



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

February 20, 2025

2:00PM

SC First Steps

636 Rosewood Drive Columbia, SC 29201

AGENDA

- 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** (Dave Morley)
Motion: To adopt the agenda as submitted
Motion: To adopt December 4, 2024 minutes as submitted
Attachments: SC First Steps Board of Trustees December 4, 2024 Minutes
- IV. **Executive Committee** (Dave Morley)
Attachments: Executive Committee Report, Executive Committee Minutes, 25-26 SC First Steps and Early Childhood Advisory Council Meeting Calendar

Motion: To approve the SC First Steps Board of Trustees and ECAC meeting calendar.
- V. **Consent Agenda** (Dave Morley)
 - a. **Motion:** To approve the updates to the Program and Operational Guidelines for implementation in fiscal 2025-2026, beginning July 1, 2025. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
 - b. **Motion:** To approve the updates to the Program and Operational Guidelines as recommended by South Carolina First Steps staff for implementation in fiscal 2025-2026, beginning July 1, 2025. (Program and Grants Committee recommends)
- VI. **Local Partnership Program and Grants Committee** (Wes Wooten)
Attachments: Local Partnership Program and Grants Committee Minutes
- VII. **Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee** (Dr. Amy Williams)
Attachments: Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee Minutes, FY 2019-2023 Evaluation of SC First Steps Local Partnerships
- VIII. **Evaluation of SC First Steps Local Partnerships FY 2019 – 2023** (Van-Kim Lin)
- IX. **Finance and Administration Committee** (Jesica Mackey)



Attachments: Finance and Administration Committee Report, Finance and Administration Committee Meeting Minutes, FY 2025-26 Local Partnership Allocation Change, FY 2024 Local Partnership Total Match Expenses, FY 2024 Local Partnership Formula Funding Carry-Forward, FY 2024 Local Partnership Administrative Expenditures, FY2025 Financial Status Report as of December 31, 2024, FY2024 Donations Report as of December 31, 2024

Motion: To approve the formula allocation model for FY 2025-26 that fully balances the accounts over a three-year period.

- X. **Legislative Committee** (Sen. Greg Hembree)
Attachments: Legislative Report
- XI. **Executive Director's Report** (Tracy Ann Vandervliet)
- XII. **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting of the SC First Steps Board of Trustees



Board of Trustees Meeting
December 4, 2024 2:00PM
SC First Steps
636 Rosewood Drive Columbia, SC 29201
Minutes

Trustees Present (15):

Dr. Robert Bank
Jacque Curtin
Mary Lynne Diggs
Constance Holloway
Mike Leach
Jessica Mackey
Jack McBride
Dave Morley, Chairman
Janie Neeley

Roger Pryor
Mary Anne Scott
Dr. Ed Simmer
Wes Wooten
Sue Williams
Dr. Amy Williams, Vice Chair

Trustees Absent (6)

Rep. Terry Alexander
Rep. Shannon Erickson
Dr. Matthew Ferguson
John Hayes
Sen. Greg Hembree
Eunice Medina

Attendees (67)

Ann Vandervliet
Mark Barnes
Avian Jones
Chelsea Richard
Derek Cromwell
Martha Strickland
Karen Oliver
Kaitlyn Richards
Kristine Jenkins
David O'Kelly
Molly Tuck
Betty Gardiner
Jim Riddle
Laura Baker
Samantha Ingram
Alexis Pipkins
Amira Hulwe
Aubrielle Kituuma
Benjamin Hall
Bernice Linton
Brandie Maness
Briana Lined
Candi Lalonde
Cheryl Scales
Cindy Galloway
Cindy Riley
Crystal Campbell

Emma Matzko
Felicia Battle
Felicia Patrick
Gina Beebe
Gloria Goodwin
Ivory Mitchell
Jade Wright
Jaiden Branch
Janice Kilburn
Jenny May
Jon Artz
Joy Mazur
Kate Roach
Kathy Fitzgerald
Kenna Hoover
Kerry Cordan
Kim Chariker
Kristen Martocchio
Kristi Richardson
LaMyra Sanders-Dukes
Lawanda Jones
Leila Jacobs
Lis Guimaraes
Mary Laney
Melissa Sanders
Michelle Bowers
Pauletta Plowden

Rachal Hatton-Moore
Rhonda Kelsey
Sally McClellan
Sarah Crawford
Senekita Farmer
Shayla Pettigrew
Stacy Greenwalt
Teneshia Slempa
Tiffany Outlaw
Tricia Gordon
Tyshica McConner
Valencia Johnson
Vanessa Earle



Chairman Morley called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Mr. Morley requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. McBride provided the motion, seconded by Ms. Neeley and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley asked for a motion to approve the October 17, 2024 minutes. Mr. McBride provided the motion, seconded by Mr. Wooten and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Morley reported on the Executive Committee where he shared that the committee met to discuss and take action on Local Partnership Executive Director compensation submissions. These actions were taken on behalf of the full board due to their time sensitivity. There was some discussion with Mr. Leach, Dr. Simmer, and Chairman Morley around the salaries and stipends.

Chairman Morley asked for a motion to approve the 2025 meeting dates through June 2025. Dr. Simmer provided the motion seconded by Ms. Williams. After some discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Richards shared highlights from the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee meeting.

Mr. Wooten reported on the Local Partnership Programs and Grants Committee did not meet.

Mr. Barnes reported on the Finance and Administration Committee and briefly shared information on agency expenses. He reported on the status of separation from the Department of Education.

Mr. Wooten reported that Local Partnership Programs and Grants Committee did not meet.

Mr. Cromwell acknowledged the local partnership Executive Directors that have transitioned from their roles in 2024 and welcomed new directors that began this year. Chairman Morley acknowledged Dr. Brenda Williams, Director Robbie Kerr, Senator Gerald Malloy, and Director Mike Leach who all transitioned off of the board this year and welcomed Eunice Medina, Interim Director of DHHS.

Mr. Barnes gave remarks on behalf of Ann Vandervliet and thanked the board and staff during her transition. Dr. Richards shared highlights from the 2023-2024 Annual Report. Ms. Strickland provided highlights and goal for 4K. Ms. Gardiner shared the fundraising goal for the year, details about the annual Night to Celebrate Community fundraiser, and the status of grant awards. Mr. Cromwell invited trustees to participate in the AmeriCorps MLK Week of Service.

Ms. Williams made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Williams, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m. by Chairman Morley.



To: SC First Steps Board of Trustees
From: David Morley, Chairman, Executive Committee
Date: February 20, 2025
RE: Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee of the Board of South Carolina First Steps met January 17, 2025. The committee discussed and approved the following motions:

To deny the appeal of the proposed Anderson County First Steps executive director compensation increase, as submitted by the local partnership board, and to take this action on behalf of the Board of Trustees of South Carolina First Steps due to the urgency of the matter.

To deny the appeal of the proposed Calhoun County First Steps executive director bonus, as submitted by the local partnership board, and to take this action on behalf of the Board of Trustees of South Carolina First Steps due to the urgency of the matter.

To deny the appeal of the proposed Williamsburg County First Steps executive director compensation increase as submitted by the local partnership board, and to take this action on behalf of the Board of Trustees of South Carolina First Steps due to the urgency of the matter.

These actions were taken on behalf of the full board due to their time sensitivity.

The minutes from the meeting are attached.



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes January 17, 2025

Members Present: David Morley, Jesica Mackey, and Wes Wooten

Members Absent: Dr. Amy Williams

Staff Present: Ann Vandervliet, Mark Barnes, Derek Cromwell

Meeting was called to order at 8:18 am.

As a quorum was present, the Committee proceeded with the agenda.

Wes Wooten made the following motion to go into executive session to discuss local partnership personnel items which was seconded by Jesica Mackey and was passed.

Motion: To enter executive session for the purpose of personnel matters: Anderson County First Steps executive director compensation; Calhoun County First Steps executive director compensation; and Williamsburg County First Steps executive director compensation.

With no action taken in session, the following motion was made by Wes Wooten, seconded by Jesica Mackey, and passed:

Motion to exit executive session.

There was discussion of the proposed actions included on the agenda, which resulted in the following motion from Wes Wooten, seconded by Jesica Mackey, and approved.

Motion to deny the appeal of the proposed Anderson County First Steps executive director compensation increase, as submitted by the local partnership board, and to take this action on behalf of the Board of Trustees of South Carolina First Steps due to the urgency of the matter.

There was additional discussion of the proposed actions included on the agenda, which resulted in the following motion from Wes Wooten, seconded by Jesica Mackey, and approved.

Motion to deny the appeal of the proposed Calhoun County First Steps executive director bonus, as submitted by the local partnership board, and to take this action on behalf of the Board of Trustees of South Carolina First Steps due to the urgency of the matter.

There was additional discussion of the proposed actions included on the agenda, which resulted in the following motion from Wes Wooten, seconded by Jesica Mackey, and approved.

Motion to deny the appeal of the proposed Williamsburg County First Steps executive director compensation increase as submitted by the local partnership board, and to take this action on behalf of the Board of Trustees of South Carolina First Steps due to the urgency of the matter.

Ann Vandervliet provided updates on several items. Discussion was held related to these and other ways to improve the communications around policies and procedures related to the Executive Director Salary Approval process.

As a quorum was not available during the updates, no votes were taken but the meeting concluded at 9:38 am.



Proposed

**2025 – 2026 Meeting Schedule
Board of Trustees and Early Childhood Advisory Council**

Meetings begin at 2 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025	BOARD OF TRUSTEES EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 4, 2025	BOARD OF TRUSTEES EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL
MARCH 19, 2026	BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL MEETING EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL
JUNE 18, 2026	BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL MEETING EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (Virtual)



**Local Partnership Program and Grants Committee
January 16, 2025
Virtual Meeting
1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.**

Minutes

Attendance

Committee: Wes Wooten, Rodger Pryor, John Hayes
Jack McBride- absent

SCFS Staff: Derek Cromwell, Anne Vandervliet, Kate Roach, Kerry Cordan, Cheryl Scales, LaMyra Dukes, Andy Jensen, Gina Beebe, Janice Kilburn, Jade Wright, Betty Gardiner, Kaitlyn Richards, Jaiden Branch, and Kathy Fitzgerald

This meeting had one Action item and one motion.

Open – Wes Wooten, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm

The floor was then turned over to Chief Partnership Officer Derek Cromwell, who gave a brief explanation of the program and operational guidelines and the changes that were to be presented. Derek then turned the floor over to the team leads as follows;

- a. Parenting- Gina Beebe
- b. Early Care and Education- Kate Roach
- c. School Transition-
- d. Health- Kerry Cordan
- e. Operations- Derek Cromwell

Following presentations the floor was open by Chairman Wooten for questions/discussion. Discussion points were as follows.

- Update the timeline requirement for mandatory reporter training in PAT guidelines
- Adding/Discontinuing programs: discussion around the need to add a statement about external funding for programs may not be required to reallocate. We feel that the statement in the guidelines allows for discretion concerning private funds, but that all budget changes must be approved by the local board and submitted to SCFS finance for reallocation per usual.
- General comment: development of an advisory group of LP EDs to provide feedback on documents and processes throughout the year

Derek read the motion following discussion

Motion: The Local Partnership Program and Grants Committee approves the updates to the Program and Operational Guidelines for implementation in fiscal 2025-2026, beginning July 1, 2025. The motion was brought by Wes Wooten, seconded by Roger Pryor, and unanimously approved for consent agenda.



After motion was read and voted on Derek Cromwell moved on to the next agenda item, The Formula Grant time line

- a. Formula Grant Continuation Application goes live March 1.
- b. Program and Operation Guidelines released March 1.
- c. Formula Grant Interim Application due by April 15.
- d. Formula Grant recommendations presented to P&G Committee May 15.
- e. BOT Consent agenda June 19.
- f. Grant Amendment for allocation sent out June 20.

All agreed of the dates presented. There was no action needed for this update. The discussion moved over to the location of our March Program and Grants meeting, it was agreed upon that the meeting will be held in Greenville.

Adjourn

Meeting was called to adjourn at 2:16 by Committee Chair Wes Wooten.



Local Partnership Program and Grants Committee

February 14, 2025

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Virtual

Minutes

Committee in attendance: Wes Wooten, Jack McBride, Roger Pryor, John Hayes

SC First Steps Staff: Derek Cromwell, Chelsea Richard, Kerry Cordan, Kate Roach, Gina Beebe, LaMyra Dukes, Jon Artz, Jade Wright, Tyshica McConner, Betty Gardiner, Jessica Fluker, Carrie Trivedi, Beth Kienzlen.

1. **Open/ Welcome** – Wes Wooten opened meeting at 10:03 a.m.

2. **Action Item- Program and Operational Guidelines FY25-26 Edits**

- Derek opened discussion on the reasons for additional updates to the Program and Operational guidelines. He explained that on response to the mandated agency external evaluation, it was decided to roll back requirements in our program guidelines that were not part of the national model guidelines.
- Kerry went through the changes of the guidelines as detailed below.

Operational

- Removed the statement of reach, i.e. 75% of PTS be met out of all individual program guidelines to the operational guideline space under “General Program Guidelines” section.
- Removed the data entry requirement from all individual program guidelines and emphasized them in the operational space under “operations” section.

Parenting

- Parenting- PAT guidelines updated to reflect national model guidelines only and removed and additions that were not part of the national model.
- Parenting- Other parenting programs removed any additional requirements that did not align with national model guideline where applicable.
 - o Removed screening if not part of national model.
 - o Removed percentage requirements for connections no in line with national models.



Early Care and Education

- Early Care and Education- where we require ASQ screenings, we aligned requirement with PAT standards(there are no “national models” for our ECE programs).

Motion: The Local Partnership Program and Grants Committee approves the updates to the Program and Operational Guidelines as recommended by South Carolina First Steps staff for implementation in fiscal 2025-2026, beginning July 1, 2025. Brought by Roger Pryor, Seconded by Jack McBride, and unanimously approved for consent agenda.

3. **Next Meeting discussion location and time, for March 20th meet**
4. **Meeting Adjourn – Wes Wooten**



Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee

MEETING MINUTES

The committee met on January 22, 2025, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM. The following committee members were present: Dr. Amy Williams and Dave Morley. The following committee members were absent: Janie Neeley. The following First Steps staff were present: Executive Director, Ann Vandervliet; Chief of Staff, Chelsea Richard; Chief Partnership Officer, Derek Cromwell; Director of Communications, Beth Moore; Director of Grantmaking and Development, Betty Gardiner; Government Affairs Liaison, Kaitlyn Richards. The following guests from Child Trends were present: Early Childhood Senior Research Scientist and Early Childhood Development Program Area Director, Van-Kim Lin and Early Childhood Development Data Scientist, Tracy Gebhart.

MOTION: Adopt the agenda as submitted (first: Dave; second: Amy; unanimously approved)

Pursuant to S.C. Code Section 59-152-160, South Carolina First Steps has commissioned Child Trends, an internationally recognized, non-partisan research institution, as our independent, external evaluator from 2024 through 2028. The focus of the meeting was for the Child Trends team to report the findings of their five-year evaluation of First Steps' local partnerships from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023 that included three parts:

- An objectives evaluation that sought to understand how our local partnerships have met their legislative goals and purposes
- A process evaluation that explored if program guidance provided to local partnerships by First Steps aligned with model expectations
- An outcomes evaluation that investigated if enrollment in a program funded by First Steps, where client-level data were collected in the state's data system, led to achievement of outcomes during enrollment or in their kindergarten year across three domains: South Carolina's youngest children are healthy and safe, actively supported by their families and communities, and arrive at school ready to reach their highest potential

There was a fair amount of discussion about looking at program dosage as an important factor when assessing impact on kindergarten outcomes in future prevalent program evaluations. Further, there was discussion about the chosen time horizon, i.e., fiscal years of enrollment in First Steps services, as opposed to school years of kindergarten entry. There was brief discussion about the process evaluation and how all program requirements are not necessarily created equal. Finally, First Steps staff mentioned that the agency has been increasing its evaluation capacity over the past five years, so as evaluation results lead to a new line of inquiry, the agency is equipped to pursue those with internal resources.

The evaluation results will be shared with the local partnership executive directors on January 23. The evaluation report must be submitted to the General Assembly on or before January 31. With the submission, First Steps will provide a cover letter that includes highlighted key findings and the

agency's commitments related to acting on these findings. There was a discussion about the key points and commitments to highlight in the cover letter.

The full Board of Trustees will hear from Child Trends and receive the evaluation report at the February 20 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.



To: SC First Steps Board of Trustees

From: Jessica Mackey, Chairman, Finance and Administration Committee

Date: January 29, 2025

RE: Finance and Administration Committee Report

The Finance and Administration Committee met via Zoom conference call on January 29, 2025, to take action on items and to receive updates from staff. Detailed meeting minutes are attached. The committee brings forward the following action item and forwards the following updates.

ACTION: Approval of the Local Partnership Formula Allocations for the next fiscal year

Three possible options for this year's allocation model were presented to the committee based on the request from the Committee during the Allocation Model discussion early last year. The Committee asked staff to come up with recommendations on how to more quickly move funds to where they should be based on the approved model. Mr. Barnes briefly reviewed the history of the model and the impact. Based on the current version, it would take almost 10 years for the funds to be balanced by being in the correct county. The three models presented included: 1. The current model with the 3% cap. 2. The current model with a 6% cap, doubling the limit of adjustments to the population. 3. The original model approved in 2017 with a three-year phase in to balance all funds. The balance of funds in the counties has been impacted by the dramatic changes in the number of children in each county that is living in a household at or under 185% of poverty. Since 2013, the number across the state has been steadily dropping. With COVID, the numbers had very dramatic shifts, as well as a large increase in the estimated margins of error. Because of these large shifts, several counties have had large number swings. Now that the COVID stimulus funds have been eliminated, there may be further changes in these numbers. The Committee had considerable discussion about the model along with the population numbers. There was consensus that the American Communities Survey census was the best data available for our purpose. After the discussion, Jacque Curtin motioned to approve Option 3, which was seconded by David Morley, and passed. Staff would schedule time with the Executive Directors and others to share the revised model and take input on moving forward with this option. (Note: Staff met with the Executive Directors on Wednesday, February 5 in an hour long Zoom call to receive feedback.)

The Committee makes the following motion to the Board:

Motion: To approve the formula allocation model for FY 2025-26 that fully balances the accounts over a three-year period.

First Steps State Office

Financial Report: Mr. Barnes shared the updated financial status of the agency along with the updated Donations Report. Expenditures to date are in line with projections for the new year and the organization is in good financial condition.

State Department of Education Separation: Separation from the State Department of Education has been completed. All funds and cash balances have been moved under a new standalone agency with a new chart of accounts.

SLED Investigation: Early last calendar year, during our routine monitoring, we became aware of some unusual expenses in credit card expenses in one of our Local Partnerships. Upon further investigation, we became very concerned about proper credit card use. Following our standard procedures, we notified

SLED of our concerns and asked them to evaluate the expenses. Based on that request, they started an investigation, which we expect to be completed soon.

Other updates can be found in the meeting minutes.



Minutes from Finance and Administration Committee Meeting

January 29, 2025

Members present: Jesica Mackey, Chairman, Jacque Curtin, CPA, David Morley: Members not present: None

Nonmembers present: Mark Barnes, Director of Administration; Ann Vandervliet, Executive Director, Derek Cromwell, CPO, Chelsea Richard, Chief of Staff, David O'Kelly CFO; Robin Ebert, Local Partnership Finance Director, Lakecia Clemons, Local Partnership Financial Manager

With all public notices being provided, and a quorum being present, the Zoom meeting was called to order by Jesica Mackey at 10:05 am.

Introductions and Welcome: Jesica Mackey welcomed everyone, and Robin Ebert was introduced as the new Local Partnership Finance Director. Mr. Barnes mentioned Lakecia Clemons and thanked her for her great work in acting in an interim role, as we completed the search for that position.

Approval of 2025-26 Local Partnership Allocations

Required Action Item: Approval of the Local Partnership Formula Allocations for the next fiscal year

Presentation by Mr. Barnes. Mr. Barnes reviewed the history of the allocation model over the last 8 years. He mentioned the development of the new allocation model in 2017, which was developed with the involvement of First Steps Board Members, Local Partnership Executive Directors, and other staff and external partners. He mentioned the concerns when the 2020 American Community Survey census data came out. There were dramatic changes and increases in the margins of error for a number of counties in the state. At that time the Board of Trustees decided to use the same allocation as the year before. In 2023, there were improvements in the margins of error, and reductions in the large variances seen the year before. The Board went back to the original model with one addition. A cap of 3% was placed on the amount of population that could change over the course of a year. During the 2024 allocation discussion, the Committee had several questions about how long it would take to fully digest any population changes and move the money to where the allocation model indicated it should be. One rough estimate indicated it would take many years to rebalance the model. It was decided the staff should evaluate the situation and make recommendations on how to get the funds balanced more quickly. Over the last two months, staff have been evaluating options.

Mr. Barnes presented the three options that were developed.

The first was a continuation of the 3% cap, which is the current model. At least four counties are showing double digits in percentages that were out of line. It would take almost 10 years to get all of these to balance.

The second option presented included doubling the cap to 6%, which would cut the time in half to get all counties in balance.

The third option would be to use the same concept of the process that was used when the new model was implemented in 2017. Phase in 1/3 of the amount each year for the next three years. Year one would be 1/3, year two would be 2/3 and the final year would be 100%. Once fully implemented, we would be back to the current rule of making annual adjustments, based on the model approved in 2017.

After the introduction of the three options, there was general discussion and several questions. The current trends were discussed and the fact that over the last ten years, there has been a consistent decrease in the number of children who live in homes whose income is less than 185% of poverty. The data shows a drop from approximately 185,000 in 2013 down to 149,000 in 2023.

After the discussion, Jacque Curtin motioned to approve option 3 which implements the full impact of the population over the next three years for the Allocation Model for FY 2025-26. Dave Morley seconded the motion, the vote was requested and was passed. This will go to the Board as a separate item, not in the consent agenda, so there can be general discussion.

Discussion Item: Review of Local Partnership Financial Information

Staff presented the summary financial information for the Local Partnerships for the fiscal year ending 6-30-2024. This included reports for the following annual requirements:

1. Counties Administrative Cost: Required to be under 13% of State Funding
2. Counties Match Report: Required to provide a minimum of 15% Match of State Funding
3. Counties State Funding Carryforward Report: Limited to 15% of State Funding

All counties met the requirements for the Administrative Cost and the Match Requirements. There was 1 county that exceeded the Carryforward limitations for prior years. Board Policy has been to implement a Corrective Action Plan for exceeding the amount two years in a row, and to recoup the amount of the overage. Aiken County exceeded the Carryforward amount and is currently under Corrective Action for not spending at least 15% of their funding for several years. Derek Cromwell spoke briefly about the work he and his staff have been doing to correct their underspending. He was asked to come back to the next meeting and provide a detailed report on the status of this Corrective Action Plan.

Mr. Barnes mentioned that all counties that were in corrective action last year are in compliance this year, except for Aiken County First Steps. Since the county was already in Corrective Action, there was no action taken by the Committee at this meeting.

All counties met the required Match funding, many exceeding the 15% requirement. The Committee asked that staff prepare letters to the 5 Local Partnerships with the highest match rates, commending them on their good work in this regard.

First Steps State Office

Financial Report: Mr. Barnes reviewed the monthly financial reports. The agency is in good financial condition. This discussion also included the amount spent to date and he reviewed the donations to date for this year.

State Department of Education Separation: Staff mentioned that the separation from the Department of Education has been completed and has gone smoothly. Our new budget and Chart of Accounts as a separate agency has been implemented and all funds and budgets have been transferred out of the Department.

State Budget Update: SC First Steps presented its budget request to the House Ways and Means Education Subcommittee recently. The Governor has made his recommendations which included \$192,108 for unfunded personnel cost increases, and \$2,777,120 for 4K for the FY 25-26 fiscal year.

Local Partnership Update:


Blackbaud Issues: We are holding on a new contract with Blackbaud as we work through some performance issues. At this point, these performance issues will need to be resolved satisfactorily or else we will need to consider other options. We have signed an agreement to work through their consultant to get the speed of the system, and the set up working efficiently.

SLED Investigation: Early last calendar year, during our routine monitoring, we became aware of some unusual expenses in credit card expenses in one of our Local Partnerships. Upon further investigation, we became very concerned about proper credit card use. Following our standard procedures, we notified SLED of our concerns

and asked them to evaluate the expenses. Based on that request, they started an investigation, which we expect to be completed soon.

4K Program Update: As of the beginning of the year, the program had enrolled a record number of participants for the new year with an increase of about 7% on day 45. We also have a record number of participating childcare centers.

With no further business to discuss for the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.

First Steps Local Partnership Allocation FY 2025-26 33% Change											
		Enter total funds for allocation in E 4 Enter Initial Base Allocation in E 6			Total Funds \$16,035,228						
		Instructions: Enter any noncompliance penalties in Column K Calculate Adjusted Base Allocation			Initial Base Allocation for Each County \$222,168						
Additional allocation for counties with high numbers of children age 0-5 under 185% of poverty is calculated as follows: 1. Select counties that have more than 2800 children age 0-5 under 185% of poverty. Subtract 2800 from estimated number in column C. 2. Calculate percent of the total for each county with more than 2800 children. 3. Multiply percent by the amount available for allocation. 4. Add the adjusted base amount to the additional allocation.				Total Initial Base Allocation \$10,219,728		Funds Available for Allocation = Total Funds Minus Total Initial Base \$5,815,500.00		Subtotal Allocation \$0.00		Total Noncompliance Penalties \$0.00	Total Adjusted Base Allocation \$16,035,228.00
Sources:	U.S. Census Bureau: 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table 17024			Initial Base Allocation	Low Income	Counties with large numbers of low income children	Percentage for additional allocation	Additional Allocation	Subtotal Allocation	Minus Noncompliance Penalty	Total Allocation
County	Estimated number below age 6 for whom poverty was determined	Estimated number below age 6 less than 185% poverty	Estimated percent below age 6 less than 185% poverty		County Percent of Population Below Age 6 Less Than 185% Poverty	2023 Estimate Above 2800					
South Carolina	334,324	141,906	41.1%		100.00%						
Abbeville	1,334	690	51.7%	\$222,168	0.49%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Aiken	11,149	4,328	38.8%	\$222,168	3.09%	1,528	0.026	\$153,026	\$222,168	\$0	\$375,194
Allendale	477	243	50.9%	\$222,168	0.17%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Anderson	14,179	5,749	40.5%	\$222,168	4.11%	2,949	0.051	\$295,337	\$517,505	\$0	\$517,505
Bamberg	706	345	48.9%	\$222,168	0.25%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Barnwell	1,502	1,202	80.0%	\$222,168	0.86%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Beaufort	10,546	4,866	46.1%	\$222,168	3.48%	2,066	0.036	\$206,906	\$429,074	\$0	\$429,074
Berkeley	17,476	5,944	34.0%	\$222,168	4.25%	3,144	0.054	\$314,866	\$537,034	\$0	\$537,034
Calhoun	715	338	47.3%	\$222,168	0.24%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Charleston	27,901	8,112	29.1%	\$222,168	5.79%	5,312	0.091	\$531,987	\$754,155	\$0	\$754,155
Cherokee	4,071	2,361	58.0%	\$222,168	1.69%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Chester	2,128	1,299	61.0%	\$222,168	0.93%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Chesterfield	2,837	1,621	57.1%	\$222,168	1.16%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Clarendon	1,649	833	50.5%	\$222,168	0.59%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Colleton	2,669	1,619	60.7%	\$222,168	1.16%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Darlington	4,047	2,250	55.6%	\$222,168	1.61%		-		\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Dillon	2,206	1,674	75.9%	\$222,168	1.20%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Dorchester	10,614	3,528	33.2%	\$222,168	2.52%	728	0.013	\$72,908	\$295,076	\$0	\$295,076
Edgefield	1,215	449	37.0%	\$222,168	0.32%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Fairfield	1,184	699	59.0%	\$222,168	0.50%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Florence	10,077	4,739	47.0%	\$222,168	3.38%	1,939	0.033	\$194,187	\$416,355	\$0	\$416,355
Georgetown	3,055	1,350	44.2%	\$222,168	0.96%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Greenville	38,462	13,938	36.2%	\$222,168	9.96%	11,138	0.192	\$1,115,450	\$1,337,618	\$0	\$1,337,618
Greenwood	5,156	3,086	59.9%	\$222,168	2.20%	286	0.005	\$28,642	\$250,810	\$0	\$250,810
Hampton	1,160	739	63.7%	\$222,168	0.53%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Horry	18,447	7,125	38.6%	\$222,168	5.09%	4,325	0.074	\$433,141	\$655,309	\$0	\$655,309
Jasper	1,626	988	60.8%	\$222,168	0.71%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Kershaw	4,379	1,810	41.3%	\$222,168	1.29%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Lancaster	6,915	2,449	35.4%	\$222,168	1.75%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Laurens	4,822	2,641	54.8%	\$222,168	1.89%		-	\$0	\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Lee	865	506	58.5%	\$222,168	0.36%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Lexington	20,436	8,219	40.2%	\$222,168	5.87%	5,419	0.093	\$542,703	\$764,871	\$0	\$764,871
McCormick	251	129	51.4%	\$222,168	0.09%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Marion	1,678	1,280	76.3%	\$222,168	0.91%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Marlboro	1,568	946	60.3%	\$222,168	0.68%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Newberry	2,242	992	44.2%	\$222,168	0.71%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Oconee	4,160	2,146	51.6%	\$222,168	1.53%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Orangeburg	5,011	2,835	56.6%	\$222,168	2.02%	35	0.001	\$3,505	\$225,673	\$0	\$225,673
Pickens	7,273	2,900	39.9%	\$222,168	2.07%	100	0.002	\$10,015	\$232,183	\$0	\$232,183
Richland	26,917	11,582	43.0%	\$222,168	8.27%	8,782	0.151	\$879,501	\$1,101,669	\$0	\$1,101,669
Saluda	1,232	547	44.4%	\$222,168	0.39%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Spartanburg	24,407	9,705	39.8%	\$222,168	6.93%	6,905	0.119	\$691,523	\$913,691	\$0	\$913,691
Sumter	8,328	3,538	42.5%	\$222,168	2.53%	738	0.013	\$73,909	\$296,077	\$0	\$296,077
Union	1,817	1,262	69.5%	\$222,168	0.90%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
Williamsburg	1,729	926	53.6%	\$222,168	0.66%				\$222,168	\$0	\$222,168
York	19,702	5,475	27.8%	\$222,168	3.91%	2,675	0.046	\$267,896	\$490,064	\$0	\$490,064
				\$10,219,728		58,069		\$5,815,500	\$16,035,228	\$0	\$16,035,228



Allocation Change between FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 with 33% Change Cap

27-Jan-25

County	Total Allocation 2024-25	Unadjusted Allocation 2025-26	Full Implementation Allocation Change	Allocation Percentage Change	Capped at 33.4% Per Year Change	Actual Allocation Percentage Change	Actual Adjusted Allocation for FY 2025-26
Abbeville	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Aiken	\$465,037	\$375,194	-89,843	-19.32%	-30,008	-6.45%	\$435,030
Allendale	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Anderson	\$472,194	\$517,505	45,311	9.60%	15,134	3.20%	\$487,328
Bamberg	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Barnwell	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Beaufort	\$435,662	\$429,074	-6,588	-1.51%	-2,200	-0.51%	\$433,462
Berkeley	\$566,804	\$537,034	-29,771	-5.25%	-9,943	-1.75%	\$556,861
Calhoun	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Charleston	\$767,548	\$754,155	-13,393	-1.74%	-4,473	-0.58%	\$763,074
Cherokee	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Chester	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Chesterfield	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Clarendon	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Colleton	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Darlington	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Dillon	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Dorchester	\$308,259	\$295,076	-13,183	-4.28%	-4,403	-1.43%	\$303,856
Edgefield	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Fairfield	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Florence	\$441,144	\$416,355	-24,789	-5.62%	-8,280	-1.88%	\$432,865
Georgetown	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Greenville	\$1,192,356	\$1,337,618	145,262	12.18%	48,517	4.07%	\$1,240,873
Greenwood	\$264,520	\$250,810	-13,710	-5.18%	-4,579	-1.73%	\$259,941
Hampton	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Horry	\$749,710	\$655,309	-94,401	-12.59%	-31,530	-4.21%	\$718,180
Jasper	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Kershaw	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Lancaster	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Laurens	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Lee	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Lexington	\$705,349	\$764,871	59,522	8.44%	19,880	2.82%	\$725,229
McCormick	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Marion	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Marlboro	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Newberry	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Oconee	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Orangeburg	\$299,749	\$225,673	-74,076	-24.71%	-24,741	-8.25%	\$275,008
Pickens	\$222,168	\$232,183	10,015	4.51%	3,345	1.51%	\$225,513
Richland	\$1,011,189	\$1,101,669	90,480	8.95%	30,220	2.99%	\$1,041,409
Saluda	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Spartanburg	\$828,753	\$913,691	84,938	10.25%	28,369	3.42%	\$857,122
Sumter	\$378,057	\$296,077	-81,979	-21.68%	-27,381	-7.24%	\$350,676
Union	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
Williamsburg	\$222,168	\$222,168	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	\$222,168
York	\$483,857	\$490,064	6,207	1.28%	2,073	0.43%	\$485,930
Totals	16,035,228	16,035,228	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	16,035,228

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness

Local Partnership Total Match Expenses and Percentage FY 2024

01/21/2025

	State Fund		
	Expenditures	Match	Match %
01 - Abbeville	\$273,122.39	\$41,885.16	15.34%
02 - Aiken	\$359,104.86	\$299,376.51	83.37%
03 - Allendale	\$256,005.14	\$49,338.09	19.27%
04 - Anderson	\$434,007.56	\$260,689.83	60.07%
05 - Bamberg	\$291,569.05	\$288,345.83	98.89%
06 - Barnwell	\$231,640.32	\$582,532.80	251.48%
07 - Beaufort	\$449,268.10	\$207,854.69	46.27%
08 - Berkeley	\$712,144.99	\$464,568.20	65.24%
09 - Calhoun	\$201,494.97	\$81,671.49	40.53%
10 - Charleston	\$727,591.86	\$653,931.88	89.88%
11 - Cherokee	\$221,139.42	\$522,400.76	236.23%
12 - Chester	\$214,000.30	\$54,228.12	25.34%
13 - Chesterfield	\$286,559.91	\$503,756.07	175.79%
14 - Clarendon	\$222,093.75	\$303,290.17	136.56%
15 - Colleton	\$277,608.20	\$286,262.16	103.12%
16 - Darlington	\$356,420.41	\$306,475.61	85.99%
17 - Dillon	\$285,602.97	\$299,006.96	104.69%
18 - Dorchester	\$357,313.73	\$96,228.82	26.93%
19 - Edgefield	\$228,626.94	\$461,751.20	201.97%
20 - Fairfield	\$225,717.39	\$338,653.94	150.03%
21 - Florence	\$481,365.88	\$788,543.08	163.81%
22 - Georgetown	\$181,543.70	\$239,632.27	132.00%
23 - Greenville	\$1,174,349.12	\$1,460,902.29	124.40%
24 - Greenwood	\$341,420.09	\$95,262.95	27.90%
25 - Hampton	\$226,270.28	\$113,402.82	50.12%
26 - Horry	\$737,038.98	\$187,417.31	25.43%
27 - Jasper	\$258,830.25	\$192,468.29	74.36%
28 - Kershaw	\$216,526.96	\$72,627.55	33.54%
29 - Lancaster	\$196,503.49	\$2,546,591.95	1,295.95%
30 - Laurens	\$220,493.83	\$224,724.02	101.92%
31 - Lee	\$256,821.86	\$1,657,984.39	645.58%
32 - Lexington	\$608,042.32	\$1,195,156.42	196.56%
33 - Marion	\$211,907.69	\$853,936.21	402.98%
34 - Marlboro	\$214,882.16	\$292,441.17	136.09%
35 - McCormick	\$222,916.61	\$223,895.77	100.44%
36 - Newberry	\$230,824.40	\$154,008.68	66.72%
37 - Oconee	\$206,991.11	\$511,235.53	246.98%
38 - Orangeburg	\$330,208.26	\$183,816.72	55.67%
39 - Pickens	\$293,577.38	\$674,181.40	229.64%
40 - Richland	\$1,116,720.71	\$2,985,514.72	267.35%
41 - Saluda	\$204,652.86	\$96,185.47	47.00%
42 - Spartanburg	\$833,545.07	\$5,157,166.49	618.70%
43 - Sumter	\$391,967.62	\$637,241.73	162.58%
44 - Union	\$207,380.56	\$73,817.83	35.60%
45 - Williamsburg	\$244,514.36	\$252,203.35	103.14%
46 - York	\$676,644.59	\$1,339,431.64	197.95%
Grand Total	\$16,896,972.40	\$28,312,038.34	167.56%

Local Partnership Formula Funding Carry-Forward FY 2024
27-Jan-25

15% Maximum Amount

		2022			2023			2024		
		Carryforward	Allocation	Percent	Carryforward	Allocation	Percent	Carryforward	Allocation	Percent
1	Abbeville	\$4,767	\$200,000	2.38%	\$32,695	\$200,000	16.35%	\$20,537	\$200,000	10.27%
2	Aiken	\$167,732	\$403,869	41.53%	\$193,496	\$425,127	45.51%	\$126,862	\$425,369	29.82%
3	Allendale	\$13,146	\$200,000	6.57%	\$54,454	\$200,000	27.23%	\$126	\$200,000	0.06%
4	Anderson	\$32,671	\$455,801	7.17%	\$45,134	\$446,884	10.10%	\$63,216	\$430,105	14.70%
5	Bamberg	\$269	\$200,000	0.13%	\$13,509	\$200,000	6.75%	\$20,627	\$200,000	10.31%
6	Barnwell	\$56,130	\$200,000	28.07%	\$31,029	\$200,000	15.51%	\$26,596	\$200,000	13.30%
7	Beaufort	\$29,953	\$353,000	8.49%	\$57,701	\$389,491	14.81%	\$19,882	\$398,907	4.98%
8	Berkeley	\$66,248	\$503,659	13.15%	\$108,654	\$494,064	21.99%	\$46,593	\$517,046	9.01%
9	Calhoun	\$3,926	\$200,000	1.96%	\$4,550	\$200,000	2.28%	\$21,833	\$200,000	10.92%
10	Charleston	\$6,129	\$727,340	0.84%	\$66,357	\$727,862	9.12%	\$42,264	\$697,885	6.06%
11	Cherokee	\$18,438	\$200,000	9.22%	\$22,072	\$200,000	11.04%	\$8,186	\$200,000	4.09%
12	Chester	\$34,965	\$200,000	17.48%	\$59,219	\$200,000	29.61%	\$15,998	\$200,000	8.00%
13	Chesterfield	\$7,214	\$200,000	3.61%	\$16,226	\$200,000	8.11%	\$11,352	\$200,000	5.68%
14	Clarendon	\$22,734	\$200,000	11.37%	\$48,867	\$200,000	24.43%	\$7,858	\$200,000	3.93%
15	Colleton	\$4,805	\$200,000	2.40%	\$18,532	\$200,000	9.27%	\$19,970	\$200,000	9.99%
16	Darlington	\$6,799	\$228,282	2.98%	\$11,107	\$216,451	5.13%	\$6,412	\$200,000	3.21%
17	Dillon	\$16,225	\$200,000	8.11%	\$21,767	\$200,000	10.88%	\$3,359	\$200,000	1.68%
18	Dorchester	\$26,469	\$353,747	7.48%	\$20,300	\$307,058	6.61%	\$28,163	\$284,136	9.91%
19	Edgefield	\$35,373	\$200,000	17.69%	\$18,720	\$200,000	9.36%	\$21,046	\$200,000	10.52%
20	Fairfield	\$52,914	\$200,000	26.46%	\$75,328	\$200,000	37.66%	\$12,084	\$200,000	6.04%
21	Florence	\$39,882	\$402,178	9.92%	\$57,254	\$390,550	14.66%	\$35,258	\$403,845	8.73%
22	Georgetown	\$0	\$200,000	0.00%	\$11,085	\$200,000	5.54%	\$22,541	\$200,000	11.27%
23	Greenville	\$106,925	\$1,056,324	10.12%	\$101,677	\$1,031,417	9.86%	\$22,593	\$1,023,327	2.21%
24	Greenwood	\$1,131	\$219,496	0.52%	\$47,752	\$233,913	20.41%	\$8,950	\$244,184	3.67%
25	Hampton	\$19,766	\$200,000	9.88%	\$28,462	\$200,000	14.23%	\$12,121	\$200,000	6.06%
26	Horry	\$90,556	\$581,758	15.57%	\$119,916	\$655,190	18.30%	\$28,951	\$681,816	4.25%
27	Jasper	\$26,112	\$200,000	13.06%	\$64,871	\$200,000	32.44%	\$1,163	\$200,000	0.58%
28	Kershaw	\$18,104	\$200,000	9.05%	\$8,649	\$200,000	4.32%	\$9,073	\$200,000	4.54%
29	Lancaster	\$9,102	\$216,158	4.21%	\$868	\$207,432	0.42%	\$12,231	\$200,000	6.12%
30	Laurens	\$22,698	\$209,940	10.81%	\$14,177	\$204,719	6.93%	\$26,769	\$200,000	13.38%
31	Lee	\$25,054	\$200,000	12.53%	\$31,320	\$200,000	15.66%	\$21,160	\$200,000	10.58%
32	Lexington	\$42,380	\$624,416	6.79%	\$39,541	\$593,328	6.66%	\$92,872	\$620,466	14.97%
33	Marion	\$71,330	\$200,000	35.66%	\$51,310	\$200,000	25.65%	\$18,092	\$200,000	9.05%
34	Marlboro	\$5,919	\$200,000	2.96%	\$22,407	\$200,000	11.20%	\$15,118	\$200,000	7.56%
35	McCormick	\$15,948	\$200,000	7.97%	\$23,559	\$200,000	11.78%	\$16,350	\$200,000	8.17%
36	Newberry	\$27,781	\$200,000	13.89%	\$25,853	\$200,000	12.93%	\$14,497	\$200,000	7.25%
37	Oconee	\$28,037	\$200,000	14.02%	\$40,838	\$200,680	20.35%	\$21,019	\$200,000	10.51%
38	Orangeburg	\$14,180	\$303,237	4.68%	\$41,658	\$291,116	14.31%	\$9,527	\$276,470	3.45%
39	Pickens	\$26,661	\$259,728	10.27%	\$51,302	\$230,944	22.21%	\$9,552	\$201,135	4.75%
40	Richland	\$128,573	\$799,336	16.09%	\$66,611	\$837,189	7.96%	\$39,487	\$917,369	4.30%
41	Saluda	\$22,688	\$200,000	11.34%	\$20,061	\$200,000	10.03%	\$22,432	\$200,000	11.22%
42	Spartanburg	\$51,476	\$678,353	7.59%	\$72,432	\$709,840	10.20%	\$35,462	\$723,832	4.90%
43	Sumter	\$41,847	\$347,291	12.05%	\$57,490	\$356,245	16.14%	\$63	\$347,013	0.02%
44	Union	\$35,322	\$200,000	17.66%	\$42,886	\$200,000	21.44%	\$17,546	\$200,000	8.77%
45	Williamsburg	\$11,849	\$200,000	5.92%	\$4,309	\$200,000	2.15%	\$16,370	\$200,000	8.18%
46	York	\$17,279	\$511,313	3.38%	\$46,103	\$485,728	9.49%	\$1,847	\$442,323	0.42%
T O T A L		\$1,507,511	\$14,435,228		\$2,012,105	\$14,435,228		\$1,054,005	\$14,435,228	

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Local Partnership Administrative Expenditures FY 2024

01/22/2025

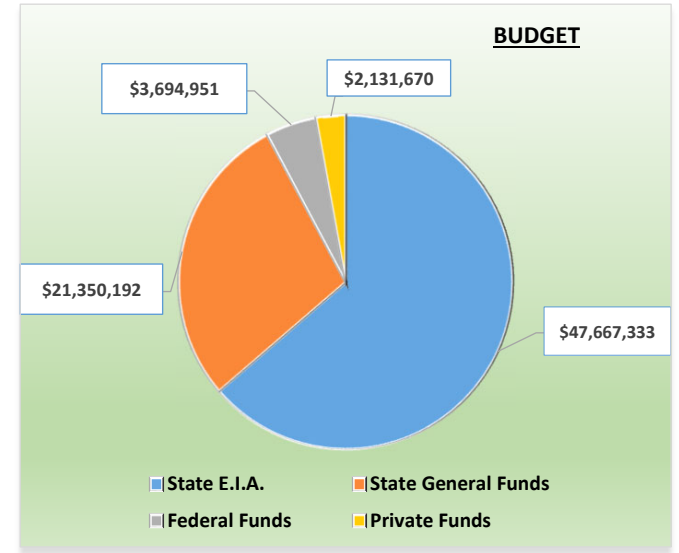
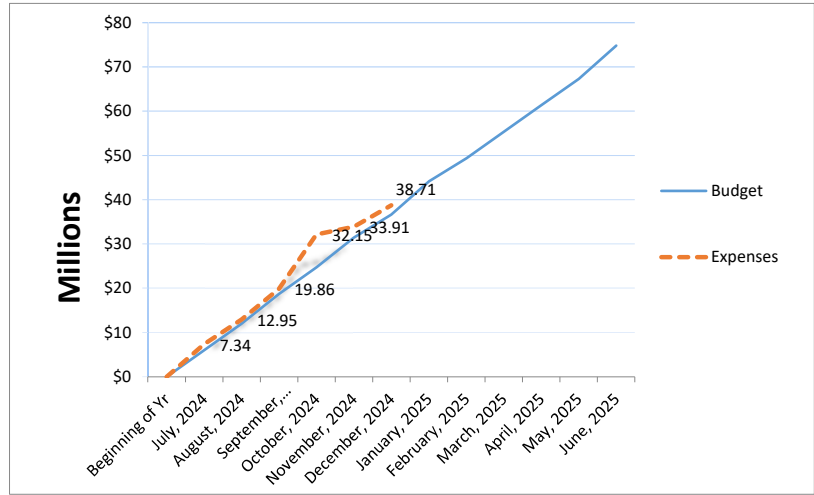
	E.I.A. Allocation	E.I.A. Allocation (Carry Fwd)	Total Expenses	E.I.A. Allocation ADMIN. Expenses	E.I.A. Allocation (Carry Fwd) ADMIN. Expenses	ADMIN. Expenses	PERCENTAGES
01 - Abbeville	\$179,463.21	\$93,659.18	\$273,122.39	\$15,370.45	\$9,136.97	\$24,507.42	8.97%
02 - Aiken	\$298,506.12	\$60,598.74	\$359,104.86	\$31,787.82	\$5,000.00	\$36,787.82	10.24%
03 - Allendale	\$226,005.14	\$30,000.00	\$256,005.14	\$17,553.28	\$2,500.00	\$20,053.28	7.83%
04 - Anderson	\$393,617.26	\$40,390.30	\$434,007.56	\$31,539.10	\$6,642.00	\$38,181.10	8.80%
05 - Bamberg	\$236,778.12	\$54,790.93	\$291,569.05	\$19,150.91	\$2,896.07	\$22,046.98	7.56%
06 - Barnwell	\$214,741.80	\$16,898.52	\$231,640.32	\$25,878.23	\$0.00	\$25,878.23	11.17%
07 - Beaufort	\$421,468.10	\$27,800.00	\$449,268.10	\$30,179.19	\$2,316.00	\$32,495.19	7.23%
08 - Berkeley	\$571,633.26	\$140,511.73	\$712,144.99	\$47,263.64	\$9,438.38	\$56,702.02	7.96%
09 - Calhoun	\$201,494.97	\$0.00	\$201,494.97	\$21,136.67	\$0.00	\$21,136.67	10.49%
10 - Charleston	\$674,402.30	\$53,189.56	\$727,591.86	\$72,628.84	\$9,629.79	\$82,258.63	11.31%
11 - Cherokee	\$211,501.60	\$9,637.82	\$221,139.42	\$17,743.81	\$1,287.12	\$19,030.93	8.61%
12 - Chester	\$184,002.09	\$29,998.21	\$214,000.30	\$13,107.40	\$2,055.17	\$15,162.57	7.09%
13 - Chesterfield	\$273,704.85	\$12,855.06	\$286,559.91	\$20,023.65	\$2,797.54	\$22,821.19	7.96%
14 - Clarendon	\$192,142.22	\$29,951.53	\$222,093.75	\$14,798.72	\$310.33	\$15,109.05	6.80%
15 - Colleton	\$236,735.80	\$40,872.40	\$277,608.20	\$17,065.90	\$3,600.00	\$20,665.90	7.44%
16 - Darlington	\$355,170.90	\$1,249.51	\$356,420.41	\$18,467.86	\$93.00	\$18,560.86	5.21%
17 - Dillon	\$285,594.85	\$8.12	\$285,602.97	\$25,874.79	\$0.00	\$25,874.79	9.06%
18 - Dorchester	\$326,613.62	\$30,700.11	\$357,313.73	\$44,683.49	\$360.05	\$45,043.54	12.61%
19 - Edgefield	\$199,852.94	\$28,774.00	\$228,626.94	\$23,023.11	\$750.00	\$23,773.11	10.40%
20 - Fairfield	\$195,720.12	\$29,997.27	\$225,717.39	\$24,945.22	\$1,289.00	\$26,234.22	11.62%
21 - Florence	\$415,339.75	\$66,026.13	\$481,365.88	\$35,789.97	\$12,457.50	\$48,247.47	10.02%
22 - Georgetown	\$177,459.24	\$4,084.46	\$181,543.70	\$15,019.30	\$0.00	\$15,019.30	8.27%
23 - Greenville	\$1,140,719.12	\$33,630.00	\$1,174,349.12	\$85,863.23	\$0.00	\$85,863.23	7.31%
24 - Greenwood	\$318,432.18	\$22,987.91	\$341,420.09	\$9,929.62	\$3,225.00	\$13,154.62	3.85%
25 - Hampton	\$196,278.64	\$29,991.64	\$226,270.28	\$23,375.32	\$2,266.98	\$25,642.30	11.33%
26 - Horry	\$654,662.69	\$82,376.29	\$737,038.98	\$73,517.51	\$4,512.07	\$78,029.58	10.59%
27 - Jasper	\$228,830.25	\$30,000.00	\$258,830.25	\$23,206.05	\$2,260.00	\$25,466.05	9.84%
28 - Kershaw	\$198,727.50	\$17,799.46	\$216,526.96	\$18,140.47	\$2,916.00	\$21,056.47	9.72%
29 - Lancaster	\$187,769.49	\$8,734.00	\$196,503.49	\$20,764.77	\$0.00	\$20,764.77	10.57%
30 - Laurens	\$184,484.99	\$36,008.84	\$220,493.83	\$17,328.00	\$245.28	\$17,573.28	7.97%
31 - Lee	\$210,376.41	\$46,445.45	\$256,821.86	\$8,556.14	\$17,397.00	\$25,953.14	10.11%
32 - Lexington	\$527,596.10	\$80,446.22	\$608,042.32	\$58,728.49	\$672.00	\$59,400.49	9.77%
33 - Marion	\$181,907.69	\$30,000.00	\$211,907.69	\$14,488.85	\$11,321.97	\$25,810.82	12.18%
34 - Marlboro	\$184,882.16	\$30,000.00	\$214,882.16	\$10,675.84	\$6,601.61	\$17,277.45	8.04%
35 - McCormick	\$212,840.76	\$10,075.85	\$222,916.61	\$27,077.53	\$250.00	\$27,327.53	12.26%
36 - Newberry	\$208,384.87	\$22,439.53	\$230,824.40	\$26,093.92	\$701.00	\$26,794.92	11.61%
37 - Oconee	\$178,981.12	\$28,009.99	\$206,991.11	\$15,032.20	\$8,494.21	\$23,526.41	11.37%
38 - Orangeburg	\$318,945.09	\$11,263.17	\$330,208.26	\$37,720.03	\$1,455.00	\$39,175.03	11.86%
39 - Pickens	\$266,584.38	\$26,993.00	\$293,577.38	\$26,385.33	\$4,035.00	\$30,420.33	10.36%
40 - Richland	\$1,007,087.50	\$109,633.21	\$1,116,720.71	\$71,994.82	\$49,095.08	\$121,089.90	10.84%
41 - Saluda	\$182,689.86	\$21,963.00	\$204,652.86	\$19,396.53	\$0.00	\$19,396.53	9.48%
42 - Spartanburg	\$789,638.71	\$43,906.36	\$833,545.07	\$89,885.48	\$0.00	\$89,885.48	10.78%
43 - Sumter	\$356,782.14	\$35,185.48	\$391,967.62	\$17,242.60	\$6,150.00	\$23,392.60	5.97%
44 - Union	\$182,454.43	\$24,926.13	\$207,380.56	\$12,322.76	\$5,076.09	\$17,398.85	8.39%
45 - Williamsburg	\$240,165.36	\$4,349.00	\$244,514.36	\$26,971.10	\$1,718.00	\$28,689.10	11.73%
46 - York	\$661,318.06	\$15,326.53	\$676,644.59	\$26,649.82	\$0.00	\$26,649.82	3.94%
Grand Total	\$15,292,487.76	\$1,604,484.64	\$16,896,972.40	\$1,344,377.76	\$200,951.21	\$1,545,328.97	9.15%



FY 2025

**As of
December 31, 2024**

Spending Rates	
Projected	50%
Actual	52%



PROGRAMS / OPERATIONS Description	STATE APPROPRIATIONS			FEDERAL GRANTS			PRIVATE FUNDS			GRAND TOTAL		
	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS	25,041,741	14,585,956	10,455,786	1,207,416	828,788	\$ 378,627	652,322	45,006	607,316	26,901,479	15,459,750	\$ 11,441,729
PRIVATE 4-K	39,993,616	20,527,767	19,465,850	1,675,000	736,722	938,278			-	41,668,616	21,264,489	\$ 20,404,128
EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL	1,010,109	198,864	811,245	812,535	209,930	602,605	1,190,293	112,370	1,077,922	3,012,936	521,164	\$ 2,491,772
ADMINISTRATION	2,972,059	1,286,283	1,685,776	-	-	-	289,055	181,112	107,943	3,261,114	1,467,395	\$ 1,793,719
GRAND TOTAL:	69,017,525	36,598,869	32,418,657	3,694,951	1,775,441	1,919,510	2,131,670	338,488	1,793,181	74,844,146	38,712,798	\$ 36,131,348

Notes:

1) Local Partnerships:

- Includes funds
 - a. Distributed to Local Partnerships
 - b. Cost of Audits, Accounting Svcs, Data Systems, Workmans Comp
 - c. State Office Local Partnership support staff

2) State Appropriations Include

- a. EIA Funds
- b. General Funds
- c. READY Funds
- d. Carry Forward Funds

3) Private Budgets Include

- a. Private Grants
- b. Projected Fundraising
- c. Carry Forward Funds

Federal Funds:		Total Fund Breakdown	
VISTA	62,560	47,667,333	State E.I.A.
AmeriCorps:	448,652	21,350,192	State General Funds
SLDS:	43,629	3,694,951	Federal Funds
PDG:	1,157,176	2,131,670	Private Funds
ESSER Funds	1,982,934	74,844,146	
	3,694,951		

Report has been updated to reflect new Chart of Accounts and separation from Department of Education

Donations

FY 2025

As of December 31, 2024



DATE RECEIVED	Amount	DONOR/PAYOR	FUNDS	PURPOSE / COMMENTS
Jul 1, 2024	25.00	Lyle Jacks	Unrestricted	Pickens County FS
Jul 1, 2024	25.00	Liz Rampy	Unrestricted	General Donation
Jul 3, 2024	10,000.00	Children's Trust of South Carolina	Restricted	2024 Summit Sponsorship
Jul 24, 2024	6,500.00	Giving Foundation (Sylvanmo)	Restricted	2025 Night to Celebrate
Jul 24, 2024	1,000.00	Department of Social Services	Restricted	2024 Summit Sponsorship
Jul 24, 2024	25.00	Joe Nation	Restricted	Lexington County FS
Aug 5, 2024	500.00	Kimberly Clark	Unrestricted	General Donation
Aug 7, 2024	350.00	Rick Nobel	Unrestricted	25th Anniversary General Donation
Aug 15, 2024	5,000.00	Department of Public Health	Restricted	2024 Summit Sponsorship
Sep 3, 2024	100.00	Randa Jacobs	Unrestricted	Greenville County FS
Sep 19, 2024	25.00	Joe Nation	Unrestricted	Lexington County FS
Sep 19, 2024	42.00	Pace Butler	Unrestricted	4K Program
Sep 19, 2024	15,000.00	Institute for Child Success	Restricted	2024 Summit Sponsorship
Sep 23, 2024	25.00	Joe Nation	Unrestricted	Lexington County FS
Sep 23, 2024	25.00	Betty Gardiner	Unrestricted	General Donation
Oct 10, 2024	25.00	Joe Nation	Restricted	Lexington County FS
Oct 10, 2024	2,500.00	ABS Kids	Restricted	2024 Summit Sponsorship
Oct 22, 2024	250.00	Crystal Lapeyrolerie	Unrestricted	2024 Summit Sponsorship
Oct 28, 2024	25.00	Marian McCray	Unrestricted	General Donation
Oct 28, 2024	50.00	Judith Andrews	Unrestricted	General Donation
Nov 15, 2024	25.00	Joe Nation	Restricted	Lexington County FS
Nov 25, 2024	2,910.90	Charities Aid Foundation America	Restricted	General Donation
Dec 4, 2024	100.00	Mary Lynn Diggs	Unrestricted	General Donation
Dec 13, 2024	50.00	Jacquelyn & Lois Curtain	Unrestricted	General Donation
Dec 13, 2024	2,500.00	Bank of America	Unrestricted	General Donation
Dec 16, 2024	25.00	Joe Nation	Restricted	Lexington County FS
Dec 26, 2024	1,000.00	Hal Kaplan	Unrestricted	General Donation

Total 48,102.90



To: SC First Steps Board of Trustees

From: Senator Greg Hembree

Date: February 20, 2025

RE: **Legislative Committee Report**

FY 2025-26 State Budget Request

First Steps' FY 2025-2026 state budget request was submitted on September 25, 2024. It was later amended on February 3, 2025. First Steps presented this request to the Public Education Subcommittee of the House Ways & Means Committee on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

Request Priorities Include:

- Unfunded Personnel Cost Increases (EIA) \$192,108 recurring
- Recruitment and Retention Costs \$264,401 recurring
- First Steps Local Partnerships \$1,781,500 recurring
 - \$1,500,000 – READY Grants
 - \$281,500 – Increased Costs for Direct Support
- Innovation Investments \$2,500,000 non-recurring
- Full Day 4K (CERDEP) \$5,783,835 recurring

Proviso Revision: 4K Updates

Proviso Revision: READY

Proviso Deletion: SDE-First Steps Division

Legislative Updates:

- [H. 3573](#): Universal Head Start and Early Head Start Act
 - The bill directs First Steps to produce and publicly post a plan to make substantial progress, annually over 5 years, toward offering Head Start or Early Head Start programs universally to eligible families. It also directs First Steps to promulgate regulations to establish processes for automatic enrollment in HS/EHS for eligible families.
- [S. 47](#): Child care Tax Credits
 - The bill increases the maximum tax credit for employee childcare programs. It also allows a refundable income tax credit for individual taxpayers that are employed full-time as a childcare director or child care staff member.