

# Family Services Expansion Grant

## APPENDIX A:

### HIPPYUSA and AmeriCorps



#### HIPPYUSA ([hippyusa.org](http://hippyusa.org))

HIPPY is an evidence-based home visiting program that supports parents in their critical role as their child's first and most important teacher.

A unique aspect of HIPPY is its scripted curriculum, highlighted below, is used to teach parents through a peer-to-peer approach, using role-play and interactive activities. This system not only provides one-to-one training for the parent, but it also offers specialized job training for our home visitors and fosters leadership development and career advancement opportunities for our staff and our parents.

**That's why over 50% of HIPPY home visitors are former HIPPY parents!**

The HIPPY Curriculum, designed for children ages 2- 5, **contains 30 weekly activity packets**, nine storybooks and a set of 20 manipulative shapes for each year. In addition to these basic materials, supplies such as scissors and crayons are provided for each participating family. The program uses trained coordinators and Parent Educator AmeriCorps Members who go into the home and role-play the activities with the parents and support each family throughout their participation in the program.



**HIPPY Program**  
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

The daily activities are developmentally appropriate for children. The packets are written in a clear scripted format that is designed to provide guidance for parents and to ensure a successful learning experience for the parent and child working together in their own home. Parents become the facilitator in the learning process with their child. Parents gain confidence through their own participation in the HIPPY program and eventually become comfortable expanding the activities and broadening the learning experiences for their child.

The HIPPY curriculum is primarily cognitive based, focusing on language development, problem-solving, logical thinking and perceptual skills. Learning and play mingle throughout HIPPY's curriculum as parents expose their children to early literacy skills such as:

- Phonological and phonemic awareness
- Letter recognition
- Book knowledge
- Early writing experiences

In addition, the curriculum fosters social/emotional and physical (fine and gross motor skills) development. HIPPY introduces skills and concepts in a progressive manner, first using the physical body, then concrete objects and finally representation of objects in pictures, followed by many opportunities for practice and learning.

The HIPPY storybooks bring children's literature into the home. HIPPY provides numerous opportunities for children and parents to discuss the storybooks in varied and increasingly complex ways:

- Reading
- Writing and drawing
- Listening and talking
- Singing and rhyming
- Playing games

- Cooking and sewing
- Shapes and colors
- Puzzles and more

The storybooks and activity packets are available in both English and Spanish for all ages. The HIPPY curriculum activities are constantly reviewed and updated in order to ensure that the materials are relevant for families and reflect current educational research findings.

Local Partnerships will select a current staff member position – preferably with experience supervising home visitation programs – to receive Local Supervisor training in the HIPPY model. Training will be provided by HIPPYUSA trainers virtually, and the cost of training will be covered by SC First Steps. The Local Supervisor will be responsible for weekly reflective supervision and coaching of Parent Educator AmeriCorps Members.

Local Partnerships implementing the HIPPY model will recruit participant families whose children are enrolled in First Steps 4K classrooms during 2020-21. First Steps 4K staff, including regional coaches, will assist the Local Partnership in targeting families most in need of additional support via HIPPY.

## AmeriCorps

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AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs, made up of three primary programs that each take a different approach to improving lives and fostering civic engagement. Members commit their time to address critical community needs like increasing academic achievement, mentoring youth, fighting poverty, sustaining national parks, preparing for disasters, and more. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/what-ameri-corps>



### SCFS AmeriCorps Positions:

- **Parent Educator AmeriCorps** - Members recruited for this position will spend one hour per week for 30 weeks each year providing the HIPPY curriculum to participating families. As “half-time” slots (900 hours/year), Parent Educator AmeriCorps Members are expected to carry a caseload of 8-10 families. Lessons are done in the home with child’s parent(s)/caregiver(s) without the child present, and feature extensive role playing so that the parent/caregiver feels comfortable agreeing to use the HIPPY lessons with their child for 15 minutes each day. Additionally, the program is combined with group meetings (min. 6 per year) that the Parent Educator AmeriCorps Member will help design and lead to allow HIPPY families can engage, support, and share experiences.
- **Family Support AmeriCorps** - Members recruited for this position will provide one-on-one support as a portal for families with children 0-5 to help them to connect to services they need via: meeting with parents/caregivers to identify service needs; conducting developmental screenings; helping families set goals; providing direct parent support by connecting families to appropriate referral community services; and following up with families to ensure services were connected and received.
- **Community Education and Outreach AmeriCorps** - Members recruited for this position will be able to conduct community engagement and outreach activities, meetings, and events to educate families on how to support their child’s school readiness, including how to access available community services, and enlists partner organizations and volunteers as school readiness champions in their work with children and families. Members may also design and lead community-based school readiness awareness events

that will involve parents/caregivers and other stakeholders in various ways, for the purpose of increasing overall awareness of what local services are available to families.

Award Type	AmeriCorps Position	Available Member Slot Types
<b>AmeriCorps Award- Parent Educator</b>  <u>See funding guidance for funding award details.</u>	Parent Educator AmeriCorps (HIPPY)	15- Half-time Members (900 hrs. of service)
<b>AmeriCorps Award- Family Support</b>  <u>See funding guidance for funding award details.</u>	Family Support AmeriCorps	1- Reduced Full Time (1200 hrs. of service) 4 - Half-time (900 hrs. of service) 2- Reduced Part-time (675 hrs. of service)
<b>AmeriCorps Award- Community Education and Outreach</b>  <u>See funding guidance for funding award details.</u>	Community Education and Outreach AmeriCorps	1- Reduced Full Time (1200 hrs. of service) 2- Half-time (900 hrs. of service) 5- Reduced Part-time (675 hrs. of service)

**AmeriCorps Prohibited Activities:** Eligible service activities for AmeriCorps members are listed in the position descriptions. AmeriCorps listed of prohibited activities can be found via the link:  
<https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/resource/rr2-ac-prohibited-activities-ho1-4-13-12.pdf>

**Member Stipends and Cost:**

Member Slots Available	# Hours per program year	Annual Stipend (divided into twice monthly payments)	Education Award (if completes all service hours)
Reduced Full-Time	1,200	\$9,450	\$4,336.50
Half-Time	900	\$6,750	\$3,097.50
Reduced Half-Time	675	\$5,143	\$2,360.00

SC First Steps will cover costs associated with AmeriCorps membership, including member stipends, FICA, workers compensation, background checks, and uniform (t-shirts), as well as member orientation and training, ongoing learning opportunities, organizing of service days, and all program administration and reporting to SC AmeriCorps.

If operating HIPPY, SC First Steps will cover all HIPPY affiliate fees, training costs and program materials, as well as provide a grant award to participating local partnerships of \$8,000 per AmeriCorps member to cover program costs such as travel and supervision.

**AmeriCorps Projected Outcomes/ Performance Metrics:** These metrics are goals set for the program at-large, not for each individual partnership selected to receive an AmeriCorps Member. If selected, the Local Partnership will be part of the network to achieve performance goals listed below. **There are projections regarding the number of new families served by each AmeriCorps member listed as well. These are only projections to support you in determining which AmeriCorps award is most appropriate. Projects are estimates and subject for change. Estimates are higher than the listed AmeriCorps performance metric.**

Parent Educator AmeriCorps- HIPPY USA

- 136 new families served through the HIPPY USA program model.
  - 109 of those 136 new families must successfully complete the HIPPY USA program by completing 26 out of the 30- lesson HIPPY curriculum.
  - 92 of the families that completed the HIPPY USA curriculum must have measured growth in parent involvement via the HIPPY Parent Involvement Interview questionnaire pre- and post- assessment.
- **The 15 halftime (900 hr.) Parent Educator AmeriCorps Members are each projected to serve a minimum of 10 families per year.**

Family Support AmeriCorps (7 Members):

- 225 new families served through service connections. “Served” is defined by a child 0-5 who was not previously enrolled is now successfully enrolled as a direct result of AmeriCorps Member support into one or more of the following evidence-based early childhood development programs to support their school readiness:
    1. Early learning program for which children must be eligible based on either income or disability: Early Head Start, Head Start, SC Voucher, public school program, First Steps 4K, home visiting, or other intensive, evidence-based program.
    2. Early intervention program including BabyNet, preschool special education, or other needed service to address identified developmental delays or disabilities.
- **The 1 reduced fulltime (1200hr.) AmeriCorps Member is projected to serve a minimum of 44 new families per Member.**
- **The 4 halftime (900hr.) AmeriCorps Members are projected to serve a minimum of 33 new families per Member.**
- **The 2 reduced part-time (675 hr.) AmeriCorps Members are projected to serve a minimum of 25 new families per Member.**

Family Support AmeriCorps ONLY (7 Members)

- 188 developmental screenings performed on children 0-5.
- **The 1 reduced fulltime (1200hr.) AmeriCorps Member is projected to serve a minimum of 50 new families per Member.**
- **The 4 halftime (900hr.) AmeriCorps Members are projected to serve a minimum of 30 new families per Member.**
- **The 2 reduced part-time (675 hr.) AmeriCorps Members are projected to serve a minimum of 22 new families per Member.**

Community Outreach and Family Support AmeriCorps Members (15 Members)

- 1,875 parents/caregivers statewide will participate in one or more trainings, activities or events to support their child's school readiness
  - **The 2 reduced fulltime (1200hr.) AmeriCorps Members are projected to serve a minimum of 185 new families per Member.**
  - **The 6 halftime (900hr.) AmeriCorps Members are projected to serve a minimum of 138 new families per Member.**
  - **The 7 reduced part-time (675 hr.) AmeriCorps Members are projected to serve a minimum of 98 new families per Member.**

**Note:** To support Local Partnerships with the implementation of AmeriCorps (all three funding awards) and/or the implementation of the HIPPIY model, an AmeriCorps Program Coordinator and HIPPIY Coordinator will be hired at the state office. In addition, a full-time AmeriCorps Member will be recruited by SC First Steps to support the AmeriCorps program.