



FY 2021-2022 TARGETED FUNDING GRANT APPLICATION

PARTNERSHIP

County First Steps

BOARD CHAIR:

EMAIL:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

EMAIL:

MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE:

APPLICATION DEADLINE

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021, 5:00 PM

Email this completed application cover sheet and ALL required documents to your assigned Program Officer.

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:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

- Overview
- Fiscal Guidelines
- Reporting Guidelines

Grant Opportunity Sections (**check if applying**):

SECTION 2: AMERICORPS

- Existing Site Year 2 Renewal Application
- New Site Interest Application

SECTION 3: CORE FUNCTIONS

- Support for State Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning

SECTION 4: PARENTING PROGRAMS

- 4A: Parenting Program Expansion Year 2 Funding (for existing grantees only)
- 4B: Parents as Teachers Affiliate Support Funds
- 4C: Parents as Teachers: Continue/Join Supporting Care Providers through Visits (SCPV) Pilot

SECTION 5: CHILD CARE QUALITY PROGRAMS

- Capacity Building for Child Care Technical Assistance Programs
- Establish or Expand Quality Enhancement/Quality Counts Programs – see **competitive grant application**

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the County First Steps Partnership Board met on (date) and voted to approve the enclosed funding application.

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

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

South Carolina First Steps is pleased to offer the enclosed Targeted Grant opportunities to First Steps Local Partnerships for the FY 2021-2022 fiscal year, funded by federal Preschool Development Grant and AmeriCorps funding.

Within this one grant application there are several funding opportunities, or sections (see Table of Contents). This funding is considered “targeted” because each of the funding opportunities contained in this application package supports a specific program or initiative. Information on partnership eligibility and expectations for receiving funding are included within each application section. Local First Steps partnerships may apply for one, some, or all of the funding opportunities their partnership is eligible for, as determined by their partnership board.

It is the intent of South Carolina First Steps to award funding to all eligible Local Partnerships that submit complete requests and agree to the funding opportunity’s terms and conditions. In the event that more Local Partnerships apply for a particular opportunity than there is available funding or capacity, the selection criteria described within each application section will be used to prioritize awards.

There is no limit as to how many Targeted Grant awards a local partnership may receive for FY 2021-2022. Each Targeted Grant award will be signed and attached to the local partnership’s FY 2021-2022 Grant Agreement, with an effective period from **July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022**.

Please review the following Fiscal and Reporting guidelines, which apply to all funding within this application package.

FISCAL GUIDELINES FOR FY 2021-2022 TARGETED GRANT FUNDING

General

- No budget is required at this time. Local Partnerships should not enter Targeted Grant funding into their FY 2021-2022 Budget Spending Plan that is submitted with their Formula Grant Application. Once Targeted Grant awards are approved by the state board, Local Partnerships will then add this funding to their Budget Spending Plan and submit the revised BSP to their Program Officer for approval. Once approved, the Program Officer submits the revised BSP to the SC First Steps Finance Office.
- Each grant opportunity section includes information on how grant funds may be used.
- Local Partnerships may choose to apply jointly for Targeted Grant funding, but one Local Partnership must be named as the lead applicant. The lead Partnership should be the one to submit the funding request. Each grant section includes an “Additional Information” text box, where applicants can list the collaborating Partnerships and their roles within the project.
- Targeted 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 Targeted 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 Targeted Grant award by the end of the fiscal year will have any subsequent funding award reduced by the amount of excess carryforward. This policy will be in effect for this targeted funding opportunity; therefore, excess carryforward (>15%) within existing targeted grant awards from FY 2020-2021 will be deducted from funding for the same activity, if awarded, for FY 2021-2022 unless the Local Partnership can ensure that the excess carryforward funds are needed to complete the project and will be spent by June 30, 2022. This policy will enable SC First Steps to direct needed funding to as many Local Partnerships as possible.
- Year-end balances of FY 2020-2021 Targeted Grant funding will be assessed based on completed transactions in Financial Edge through **July 15, 2021**.

Shared Costs/Cost Allocation

When allocating Targeted Grant funds into their Budget Spending Plan upon award, Local Partnerships may include a reasonable allocation of 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 charged to Targeted Funding must be described in detail.

Reallocation approvals 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

- Targeted 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.
- Targeted Grant funds may not be used to increase the compensation rates of existing supervisory staff outside the funded program. Such compensation increases must be paid for with other funding, and ED compensation increases must be approved by the partnership board.

REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR FY 2021-2022 TARGETED GRANT FUNDING

- Timely and accurate reporting is needed for targeted grant funding, in order for SC First Steps to submit required program reports to its funders. Therefore:
 - * Submit timely, complete, and accurate data in the First Steps Data Collection system, as applicable; and
 - * Provide program data as requested, using templates provided by SC First Steps as applicable.
- SC First Steps will submit all required program and expenditure reports for the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) and AmeriCorps to the appropriate funder:
 - * PDG: quarterly reports due October 15, January 15, April 15, and July 15, year-end report due May 31
 - * AmeriCorps: progress reports due each fall and spring, year-end report due in October

SECTION 2: AMERICORPS

Introduction Local First Steps partnerships have the opportunity to express their interest in continuing their participation as an AmeriCorps Site, or express their interest in becoming an AmeriCorps Site, for FY 2021-2022 by completing this section.

Eligibility All Local Partnerships interested in recruiting an AmeriCorps Member(s) to support service delivery to families.

Selection

1. Local Partnerships that are continuing AmeriCorps sites will request the number of service positions and service hours of interest. These continuing sites will be prioritized for selection, regardless if a Member was recruited in FY 2020-2021 or not.
2. Continuing AmeriCorps sites may request changes in terms of the number of Members, Member role(s), and Member service hours. Fulfilling AmeriCorps change requests to existing AmeriCorps sites will take priority prior to the review of newly-interested Local Partnerships.
3. Remaining service positions will be provided to Local Partnerships who are interested in becoming a NEW AmeriCorps site. New sites will be selected based on the availability of the desired role. If more Local Partnerships are interested than there are available service positions, then program staff will move through the following options, in the order listed, as required by the submissions:
 - (1) appeal to the SC AmeriCorps Commission to add Member slots for SC First Steps
 - (2) request a conversion of service hours to accommodate the request
 - (3) prioritize placement within priority counties as defined by the SC AmeriCorps Commission

Description of AmeriCorps Roles and Available Funding

Parent Educator Role: AmeriCorps Members provide the HIPPIY-USA curriculum to prioritized First Steps 4K families and local families with four-year-olds who are not receiving any preschool services.

Funding: AmeriCorps Sites will receive \$7,000 per Parent Educator to budget for Member professional development/training, incentives, mileage, and Site Supervisor support costs. NOTE: existing AmeriCorps programs with Parent Educator Members are subject to the grant carryforward provisions described in Section 1: Fiscal Guidelines.

Family and Community Engagement Role: Formerly the Community Education and Outreach and Family Support roles, this newly combined role is designed to complete all outreach activities for the AmeriCorps site and support client-level engagement, referral, and follow-up. All service functions of the previously separated roles are included as part of the combined role.

Funding: No dedicated funding is available from this grant competition for supporting the work of Family and Community Engagement Members. Local Partnerships may consider applying for Early Childhood Innovation Grant funding to support this role.

For more information about AmeriCorps and HIPPIY USA, please see **Appendix A: AmeriCorps and HIPPIY-USA Information**.

AMERICORPS APPLICATION

Directions: Existing AmeriCorps sites, please complete questions 1 through 6 below. If you are interested in becoming a new AmeriCorps site, please complete questions 1 through 9.

1. **Are you an existing AmeriCorps site?** YES NO

2. **Select the AmeriCorps Position(s) for your site for program year 2021-22:**

- Parent Educator (HIPPY) Family and Community Engagement

3. **If selected, how many Parent Educators?**

4. **If selected, how many Family and Community Engagement Members?**

5. **If you selected Family and Community and Engagement, please indicate the number of service hours you want the Member to serve [check all that apply]:**

- 35 hours per week (1200 hours of service)
 25 hours per week (900 hours of service)
 20 hours per week (675 hours of service)
 15 hours per week (450 hours of service)

6. **Are you applying for a Competitive Grant to support Family and Community Engagement activities?** YES NO

NEW AmeriCorps Site: [ONLY FOR NEW SITES]

7. **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) by the Local Partnership.

8. **AmeriCorps Member Recruitment and Retention Plan:** Communicate how the Local Partnership will recruit and retain their AmeriCorps Member(s). Please include how the Program Staff at the state office can help you with this endeavor.

9. AmeriCorps Member Supervision Plan: Outline who will be the AmeriCorps Member(s) Site Supervisor.

Site Supervisor Name	Role at Local Partnership	Email Address	Phone Number	AmeriCorps Role the individual will be Supervising (Parent Educator or Engagement)	Supervisory Experience (not required): Y/N

(Optional) Include below any additional information needed by SC First Steps to understand your funding request. If this is a multi-partnership collaboration, please describe below.

Conditions of Being an AmeriCorps Site

Local Partnerships must agree to abide by the terms and conditions outlined in the AmeriCorps **Site Agreement** and **Member Handbook**.

On behalf of County First Steps, I agree if selected to be an AmeriCorps site to abide by these conditions.

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

SECTION 3: CORE FUNCTIONS

- Support for State Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning

Introduction

The three core functions of all Local First Steps Partnerships are: 1. Serve as a local portal connecting families with preschool children to services; 2. Serve as a community convener around the needs of preschool children in your county; and 3. Support state level school readiness priorities.

In 2019, Local First Steps Partnerships played an important role helping South Carolina complete a statewide birth-through-five needs assessment in which more than 4,600 parent, provider, and stakeholder voices were heard from every county. Part of South Carolina's Preschool Development Grant (PDG) work is to build on the initial needs assessment results, by using its findings as a basis for engaging communities in deeper conversations about the needs of families with young children and their perceptions of the availability and quality of services available to them.

Just as in 2019, Local Partnerships will play a critical role in ensuring that all stakeholder voices are heard. For FY 2021-2022, Local Partnerships will receive \$1,000 in funding to support the following core function activities:

Survey Distribution:

- Distribute Parent/Caregiver Survey in English and Spanish to other organizations and parents of young children in their counties (Summer 2021)
- Assist with distributing an Early Childhood Education Provider/Teacher Survey to public and private early childhood programs (Time TBD)

Meeting and Focus Group Participation:

- Local Partnerships will identify participants and secure locations for one focus group of parents/caregivers of young children within their county (Winter 2021-22/Spring 2022). Unlike 2019, Local Partnerships will not have to facilitate the focus groups, record responses or submit results – a trained facilitator will be provided – but may be asked to join the group as observers.
- Participate in at least one focus group with fellow Local Partnership Executive Directors and/or other First Steps county-level leaders (Summer/Fall 2021)
- Assist in identifying community sites to hold meetings to hear the results of the above surveys and focus groups and determine action steps (Summer 2022)

Eligibility and Selection

There is sufficient available funding to award all 46 Local Partnerships \$1,000.00 so support the above activities for FY 2021-2022. NOTE: Local Partnerships with unspent PDG funding for needs assessment or comprehensive plan activities as of June 30, 2021 are subject to the grant carryforward provisions described in Section 1: Fiscal Guidelines.

Continuing Funding

There is expected to be funding available in FY 2022-2023 to support each Local Partnership with completing its next community needs and resources assessment cycle (due December 31, 2022), assuming the availability of PDG funding.

Funding Uses and Financial Requirements

Funding may be used within the Local Partnership's Core Functions (Program Code 180) for activities related to performing the above activities. Examples of eligible funding uses include, but are not limited to: local advertising/promotion of surveys, meetings, and focus groups; travel to meetings and focus groups; participant incentives; and Local Partnership staff time. Refer to Section 1: Fiscal Guidelines of this document for more information.

Benefits of Grant Award

Participating Local Partnerships will receive:

- Parent/caregiver survey results for their county
- Parent/caregiver focus group results for their county
- Access to all published reports of the PDG needs assessment team

Conditions of Receiving Funds

As a condition of receiving funding, County First Steps agrees to perform the Survey Distribution and Meeting/Focus Group Participation activities listed above, by the deadlines to be determined by the PDG needs assessment team and SC First Steps.

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

(Optional) Include below any additional information needed by SC First Steps to understand your funding request. If this is a multi-partnership collaboration, please describe below.

SECTION 4: PARENTING PROGRAMS

- 4A: Parenting Program Expansion Grant Year 2 Funding (for existing grantees only)
- 4B: Parents as Teachers Affiliate Support Funds
- 4C: Parents as Teachers: Continue/Join Supporting Care Providers through Visits (SCPV) Pilot

4A PARENTING PROGRAM EXPANSION GRANT YEAR 2 FUNDING

Introduction

As a result of Preschool Development Grant funds, South Carolina First Steps is pleased to be able to provide Year 2 funding to First Steps Local Partnerships that were awarded a Parenting Program Expansion Grant as part of SC First Steps' Family Services Expansion Grant competition in FY 2020-2021 to establish or expand high-intensity, evidence-based parenting programs.

AWARD TYPE AND PURPOSE	FY 2021-2022 AMOUNT (PER LOCAL PARTNERSHIP)	# OF AVAILABLE AWARDS	ELIGIBLE USES FOR FUNDS
<p>Parenting Program Expansion Renewal Award</p> <p>For creation or expansion of evidence-based parenting programs</p> <p>Performance Metric: Statewide goal = reach 440 new families. Local Partnerships will be asked to continue serving a min. of 20 new families per year if applying for a home visiting program and 40 new families per year if applying for a group parenting program.</p>	Up to original award amount from FY 2020-2021	Up to 9 renewal 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

Eligibility and Selection

Local Partnerships that received Parenting Program Expansion Grant funding as a result of the FY 2020-2021 Family Services Expansion Grant are eligible for continuing funding up to the amount of their FY 2020-2021 grant award.

Continuing Funding

Local Partnerships awarded a Parenting Program Expansion Renewal Grant in FY 2021-2022 are eligible for one additional year of funding in FY 2022-2023, 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

Funding Uses and Financial Requirements

Refer to Section 1: Fiscal Guidelines for general information.

The Partnership agrees to maintain the increased number of vulnerable families (# of families) with children ages 0-5 served by (Program Name).

Eligible uses of grant funding are included above. If approved for Year 2 funding, the Local Partnership will use the budget approved from the previous Parenting Program Expansion grant budget to add this funding to its Budget Spending Plan. Any expenditures not detailed in the approved budget will require prior approval from SC First Steps.

Local Partnerships with unspent Parenting Expansion Grant funding as of June 30, 2021 are subject to the grant carryforward provisions described in Section 1: Fiscal Guidelines.

Benefits of Grant Award

Local Partnerships will receive:

- Program model implementation support
- Networking opportunities
- Data review and feedback

Minimum General Requirements

Requirements listed below will determine a Local Partnership's continued eligibility to apply for Parenting Program Expansion Renewal funding awards:

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.
2. Applicants must demonstrate requirements outlined for the FY 2020-2021 Parenting Program Expansion Award have been met:
 - a. 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, or 40 families per year if a group parenting model.
 - b. Initiation of outreach and recruitment activities to reach the program's projected number of families served.
3. Local Partnerships must demonstrate good standing and organizational capacity with limited outstanding compliance issues.

Conditions of Receiving Funds

Amount of Parenting Program Expansion Grant funding requested by
County First Steps for FY 2021-2022 (cannot exceed current year's amount): \$

As a condition of receiving Parenting Program Expansion Grant renewal funding, the Local Partnership agrees to:

- Strongly encourage all home visitor staff within its funded programs to participate in Career Compass' web-based professional development specific to home visiting core competencies.

- Document measurable outcomes and grant expenses on a quarterly basis for PDG reporting, using report templates and adhering to report deadlines as requested by SC First Steps. Such reporting will be requested no later than two weeks before the end of the quarter and will be due by the 5th of the following month.
- Implement the funded parenting program(s) in accordance with the SC First Steps FY22 Partnership and Program Accountability Standards.
- Enter data in the First Steps Data Collection System in compliance with program standards, within 30 days of service except for home visits, which are to be entered within 15 days of service.

County First Steps agrees to perform the activities listed above as a condition of receiving a Parenting Program Expansion Grant Award for FY 2021-2022.

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

Status of FY 2020-2021 Parenting Program Expansion Grant Activities

1. Has staff been hired to complete the scope of service? YES NO

If yes, number of staff hired to complete scope of service:

Total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of staff hired to complete scope of service:

Has there been staff turnover? YES NO

2. What was your projected number to serve for FY 2020-2021, with this funding?

Number of families served to date, due to grant funding:

3. Is data current in the First Steps Data Collection system? YES NO Not Applicable

4. What percentage of Parenting Expansion Grant funding for FY 2020-2021 has been spent?

%

5. Please provide major activities and accomplishments based on performing the scope of service from the Parenting Program Expansion Grant for FY 2020-2021:

6. Please provide barriers and implementation challenges for performing the scope of service from the Parenting Program Expansion Grant for FY 2020-2021:

(Optional) Include below any additional information needed by SC First Steps to understand your funding request. If this is a multi-partnership collaboration, please describe below.

4B PARENTS AS TEACHERS AFFILIATE SUPPORT FUNDS

Introduction

In order to build capacity within Parents as Teachers (PAT) affiliates to engage in quality improvement and achieve/retain Blue Ribbon affiliate status, Local Partnerships will receive \$2,000 for each partnership-funded PAT affiliate in their county, as well as \$200 for each Parent Educator within partnership-funded PAT affiliates to assist with expenses related to annual PAT fees, including national affiliation and Parent Educator annual certification.

Eligibility and Selection

All Local Partnerships that intend to fund one or more PAT affiliates in FY 2021-2022 are eligible for funding. There is sufficient funding allocated for all eligible Local Partnerships to receive funding.

Continuing Funding

There is expected to be funding available in FY 2022-2023 for PAT affiliate support, assuming the availability of PDG funding.

Funding Uses and Financial Requirements

Funds cannot be used outside of PAT and must be spent on national affiliation fees and Parent Educator annual certification.

Local Partnerships with unspent PAT Affiliate Support funding as of June 30, 2021 are subject to the grant carryforward provisions described in Section 1: Fiscal Guidelines.

Benefits of Grant Award

PAT Programs in South Carolina receive several benefits from the PAT State Office located at SC First Steps, including but not limited to:

- Provision of available training for PAT model, screenings, and assessments;
- Support for the Career Compass learning management system for SC's home visitor workforce, including stipends for achieving credentials within the system;
- Regular leadership and professional development sessions, in-person and via webinar;
- Technical assistance, including program site visits as needed/requested; and
- Support for annual performance report submission and Quality Endorsement process.

Minimum General Requirements

PAT affiliates must be in good standing with the PAT National Center.

Conditions of Receiving Funds

As a condition of receiving funding, the Local Partnership agrees to:

- Implement the Parents As Teachers program in accordance with the SC First Steps FY22 Partnership and Program Accountability Standards including, but not limited to, submission of the Affiliate Performance Report (APR) by the required deadline, participation in the Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process (QEIP) as required, and remaining in good standing with the PAT National Center.
- Strongly encourage its PAT Parent Educator and home visitor workforce to participate in Career Compass' web-based professional development specific to home visiting core competencies.

County First Steps agrees to perform the activities listed above as a condition of receiving PAT Affiliate Support funding for FY 2021-2022.

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

PAT Affiliates and Parent Educators Anticipated for FY 2021-2022

1. How many First Steps funded PAT Affiliates do you have in your county?

2. How many Parent Educators will you have in FY 2021-2022 within the above affiliates who will be subject to the Parent Educator renewal fee in FY 2021-2022?

Attach an additional page if necessary

Name of PAT Affiliate	Name of Parent Educator	Name of Supervisor	Contact Phone Number	Contact Email Address	Level of PAT Training (F, F/MI, F2)

(Optional) Include below any additional information needed by SC First Steps to understand your funding request. If this is a multi-partnership collaboration, please describe below.

4C PARENTS AS TEACHERS: CONTINUE/JOIN SUPPORTING CARE PROVIDERS THROUGH VISITS (SCPV) PILOT

Introduction

Supporting Care Providers through Visits (SCPV) is an expansion of the successful Parents as Teachers (PAT) model curriculum of home visitation to the home based child care setting. Learning occurs within the context of the relationship between the Provider Educator and child care provider during instructional personal visits. During personal visits, child development, nutrition, health and safety information, and developmentally appropriate practices are shared.

Local Partnerships that fund one or more PAT affiliates in their county are eligible to receive \$2,000 per participating child care provider for up to three (3) providers to: a) offset the cost of delivering services; and b) to provide incentives to child care providers and parents, including program and curriculum materials or other program related items.

Currently, eight Local Partnerships participate in the SCPV pilot. Additional Local Partnerships may apply to join the pilot for FY 2021-2022.

Eligibility and Selection

Local Partnerships funding one or more established PAT affiliates in FY 2021-2022 and are interested in providing SCPV services to Family Child Care Home providers or Family Friends and Neighbors (FFN) providers within their county are eligible.

In the event more Local Partnerships apply than there is funding available, preference will be given to Local Partnerships that are currently participating in the SCPV pilot and meeting program requirements. Thereafter, funding priority will be given to a) new sites that do not operate a Quality Enhancement or Quality Counts program; and/or b) new sites located in rural areas.

Local Partnerships that do not receive grant funding are still welcome to participate in the SCPV Pilot, using their state formula allocation or other funding.

Continuing Funding

There is expected to be funding available in FY 2022-2023 for the SCPV Pilot, assuming the availability of PDG funding.

Funding Uses and Financial Requirements

Funds must be used within PAT.

A minimum of 50% of the incentive funding received by the Local Partnership must be used to directly benefit the participating child care providers and parents. The remaining funds are available to the Local Partnership to help with the cost of delivering services.

SCPV grant funds are intended to purchase program and curriculum materials or other program related items such as books, educational toys, art supplies, rugs, chairs, etc. However, during COVID-19, we are approving other items related to health and safety that might be more urgent and helpful. This includes items such as masks, gloves, disinfectant, or cleaning supplies.

If you are considering playground equipment such as swing sets, it cannot be anything that requires installation or fixed attachment to the ground or a structure. However, outdoor items like balls, hula hoops, games, etc. are acceptable.

Local Partnerships with unspent SCPV Pilot funding as of June 30, 2021 are subject to the grant carryforward provisions described in Section 1: Fiscal Guidelines.

Benefits of Grant Award

- Funding to offset the cost of delivering services and to get providers individualized items that will enrich the learning environment for their families.
- Training and materials for the PAT SCPV curriculum and online training and materials for the FCCERS (Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale). Training slots and materials may be limited due to funding limitations.

Minimum General Requirements

PAT affiliates in good standing with the PAT National Center.

Conditions of Receiving Funds

As a condition of receiving funding, the Local Partnership agrees to:

- Implement with fidelity the Supporting Care Providers through Visits Parents as Teachers (PAT) Curriculum with up to five (5) Family Child Care Home providers and/or Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) providers in their county. Program requirements include:
 - * Two (2) visits per month by a Provider Educator who has received full curriculum training
 - * Monthly group connection meetings are expected to be offered; however, the ability to offer group connections will vary among local partnerships depending on provider participation and logistics
 - * Commit to using and keeping on file approved consent forms and evaluation surveys provided by SC First Steps for participating child care providers and parents, as well as the PAT SCPV Curriculum forms, such as the Personal Visit Record and Service Record
 - * Ensure that the opportunity for child developmental screenings using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) is made available to all participating child care providers and parents
 - * Facilitate the completion of pre and post assessments using the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS) by a trained ERS assessor (a group of trained ERS assessors will be made available by SC First Steps)
- Enter provider profile and assessment data, and in some cases, child and parent data in the First Steps Data Collection system (SC First Steps will provide instruction to assist with data entry)
- Report on program outcomes, implementation successes and challenges, and the level of resources needed (money, staffing, etc.) for successful implementation
- Completed consent forms and evaluation surveys for child care providers must be received by the designated deadline(s)
- A minimum of 50% of the incentive funding received by the Local Partnership must be used to directly benefit the participating child care providers and parents

County First Steps agrees to perform the activities listed above as a condition of receiving SCPV Pilot funding for FY 2021-2022.

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

SCPV Pilot Application Questions

- 1. Are you a current SCPV program site? YES NO
- 2. If you are not a current SCPV program site, how many Family Child Care Home providers or FFN providers do you plan to enroll for FY 2021-2022?
- 3. If you are not a current SCPV program site, how many staff do you plan to have trained in the SCPV curriculum?

Questions 4-8 are ONLY for current SCPV sites:

- 4. How many active child care providers do you currently have participating in SCPV?
- 5. How many trained Provider Educators do you currently have?
- 6. Is your SCPV data entered and up to date in the FS data system? YES NO
- 7. Have you used all of the Personal Visit Plans provided in the SCPV curriculum?
 YES NO
- 8. Have you used any of the Special Topics provided in the SCPV curriculum?
 YES NO

(Optional) Include below any additional information needed by SC First Steps to understand your funding request. If this is a multi-partnership collaboration, please describe below.

SECTION 5: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CHILD CARE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Introduction

As a result of Preschool Development grant funding, South Carolina First Steps is announcing a new grant opportunity for First Steps Local Partnerships who currently operate a Child Care Technical Assistance strategy, to include Child Care Quality Enhancement and Quality Counts programs. The purpose of this grant funding is to enable Local Partnerships to build capacity within their Child Care Technical Assistance programs to support child care providers.

Local Partnerships that currently operate a Child Care Technical Assistance strategy and plan to continue that strategy in FY 2021-2022 are eligible for funding. Funding per Local Partnership will be determined by the Local Partnership's requested needs (to be detailed in the application below) and the size of the partnership's current Child Care Technical Assistance strategy.

There are two types of eligible awards through this funding:

1. **Materials funding** for child care providers that participate in First Steps Child Care Technical Assistance programs.
2. **Incentive funding** to child care directors, teachers, and teaching assistants for achieving Quality Improvement Plan goals.

Local Partnerships may apply for one or both award types.

Eligible Local Partnerships

- Local Partnerships that currently operate a Child Care Technical Assistance (Program Code - 6012) strategy, Child Care Quality Enhancement or Quality Counts, are eligible to apply for Child Care TA Capacity Building funding.
- 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.

Local Partnerships must demonstrate good standing and organizational capacity. Applicants must provide justification for outstanding compliance issues.

Continuing Funding

Child Care TA Capacity Building funding through the PDG grant is available only for FY 2021-2022 at this time. Future funding will be contingent on both available funding and the Local Partnership's compliance with grant requirements and program performance.

Funding Uses and Financial Requirements

Please refer to Section 1: Fiscal Guidelines for general information and guidance.

Eligible uses of grant funding and maximum funding award amounts are as follows:

TYPE OF GRANT AWARD	ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDING	FY 2022 MAXIMUM AMOUNT
<p>Materials grant funding to child care providers that participate in First Steps Child Care Technical Assistance programs.</p>	<p>Materials funding to child care providers must be provided in accordance with current program model standards which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment/materials purchases must be aligned with classroom needs as indicated by the environment assessment and/or the provider's current Quality Improvement Plan. • Equipment/materials funds shall not be awarded independent of qualified technical assistance. • Equipment/materials funding may not be used to support classrooms funded by the First Steps 4K program without approval by the First Steps 4K Administrator. 	<p>Local Partnerships may apply for a maximum of \$20,000.00 in materials funding for providers participating in their Child Care Technical Assistance program in FY22.</p> <p>Funding amount awarded will be based on the local partnership's written justification of provider need in application section below.</p> <p>Materials funding to a provider in excess of \$5,000 requires prior approval by SC First Steps.</p>
<p>Incentives to child care directors, teachers, and teaching assistants for achieving Quality Improvement Plan goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants will detail their planned incentives in the application section below. • Incentives can include stipends and/or gift cards to child care directors, teachers, and teaching assistants. • Incentives will only be awarded to teachers who are receiving intensive technical assistance and who have demonstrated they have met Quality Improvement goals. • SC First Steps will review and approve the program's incentives plan prior to disbursement of funds. 	<p>Local Partnerships may apply for up to \$500.00 in incentive funding per early childhood educator, to include the following personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers in classrooms receiving intensive technical assistance in FY22. • Teaching assistants in classrooms receiving intensive technical assistance in FY22. • Directors of providers receiving intensive technical assistance in FY22. <p>Partnerships have discretion in the distribution of incentive funding based on provider workforce size.</p>

Minimum General Requirements

- All applicants must demonstrate that their Child Care Technical Assistance program is currently meeting requirements as evidenced by a First Steps Data Collection system review. If there are outstanding compliance issues, the Local Partnership must provide justification in writing to SC First Steps.

Conditions for Receiving Funds

As a condition of receiving funding, the Local Partnership agrees to:

- Direct materials and/or staff incentives funded through this grant to providers enrolled in ABC Quality or be in the process of applying for enrollment.
- Abide by SC First Steps FY22 Partnership and Program Accountability Standards for their Child Care Technical Assistance program.
- Use funding to supplement, not supplant, current funding for materials and/or incentives funding. Exception: the Local Partnership will experience a decrease of formula grant funding for FY 2021-2022 and/or a loss of funding that impacts the Local Partnership's Child Care Technical Assistance program.

County First Steps agrees to perform the activities listed above as a condition of receiving Child Care TA Capacity Building funding for FY 2021-2022.

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

Child Care TA Capacity Building Application Questions

Please provide details on your Local Partnership's requested funds and plan for the use of funding for both of the awards listed above.

1. How many active child care providers are you currently serving through your Child Care Technical Assistance strategy?
2. How many child care providers do you plan to serve in FY 2021-2022?
3. How many classrooms are you currently serving intensively through your Child Care Technical Assistance strategy?
4. How many classrooms do you plan to serve intensively in FY 2021-2022?
5. If there will be a significant increase in providers and/or classrooms served from FY21 to the projected number to be served in FY22 (an increase of more than 2 providers served or 4 classrooms served), please provide an explanation for the increase (e.g., new providers in county, providers rejoined program after opting out in FY21 due to COVID concerns, more funding allocated to the strategy due to need, etc.):

Materials Funding to Child Care Providers

Your request will be reviewed, and funds will be awarded based on the current size of your program and/or your explanation for the use of funding based on the needs of your provider(s).

6. What is the funding amount for materials funding to child care providers (see “Uses of Funding” above) that your Local Partnership is requesting for FY22? \$

Local Partnerships may apply for **up to \$20,000.00 in materials funding** (per Local Partnership) for providers participating in their Child Care Technical Assistance program in FY22.

7. In the space below, please provide a plan for how your partnership will use materials funding. In your response, you must describe the specific child care providers served, their needs, and how these additional materials funds will aid in improving the overall quality of early education and care for each provider.

Incentives for Child Care Directors and Teachers for Achieving Quality Improvement Plan Goals

8. What is the funding amount for Incentives for Child Care Directors, Teachers, and Teaching Assistants for Achieving Quality Improvement Plan Goals that your Local Partnership is requesting for FY22? \$

Local Partnerships may apply for up to \$500.00 in incentive funding per early childhood educator to include the following personnel: teachers in classrooms receiving intensive technical assistance in FY22; teaching assistants in classrooms receiving intensive technical assistance in FY22; directors of providers receiving intensive technical assistance in FY22.

9. In the space below, please provide a plan for how your partnership will award incentive funding to directors and teachers, if applicable. Please include details such as what types of incentives will you award, process of determining the amount of incentives directors, teachers, and teaching assistants will receive, etc. You must include how the awarding of incentives will be tied to the provider's existing Quality Improvement Plan.