licensee of the BlueCross and BlueShield Association, and by the Mary Black Foundation.

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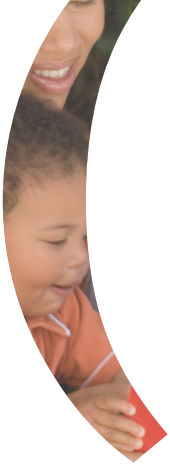

moving forward
2015 and beyond

In 2015, ICS is focusing its work around four strategic priorities:

(building strong and sustainable systems governance)

The systems that support the success of young children are dependent, in part, upon the efficiency, accountability, and sound strategy of the mechanisms tasked with governing these systems. Toward this end, ICS is undertaking key research and advocacy projects to ensure that South Carolina is served well by its early childhood system. We are advising government to consider creation of a single, cabinet-level agency responsible for managing the many different services and programs that support young children and their families.

(scaling and sustaining evidence-based interventions and programs)

In October 2014, ICS was awarded a federal Social Innovation Fund grant to advance Pay for Success (PFS) Financing for early childhood programs across the United States. We have selected five jurisdictions in which we will provide technical assistance this year to develop PFS projects focused on scaling and sustaining evidence-based interventions and programs. ICS is committed to developing new instruments for providing the capacity and funding necessary to ensure the success of young children and their families.

In 2015, ICS will also focus on developing a framework for improving the teaching of math in private child care centers, public kindergartens, and kinship care settings. The project involves a systematic, critical

review of the literature on early math education and the development of a resource series for policymakers and school leaders on the subject.

ICS is also exploring the implications of recent research on brain science on public policy development at all levels. Under the leadership of our Senior Fellow, Janice Gruendel, Ph.D., this series will be translated into a range of resources available to systems leaders and public policymakers to better inform practice and policymaking. The project will include the development of webinars, resource guides, symposia, and other products intended to translate the findings of our recent research into actionable insights.

(developing early childhood system leadership)

ICS, along with many of our program partners and colleagues in the early childhood sector, believes that in order for meaningful improvement and innovation to occur, the generation of rising early childhood leaders must be equipped with a new set of tools and platforms for leading system-wide change.

As a field, Early Childhood Development (ECD) funders invest heavily in developing new social and educational programs, which are often focused on solving immediate problems. ICS strives to create a space where service recipients, program directors, and policy makers from across ECD—and beyond—can imagine what the world could look like for our youngest children 30 years into the future.

In 2015, ICS will host the first *Future of ECD Working Retreat* to convene twenty-five rising leaders in a discussion regarding how the overall ECD system operates and what type of leader and leadership network is needed to affect significant change. ICS will then work to develop this network to cultivate the next generation of systems leaders for America's kids.

(innovating to improve outcomes for children)

ICS embraces the notion that systems must change for the benefit of our nation's youngest children. Toward this end, ICS regularly brings together business leaders, policymakers, designers, artists, financial professionals and other "unusual suspects" to help us think creatively about how to improve the early childhood system.

Following our successful Early Childhood Systems Blitz in November 2014—where design thinking methodologies were used to generate a range of potential program innovations—in 2015, ICS will act on a series of "small bets" which emerged from that blitz to explore implementing small changes with the potential for large impact. ICS looks forward to partnering with artists, scholars from outside the early childhood field, and the families and children we seek to serve as we implement these "small bets" and generate even more opportunities for inter- and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

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Early Learning Partnership of York County

(ICS 2014 legislative award recipients)

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The Institute for Child Success is a non-profit, non-partisan research and policy organization that fosters public and private partnerships to align and improve resources for the success of young children in South Carolina and beyond. A partnership of the Children's Hospital of the Greenville Health System and the United Way of Greenville County, ICS supports service providers, policy makers, and advocates focused on early childhood development, healthcare, and education to build a sustainable system that ensures the success of all children, pre-natal through age five.

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