

Family Services Expansion Grant

FY 2021

Guidance Webinar July 9th 3-5pm :

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwpd-igrT0vE9a3_LuWZgmABTjElwGrBrXs



Introduction

As the result of Preschool Development and AmeriCorps federal grant funds, South Carolina First Steps is pleased to announce a new grant opportunity for First Steps Local Partnerships interested in expanding existing services to families. Funding is available to establish or expand **high-intensity, evidence-based** parenting programs and/or implement a new parenting program, HIPPYUSA, with the support of AmeriCorps Members. Additionally, funds can be used for **Local Partnership outreach and family support** through the service of AmeriCorps Members. The purpose of this funding is to assist Local Partnerships with increasing the number of families served through the quality delivery of services to communities, expand or refocus programs to target different vulnerable populations, and/or shape your services to include a new evidence based program.

The Family Services Expansion Grant process will allocate a total of \$748,000 of funds to Local Partnerships in FY21. This is a competitive application process that aims to distribute funding awards as follows:

Award Type	FY21 Amount (per Local Partnership) September 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	# of Available Awards	Eligible Uses for Funds
<p>Parenting Program Expansion Award</p> <p>For creation or expansion of evidence-based parenting programs</p> <p>Performance Metric: Reaching 440 new families. Local Partnerships will be asked to serve a min. of 20 new families if applying for a home visiting program and 40 new families if applying for a group parenting program.</p>	Up to \$78,500	Min. 8 awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hire staff for program model implementation program or administrative materials to accommodate for increase in projected number to serve contract services for better program delivery fund community partnership collaborations
AMERICORPS			
<p>Parent Educator AmeriCorps Award</p> <p><i>[Offered to Local Partnerships aiming to implement the HIPPYUSA program using AmeriCorps Members <u>ONLY</u>]</i></p> <p>See Appendix A for additional information about the NEW HIPPYUSA model.</p>	<p>\$ 7,000 per Member</p> <p>+</p> <p>Services of one or more AmeriCorps Members</p>	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cover HIPPY operational expenditures-see Appendix A Value of AmeriCorps Member(s) placement provided as in-kind

<p>Family Support AmeriCorps Award See Appendix A for additional information about AmeriCorps and Performance Metrics.</p>	<p>Services of one or more AmeriCorps Members</p>	<p>7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funds for this award will not be distributed directly to Local Partnerships • Value of AmeriCorps Member(s) placement provided as in-kind
<p>Community Outreach AmeriCorps Award See Appendix A for additional information about AmeriCorps and Performance Metrics.</p>	<p>Services of one or more AmeriCorps Members</p>	<p>8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funds for this award will not be distributed directly to Local Partnerships • Value of AmeriCorps Member(s) placement provided as in-kind

Continuing Funding:

Local Partnerships awarded one or more Family Services Expansion (FSE) Grants in FY21 will be eligible for up to two additional years 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 2021-22 and 2022-23
- Renewal of SC First Steps’ AmeriCorps funding for FY22 and FY23

Parenting Program Expansion Award applicants: Although FY21 grant awards will have a 10-month project period (September 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), Local Partnerships should request a full 12 months of funding in order for SC First Steps to accurately forecast the amount of funding needed for FY22 and FY23. Note the amount of unspent (carry-forward) grant funds will be deducted from the subsequent year’s award.

List of Applicable Parenting Programs:

Programs listed are eligible for expansion and identified as high-intensity, evidence-based strategies by SC First Steps.

- Early Steps to School Success
- **Healthy Families**
- Incredible Years
- **Nurse Family Partnership ***
- Nurturing Parenting
- Parent- Child + (Parent-Child Home)
- Lena: Language Environment Analysis-Home
- **Parents as Teachers (PAT)**
- Strengthening Families*
- Triple P (level 4)
- **Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPYUSA)**

Please note that the programs are **not** listed in order of scoring preference.

Programs listed in bolded **Green** are programs federally recognized as evidence-based by the Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE) and meets the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Criteria for

Evidence-Based Models. To meet HHS' criteria for an "evidence-based early childhood home visiting service delivery model," models must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- At least one high- or moderate-quality impact study of the model finds favorable, statistically significant impacts in two or more of the eight outcome domains
- At least two high- or moderate-quality impact studies of the model using non-overlapping analytic study samples with one or more favorable, statistically significant impacts in the same domain.

(*) indicates programs where data will have to be provided to First Steps quarterly for funding as part of the data and evaluation plan.

Award Priority Points:

1. **Application and Scoring:** SC First Steps staff will review each application. Applicants demonstrating exemplary past performance will receive priority points (all awards), as will home visitation models that are designated by HomVEE as evidence-based (parenting expansion awards). See attached scoring rubric for details.
2. **Demographic Targeting** (all awards): Priority points will be awarded to applicants proposing to expand or refocus program services to target underserved families with children ages 0-5 with conditions most at risk for early school failure, including children experiencing homelessness, involved in the foster care system, dual language learners, and children with disabilities.
3. **Geographic priority areas identified by SC AmeriCorps** (AmeriCorps awards): The following rural counties will receive priority points if applying for an AmeriCorps Award:

High Need: Allendale (Promise Zone) ▪ Bamberg (Promise Zone) ▪ Cherokee ▪ Williamsburg

Significant Need: Barnwell (Promise Zone) ▪ Chester ▪ Colleton (Promise Zone) ▪ Darlington ▪ Dillon ▪ Florence ▪ Hampton (Promise Zone) ▪ Jasper (Promise Zone) ▪ Marion ▪ Marlboro

Need: Abbeville ▪ Aiken ▪ Chesterfield ▪ Edgefield ▪ McCormick ▪ Oconee ▪ Union

Minimum General Requirements:

Requirements listed below will determine a Local Partnership's eligibility apply for all funding awards provided by the FY 21 Family Services Expansion Grant.

1. Applicants must demonstrate that programs are **currently meeting program requirements** as evidenced by a First Steps Data Collection system review. If desired expansion program does not have data in the First Steps Data Collection system, evidence of meeting program requirements must be submitted. **[Note: Due to COVID-19 and gaps in services during FY20, the indicator for meeting program data requirements will be FY19 and Q1-Q2 of FY20.]**
2. Applicants must **justify the need in the community for program expansion** by indicators such as waiting lists, new target areas, identified underserved groups, etc. Information from the Local Partnership's Needs and Resources Assessment Phase I and II can be used to demonstrate community need.

3. All Local Partnerships are eligible to apply for funds. Local Partnerships must demonstrate good standing and organizational capacity with **limited outstanding compliance issues**. See attached scoring rubric for details.
4. Applicants for the Parenting Program Expansion Awards must aim to **expand or implement high-intensity, evidence-based programs**. Priority consideration will be given to the expansion or implementation of programs recognized by HomVEE. See the List of Applicable Programs section (page 2).

Special Requirement(s):

1. Parenting Program Expansion Award Applicants **ONLY**: Program expansion must include the **hiring of one full time home visitor** (or increasing staff levels by the equivalent of one FTE) with the capacity to serve a minimum of 20 additional families per year if a home visiting model, and 40 families per year if a group parenting model. Local Partnerships funded for home visiting expansion must commit to participating in Career Compass web-based professional development specific to home visiting core competencies. See application submission requirements for any additional materials needed to apply for the Parenting Program Expansion Award.
2. AmeriCorps Award(s) Applicants **ONLY**: Program implementation must include the recruitment of a **minimum of one (1) AmeriCorps Member and max of three (3) AmeriCorps Members** to execute the services activities outlined in Appendix A. Local Partnerships may apply for one, two, or all three AmeriCorps Award types: Parent Educator, Family Support, or Community Outreach. Note that applicants for a Parent Educator AmeriCorps Award must target services to families whose children are enrolled in First Steps 4K for the 2020-21 school year. See Appendix A for more information on these AmeriCorps positions and slots (hours/year) available, as well as the expected number of children/families served per Member in order to achieve state-level Performance Metrics. See application submission requirements for any additional materials needed to apply for the AmeriCorps Award(s).

Application Submission Requirements:

All Local Partnerships are eligible to apply for all four of the funding award opportunities within Family Services Expansion Grant, which totals to a maximum cash award amount of **\$ 102,500**. The amount of in-kind AmeriCorps funding will depend on the Member slot type(s) awarded.

Due to the number of applications for review, there is a maximum **printed** page restriction. This restriction does not include the budget, or Letters of Support.

Page restrictions are limited to narrative sections such as the programmatic and sustainability plans. Formatting restrictions are size **12 Times New Roman font, 1" margins, and single-spacing.**

Page 1 of your printed page count begins with the Cover Form, which is required for every submission. The Statement of Need can be as long as required; however, those pages will be included in your 12 printed page max. (see attachment- Application Cover Form)

- Parenting Program Expansion Award- max of 5 printed pages
- AmeriCorps Award(s)- max of 8 printed pages
- **Maximum of 12 printed pages for any grant submission**

Local Partnerships wishing to apply for the grant opportunity shall submit:

Parenting Program Expansion Award - sections must be outlined in the order listed below:

- a. **Programmatic Plan:** Describe the program and provide information on how it will be implemented. Include information on what will be accomplished, why should this be accomplished, and the desired outcomes.
- b. **Partnership Development/ Collaboration Plan:** Describe experience managing collaborative projects with multiple organizations, and quality of existing community partnerships. **(only provide if applicant is planning for activities that include an established or new partnership)**
- c. **Data Collection/ Evaluation Plan:** Submit a proposed data collection/ evaluation plan that aligns with projected activities. **Include information on how Local Partnership will meet or exceed the minimum number of additional families served.**

If desired program(s) for expansion does not have data in the First Steps Data Collection system (FSDC), applicant must provide a detailed plan for data submission to the state office or commit to submitting data through the FSDC system.

- d. **Projected Budget:** Submit a draft budget using the Program Page format from the Budget Spending Plan. Include requested funds as “Fund 30 – PDG Parenting” and include any other state, federal, private or in-kind funding that will be used to support the program. If applying for multiple programs, include a separate Program Page for each program. Note grant funds must be used to **supplement, not supplant**, existing funding from state and other sources.

AmeriCorps Award(s) (see Appendix A) - sections must be outlined in the order listed below:

- a. **AmeriCorps Member Service Activities:** For each requested Member, describe the service activities that the Local Partnership would like for the Member to complete, outlining the type of training and professional development that will be provided to the AmeriCorps Member(s).
- b. **AmeriCorps Member Recruitment and Retention Plan:** Communicate how the Local Partnership will recruit and retain their AmeriCorps Member(s).
- c. **AmeriCorps Member Supervision Plan:** Outline who and how the AmeriCorps Member(s) will be supervised at the Local Partnership.
- d. **4K Site Connection (Parent Educator AmeriCorps Award ONLY):** Describe how connected the Local Partnership is to First Steps 4K sites and First Steps 4K coaching staff within its service area. Outline how the partnership will continue to foster this relationship or build a stronger relationship. **Optional** letter of support from 4K centers/coaches can be used in lieu of writing a narrative. The letter must be signed by the Local Partnership Executive Director, 4K center Director, and 4K coach.
- e. **Data Collection/ Evaluation Plan:** Submit a proposed data collection/ evaluation plan that aligns with projected activities. **Include information on how Local Partnership will reach the Performance Metrics outlined in Appendix A.** *(NOTE: Accountability Standards for the Parent Educator (HIPPIUSA), Family Support AmeriCorps, and Community Outreach AmeriCorps awards are in development. This is a great opportunity for you to be creative and communicate the method of documenting performance that the Local Partnership deems adequate for proposed activities. This information will be used to craft the AmeriCorps data collection/evaluation plan for the AmeriCorps performance metrics listed in Appendix A.)*

If desired program for expansion does not have data in the First Steps Data Collection system (FSDC), applicant must provide a detailed plan for data submission to the state office or commit to submitting data through the FSDC system.

f. **Projected Budget:** Provide the amount and source(s) of funds that will be used to support the Local Partnership's AmeriCorps program(s), and how those funds will be allocated. The partnership may use the Program Page format from the Budget Spending Plan, or use an alternate budget format if easier. Acknowledging that stipends, model training, and other items will be provided to participating Local Partnerships, the budget should account for any additional Member activities (not listed in Appendix A), Member appreciation items (if considered), and/or additional materials required to support Member(s) in service. **Note: AmeriCorps Members are only to be used to expand direct service capacity and not supplant, replace, or fill staff positions.** Local Partnerships are encouraged to reach out to one of the SCFS staff listed below for technical assistance with developing their AmeriCorps project.

Note: If the Local Partnership is applying for multiple funding awards, please provide narratives for each of the sections for every applicable funding award option. If applying for multiple grants and the projects are connected, please make that note in your Statement of Need and separate the different narrative sections as needed.

Application Deadline: FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2020 by 5pm

Please submit requested items to:

Zack Catoe
Administrative Coordinator
zcatoe@scfirststeps.org

Please reference the provided Scoring Rubric to make sure your grant narrative addresses all review criteria and takes advantage of all Priority Point opportunities!

Application Review:

Applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed and scored by the Local Partnership Program Officer team using the standard rubric provided. Each Local Partnership funding request will be reviewed and scored alongside all other requests for the same award type. Staff recommendations for funding will be submitted to the Program and Grants Committee of the SC First Steps Board of Trustees and to the full board in August 2020.

For additional information or questions about the grant, do not hesitate to reach out to Zack Catoe at zcatoe@scfirststeps.org. Gina Beebe, Betty Gardiner, Valencia L. Johnson, or Debbie Robertson will be available to help all Local Partnerships with grant application development.