

## U.S. PROGRAMS

# Investing in Childhood: Mississippi

Save the Children invests in childhood – every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States, our child experts work to ensure that our nation’s most underserved children have the best chance for success. Every day, we help children get ready to learn and succeed in school and live healthy, active lives. We ensure children are protected when crisis strikes. And we advocate to ensure American children’s voices are heard and their needs addressed, securing the future we share.

Save the Children began working with Mississippi communities in 1933. We have been implementing our evidence-based education and health programs in Mississippi since 2003. Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we currently partner with nine schools in seven counties to deliver these programs to 3,581 children in the state. In 2014, we also began operating Head Start programs in Mississippi, through which we now serve an additional 538 children.

### EVERY DAY

Save the Children’s Early Steps to School Success program assists babies and young children with language, social and emotional development; equips parents with the skills and knowledge to successfully support their child’s growth; and develops strong home-school connections. The program can begin when moms are pregnant and it follows infants and toddlers through age 5.

We also bring our early childhood expertise to managing the federal Head Start program in underserved communities. Aimed at promoting school readiness and social and emotional development for children from low-income families, Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve children from birth through age 5. Our services include a mix of high-quality classroom programs and home visiting, as well as comprehensive family services.

Through our Literacy program, we provide children in kindergarten through sixth grade with the opportunity to increase their reading achievement by supplying



the tools they need to develop reading skills and the guidance and support they need to grow as readers.

And our Healthy Choices program increases children’s access to regular physical activity and healthy snacks, as well as nutrition education to increase children’s knowledge of healthy living. It also serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

**Results:** In 2014-2015 in Mississippi, 90 percent of 3-year-olds in our Early Steps to School Success program scored at or above the normal range for vocabulary acquisition. Children in our Literacy program read an average of 63 books during the school year, and more than 69 percent of participants showed significant reading improvement. On average, literacy improvement was equivalent to an additional 5.6 months of schooling.

Children in our Healthy Choices program participated in an average of 30 minutes of physical activity per day and were introduced to nutritious snack options.

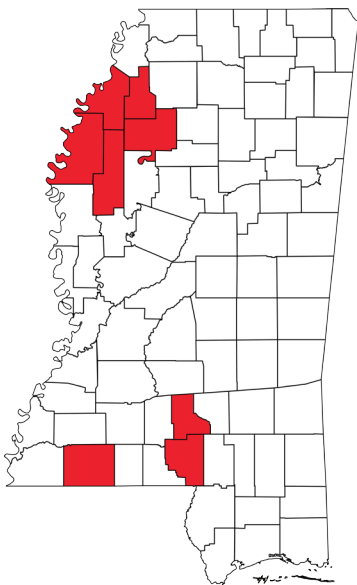
### IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Save the Children’s Get Ready Get Safe initiative helps communities prepare to protect their kids before, during and after a disaster. We respond directly to disaster-affected communities, working to address unmet needs of children. We also support the child care community

**We work with families and communities to help young children enter school ready to succeed.**

## WHERE WE WORK

SITES	Children Served	Early Steps	Literacy	Healthy Choices	Head Start
<b>AMITE COUNTY</b>	633				
Amite County Elementary		•	•		
<b>BOLIVAR COUNTY</b>	581				
Brooks Elementary		•	•	•	
I.T. Montgomery Elementary			•	•	
<b>COAHOMA COUNTY</b>	165				
Friars Point Elementary			•	•	
<b>JEFFERSON DAVIS COUNTY</b>	363				
GW Carver Elementary			•	•	
<b>MARION COUNTY</b>	892				
East Marion School		•	•	•	
West Marion Primary		•	•		
<b>QUITMAN COUNTY</b>	461				
Quitman Elementary			•	•	
<b>SUNFLOWER COUNTY</b>	538				•
<b>TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY</b>	486				
RH Bearden Elementary			•	•	



by providing recovery assistance, as well as emergency preparedness. In addition, we offer long-term resiliency support to children and caregivers through our emotional support program, Journey of Hope.

**Results:** Since 2005, we've helped more than 1,000,000 U.S. children in crisis through our emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs.

### FOR OUR FUTURE

We advocate for initiatives and legislation at the state and national levels that promote children's well-being and resiliency, including the necessity of quality early education programs, funding for underserved school districts, and child care emergency preparedness.

**Results:** Since 2010, Save the Children has achieved policy change in 37 states and the District of Columbia, benefitting 57,000,000 American children.

### SPONSORSHIP

Save the Children's Sponsorship program gives children living in poverty the opportunity for a brighter future. Monthly contributions by individual donors directly benefit a sponsored child's community, ensuring access to a quality education, healthy foods and opportunities to grow in a nurturing environment. Through regular written correspondence with their sponsored child, sponsors are able to personally witness the positive change they are making, not only in the life of a young girl or boy, but in the child's entire community.

**Results:** Currently, nearly 3,202 children in Mississippi benefit from Save the Children sponsorship. More than 1,995 sponsors support early childhood and school-age education and health programs in Mississippi.

**By helping children develop an early love of books, we help them build a solid foundation for success – in school and life.**

### CHILD POVERTY IN MISSISSIPPI

- 34% of children live in poverty.<sup>1</sup>
- 72% of children are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals – a socioeconomic challenge recognized as a barrier to student achievement.<sup>2</sup>
- 54% of 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families are not enrolled in pre-school/nursery school programs.<sup>3</sup>
- 79% of fourth graders scored below proficient in reading achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.<sup>4</sup>
- 40% of children ages 10-17 are overweight or obese.<sup>5</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> 2011-2012. National Center for Education Statistics.

<sup>3</sup> 2011-2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>4</sup> 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>5</sup> 2011-2012. National Survey of Children's Health.