



FY 2021-2022 CHILD CARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

LEAD PARTNERSHIP

County First Steps

PARTICIPATING PARTNERSHIPS,
IF APPLICABLE:

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED,
(FOR FY 2021-2022): \$

PROJECT CONTACT NAME:

TITLE:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

APPLICATION DEADLINE

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021, 5:00 PM

Email this completed application cover sheet and ALL required documents to Kate Roach, Quality Child Care Team Leader, at kroach@scfirststeps.org.

As the authorized representatives of the lead applicant, we certify that, to the best of our knowledge, all information contained herein is an accurate portrayal of the proposed project and the roles and responsibilities of the project's associated partners.

Executive Director Signature

Name:

Email:

Board Chair Signature

Name:

Email:

CHILD CARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXPANSION GRANT

INTRODUCTION

As the result of Preschool Development Grant funds, South Carolina First Steps is pleased to announce a new grant opportunity for First Steps Local Partnerships interested in establishing or expanding an existing child care technical assistance strategy. The purpose of this funding is to assist Local Partnerships with increasing the number of child care providers receiving intensive, targeted coaching and support to improve their quality.

The Child Care Technical Assistance Program Expansion Grant process will allocate a total of **\$225,000** of funds to Local Partnerships. This is a competitive application process that aims to distribute funding awards as follows:

AWARD TYPE AND PURPOSE	FY 2021-2022 AMOUNT (PER LOCAL PARTNERSHIP)	# OF AVAILABLE AWARDS
Child Care Technical Assistance Program Expansion Award For creation or expansion (to new providers or classrooms) of evidence-based child care technical assistance strategies	Up to \$100,000	Minimum of 3 awards

ELIGIBLE LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

- All local partnerships are eligible to apply for funds. Local Partnerships must demonstrate good standing and organizational capacity. Applicants must provide justification for outstanding compliance issues.
- Local Partnerships who do not currently have a Child Care Technical Assistance strategy, but are applying for the Child Care Technical Assistance Expansion Grant are not eligible to apply for Child Care TA Capacity Building funding.
- Local Partnerships who currently have a Child Care Technical Assistance strategy and are applying for the Child Care Technical Assistance Expansion Grant are eligible to apply for Child Care TA Capacity Building funding.

CONTINUING FUNDING

Local Partnerships awarded a Child Care Technical Assistance Program Expansion Grant will be eligible for an additional year of funding, contingent upon:

- The Local Partnership's compliance with grant requirements and program performance.
- The availability of Preschool Development Grant funding to SC First Steps in FY 2022-2023.

LIST OF APPLICABLE CHILD CARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Programs listed are eligible for expansion and identified as evidence-based strategies by SC First Steps:

- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Quality Counts (developed by Spartanburg County First Steps)

FUNDING USES

Grant funding from this competition may be used for:

- hiring staff for program model implementation
- providing materials funding to child care providers in accordance with program model standards
- program or administrative materials to accommodate for increases in the projected number of providers served
- contract services for better program delivery
- training and/or professional development for Child Care Technical Assistance program staff

FISCAL GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

General

- Grant funds must be used to **supplement, not supplant**, existing funding from state and other sources.
- Funding awarded from this grant application is expected to be 100% federal funding. Therefore, this funding will not count towards local partnership restrictions on expenditures for administration, core functions, or evidence-based programs.
- All funding awarded from this grant application may be applied towards meeting the local partnership's match requirement.

Spending Grant Funding, Carryforward Guidelines

- As a condition of receiving funding, Local Partnerships must commit to budgeting and expending grant funds in a timely manner and for eligible activities using the correct Fund, Program, and Project Code as applicable. Coding guidelines and eligible uses of grant funding will be outlined within the grant award document.
- It is the expectation that all grant funding to Local Partnerships be expended by the end of the grant period (June 30, 2022). Timely and accurate expenditures of grant funds help SC First Steps assure its funders that their investment is being deployed efficiently and effectively. Local Partnerships that have spent less than 85% of their grant award by the end of the fiscal year will have any subsequent funding award reduced by the amount of excess carryforward, unless the Local Partnership can ensure that the excess carryforward funds are needed to complete the project and will be spent the following year. This policy will enable SC First Steps to direct needed funding to as many Local Partnerships as possible.
- Year-end grant balances will be assessed based on completed transactions in Financial Edge through **July 15, 2022**.

Shared Costs/Cost Allocation

Local Partnerships may include a reasonable allocation of Child Care TA Program Expansion Grant funds toward shared costs, taking into account:

- Size of the program
- Expansion vs. New programs
- Duration of the proposed program
- Other programs offered by the partnership
- Administrative costs must be described in detail.

Grant scoring will consider the cost per client for similar programs and the overall cost-benefit of the project to children, families, providers, and the community

Personnel Costs

- Grant funds may be used to fund new program staff positions or increase the hours worked per week or scope of work (up to 40, w/o overtime) of existing staff.
- Grant funds may not be used to increase the compensation rates of existing supervisory staff outside the Child Care Technical Assistance program. Such compensation increases must be paid for with other funding, and ED compensation increases must be approved by the partnership board.

AWARD PRIORITY POINTS

- **Multi-County Partnerships:** Applicants that commit to establish or expand a child care technical assistance program through a multi-county partnership (e.g., multiple counties sharing a Child Care Technical Assistant) will be awarded priority points. One county must be designated as the lead applicant.
- **Provider Commitment to Enroll in ABC Quality:** Applicants that propose to establish child care technical assistance at child care providers that are not enrolled in ABC Quality, with the providers' commitment to enrolling as a condition of participation in the local partnership's child care technical assistance program will receive priority points.
- **Service to Home-Based Providers:** Applicants that commit to establish or expand their child care technical assistance program to home-based child care providers will receive priority points.
- **Minimally funded (\$200,000) Local Partnerships:** Applicants that receive the minimum SC First Steps funding formula allocation amount (\$200,000) will receive priority points. If partnerships apply in a multi-county partnership, priority points will be awarded if at least one county in the partnership is a minimum allocation county.

BENEFITS OF GRANT AWARD

As a benefit of receiving these funds, the Local Partnership Child Care Technical Assistance staff will receive the following supports:

- Coaching, training and/or support for your child care technical assistant(s) from the SC First Steps Child Care Quality Coordinator;
- Training on the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children from First Steps state office staff (if the local partnership is not already receiving Pyramid Model training);
- Trainings with the Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program, with the option to make referrals to mental health consultants for children in child care providers participating in First Steps child care technical assistance programs, as needed;
- Support through bi-monthly Child Care Technical Assistant Network meetings hosted by SC First Steps.

CONDITIONS OF RECEIVING FUNDING

Local Partnerships must agree to the following conditions if awarded this grant funding:

- Participate in bi-monthly Child Care Technical Assistant Network meetings hosted by SC First Steps.
- Agree to periodic site visits and observations of technical assistance by the SC First Steps Child Care Quality Coordinator.
- For applicants applying for expansion of an existing Child Care Technical Assistance strategy, applicants must demonstrate that the program is currently meeting requirements as evidenced by a First Steps Data Collection system review. For those applying to create a new Child Care Technical Assistance strategy, applicants must demonstrate that they meet requirements in their Child Care Training strategy as evidenced by FSDC system review. If the county or counties applying do not have a Child Care Technical Assistance strategy or a Child Care Training strategy, applicants must demonstrate that they are meeting requirements for current programs as evidenced by a FSDC system review.
- All participating child care providers must be enrolled in ABC Quality or apply for enrollment as a condition for participation in Local Partnership Child Care Technical Assistance program (see priority points above).
- If the individual is not a SC Endeavors Certified TAP, he/she must have the credentials to apply for certification or have the education (at least Associates in Early Childhood Education or related field) and at least two years of experience in the field of Early Childhood education needed to successfully perform the duties of the role. The SC First Steps Child Care Quality Coordinator will assist the Local Partnership in additional onboarding and training of the new staff member; and help the staff member to work toward obtaining TAP certification if necessary.

County First Steps agrees to the criteria listed above as a condition of receiving a Child Care TA Program Expansion Grant Award for FY 2021-2022.

(type first and last name to serve as an electronic signature)
Executive Director Name

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. In the space below, please explain the need in your county for child care technical assistance program expansion or creation.

You may use indicators such as your local childcare providers' current child care quality levels, gaps in support services provided to providers, the expressed need for support from providers and community, new target areas or providers, etc. Please include your overarching measures of success and objectives from your Comprehensive Plan as they relate to extending high-quality early care and education opportunities.

2. Child Care Technical Assistance Program that the county will implement:

- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Quality Counts (Developed by Spartanburg County First Steps)

3. Please provide details on the Local Partnership staff that will be needed to implement this program (e.g., if Technical Assistance staff is needed to be hired, if hours will be increased for current staff member, if a multi-county partnership will be sharing a staff member and how that staff member will divide their time between counties, etc.).

4. How many child care providers and classrooms do you anticipate serving through this program expansion or creation?

Number of providers (new providers if expanding):

Number of classrooms (new classrooms if expanding):

5. Describe your experience working to improve child care quality in your county (through existing child care technical assistance efforts, child care training program, or otherwise), the quality of existing partnerships with child care providers, and the plan for recruiting new child care providers and/or classrooms to participate in this program.

Experience working with child care providers:

Recruitment plan:

AWARD PRIORITY POINTS

1. Will this Technical Assistance program be a multi-county collaboration?

YES

Lead county:

Counties involved:

NO

2. Will this Technical Assistance program serve home-based providers?

YES

NO

3. Will the Local Partnership commit to establishing child care technical assistance at child care providers that are not enrolled in ABC Quality, with the providers' commitment to enrolling as a condition of participation in the local partnership's child care technical assistance program?

YES

NO

Optional: Please attach any letters or statements of support from child care provider(s) in your county who will commit to participate in your partnership's child care technical assistance program (if expanding, must be new providers or classrooms).

Projected Budget: Submit a draft budget using the Program Page format from the Budget Spending Plan. Include requested funds as "Fund 30 – PDG Quality Enhancement" under Program Code 6012 and include any other state, federal, private or in-kind funding that will be used to support the program. Note grant funds must be used to supplement, not supplant, existing funding from state and other sources.