

ment Southern
Families Leadership Children
National Impact Families Commitment

IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES

CHANGING LIVES





Every day across America, millions of working families struggle to provide for their children's most basic needs. Despite juggling multiple jobs, many of these families do not earn enough to provide their children with quality child care, health care coverage, nutritious meals and a safe place to live.

Sometimes help does exist through public programs. However, many parents and caregivers are unaware that they are eligible for public benefits, and those who do seek help can become discouraged by cumbersome applications and inefficient systems.

Other times, public policies to address the difficulties faced by lower-income families have yet to be created.

In many cases, public policies fail to reward work. Solving these problems requires research, analysis, collaboration and creative thinking.

That's where we come in...



OUR MISSION

The Southern Institute on Children and Families works with federal, state and local leaders and businesses to tackle critical issues facing lower-income children and families, and turns that knowledge into effective solutions that improve opportunities and change lives.

WE FOCUS ON THE SOUTH, BUT OUR REACH IS NATIONAL

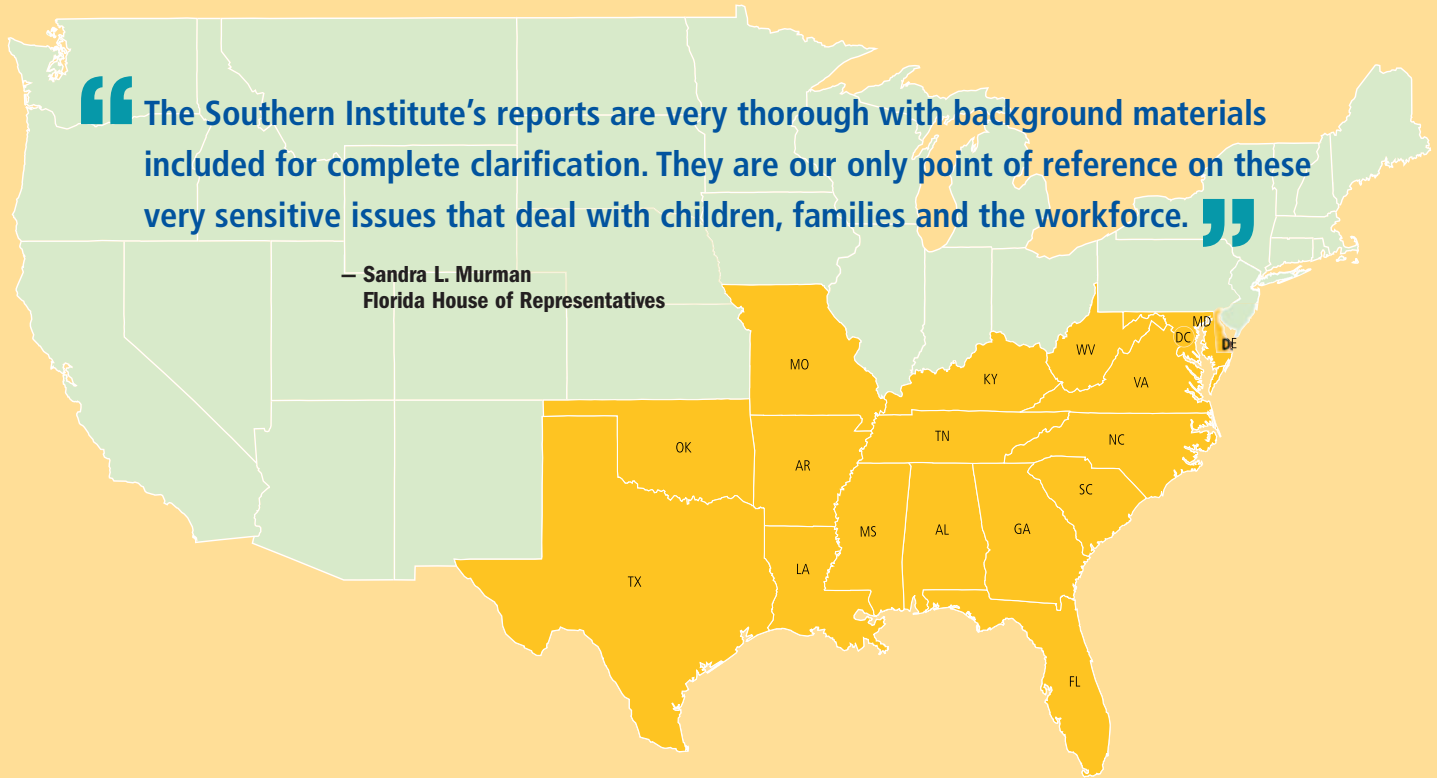
America's southern region faces the most difficult social, health and economic problems in the nation. That's why we have a special focus on America's 17 southern states and the District of Columbia.

Compared with the rest of the United States, families in the South are more likely to:

- **Live in poverty:** Eleven southern states and the District of Columbia have a higher percentage of children living in poverty than the nation as a whole
- **Lack health insurance:** Nearly half (46 percent) of all lower-income, uninsured children in the United States live in the South
- **Fall behind in school:** Nine southern states and the District of Columbia have a greater percentage of fourth-grade students reading below grade level than the rest of the nation
- **Be affected by child abuse and neglect:** Six southern states and the District of Columbia have child abuse and neglect rates higher than the United States

“ The Southern Institute’s reports are very thorough with background materials included for complete clarification. They are our only point of reference on these very sensitive issues that deal with children, families and the workforce. ”

— Sandra L. Murman
Florida House of Representatives





“ When my health care premiums doubled for myself and my family, I didn’t know how I would afford coverage for my wife and three kids. A co-worker suggested Florida KidCare. Since enrolling, my children have had regular doctor visits. It’s a huge relief. ”

— Ernesto Mantilla, Miami, FL

Our targeted efforts in the southern region allow us to improve public policies, identify promising practices and build public/private partnerships in the region where action is needed most. From there we take lessons learned to the rest of the nation, including direction of national multimillion-dollar initiatives consistent with our mission.

HOW WE WORK

Our approach is simple. We take an intense look at public benefit programs for lower-income children and families and find ways to make them better through:

■ Research and Public Policy Analysis

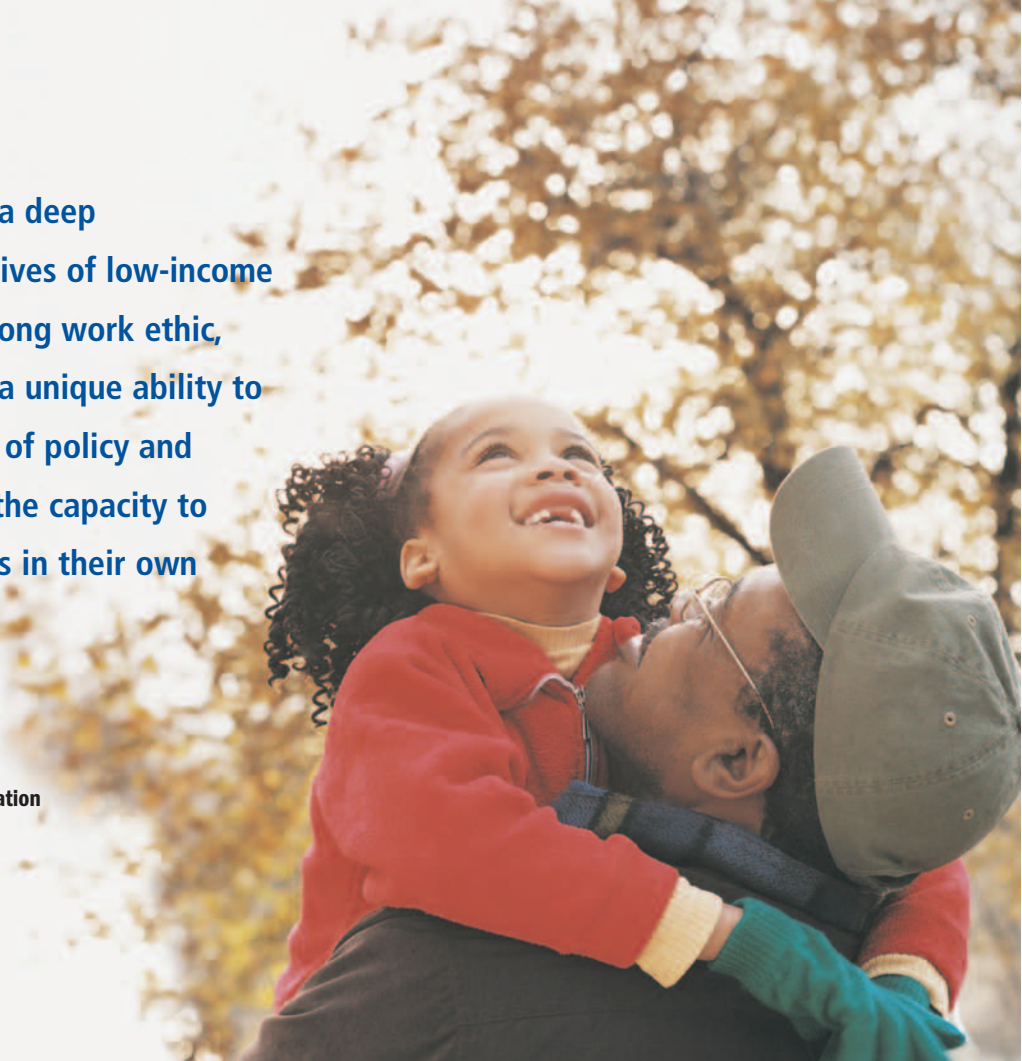
The Southern Institute analyzes the most pressing problems facing lower-income children and families and provides policymakers, state and federal leaders and the business community with timely, accurate information and tangible solutions.

■ Quality Improvement Strategies

We work in collaboration with public and private organizations to cut through the clutter of bureaucracy and complicated systems to develop sustainable, commonsense operational processes that get results.

“The Southern Institute marries a deep commitment to improving the lives of low-income children and families with a strong work ethic, sharp organizational skills and a unique ability to combine a deep understanding of policy and program implementation with the capacity to inspire others to create changes in their own states and communities.”

— Karen Davenport
Former Senior Program Officer
Covering Kids & Families
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



■ **Planning and Technical Assistance**

The Southern Institute works with eligibility agencies, managed care organizations, health care providers and others to identify and implement changes that address challenges and get results.

■ **Collaboration with Public and Private Leaders**

Initiatives like the Southern Business Leadership Council and the Southern Regional Task Force on Child Care and Early Education bring together leaders from state and federal governments, businesses, providers and the faith community to share ideas, develop improvement strategies and promote action.

■ **Coalition Building**

The Southern Institute is nationally recognized for bringing diverse groups together around a common goal to achieve results. We provide specialized expertise to newly formed or longstanding coalitions to help build capacity, achieve goals and sustain momentum.



WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR

Our work has resulted in dramatic improvements for millions of lower-income children and families across the country on a range of issues, including health care coverage, child care and early education and other policies that support working families.

Over the years, the Southern Institute on Children and Families has contributed to:

- A reduction in the number of uninsured children in the United States by nearly 2 million since 1998
- Quality improvements in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) eligibility processes in more than half of the states in the nation
- Improvements in child care policies and programs serving over 800,000 children in 17 southern states and the District of Columbia

“ The Southern Institute’s skillful combination of technical expertise and the ability to communicate in lay language about federal law, regulation and policy on Medicaid eligibility is unequaled. ”

— Judith D. Moore
Senior Fellow, National Health Policy Forum
George Washington University



“ Getting assistance to help pay my child care expenses helps me keep my job. As a single mom it is important to me to work, but without the child care subsidy I couldn’t afford child care for my kids and would have to quit my job. ”

— Helen Conway, Columbia, SC

“ I commend the Southern Institute on Children and Families for its leadership in bringing together business leaders to develop and promote concrete steps that will lead to more productive and stable employment of lower-income individuals. Achieving this goal will mutually benefit employees, employers and communities. ”

John Tully
Director, Community Relations
Michelin North America

“ The Southern Institute has helped us cultivate relationships across state agencies, increasing our ability to share information and streamline eligibility processes. As a result, more Georgians have access to the health care they need. ”

Fran Ellington
Former Director of Recipient and Third Party Services
Georgia Department of Community Health



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