

- I. Roll Call (Avian Jones)
- II. Public Comment Period
The public is invited to provide comments relevant to the SC Early Childhood Advisory Council and/or South Carolina First Steps during this period. Members of the public wishing to speak must sign up before the meeting. Comments should be limited to no more than three minutes per speaker.
- III. Call to Order and Approve Agenda (David Morley)
Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted
Motion: To adopt the June 16, 2022 minutes as submitted
Attachments : SC First Steps Board of Trustees June 16, 2022 Minutes
- IV. Executive Committee Report (David Morley)
Attachments: Executive Committee Report, Executive Committee Meetings Minutes, SCFS Pay For Success Project Overview
- V. Consent Agenda: Motions Recommended by Committees (David Morley)
 - a. Whereas South Carolina First Steps is committed to sustaining and scaling evidence-based parenting programs in the counties across the state;

Whereas South Carolina First Steps has been successfully increasing the reach of evidence-based parenting programs by securing and deploying competitive federal and philanthropic grants to local partnerships;

; L I V I E W X L I K V E R X J Y R H W Y W I H X S I \ T E R - B A S E D P A R E N T I N G P R O G R A M S A R E T I M E - L I M I T E D , C R E A T I N G A F U N D I N G C L I F F I N T H E C O M I N G O N E T O T H R E E Y E A R S ;

Whereas a pay-for-success financing mechanism, as authorized under South Carolina Title 11 Chapter 60 enables First Steps to work collaboratively with an impact investor and a philanthropic grantor to sustain and scale evidence-based parenting programs with additional accountability and outcomes focus;

Motion : To authorize South Carolina First Steps to develop a Pay for Success Project compliant with South Carolina Title 11 Chapter 60 and to submit a request to SFAA for approval for South Carolina First Steps to fund a Pay for Success outcomes-based financing project up to \$4.015 million over 3 years with an interest rate not to exceed 8% for the purpose of sustaining and scaling evidence-based parenting programs delivered by First Steps Local Partnerships. (Executive Committee recommends)



- b. Motion: To approve the evidenced based Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) updated program guidelines for the FY23 grant year. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
 - c. Motion: To approve the updates to the Program and Operational Guidelines for the FY23 grant year.(Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- VI. First Steps Is Here: Child Care Quality Enhancement (Kate Roach,Early Care & Education Team Lead introducing Lisa McFadden, Owner and Operator ofMcFadden Toddler Care, a family child care home in Lake City, SC and participant inFlorence County * M V W X 7 X I T W ... ' L M P Care Quality Enhancement Programand Jalisa McFadden, parent)
- VII.



FIRST STEPS





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FIRST STEPS





To: SC First Steps Board of Trustees
 From: David Morley, Chairman, Executive Committee
 Date: August 18, 2022
 RE: Executive Committee Report

Acknowledgment of guest speakers E X X S H E J ... W Q I I X M R K
 - Dr. Cheri Shapiro, Director, Institute for Families and Society, UofSC

Executive Committee Actions • July 29 & August 10, 2022

The Executive Committee of the Board of South Carolina First Steps met on July 29 and August 10, 2022. Minutes from the meetings are attached. The Executive Committee took action on behalf of the full board due to the time-sensitive nature of the operations of Abbeville County First Steps and the agency head performance evaluation.

1. Regarding Abbeville County First Steps

Motion made by Tim Holt, seconded by Dr. Amy Williams, unanimously approved to authorize South Carolina First Steps to enter into contracts with Abbeville County First Steps including a contract to reinstate formula funds remaining for FY2023 and to authorize Abbeville County First Steps to obligate state funds awarded to Abbeville County First Steps and to return to normal operations. Abbeville County First Steps will remain under corrective action and as such will be unable to apply for competitive or targeted grants, until all corrective action items are resolved.

2. Agency Head Performance Evaluation

A motion was made by Dr. Shelley Canright, seconded by Tim Holt, and unanimously approved to review of Georgia Mjartan.

Pay for Success Project

The Executive Committee took the following action:

Whereas South Carolina First Steps is committed to sustaining and scaling evidence-based parenting programs in the counties across the state;

Whereas South Carolina First Steps has been successfully increasing the reach of evidence based parenting programs by securing and deploying competitive federal and philanthropic grants to local partnerships;

; L I V I E W X L I K V E R X J Y R H W Y W I H X S I \ T E R - B A S E D P A R E N T I N G P R O G R A M S
 programs are time-limited, creating a funding cliff in the coming one to three years;

Whereas a pay-for-success financing mechanism, as authorized under South Carolina Title 11 Chapter 60 enables First Steps to work collaboratively with an impact investor and a philanthropic grantor to sustain and scale evidence-based parenting programs with additional accountability and outcomes focus;

Motion: To authorize South Carolina First Steps to develop a Pay for Success Project compliant with South Carolina Title 11 Chapter 60 and to submit a request to SFAA for approval for South Carolina First Steps to fund a Pay for Success outcomes-based financing project up to \$4.015 million over 3 years with an interest rate not to exceed 8% for the purpose of sustaining and scaling evidence-based parenting programs delivered by First Steps Local Partnerships.

Funding Cliffs

Mjartan provided information regarding upcoming funding cliffs that will affect local partnership programs, external partners delivering services to young children and their families, and the agency itself most notably the Early Childhood Advisory Council, whose work and initiatives (First5SC.org, 4EPQIXXS4VI/ SVK 7SYXL 'EVSPMRE... W)EVP] 0IEVRMRK)\XIRWMSR Plan, etc.) are almost entirely funded by time-limited grants.

AmeriCorps VISTA

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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
July 29

Whereas South Carolina First Steps has been successfully increasing the reach of evidence based parenting programs by securing and deploying competitive federal and philanthropic grants to local partnerships ;

Whereas the grant funds used to expand local parenting programs are time-limited, creating a funding cliff in the coming one to three years;

Whereas a pay-for-success financing mechanism, as authorized under South Carolina Title 11 Chapter 60 enables First Steps to work collaboratively with an impact investor and a philanthropic guarantor to sustain and scale evidence-based parenting programs with additional accountability and outcomes focus ;

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of South Carolina First Steps makes the following motion:

To authorize South Carolina First Steps to develop a Pay for Success Project compliant with South Carolina Title 11 Chapter 60 and to submit a request to SFAA for approval for South Carolina First Steps to fund a Pay for Success outcomes-based financing project up to \$4.015 million over 3 years with an interest rate not to exceed 8% for the purpose of sustaining and scaling evidence-based parenting programs delivered by First Steps Local Partnerships.

Mjartan provided information regarding upcoming funding cliffs that will affect local partnership programs, external partners delivering services to young children and their families, and the agency itself most notably the Early Childhood Advisory Council, whose work and initiatives (First5SC.org, PalmettoPreK.org, South Carolina's Early Learning Extension, South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan, etc.) are almost entirely funded by time-limited grants. There was discussion about the agency's planning and approach to sustaining and even scaling programs and initiatives in the face of these upcoming cliffs caused by the anticipated end of multiple federal and philanthropic grants.

Mjartan also provided an update on the agency's application for AmeriCorps VISTA, which, if awarded, would result in 6 additional team members (full-time) who would serve as AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers through a national service program intended to build the capacity of anti-poverty organizations. An additional staff member would be added to the organization if this grant were awarded, and initially the cost of that staff member would not be covered by the grant, although the cost of the members would be.

Chairman Morley asked Mjartan to provide commentary on her self-evaluation provided BT /TT0 11.04 Tf 4(jart)

The self-evaluation, performance and survey results from the board members .evaluation of Mjartan were discussed. No action



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2022 at 10:00 AM by Zoom

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How it Works

1. SC First Steps selects Local Partnerships to expand parenting programs in their counties
2. A philanthropic Guarantor commits to provide a 20% guaranty to enable Maycomb to invest
3. SC First Steps deposits a maximum obligation of \$4.15 million in the trust fund at SC Treasury.
4. Maycomb makes a \$3.65 million investment to SC First Steps in six advances over three years. SC First Steps disburses the funds to Local Partnerships needed over that period
5. Local Partnerships use the funding to expand parenting programs over three years.
6. SC First Steps tracks outcomes of parenting programs.
7. SC First Steps provides outcome reports to SC Treasurer's Office. Outcome reports will describe the outcomes achieved, payment rates for such outcomes, and outcome payments generated.
8. SC Treasurer's Office releases outcome payments from the trust fund to SC First Steps based on the outcomes reported. Outcome payments released are capped at the maximum obligation.
9. SC First Steps uses the outcome payments to pay interest and principal on the investment.
10. At the conclusion of the project:
 - a. If outcome payments exceed the amount needed to repay investment, SC First Steps will distribute excess funds 80% to Local Partnerships as a performance bonus and 20% to Maycomb. Partnerships will have discretion to use bonus with maximum flexibility
 - b. If there is any remaining unpaid obligation, Maycomb will draw down the lesser of the unpaid obligation and the maximum guaranty amount from the Guarantor. If the unpaid obligation exceeds the maximum guaranty amount, Maycomb takes a loss.



Preliminary Illustrative Financial Summary

Illustrative Project Terms	
Total Program Costs	\$3,600,000
Transaction Costs (Legal)	\$50,000
Total Project Costs	\$3,650,000
Investment Amount	\$3,650,000
Guaranty Amount (20%)	\$730,000
Interest Rate	8.00%
Performance Bonus to Local Partnerships	80%
Performance Bonus to Maycomb	20%
SC First Steps Maximum Obligation	\$4,015,000

Illustrative Cash Flow Summary (Assuming Achieve Maximum Obligation)

Project Year	1	2	3	4	Total
Calendar Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Project Expenses					
Program Costs	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$3,600,000
Transaction Costs	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Total Project Expenses	\$1,250,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$3,650,000
Outcome Payments to Investor (To be Finalized)					
Program Outputs	\$0	\$241,500	\$287,700	\$0	\$529,200
Education Outcomes	\$0	\$293,250	\$349,350	\$367,200	\$1,009,800
Health Outcomes	\$0	\$345,000	\$411,000	\$432,000	\$1,188,000
Parent-Child Outcomes	\$0	\$402,500	\$479,500	\$406,000	\$1,288,000
Total Outcome Payments	\$0	\$1,282,250	\$1,527,550	\$1,205,200	\$4,015,000
Investment Funding					
Total Investment Disbursements	\$1,250,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$3,650,000
Investment Repayment					
Interest Payment	\$0	\$113,000	\$102,460	\$72,453	\$287,913
Principal Repayment	\$0	\$1,169,250	\$1,425,090	\$1,055,660	\$3,650,000
Total Interest Paid and Principal Repaid	\$0	\$1,282,250	\$1,527,550	\$1,128,113	\$3,937,913
Success Payments					
Funds Available for Success Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$77,087	\$77,087
Success Payments Distributed to Local Partnerships	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$61,670	\$61,670
Success Payments Distributed to Investor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,417	\$15,417



Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee

Chairwoman: Dr. Amy Williams

REPORT

The committee met on July 25, 2022, via Zoom. All committee members were present. The meeting opened with an acknowledgement of the ongoing work through the Early Childhood Advisory Council regarding the Birth through Five plan and the Early Childhood Integrated Data System.

The bulk of the committee's meeting was spent discussing p ote t80 Td .2 (C)102-79 10(e)-8.1 (0)1 (7)1 2Sg9MeQ



Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee

Monday, July 25, 2016 10:06 AM



To: SC First Steps Board of Trustees
From: Jennifer McConnell
Date: August 4th, 2022
RE: Local Partnerships Program and Grants Committee

The Local Partnerships Program and Grants Committee met on August 4th, 2022; Minutes of the meeting are attached. The following motions were approved unanimously.

- A. Pay for Success and READY Funds
 - i. SCFS Executive Director Georgia Mjartan gave the committee an update on the Pay for Success model being considered by SCFS and also an update on the distribution of READY funds through targeted grants to partnerships being considered.

- B. Updated Evidence-Based Program Guidelines Approval
 - i. Nurse Family Partnership

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is a home visiting model that is client-centered and driven by client identified goals.



Local Partnership Program and Grants Committee Meeting
May 19, 2022
Virtual
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Minutes

Board Presence: Chair Jennifer McConnell, Shelley Canright, John Hayes, Roger Pryor

State Staff Presence: Derek



No motion at this time, as some of the Corrective Actions were minor and it was thought that they could be rectified easily as the program officer and the Local partnership team worked with the partnership. Derek will revise the Corrective Action list as partnerships come off corrective action and will present to the State Board on August 18th for a motion.

It was discussed if we should have the next meeting on September 15th as Program and Grants meet every other month but due to the content of agenda of this meeting it was moved to August so the schedule of meeting bimonthly would not work unless we kept the September meeting as is.

It was Agreed on by the committee to keep the September meeting on the 15th 11:30- 1:00 and in person.

Meeting was called to adjourn by Jennifer McConnell at 3:00

Nurse Family Partnership (214)

Evidence -Based & High Intensity Strategy

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is a home visiting model that is client-centered and driven by client identified goals. Nurse home visitors use input from parents, nursing experience, nursing practice, and model-specific resources to promote low-income, first-time mothers' health during pregnancy, care of their child, and own personal growth and development.

Partnerships' funding Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) strategies shall work in collaboration with SC First Steps (in its capacity as South Carolina's NFP sponsor agency) to ensure full compliance with national model guidelines.

Unit of Delivery = Families

Targeting

Intended Population

- NFP targets low-income, first-time mothers and their children. Low-income is defined as Medicaid eligible and/or a family income that does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty definition.
- NFP requires a client to be enrolled in the program prior to the end of the women's 28th week of pregnancy.

Client Retention

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		the NFP ETO system.	days of receipt (provided by implementing agency)	
Assessments	Only assessments prescribed by the NFP model as administered by Nurse(s) are required.			
Referrals	Only referrals prescribed by the NFP model as administered by Nurse(s) are required.			
Required Outcomes variables entered in the FSDC (LPs may enter additional information, if available)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of adults served • Number of children served • Number of referrals made • Number of home visits (per month or per quarter) • Average length of visits 			

Program and

To: SC First Steps Board of Trustees

From: Tim Holt, Chairman, Finance and Administration Committee

Date: July 20, 2022

RE: Finance and Administration Report

Minutes from Finance and Administration Committee Meeting (Zoom)

July 20, 2022

Members present: Tim Holt, Chairman, Jacque Curtin, David Morley

to provide guarantee funds if the project was unsuccessful. This would reduce the losses to the investor. At one point during the discussion Mr. Morley requested a revised version that would describe three possible outcomes, 1. Complete success, 2. Middle level success, 3. Total failure.

Mr. Mabie indicated the model provides accountability and evaluation. He mentioned that we are looking at the selection criteria for the Local Partnerships that would be chosen to participate. First, potentially, would be ones that are losing other funds. He also talked about the outcomes that are being developed for the evaluation.

There was discussion about whether the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) was structured enough regarding accountability and outcomes. It was mentioned that the evaluation should allow us to provide more study of the programs we choose. There were also questions related to the child level outcomes that would be measured in the NPP.

In evaluating the universe of Local Partnerships and partners, we need to look at the current level of performance and establish a balance between smaller rural and urban communities. Other comments included needing to backfill the cliff of upcoming federal funds and concentrating on underserved areas. We need to show an impact.

The funding for the project would come from one-time funds that would be deposited into the State's Treasurers Office fund to pay out over the life of the project. An Oversight Committee would be created as a joint effort between First Steps and Maycomb Capital.

No vote was taken on the project during the meeting and work would continue developing the plan.

Mr. Holt requested Mr. Barnes to provide the updates as listed on the agenda.

Mr. Barnes provided the following updates.

First Steps State Office Updates

1. Financial Report

Mr. Barnes briefly reviewed the financial reports for the Board. He shared the year ending report and the draft of the new budget for FY 2023 in addition to the Donations Report for FY 2022. As projected, the expenditures for the year ending were less than the budget. This is due, in part, to the statewide expansion of the 4K Program and that it will take a little while to achieve full statewide implementation, especially now as the child-care centers are struggling to find staff to teach in the classrooms. For the upcoming year, our budget is going to be similar to the budget for last year and will be approximately \$68 million.

Local Partnerships

Update on Allocation Model

As was decided by the Board of Directors, we will be evaluating the current allocation model through the work of a Task Force. We have received most of the data we will need for our work. As soon as it's confirmed that we have all the data we will need, we will schedule the first meeting. We expect to complete this work by December.

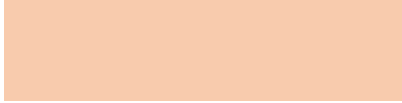
Update on Greenwood and Abbeville County First Steps Partnerships

Greenwood County First Steps continues to make good progress on their Corrective Action Plan. Abbeville County First Steps has started making good progress against their plan. Both of the Boards are working closely with the State Office to correct their deficiencies. We have developed agreements to ensure that Abbeville County services will continue to operate until they can get approval for their 2023 Grant Agreement.

4K Program

Staff gave an update on the program's status. Considerable work has been done to analyze the current cost structure of the 4K Providers. This has been done to assist us in developing the tuition payments for the upcoming school year. As a reminder, the General Assembly changed

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Projected
Actual

PROGRAMS OPERATIONS												
Description	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS	14,435,228	14,435,228		2,025,313	1,214,253	\$ 811,060				16,460,541	15,649,481	\$ 811,060
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORT & TECHNICAL ASSIST.	2,896,900	2,954,790	(57,890)	3,385,280		\$ 3,385,280	198,393	173,522	24,871	6,480,573	3,128,312	\$ 3,352,261
PRIVATE CONTRACT	32,014,655	26,604,044	5,410,611	5,307,914		5,307,914				37,322,569	26,604,044	\$ 10,718,525
EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL	193,500	45,349	148,151	2,531,685	4,814,139	(2,282,454)	130,000		130,000	2,855,185	4,859,488	\$ (2,004,303)
AMERICORPS				326,703	267,921	58,782				326,703	267,921	\$ 58,782
POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY	2,557,208	1,943,564	613,644	687,308		687,308	1,461,691	1,323,223	138,468	4,706,207	3,266,787	\$ 1,439,420
GRAND TOTAL:	52,097,491	45,982,975	6,114,516	14,264,203	6,296,314	7,967,889	1,790,084	1,496,744	293,340	68,151,778	53,776,033	\$ 14,375,745

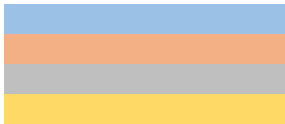
Notes:

1) Local Partnerships:

a. Funding Sources Education Improvement

3) Local Support & Technical Assistance

3) Local Support & Technical Assistance (cont.)



Donations

FY 2022

As of June 30, 2022

DATE RECEIVED	GENERAL	DONOR/PAYOR	FUNDS	PURPOSE / COMMENTS
Jul 19, 2021	\$ 25	Cindy Kellet	Unrestricted	SC First Steps
Jul 19, 2021	\$ 1,000	Brady Thomas	Restricted	Hampton County First Steps
Aug 1, 2021	\$ 10	Catherine Morton-FrontStream	Restricted	Berkeley County First Steps
Aug 10, 2022	\$ 15,500	Enterprise Holdings	Unrestricted	SC First Steps
Aug 24, 2021	\$ 975	Jim & Melinda Robertson-NFG	Unrestricted	SC First Steps
Aug 24, 2021	\$ 20	James Rickenbaker-NFG	Restricted	Orangeburg County First Steps
Aug 24, 2021	\$ 96	Blackbaud Giving Foundation	Unrestricted	SC First Steps
Aug 24, 2021	\$ 125	Flour Enterprise-The Benevity	Unrestricted	SC First Steps
Sep 1, 2021	\$ 10	Catherine Morton-FrontStream	Restricted	Berkeley County First Steps
Oct 14, 2021	\$ 100	Flour Enterprise-The Benevity	Unrestricted	SC First Steps
Oct 18, 2021	\$ 10	Catherine Morton-FrontStream	Restricted	Berkeley County First Steps
Oct 18, 2021	\$ 25	James Rickenbaker-Orangeburg Co.	Restricted	Orangeburg County First Steps
Oct 18, 2021	\$ 25	Sharon Daniels -Orangeburg Co.	Restricted	Orangeburg County First Steps
Oct 18, 2021	\$ 100	Chris Vanderford-Greenwood Co.	Restricted	Greenwood County First Steps
Oct 28, 2021	\$ 10	Catherine Morton-FrontStream	Restricted	Berkeley County First Steps
Nov 8, 2021	\$ 50	Laura Baker	Unrestricted	SC First Steps
Dec 3, 2021	\$ 150	Jennifer Wright-Lancaster Co.	Restricted	Lancaster County First Steps
Dec 3, 2021	\$ 200	Gloria Jennings-Richland Co.	Restricted	Richland County First Steps
Dec 3, 2021	\$ 25	Bethany Counts-Newberry Co.	Restricted	Newberry County First Steps
Dec 3, 2021	\$ 1,000	Aaron & Nicole Winkoop	Restricted	A Night to Celebrate
Dec 7, 2021	\$ 1,000	TS Holt Company	Restricted	A Night to Celebrate
Dec 9, 2021	\$ 5,000	Schwab Charitable-Marchelle Canright	Restricted	A Night to Celebrate
Dec 21, 2021	\$ 80	Blackbaud Giving Foundation	Unrestricted	SC First Steps
Dec 27, 2022	\$ 10	Catherine Morton-FrontStream	Restricted	Berkeley County First Steps
Dec 31, 2021	\$ 10	Bethany Counts-NFG	Restricted	Newberr

June 24,2022	\$ 108	K. Session-Richland County	Restricted	A Night to Celebrate
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\$ 112,280



Projected
Actual

PROGRAMS OPERATIONS

Description	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS	14,435,228	3,608,808	10,826,420	2,612,457		2,612,457				17,047,685	3,608,808	13,438,877
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	5,341,504	200,358	5,141,146				1,555,624		1,555,624	6,897,128	200,358	6,696,770
PRIVATE CONTRACT	33,509,679	1,221,386	32,288,293	1,873,457		1,873,457	142,058		142,058	35,525,194	1,221,386	34,303,808
EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL	176,000	405	175,595	3,729,725	46,795	3,682,930				3,905,725	47,200	3,858,525
AMERICORPS				326,703	27,523	299,180				326,703	27,523	299,180
POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY	2,863,504	135,052	2,728,452	260,103		260,103	1,300,000	7,071	1,292,929	4,423,607	142,123	4,281,484
GRAND TOTAL:	56,325,915	5,166,009	51,159,906	8,802,445	74,318	8,728,127	2,997,682	7,071	2,990,611	68,126,042	5,247,398	62,878,644

Notes:

1) Local Partnerships:

3) Local Support & Technical Assistance

3) Local Support & Technical Assistance (LPS)



Donations

FY 2023

As of July 30, 2022



DATE RECEIVED	GENERAL	DONOR/PAYOR	FUNDS	PURPOSE / COMMENTS
Jul 12, 2022	\$ 120	Jennifer Humphries-NFG	Restricted	Cherokee County First Steps
Jul 12, 2022	\$ 10,000	DSS	Restricted	Summit Sponsorship-SC First Steps
Jul 14, 2022	\$ 10,000	Childrens Trust	Restricted	Summit Sponsorship-SC First Steps

\$ 20,120



To: SC First Steps Board of Trustees

From:



- Time-limited grants fund programmatic staff at SCFS including team members responsible for child care quality enhancement, teacher training and early care and education, school transitions (Countdown to Kindergarten and Countdown to 4K) and parenting program expansion, training and model fidelity support and oversight .
- Time-limited grants have fully funded all of the work of the Early Childhood Advisory Council with the exception of \$105,000 in recurring state funds , which support one staff member plus benefits and fringe. Funding will be needed to continue developing and sustaining the significant progress made by the ECAC including but not limited to :
 - o First 5 SC
 - o Palmetto PreK (including www.PalmettoPreK.org and Jamboree)
 - o Early Learning Extension of the K12 Longitudinal Data System
 - o Birth through Five Plan, including ongoing working groups, monitoring, data gathering, reporting, and eventually, development of the next 5-year plan
 - o SC Statewide Early Childhood Needs Assessments
 - o Two-Generation Initiatives, which include SC Technical College Partnership, Family Voice Council, and Two-Gen Community of Practice
 - o Interagency Collaboration Committee & Early Childhood Communications Roundtable

Potential Supports for these efforts include:

- o Recurring state dollars
- o Interagency agreements / shared funding of collaborative initiatives (i.e. First5SC, Palmetto PreK, Early Learning Extension)
- o Philanthropic support
- o Continued pursuit of federal funds

READY Grants

**Proposed for discussion by Board of Trustees.

\$3 million in recurring funds to be distributed to local partnerships through competitive and targeted grants prioritizing rural communities and communities with persistently low KRA scores. Proposed grantmaking process:

- Only partnerships not on corrective action will be eligible to apply
- Two rounds, with awards made by Board of Trustees at October and February board meetings
- Multi-year grants (2 • 3 years, varies based on award)

READY Grants to Sustain Expansion(\$1 million)

Targeted grant funds to sustaining PDG-funded expansion:

- Parenting Programs
- Child Care Quality Enhancement





- x 4K + Siblings (as of June 8, 2022- this is the latest we have), New in 2021 • 2022 School Year (no comparison data)
 - o 1,723 children have been approved for a 4K+Siblings voucher
 - o 1,405 (81.5%) have successfully connected with a child care provider

- x First Steps 4K Academy for Teachers and Directors took place over two weeks (virtual and in-person) in August and involve over 400 teachers and directors. Intensive training and educational program students receive. (Rand Corporation Study)

Grants Awarded to South Carolina First Steps and In Development

AmeriCorps (renewal): \$333,369 awarded

- 36 part-time opportunities across the state serving with Local First Steps Partnerships and at the South Carolina First Steps office in Columbia.
- Two service positions, HIPPY Parent Educator & Family and Community Engagement, complete activities ranging from providing one-on-one support for parents to hosting outreach events about school readiness and local early childhood services.
- First Steps AmeriCorps provides 2 stipends per month ranging from \$204.28 to \$588.90.
- AmeriCorps members receive the Segal Education Award to pay down student loan debt or cover upcoming tuition costs. The award ranges from \$1,718.25 to \$4,546.50, and it is based on the number of hours completed during the 8 to 10 months of service.
- 18 Service Site Locations (16 local partnerships, ECAC and First Steps 4K). Members will serve with the following First Steps Local Partnerships: Barnwell, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Darlington, Florence, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Newberry, Orangeburg, Williamsburg, York
- Application for members to apply is now open. Orientation dates in September and October.
- 10 returning members and 4 alumni members hired by Local Partnerships
- 6 new members already recruited and schedule for Sept. 2 orientation
- Priority openings: Darlington (HIPPY • 2 positions), Berkeley, Lee, and York each have a PT Family and Community Engagement role that needs to be filled.



- Six VISTA members will contribute to the goals of the project by performing sustainable activities within communications, fundraising, nonprofit governance, national service and volunteer programs, and community partnership development over the course of the next five years.

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Request to PCI for financial, convening and dissemination support to share what we have learned through the development and successful launch of First5SC.org with colleagues across the nation with the goal of supporting the establishment of more family -centered, collaborative portals into complex public systems for young children and in particular children b irth to age three.

HR & Operations

- SC First Steps have the following new staff members:
 - o Catherine Bender, Local Partnership Fiscal Manager
 - o Emma Boswell, Strategic Impact Intern
 - o Rebekah Rutherford, 4K Intern
- Currently, the organization has the following vacancies:
 - o Local Partnership Fiscal Manager
 - o Local Partnership Program Officer

Every Child READY Funding Priorities Survey Results

Overview

The “Every Child READY Funding Priorities” survey was sent via email from First Steps Executive Director, Georgia Mjartan, to all First Steps Local Partnership Executive Directors (EDs) and Board Chairs on Wednesday, June 29, 2022. The introduction instructed all EDs to complete it only once before it closed on Friday, July 8, 2022. Program officers were provided regular updates the week of July 5 on who had responded, J 0.003ry14.3 (l)40.0eTc 0 Tw 1.161 culad,rul1h-0.l4.1 (i)6.

Every Child READY Funding Priorities
Survey Results

Table 2 continued.

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Every Child READY Funding Priorities
Survey Results

Every Child READY Funding Priorities Survey Results



Figure 2. Word cloud for response to “If you had one-time, non-recurring funding, would it be helpful? What would you use it for?”

Conclusions

In the final question about the survey, overall, EDs shared that they are grateful to First Steps for continued opportunities to serve more families and child care providers and are appreciative of the opportunity to provide feedback on this. Some shared that new EDs need support in understanding the best programs to select for their counties. Others shared that they are interested in seeing targeted grants that are not competitive come out before competitive ones and that First Steps should explore a per child funding model, like the state Department of Education. Several shared the need for infrastructure support and the challenges with recruiting and retaining workforce. Overwhelmingly, they are grateful for the state leadership and the continued commitment to children birth through age five.