Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

Round Two
Bidders’ Conference

May 19, 2017
SC First Steps to School Readiness
Today’s Agenda

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships
   a. What is Early Head Start
   b. Overview of First Steps’ Grant
   c. Early Head Start vs. Child Care Licensing/ABC

3. The Application Process
   a. Phase One: Provider Application
   b. Phase Two: Site Visits
   c. Phase three: Decisions and Contract Offers

4. Questions and Answers
WHAT IS EARLY HEAD START?
What is Early Head Start?

- Established within 1994 Reauthorization of Head Start Act
- Complement to the Head Start preschool program. EHS serves low-income families with infants and toddlers.
- Designed to:
  - Promote the development of young children
  - Engage parents in their roles as primary caregivers and teachers
  - Help parents move toward self-sufficiency
Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) Expansion

• 2014: $500 million national expansion of Early Head Start
  – Five awards in South Carolina:
    • SC First Steps (12 counties)
    • Charleston County First Steps
    • Spartanburg County First Steps
    • Lancaster County First Steps
    • GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission

• 2017: SC First Steps awarded SC’s only Round Two CCP expansion grant.
What is the First Steps Early Head Start Model?

• Full-day (minimum 10 hours), full-year (5 days per week, 260* days per year) comprehensive model, promoting the school readiness of low-income infants and toddlers (birth to three):
  • In high-quality, center-based early learning environments
  • With comprehensive health, educational, nutritional, social and family support services

* 260 days inclusive of holidays and professional development days.
Educational Component

• High-quality, relationship-based care (secure relationships, trust and emotional security)
• Mixed age groupings (continuity of care)
• Research-based curriculum (Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Twos)
• Competitively compensated, qualified caregivers (Infant-Toddler CDA or higher)
• Inclusion of children with disabilities (10% or more of total grant enrollment)
THE FIRST STEPS GRANT
254 slots in Round 1
162 slots in Round 2
416 total slots
☆ = Current Centers
The Current Opportunity

EXPANSION IN UP TO 11 SC COUNTIES:
Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Berkeley, Dillon, Fairfield, Georgetown, Lexington, McCormick, Orangeburg and York

CONTRACTS WITH CHILD CARE PROVIDER PARTNERS FOR HIGH-QUALITY, INFANT-TODDLER CARE.
Similar to 4K expansion
High standards, with the resources to get you there

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES VIA SC FIRST STEPS STATE AND LOCAL STAFF, OTHERS AS NEEDED.
Family service workers, health, dental, nutrition, developmental screenings, etc.
WHO ARE THE CHILDREN?

• At or below federal poverty definition
• At least 25% receiving ABC vouchers (ideally 40%)
• At least 10% with an identified disability or developmental delay
• Ages 0-36 months in center-based care
<table>
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<th>People in Household</th>
<th>Annual Income</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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WHO ARE THE CHILD CARE PARTNERS?

- NOT AFRAID OF HARD WORK
- Commitment to excellence, ability to perform at high-levels of quality
- Available capacity to serve - and experience with – low-income infants/toddlers
- Able to immediately come into compliance with ratio, health and safety requirements of EHS
- Able to meet all EHS performance standards within 18 months of implementation*
- Commitment to learn and grow as a team
- Commitment to working in partnership over the life of the grant
EHS Standards vs. Child Care/ABC
Head Start Performance Standards:

Available on First Steps Website

scfirststeps.org/ehs
RATIOS:

EHS:
1 teacher to every 4 children (1:4) – aged birth to three.

Licensing:
Birth to 12 months: 1:5
1-2 Years: 1:6
2-3 Years: 1:8

ABC A+:
Birth to 12 months: 1:5
1-2 Years: 1:5
2-3 Years: 1:7
GROUP SIZE:

EHS:
8 children maximum – aged birth to three.

Licensing:
No group size requirement

ABC A+:
Birth to 12 months: 10
1-2 Years: 10
2-3 Years: 14
TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS:

EHS:
Infant-Toddler Child Development Associate (CDA or equivalent) for ALL classroom staff, ALL day. No distinction between lead teachers and assistants.

Licensing:
High School Diploma or GED, six months experience.

ABC A+:
All [lead] teachers employed for one year must have SC Early Childhood Credential (ECD 101) and 50% of teachers must have ECD Certificate or current CDA.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

EHS:
Intensive pre-service and in-service training to program staff and volunteers related to health, safety, early learning, and comprehensive services. Professional development plans for direct care staff, show advancement in that plan; use annual staff performance reviews to identify training needs and to improve staff competencies.

Licensing:
15 hours annually

ABC A+:
20 hours annually
The Cost of Quality:
With higher standards, comes increased cost. Centers will have access to funds required to cover the cost of quality.

LAYERED FUNDING MODEL

First Steps Support: Classroom Equipment, Professional Development, Technical Assistance and other supports.

Approximately $12,500 per child, per year.
The Cost of Quality:

- The center will receive approximately $12,500 per child from all sources (EHS funds, SC voucher, CACFP).
- Additionally, First Steps will underwrite start-up equipment and materials, annual training, building renovations as needed. Actual reimbursement will be established prior to signing of contracts.
- Providers are required to participate in both the SC Voucher program and CACFP, and document a 20% match.
The Application Process
Two Phase Application and Approval Process:

**PHASE ONE:** Paper Application Process designed to gather important, information about your program, facility, licensing history, capacity, staffing and finances/operational stability.

Scored by a panel of experts.

**PHASE TWO:** Site visits and detailed review, subsequent negotiations.
Review of Phase One Provider Application and Scoring
Phase One Provider Application:

Designed to gather information and identify centers well-suited for success.

Emphasis on current quality, regulatory history, staffing, fiscal stability.
Part 1: Program Information

Name
Contact Information
Program Type
Regulatory Status/ABC Level
First Steps 4K Provider
Pending Citations/CAP
Child and Adult Care Food Program

*Attach front and back of license, DSS citations printout, CAP (if applicable), most recent menu.
Part 2: Enrollment Information

Licensed Capacity
Classrooms by Age
Enrollment by Age
SC Vouchers by Age
Estimate of Eligible Children
Proposed Slots and Classrooms*

*Strong preference that existing First Steps 4K classrooms not be displaced.
Part 3: Curriculum and Assessment

Background on use of curriculum model and/or infant-toddler assessments.
Part 4, 5 and 6: Parental Involvement
Indoor and Outdoor Environments
Technology Information

Additional background on your current program.
Part 7: Financial Information

Information about current tuition
Information about ABC rates
Operating budget
Financial Statements

** Attach budget and two years of financial statements
Part 8: Personnel Qualifications

Info on director and current infant-toddler staff

• Length of employment
• Experience
• Education
• Pay
Scoring

• Rubric Provided

• Designed to identify those centers closest to meeting EHS requirements

• A reminder that Phase One Applications will help to identify centers to receive more in-depth review via a site visit and negotiation process.
EHS-CCP Timeline

• May 19  Bidders’ Conference + Materials Posted

• June 9  Round One Provider Applications Due to First Steps

• Mid June  Round One Panel Reviews

• Late June-Early July  Site Visits to Select Programs

• July - August  Initial selections and contracting, begin renovations as necessary.