



## **TALKING POINTS**

- Families can apply online for First Steps 4K by visiting [Free4KSC.org](https://Free4KSC.org). The First Steps 4K + Child Care scholarship application is the last section of the First Steps 4K student application.
- First Steps 4K + Child Care Scholarships, in partnership with SC Child Care Scholarship Program (SCDSS), will extend child care and after-school scholarships, for up to 52 weeks, to any siblings, ages 0-12, living in the home of a First Steps 4K enrolled student. Families can begin using First Steps 4K + Child Care Scholarships on the first day of the school term.
- This scholarship program also covers all wrap-around care needed for the First Steps 4K student. The family must include the First Steps 4K student on their First Steps 4K + Child Care scholarship application to receive the wrap-around (half-time) scholarship for the 4K student.
- All First Steps 4K families are eligible for this scholarship program but must complete a First Steps 4K + Child Care scholarship application to receive the benefit. If the family did not fill out the 4K+ Child Care scholarship application section of the First Steps 4K student application, have them reach out to the Eligibility Specialist who processed the application or Baylis Wright, 4K+ Eligibility Specialist ([baylis.wright@dss.sc.gov](mailto:baylis.wright@dss.sc.gov)).
- Sibling scholarships can be applied toward enrollment at any child care provider who participates in ABC Quality, the state's voluntary quality rating and improvement system. First Steps 4K + Child Care Scholarships increases access to high quality early care and education opportunities.
- The First Steps 4K + Child Care scholarships ensures care and education for the whole family, leaving no child behind.