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South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees Approves New Funding Allocation Model for 46 Local Partnerships

Columbia, S.C. (May 14, 2019) – The South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees recently approved a funding allocation model that was recommended by the Board of Trustees’ Allocation Committee, SC First Steps Local Partnership Executive Directors and SC First Steps staff members. Current legislation requires SC First Steps to develop a funding formula for allocating state funds to the organization’s 46 county partnerships. Last year’s reauthorization of SC First Steps outlines the three factors that must be utilized.

These three legislatively mandated factors are:

1. Population of eligible children;
2. Population of at-risk children; and
3. Population with below average income

The Allocation Committee developed a formula that maintains a base allocation of \$200,000 for all local partnerships and then grants additional funding on top of the base funding to counties with an age zero to five population of more than 2,800 children living at or less than 185 percent of poverty.

The three required factors are applied by using: (a) the county’s population of eligible children with (b) at-risk and eligible children defined as children ages zero through five living in families whose income is equal to or less than 185 percent of poverty, which is also an indicator of (c) the population with below average income.

The Board of Trustees decided that the model would be implemented to start in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, with 10 percent of the impact in the first year, 40 percent in the second year, and 50 percent in the third.

The new Allocation Model and its impact can be found on the SC First Steps website here: <https://scfirststeps.org/approved-funding-allocation-model/>.

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