



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT

HICKORY -- How many people receive services from Catawba County Social Services? How many county residents receive Food and Nutrition Services (formerly called Food Stamps)? How many reports of suspected child abuse or neglect were received by the department last fiscal year?

Catawba County Social Services' recently released Annual Report answers these and many other questions. It covers Fiscal Year 2011-12 (from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012). The answers to some of these questions may surprise you. For example, during the past fiscal year, Catawba County Social Services served approximately 37 percent of the county's residents, or 57,000 citizens. The economic impact of the agency's programs is significant. The largest financial programs -- Child Care Subsidy, Medicaid, and Food and Nutrition Services -- had an economic impact on the local economy of \$358 million during the last fiscal year.

Last year, 36,670 county residents received Food and Nutrition Services. Of those, 37 percent lived in households where there was at least one employed person.

In Fiscal Year 2011-12, Child Protective Services received 3,025 reports of alleged child abuse or neglect. Of these reports, 2,009 met the state's criteria for investigative assessment. Of those, 531 families (1,003 children) received ongoing services to assure child safety. Inadequate supervision and injurious environment due to alcohol/drug abuse are the most frequent types of maltreatment of children.

During the past year, 290 children were in foster care, including 33 in therapeutic foster care. Family Builders, the department's licensure and adoption unit, finalized 48 adoptions during the year.

To view the complete Social Services Annual Report, go
<http://www.catawbacountync.gov/dss/anreport/AnReport.pdf>

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