

The Economic Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences in South Carolina:

Joseph Von Nessen, PhD



Dr. Joseph C. Von Nessen is a Research Economist in the Division of Research at the Darla Moore School of Business, where he specializes in regional economics and regional economic forecasting. He regularly conducts a wide variety of economic impact analyses, feasibility studies, and independent market research projects for clients in both the private and public sector. In addition, he is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the University of South Carolina's annual statewide economic forecast, serves on the advisory committee for the South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors, and is regularly invited to brief the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond on economic conditions in South Carolina. He is a frequent speaker for business and government leaders throughout the Southeast - providing information and consultation about business, markets, and local economies. He also makes frequent media appearances to discuss various local economic topics of interest. Dr. Von Nessen earned his B.A. at Furman University and his Ph.D. in economics at the University of South Carolina.

Prevention is Possible: A Conversation with Assistant Secretary Alex J. Adams:

Assistant Secretary Alex J. Adams



Alex J. Adams, PharmD, MPH, serves as Assistant Secretary for Family Support, leading the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He was nominated to lead the agency by President Donald J. Trump and was confirmed on October 7, 2025, by a vote of the U.S. Senate.

Assistant Secretary Adams brings years of health, human services, education, and regulatory expertise to advance President Trump and Secretary Kennedy's broader vision to Make American Healthy Again. Prior to leading ACF, Dr. Adams spent more than ten years in Idaho State Government as Governor Brad Little's budget and regulatory director and state Department of Health & Welfare director. In these capacities, he oversaw the state's first upgrade to a AAA credit rating with both Fitch Ratings and Moody's. Dr. Adams led the Governor's zero-based regulation initiative, which resulted in Idaho becoming the least regulated state in the nation. He also made significant efforts to improve Idaho's child welfare system, enacting kin-specific licensing standards, announcing paid family leave for foster parents, extending foster care to age 23, and overseeing record recruitment and retention of foster homes.

Dr. Adams earned his bachelor's degree and Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Toledo in Ohio and his Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore. Dr. Adams and his wife, Jennifer, are raising their daughter, Emerson.