

JUSTICE UNITES SAVANNAH TOGETHER

JUST

Community Impact

MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS CAMPAIGN 2025

In May 2025, JUST launched an Access to Mental Health Campaign to address the critical shortage of mental health providers in Chatham County—a shortage that has been well-documented and continues to affect residents through increased wait times, limited access to specialists, and reduced continuity of care, among other challenges.

As a result of our advocacy efforts, county leadership agreed to establish a Mental Health Workforce Development Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to:

- Facilitate the development of school-to-workforce pipelines
- Identify effective recruitment and retention strategies for mental health professionals
- Explore and cultivate public-private partnerships and identify local and state funding sources to support sustainable, long-term workforce development



SCHOOL LITERACY CAMPAIGN

Fighting for Every Child to Read at Grade Level (2022-2024)

JUST advocated for literacy equity in Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools (SCCPSS), pushing for the hiring of a superintendent committed to improving school literacy and implementing the Science of Reading Program.

Outcomes

- A new superintendent was appointed with a clear commitment to making literacy the district's guiding focus.
- A Literacy Effectiveness Officer has been hired.
- JUST continues to monitor literacy metrics and meet with SCCPSS leadership to offer support and ensure progress and accountability.



CASH BAIL REFORM

Advocating for Justice, Not Poverty (2020–2021)

JUST fought to reform the cash bail system that unfairly penalizes low-income individuals.

Our advocacy highlighted how the current system punishes poverty rather than addressing crime, urging fairer, more equitable pretrial practices.



AFFORDABLE & ATTAINABLE HOUSING ADVOCACY

Past Successes (2022):

In response to our persistent advocacy, the City of Savannah:

- Increased investment in the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF).
- Allocated \$7 million in FY2022 and \$2 million in FY2023—a total of \$9 million over two years.


Current Campaigns:


- JUST is urging City and County leaders to prioritize attainable housing in the SPLOST-8 (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) referendum.
- We advocate for SPLOST funds to be allocated toward infrastructure and the development of housing projects—such as Savannah Gardens or Athens-Clarke County's \$44 million initiative—both of which successfully utilized SPLOST funding

Zoning Advocacy: Bria Paxton's Density Bonus Amendment Proposal (Currently applies to specific locations within Savannah)

JUST supported Bria Paxton's Density Bonus/Zoning Text Amendment Proposal (voted on March 27, 2025), advocating through letters and public testimony.


Connect With JUST

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