

# 2021 Annual Report

140 Stoneridge Drive  
Suite 350  
Columbia, SC 29210

[www.scyap.com](http://www.scyap.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/SCYouthAdvocateProgram>

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmxuUrrcirq9VyIFIBhWvRA>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-carolina-youth-advocate-program>

# OUR MISSION

**WE BELIEVE** that every child has a right to a permanent home and family, and that the family and community are invaluable resources in the positive growth and development of each child.

**WE SERVE** troubled and needy children and their families by promoting community-based alternatives to institutional care, and the least restrictive environment appropriate to the needs of each individual.

**WE DO** develop and provide a wide range of direct therapeutic services to meet the needs of children and their families by collaborating with the community and other agencies to provide individualized and family services that engender long-term stability and strive to enable the children and families we serve to meet their fullest potential.

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The South Carolina Youth Advocate Program (commonly known as SCYAP) is a private, not for profit, 501(c)3, organization that supports and facilitates the development and operation of foster care and community-based services for children and their families.



## Message from SCYAP's CEO

### Dear SCYAP Stakeholders:

SCYAP continued to persevere through difficult times in 2021 as our communities adjusted to the ups and downs of the COVID-19 pandemic. The impacts of the pandemic have been significant for everyone, and SCYAP spent much of 2021 focused on the safety and well-being of our staff, foster parents, and youth. We were all reminded that SCYAP is not just a building or place, it is the people that represent our organization who are helping the vulnerable youth and families we serve. Our foster parents and our staff are the “faces” of SCYAP, and those “faces” will be how SCYAP is remembered. Simply put, our people are most important.

Through strong collective leadership, SCYAP implemented numerous policies and protocols to better protect everyone involved with the organization in 2021. We believe these efforts have directly contributed to safety and well-being maintained among our staff, foster parents, and youth. We are grateful that no child, foster parent, or staff member was lost to COVID-19 in 2021, and we thank our staff for their diligent efforts towards safety during this challenging time.

Looking back, SCYAP has adapted in many ways over the past two years, and I believe our ability to accept and embrace change is one of our organizational strengths. SCYAP has traditionally been an office-based, in-person service-delivery and work environment, and we have now added remote work and telehealth services. The primary goal of these changes has been continued high quality service delivery while maintaining the safety and well-being of everyone involved. One particular focus of SCYAP in 2021 was the implementation of a statewide tele-psychiatry program. In partnership with the Duke Endowment, SCYAP made statewide tele-psychiatry services available to children touched by the child welfare system. Quality services from a psychiatrist have been a longstanding need for children in foster care, and we were excited to launch this new telehealth initiative!

We continue to count on our foster parents and staff to make the difference in the lives of the youth and families we serve. We are extremely thankful to each foster parent for their willingness and dedication to help vulnerable youth. We also cannot thank our staff enough for their perseverance and willingness to adapt in so many ways. Their work towards SCYAP's mission with daily purpose is inspiring and contagious. Our partners and stakeholders have also remained gracious and generous during difficult times, resulting in continued financial support for our youth during a difficult year.



In 2022, SCYAP looks to embrace change, normalize COVID-19 safety measures, and invest towards growth. It is no secret that there is a tremendous need for additional foster families in South Carolina, and we are committed to a robust recruitment and licensing effort to better meet the needs of children who need a foster family. We also plan to grow our community-based behavioral health services, taking advantage of telehealth opportunities to better meet the needs of children and families who may not have access to office-based services. In particular, we foresee an increased focus and demand for mental health services for children stemming from the pandemic. We are well-equipped with out-patient clinics and in-home services, including licensed therapists and psychiatrists, to provide these services.

SCYAP remains well-positioned as South Carolina's leader in foster care and behavioral health services to vulnerable youth. We will look forward to continued success in 2022!

## **Lex Cole, CEO**

**SCYAP is incorporated as the South Carolina Youth Advocate Program, Inc. within the State of South Carolina. The general management of the company is vested in the authority of the organization's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors assigns responsibility for the day to day operations of SCYAP to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).**



## We are SCYAP

SCYAP was established in 1990 to provide out of home foster care for youth with special needs. Services began in Charleston, SC and quickly spread up the state's coastline. As the number of foster homes and youth and families being served by SCYAP increased, the State Office was relocated to Columbia; the original Charleston site became a regional office with an outpost in Beaufort, and additional regional offices were opened in Myrtle Beach, Columbia, and Greenville. other

Since our inception, SCYAP has grown in both our scope of work and service spectrum. While our largest program continues to be foster care, a significant part of our array of services now includes community-based services, in-home clinical and family preservation services, and out-patient mental health clinics.

SCYAP offers a comprehensive array of programs and services to youth and families dealing with difficult issues and crises situations. Our programs promote individualized treatment, flexible programming, case and cause advocacy, community-based and in-home interventions, and a positive approach to treating children and working with families.

Because of the nature and flexibility of our individualized programs, SCYAP maintains a broad and relatively inclusive admissions policy. Our programs serve both male and female clients and do not discriminate by race, color, religious creed, ancestry, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or the seriousness or complexity of disability or need.

The target population of SCYAP is at-risk or children with special needs. We serve children with a broad spectrum of emotional, behavioral, mental, developmental, and medical needs who are in need of out-of-home therapeutic services, community-based programming, and/or in-home intervention.

**SCYAP is a private, non-profit, 501(c)3, child-placing and child and family-serving organization.  
SCYAP has served children and families in South Carolina since 1990.**

# Our Services

## Foster Care

- Therapeutic Foster Care
- Traditional Foster Care
- Medically Fragile Foster Care
- Special Needs Foster Care

## Community-Based Services

- Behavior Modification
- Family Support
- Psychosocial Rehabilitative Services

SCYAP is proud to offer a comprehensive array of services to meet the needs of youth, families, referring agencies, and the communities we serve. Our programs and services include prevention, intervention and rehabilitation strategies aimed at strengthening families and ensuring that children are cared for in a safe and nurturing manner.

## Transportation

## Mental Health Services

- Diagnostic Assessment
- Out-Patient Individual Therapy
- Out-Patient Family Therapy
- Crisis Management
- In-Home Family Preservation
- Psychiatric Assessment
- Medication Monitoring
- Telehealth Service Options



# Foster Care Services



SCYAP foster care focuses on the power of family. In a foster home setting, children who have suffered abuse and neglect have the opportunity to share in healthy family relationships, to experience positive parenting, to learn and practice pro-social skills, and to actively participate in community life.

SCYAP has two different types of foster care programs: Therapeutic Foster Care and Traditional Foster Care. Both of these programs provide a nurturing, safe and caring home to children who require placement away from their families; however, the intensity of services and the presenting issues of the child(ren) being served differ between the programs.

Therapeutic Foster Care is a family-based placement option for children in need of out of home placement, who have serious emotional, psychiatric, developmental, medical, and/or behavioral issues. Foster parents are specially trained to understand and respond to the special needs of these children and are supported by SCYAP staff throughout the child's placement in their home.

Traditional Foster Care is a family-based placement option for children in need of out of home placement, but who do not require the specialized interventions provided in Therapeutic Foster Care. The children served in Traditional Foster Care are often just entering the foster care system or are close to exiting the system to family reunification, adoption, or emancipation.

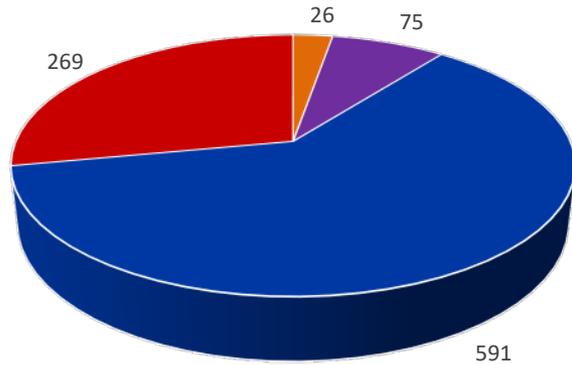


**Maybe you can't change the whole world, but you can change the whole world of a child in foster care. Deciding to become a foster parent not only helps children and teenagers in need of a loving and stable home, but it also improves families and communities in many ways and can make your life richer as well.**

# 2021 Foster Care Client Population Demographics

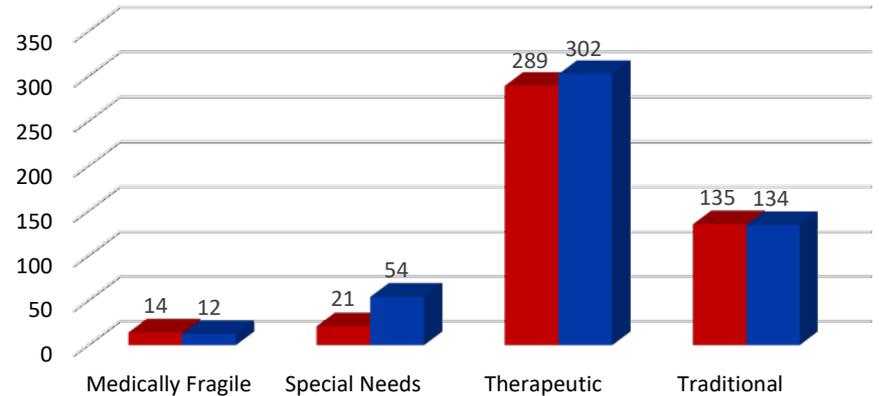
A total of 961 clients were served in a SCYAP Foster Care Services in 2021.

### Clients Served by Foster Care Service



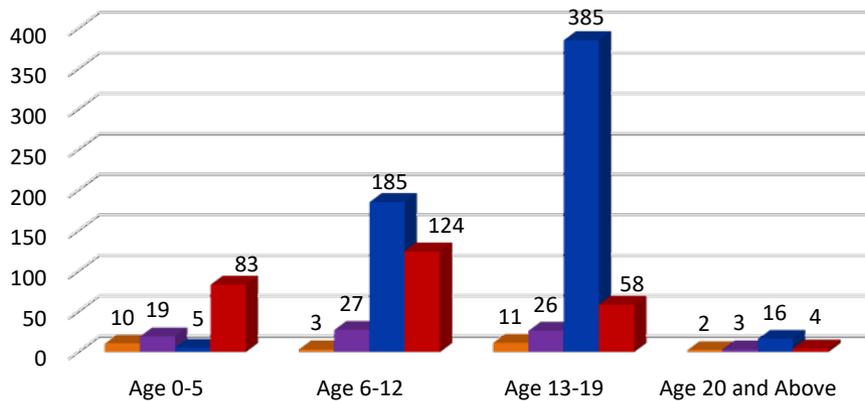
■ Medically Fragile 
 ■ Special Needs 
 ■ Therapeutic 
 ■ Traditional

### Clients Served by Gender and Type of Foster Care



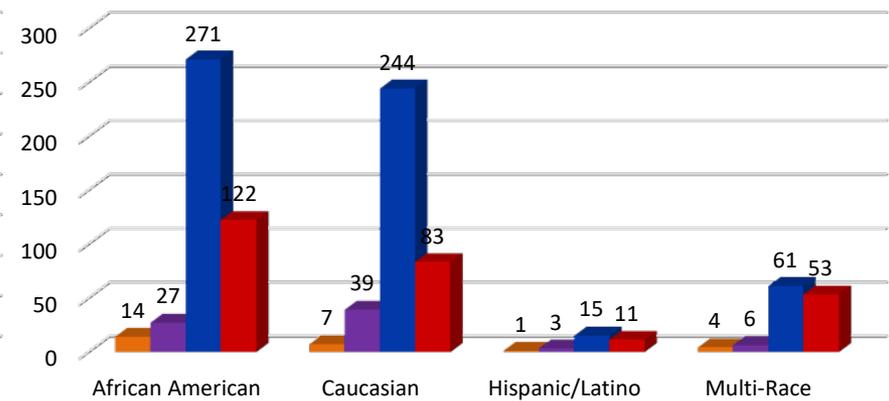
■ Female 
 ■ Male

### Clients Served by Age and Type of Foster Care



■ Medically Fragile 
 ■ Special Needs 
 ■ Therapeutic 
 ■ Traditional

### Clients Served by Race and Type of Foster Care



■ Medically Fragile 
 ■ Special Needs 
 ■ Therapeutic 
 ■ Traditional

# Mental Health Services

Mental Health Services are planned, face-to-face therapeutic interactions between a trained and qualified clinical professional and an individual recipient, a family unit, or a group of recipients with similar clinical needs. Our team of qualified mental health professionals provide clinical services to children, adolescents, and their families to address a wide variety of behavioral, emotional, psychiatric, and relational problems.



SCYAP's Mental Health Services are staffed with licensed mental health professionals. Comprehensive diagnostic and clinical assessments are used to identify the nature, cause and potential effects of a client's presenting problems, and are appropriate for clients who are just beginning to receive mental health services and for those who require a redetermination of the appropriate course of treatment to best meet their needs. Therapy services involve a range of clinical techniques, strategies, and modalities depending on the client's needs and diagnosis, and are aimed at helping the individual or family achieve and maintain stability, improving the mental and emotional health of the individual or family, and assisting them to cope or gain control over the symptoms and effects of their illness or life stressors. Psychiatric services, including assessment and medication management, are available and are provided by a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist.



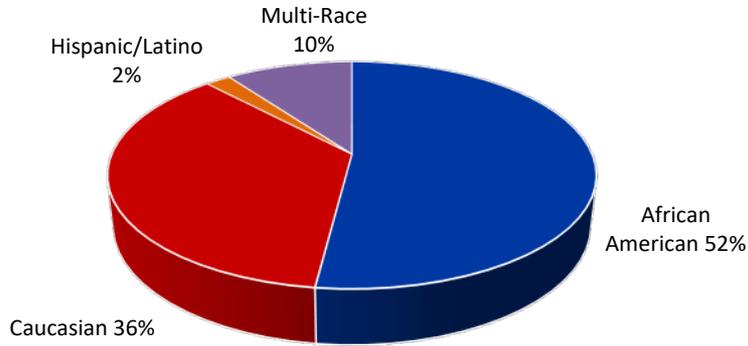
Mental Health Services are available through our out-patient clinics, through in-home services in the client's home, and throughout 2021, via telehealth services.

**SCYAP is committed to providing trauma informed, family focused services to improve the lives of children and families. We are sensitive to the unique strengths and challenges of each child and are committed to helping overcome these challenges to improve the child's overall wellness and quality of life.**

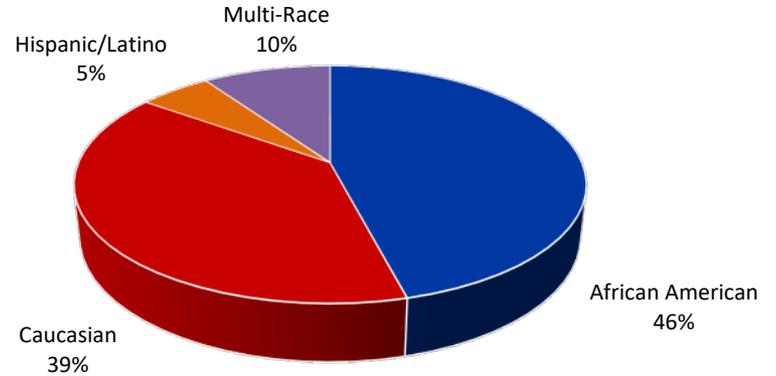
## 2021 Mental Health Services Client Population Demographics

A total of 494 clients were served through in home services in 2021.  
 A total of 2131 clients were served through clinic services in 2021.

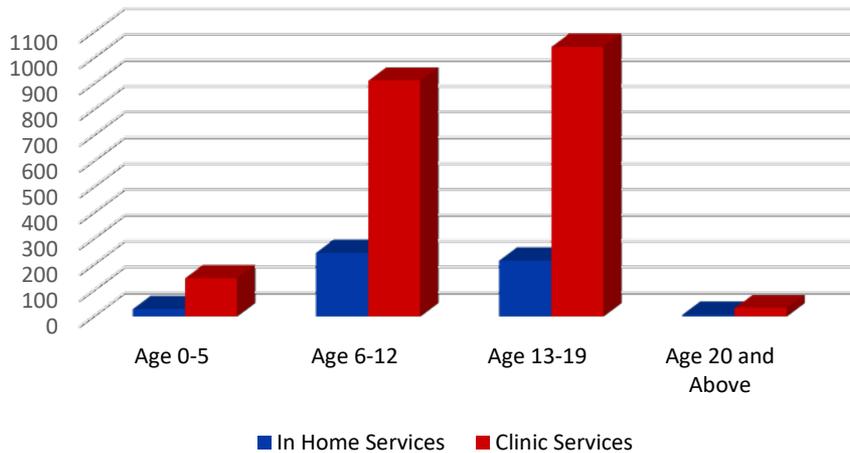
**Race - In Home Services**



**Race - Clinic Services**



**Age - By Location of Service**



A total of 442 clients were served through psychiatric services in 2021

	Male	Female
	46%	54%
African American	45%	43%
Caucasian	43%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	2%	10%
Multi-Race	10%	
Age 0-5	3%	36%
Age 6-12	36%	58%
Age 13-19	58%	3%
Age 20 and Above	3%	

# Community-Based Wrap Services



Operating under the conviction that children and youth should be with their families and served in their communities whenever and wherever possible, SCYAP's Community-Based Wrap Services are non-residential services that are provided within the client's home, school, or community.

The overarching goals of the services provided in the SCYAP Community-Based Wrap Services array are to treat and maintain clients in their homes, to prevent out of home placements, to promote stability and positive family functioning, to prevent involvement with (or further involvement with) the juvenile justice system, and to develop a positive quality of life for clients and their families.

**Behavior Modification Services** provide the client with redirection and modeling of appropriate behaviors in order to enhance his or her functioning within the home, school, and/or community.

**Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services** assist clients in the strengthening of skills needed to promote and sustain daily living, independence and stability in their living, learning, social, and working environments.

**Family Support Services** enable the family or caregiver to serve as a knowledgeable member of the client's treatment team and to develop and/or improve the ability of the family or caregiver to appropriately care for the client.

**Crisis Management Services** assist the client or family to regain stability during an event that threatens the psychological and emotional well-being or safety of the client or others.

## **Transportation Services**

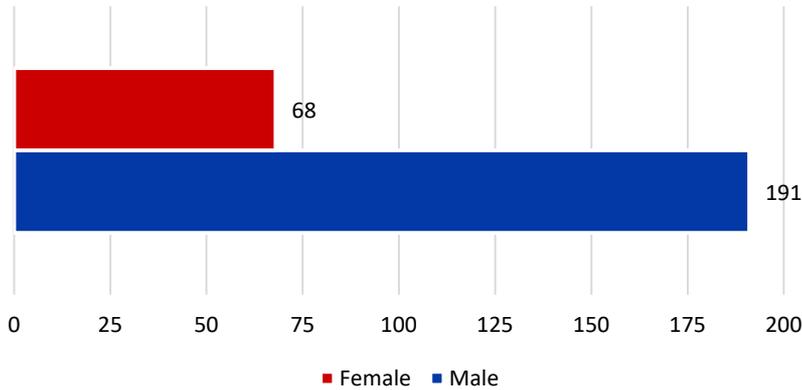
are available to clients and family members for transportation to and from therapy services, court hearings, family visits and pre-placement visits. Transportation Services are provided statewide and out-of-state transportation is also available. A referral from a SC government agency is required for this service.

**All Community-Based Wrap Services are available on a statewide basis and are provided at times when clients and their families can best access them (i.e., afterschool, in the evenings, on weekends, etc.).**

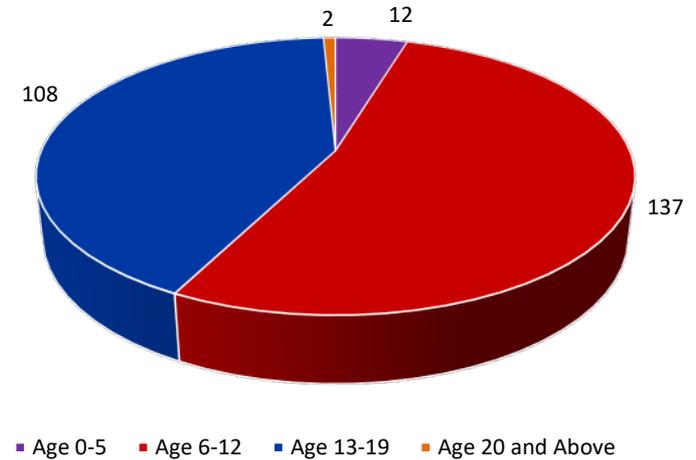
# 2021 Community-Based Wrap Services Client Population Demographics

A total of 259 clients were served by Community-Based Wrap Services in 2021.

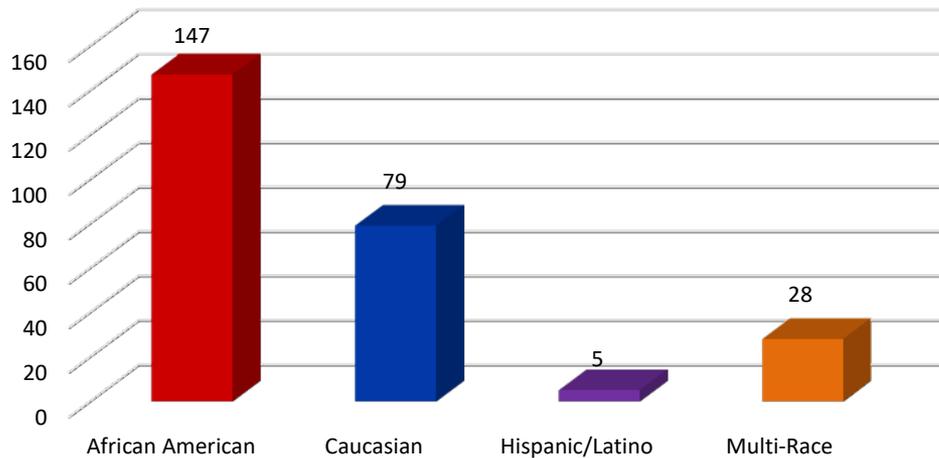
### Clients Served by Gender



### Clients Served by Age



### Clients Served by Race



**In 2021, the SCYAP Transportation Program drove children, youth and/or their families a total of 485,089 miles.**

# SCYAP Funding and Financial Information

In 2021, SCYAP's **Foster Care Services** continued to be the largest program, accounting for 74% of SCYAP's revenue.

**Community-Based Services** made up 5% of SCYAP's revenue in 2021.

**Mental Health Services** made up 16% of SCYAP's total revenue in 2021.

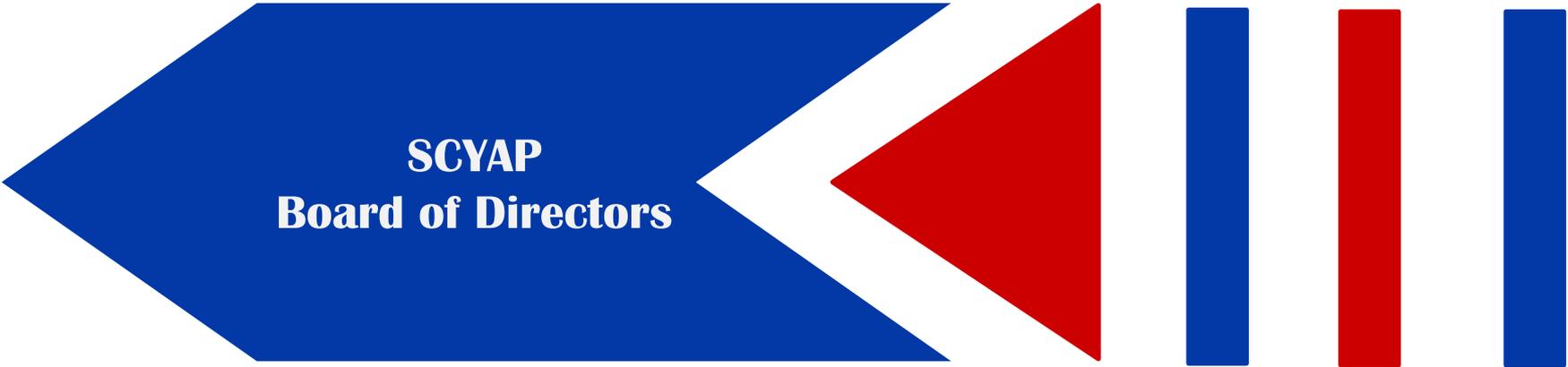
**Transportation Services** made up 3% of SCYAP's total revenue in 2021.

**Other income**, such as donations, contributions, grants, etc. made up 2% of SCYAP's total revenue in 2021.

Revenue Source	% of SCYAP Revenue In 2021
State Agency (Majority DSS)	56%
Medicaid (DHHS & Medicaid MCOs)	41%
Other Income	3%



Ensuring the overall financial health of SCYAP is a never-ending process. The financial stability and success of the organization requires our Board of Directors and Executive staff to institutionalize systems that are long-term in range while being relevant and applicable to the management of our day-to-day operations.



**SCYAP**  
**Board of Directors**

**Sandra “Sandi” Parise – Chair Parise & Noë Law Firm**

Born in Charleston, West Virginia, Ms. Parise is currently a Columbia, South Carolina attorney-at-law whose practice is devoted to divorce and family law. Ms. Parise received her undergraduate degree at the University of South Carolina in 1975, and her law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1981. Of note, Ms. Parise has been an editor of the South Carolina Family Court Handbook, a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a lecturer for the South Carolina Bar Association and the New Family Court Judges Orientation School. Ms. Parise has been a member of the SCYAP Board since 2002.

**Fred David – Vice Chair Retired**

Mr. David, is a former Strategic Account Manager for H.B. Fuller Company/Forbo Adhesives. Prior to his retirement in 2022, Mr. David was a seasoned sales and marketing professional with nearly 25 years of experience in the formulated adhesives industry. In his role at Forbo, Mr. David managed key accounts in strategic assembly, automotive, and textiles industry sectors. Mr. David attained a bachelor’s degree in 1980 in marketing with a minor in psychology at the University of South Carolina, where he also played as an offensive lineman on the football team under an athletic scholarship. Mr. David has served on the SCYAP Board since 2004.

**Charles “Chuck” Clymer – Secretary/Treasurer Retired**

Mr. Clymer, a former Vice President and Principal/Engineering Consultant, Terracon, Inc., received a degree in hydrogeology/geology from the University of South Carolina. Before retiring in 2020, Mr. Clymer was a senior principal at Terracon with expertise in environmental assessments, due diligence and site remedial action plans and remedial system design at Terracon, Inc., a nationally-recognized company which provides geotechnical, environmental, construction materials, and facilities engineering services. Mr. Clymer joined the SCYAP Board in 2003.

### **Silas Calhoun McMeekin    The Wolfe Company, Inc.**

Mr. McMeekin was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia with a dual bachelor's degree in Political Science and English. He remained in the DC area for several years, working with the Washington DC Association of Realtors as Education Director, and later on Capital Hill for several lawmakers, including serving as an intern for The Honorable Strom Thurmond, a Special Assistant to The Honorable Floyd Spence, and Field Representative for Arthur Ravenel's state governorship campaign. Mr. McMeekin returned to Columbia in 1994 and has worked for The Wolfe Company since that time. He is a member of the National Association of Realtors, Central Carolina Realtors Association, and the City of Columbia Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. McMeekin joined the SCYAP Board in 2009.

### **Patrick Parise    Artist**

Mr. Parise was born in Brooklyn, New York. His formal artistic training began at Bethany College in Kansas and continued at the University of South Carolina. After college, Mr. Parise opened his own printing studio, which expanded to etching, painting, sculpting and designing with varied media. Mr. Parise's award-winning work has achieved regional, national and international recognition, and many pieces now reside in museum, corporate and private collections. He has been commissioned for projects that include the design of custom floors inlaid with wood, granite and marble, handmade pieces for the architecture of a local church, and artwork that was presented to visiting foreign dignitaries. Mr. Parise has served as an instructor and panelist for the University of South Carolina, Columbia College, and Rose Hill Estate. He remains a professional artist and is owner of Southern Printworks. Mr. Parise joined the SCYAP Board in 2012.

### **Diane Salane    Colliers International**

Ms. Salane has worked for Colliers International since 1979, and currently serves as the Executive Assistant for the Sales Department in Columbia, South Carolina. Ms. Salane's business and educational background includes the University of South Carolina and Midlands Technical College, and she received her Certified Professional Secretary designation in 1988. She is a former member of Professional Secretaries International, Palmetto Chapter, where she served as in several executive positions, including President, and served on various committees. Ms. Salane's professional accomplishments include: 1990 South Carolina Secretary of the Year, Professional Secretaries International South Carolina Division, nomination for the 1993 Tribute to Women in Industry, a 2004 Colliers International South Carolina President's Award, and a 2015 Colliers International Community Service Award. In her free time, Ms. Salane has volunteered for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Columbia Blues Festival, Transitions Homeless Center, and United Way of the Midlands. She has conducted workshops for the South Carolina Independent Schools Association, South Carolina Department of Social Services, South Carolina Department of Mental Health, and Ready, Willing and Able. Ms. Salane joined the SCYAP Board in 2014.