



The Honorable James Smith, Chair  
Education and Cultural Subcommittee  
House Legislative Oversight Committee  
Blatt Building, Room 335-C  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

October 12, 2015

Dear Representative Smith,

In response to your questions of September 28, 2015, South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is pleased to provide the following responses.

#### **Funding for Local Boards**

1. Insert information in Sheet 1 of the attached Excel document which requests the following information for each year from 1999 to the present:
  - Total dollar amount of donations received;
  - Total dollar amount from the Donations Fund (SC Code 63-11-1750(A)) distributed to Local Boards;
  - Total dollar amount from the Donations Fund (SC Code 63-11-1750(A)) distributed to the State Office;
  - Total dollar amount in the Donations Fund at the end of the year
  - Total dollar amount received in the Appropriations Fund (SC Code 63-11-1750(B))
  - Total dollar amount from the Appropriations Fund (SC Code 63-11-1750(B)) distributed to Local Boards;
  - Total dollar amount from the Appropriations Fund (SC Code 63-11-1750(B)) distributed to the State Office;
  - Total dollar amount in the Appropriations Fund at the end of the year (i.e. carry forward)

**RESPONSE:** Each of the data points listed above has been inserted into the attached Excel chart as requested.

2. Provide a document or chart which explains the following for each year from 1999 to the present
  - Actions taken by the State Office to increase funding for the local boards;
  - Metrics utilized by the State Office to determine how to adjust its efforts to ensure it continually became more and more effective at helping the local boards raise funds.

**RESPONSE:** Since the agency's inception in 1999, First Steps has sought to maximize funding for direct services via local partnership boards. This has taken a number of forms, including the notable examples below.

In 2005 First Steps requested and received \$3M in unclaimed lottery funds, which it offered to local partnerships as a dollar for dollar match to private fundraising efforts. The Office of First Steps matched \$1M and local First Steps partnerships generated \$2M in matching dollars and in-kind, thereby pulling down all of the available lottery funds.

In 2006 First Steps requested and received \$2M in pilot funding to expand Centers of Excellence, an innovative and comprehensive project combining childcare and family supports via trial and plaintiff

partnerships. This pilot was subsequently extended using 4K carry forward designated for children aged 0-3, but discontinued due to lack of resources following recession-related cuts to the agency budget.

In 2007 First Steps partnered with The Duke Endowment to bring Nurse-Family Partnership – an evidence-based nurse home visitation program for low-income, first-time mothers and their children - to South Carolina. First Steps’ initial investment of \$1M has leveraged a growing private and philanthropic investment that now exceeds \$20M, approximately \$4M of which has run through local partnerships to date.

In 2007 SC First Steps competed for and was awarded a \$4.1M Early Reading First Grant to expand high quality early literacy services in a collaborative partnership with Lee and Darlington County First Steps.

In 2008 the SC First Steps Board of Trustees adopted “Funding Principles” designed to communicate the prioritization of direct service provision to families through partnerships as the agency’s top priority during a time of recession.

In 2012 First Steps consolidated its regional finance manager system, reducing its contracts with private accounting vendors from 5 to 2, at a savings of \$274K. The resulting savings were utilized to partially offset the impact of mid-year budget cuts to partnerships.

From 2009-2011 First Steps engaged in an innovative and mutually beneficial partnership with DSS in an effort to preserve local partnership services during a period of diminishing state resources. Through a grant of state First Steps dollars, DSS was able to draw down additional federal funding, the proceeds of which were partially returned to First Steps for the purpose of preserving eligible services. The amount granted to DSS during this period was \$12M. DSS granted First Steps \$13.4M in federal dollars during the same timeframe.

In 2014 First Steps - in collaboration with Governor Haley’s office – developed and submitted a \$70M federal Preschool Development Grant application designed to expand both public and private 4K programs in 12 SC counties. Unfortunately this grant was not funded.

In 2014 First Steps submitted and received an \$18.5M grant (over 5 years) to expand Early Head Start Services in collaboration with 12 local First Steps partnerships, each of which will be funded to provide comprehensive family support services.

The resource development efforts of local partnerships are tracked annually by SC First Steps. Since inception, partnerships have raised an additional \$0.47 in private and in-kind contributions for every state dollar provided to them.

3. Provide a statement explaining what the State Office is currently doing to attract private money for the local boards.

**RESPONSE:** As described above, SC First Steps has aggressively sought to preserve and expand local partnership services. In addition to an increased focus on communications support and public awareness, First Steps actively seeks grants, private and philanthropic resources to support the work of local partnerships. A number of specific examples are included below:

**Nurse Family Partnership**

**Amount:** More than \$20 million since 2007.

**Partners:** The Duke Endowment, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation of SC, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, SC Department of Health and Human Services, The Children’s Trust of SC, Greenville

Hospital System, Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, Carolina Health, McLeod Regional Medical Center and others.

**Summary:** Nurse Family Partnership is an evidence-based home visitation model pairing registered nurses with first-time, low-income mothers beginning during the second trimester of pregnancy and extending to through the second year. As the state's original funder, First Steps partnered with The Duke Endowment to create and sustain the state's original NFP sites – which have since grown to 9 sites serving more than 25 SC communities. SC First Steps serves as the state sponsor for NFP, which has grown since its origins thanks to additional funding from the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation of SC, The Children's Trust and others. Since inception, approximately \$4M has run through local partnerships in support of the program.

**Quality Improvement Center on Early Childhood (QIC-EC) Research and Demonstration Projects Grant**

**Amount:** \$1.1 million over three years, awarded March 2010

**National Partners:** Center for the Study of Social Policy, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, Zero to Three, the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

**State Partners:** BabyNet, University of South Carolina Parenting and Family Research Center, DDSN, Children's Trust of SC, DSS, ECCS

**Summary:** One of four R&D projects nationwide funded by the QIC-EC, a research center created by the Office of Child Abuse and Neglect within the Administration for Children and Families for the purpose of advancing knowledge about approaches to prevent maltreatment and promote family strengths and optimal development among infants and young children. Our project, titled the Family Networks Project, aims to study the impact of parenting intervention services and workforce training on children with disabilities and their families who are being served within BabyNet. Our study will impact 100 families and the service coordinator workforce within the two largest BabyNet regions (Midlands and Upstate).

**Technical Assistance to States on Including and Expanding Early Head Start in their Early Childhood Systems**

**Amount:** Travel to 2-day national meeting, follow-up 2-day site visit, ongoing consultation in 2010

**National Partners:** Zero to Three

**Summary:** The Zero to Three Policy Center awarded five states the opportunity to receive technical assistance in intentional integration of Early Head Start within their early childhood system to expand high-quality services for infants and toddlers. A four-person team, to include First Steps and state/local policymakers from child care and Head Start, will travel to the national Early Head Start TA meeting this summer.

**Promoting Responsive Relationships: Impacting Practice in Child Care**

**Amount:** \$40,000 over three years, awarded Spring 2010

**National Partners:** Zero to Three

**Local Partners:** Edgefield County First Steps, Saluda County First Steps, three child care centers, Early Head Start

**Summary:** One of three states selected to pilot a training and coaching model within early care and education settings to build protective factors related to preventing child maltreatment. The project will implement the Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN) curriculum within three child care providers and one Early Head Start center participating in First Steps Quality Enhancement in Edgefield and Saluda County.

**Supporting Evidence-Based Home Visitation Programs to Prevent Child Maltreatment**

**Amount:** \$2,499,018 over 5 years to the Children's Trust of SC, awarded Oct. 2008

**National Partners:** Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

**Local Partners:** The Duke Endowment, Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, SC DHEC

**Summary:** This grant is one of a limited number funded nationwide to states, tribes, and other eligible entities to support the infrastructure needed for the widespread adoption, implementation, and sustaining of evidence-based home visitation programs. The Children's Trust uses grant funds to contract with SC First Steps to expand Nurse-Family Partnership in South Carolina.

**South Carolina Early Reading Collaborative (SCERC)**

**Amount:** \$4,150,533 over 3 years, awarded Oct. 2007

**National Partners:** U.S. Dept. of Education, Early Reading First grant program

**Local Partners:** Darlington and Lee County First Steps, M.G. Burno Head Start, St. Joseph Head Start, Wateree Head Start, Lee County School District, Bishopville-Lee Child Development Center

**Summary:** The South Carolina Early Reading Collaborative (SCERC) implements a research-based early literacy model on publicly-supported preschool programs for at-risk children in public and private settings. One public school, three Head Start centers, and two private Centers of Excellence participate in the project, located in Darlington and Lee counties. SCERC impacts an estimated 475 children annually in both 3K and 4K programs by providing a research-based literacy curriculum; intensive training and coaching for teachers and staff;

home visitation and parenting; and summer programs. The original project period ends August 31, 2010; there is sufficient funding to extend some services through August 2011.

#### **Foundations for Learning**

**Amount:** \$299,702 awarded in 2010

**Partners:** Charleston County First Steps, Georgetown County First Steps, Horry County First Steps, SC Department of Mental Health, Zero to 3

**Summary:** This 18-month grant from the U.S. Department of Education sought to improve social/emotional development outcomes among high-risk children 0-5 using universal, targeted, and other services via the Pyramid Model of social/emotional development. Resources were provided to First Steps partnerships to provide social/emotional curriculum supports within identified child care settings.

#### **Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships**

**Amount:** \$18.5 million over 5 years awarded in 2015

**Partners:** Allendale County First Steps, Anderson County First Steps, Bamberg County First Steps, Berkeley County First Steps, Dillon County First Steps, Georgetown County First Steps, Laurens County First Steps, Lexington County First Steps, Newberry County First Steps, Orangeburg County First Steps, Saluda County First Steps, York County First Steps, Save the Children, PASOS, Thornwell Children's Home, Technical College of the Lowcountry.

**Summary:** Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant funding is intended to expand the nation's EHS presence within community-based child care settings. Tapping the capacity of 36 proposed child care partners, First Steps' application proposes to expand Early Head Start to 254 eligible, low-income children in 12 SC counties – selected on the basis of either a priority zip-code (11) and/or the absence/scarcity of existing EHS services. The proposed service area is home to an estimated 12,208 eligible children.

#### 4. Number of children served by Local Partnerships and Partnership Supports

You provided a note in the Program Evaluation Report which states the data relating to total number of constituents served in years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 may be unreliable because of duplicate counting and other reasons. You go on to state, "This issue was partially addressed with the creation of a new client data system in 2007 (as indicated by the substantial drop in number served during this year) and has since been enhanced by a supplemental, summary data submission from partnerships. The figures below are appropriately considered in this context."

If you are merely providing these notes as an explanation, and will testify under oath during our meeting that we can rely on the data included in the Program Evaluation Report for 2004-05 through 2006-07 during our study that is fine. If not, please provide the data you will testify under oath that we can rely on during our study. If you are unable to provide data that you can testify under oath the agency wants the Subcommittee to rely upon in its study, please tell me there is no data available.

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**RESPONSE: All First Steps data included in the Program Evaluation Report is accurate as collected. A more elaborated summary of improvements to the agency's data collection efforts is attached.**

You also state in the explanation of 2013-14 data that a new spreadsheet for reporting further eliminates duplication.

If you merely provided this note as an explanation, and will testify under oath during our meeting that we can rely on the figures for 2007-08 through 2012-13 during our study that is fine. If not, please provide the data you will testify under oath that we can rely on during our study. If you are unable to provide data that you can testify under oath the agency wants the Subcommittee to rely upon in its study, please tell me there is no data available.

**RESPONSE: All First Steps data included in the Program Evaluation Report is accurate as collected. A more elaborated summary of improvements to the agency's data collection efforts is attached.**

#### 5. Program Funding and Number of Children Served

In the attached excel document, insert information in the highlighted cells of the tabs labeled Program Details Partnerships, Program Details 4K, Program Details BabyNet, Program Details Policy Accountability, and Program Details Early Head Start. These tabs contain portions of the original information you provided in response to the Program Evaluation Report which asked for information back to 2004-05. The new highlighted cells ask for information from 1999 through 2003-04.

**RESPONSE: Each available data point has been provided in the attached Excel chart. Note that not all of the programs listed above were in operation from 1999-2004. The 4K program was created by the General Assembly in June of 2006. BabyNet was transferred to First Steps in January of 2010.**

#### 6. Data Related to Statewide Metrics

- Does the agency have any data which illustrates how children who were involved in First Step programs performed on the Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB) from 1999-2001 in comparison to similarly situated children who were not involved in the First Steps programs?
- Does the agency have any data which illustrates how children who were involved in First Steps programs performed on the Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB) from 1999-2001 prior to being involved in the First Steps program and then how they performed after being involved in the First Steps Programs?
- Does the agency have any data related to the Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB) from 1999-2001 to show the impact of First Steps programs on children?

**RESPONSE: The Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB) was a child-level assessment administered to rising first graders between 1977 and 2001. Given the instrument's administration to six-year-olds and its deletion by the General Assembly during the same period during which First Steps' initial services to were being provided to younger preschoolers, there is no CSAB data reflecting the outcomes of First Steps' programs.**

- Does the agency have any data which illustrates how children who were involved in First Steps programs performed on the SC Readiness Assessment (SCRA) from 2001-2008 in comparison to similarly situated children who were not involved in the First Steps programs?

**RESPONSE: See below.**

- Does the agency have any data which illustrates how children who were involved in First Steps programs performed on the SC Readiness Assessment (SCRA) from 2001-2008 prior to being involved in the First Steps program and then how they performed after being involved in the First Steps Programs?

**RESPONSE:** Because the SCRA was administered between 2002-2008 to public school kindergarten and first grade students already having aged out of First Steps programs (which serve children prior to kindergarten entry), no data reflecting the pre- and post-assessment of First Steps' clients using the SCRA is available for analysis.

- Does the agency have any data related to the SC Readiness Assessment (SCRA) from 2001-2008 to show the impact of First Steps programs on children?

**RESPONSE:** Both First Steps' 2006 and 2010 external evaluations by the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation utilized SCRA data to depict the benefits of participation in First Steps-funded programs.

In 2006's *From Implementation to Impact: An Evaluation of the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Program*, this analysis focused heavily on the benefits of participation in state-funded 4K – expanded at that time (pre-CDEPP) by local partnerships within school district settings. The following summary is extracted from the researchers' findings section

“The evidence presented showed that 4K teachers are highly qualified and that all First Steps funded 4K teachers have a bachelor's degree or higher and an early childhood certification. However, data related to curriculum implementation and classrooms quality indicated that 4K classrooms were of average quality and that there was no difference in quality between First Steps-funded classrooms and all others.

Child outcomes for First Steps-funded 4K children came from analysis of cohort 3 (2003–2004) and cohort 4 (2004–2005) data that clearly indicated that children who received First Steps funds were significantly more disadvantaged than those who did not. Additionally, children who participated in First Steps without 4K were most at risk for grade retention, special needs placement, and lower academic achievement compared to both their First Steps-funded with 4K and non-First steps-funded 4K peers.

There was consistent evidence that enrollment in full-day 4K has positive effects on child outcomes. It was clear from these analyses that while in general 4K experiences reduced the odds of being retained, full-day 4K had a greater impact in reducing those odds. A consistent finding within the SCRA and PACT scores was that while minority children score lower than White children, 4K effects are stronger for minority children than for White children.” (p.119)

*From Implementation to Impact: An Evaluation of the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Program (2006) – High/Scope Educational Research Foundation <http://scfirststeps.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/High-Scope-Educational-Research-Foundation-2006.pdf>*

As related to the SCRA, researchers found that:

“All children who attended 4K (both First Steps and non-First Steps) scored significantly higher than non-4K children in the areas of language and math. This indicates that for these children the 4K experience had significant impact on their language and mathematical skills and abilities.” (p. 43)

In 2010's *Further Steps to School Readiness*, High/Scope revisited this data, applying it to early CDEPP 4K data. In this case, the analysis included a comparison of the SCRA results achieved by First Steps' private 4K students and those enrolled in public programs via local school districts.

Researchers found that students enrolled in First Steps' private 4K classrooms achieved SCRA results comparable to those of their public school peers, summarizing one of their five key findings as follows:

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**“The potential demonstrated in the CDEPP initiative. With only one year of data, CDEPP children were not significantly different in the odds of scoring on a higher level on every SCRA scale compared to full-day 4K and non-4K children. They also had significantly lower Further Steps to School Readiness Conclusions and Recommendations 149 speech impairment and learning disability diagnoses. This may demonstrate the potential for implementing public programs in private settings in a less expensive manner with similar results.” p. 148-149**

**The researchers also looked at the SCRA results of children enrolled simultaneously in First Steps’ 4K and parenting programs and found that “Except for one scale, child outcomes in FY 2006-07 indicated increased odds of scoring on a higher level on every SCRA scale when PAT is combined with 4K compared to full-day 4K only.” p. 148**

***Further Steps to School Readiness (2010) High/Scope Educational Research Foundation.***  
**<http://scfirststeps.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/South-Carolina-First-Steps-to-School-Readiness-2009-Evaluation.pdf>**

## 7. Funding for each individual program

Can you provide the following information for each of the 48 different programs listed in the 2016 local partnership program matrix: (for now we just need to know yes or no and if yes, how long it would take to obtain the information)

1. Year it was first utilized by a local board
2. In the local boards which have utilized it,
3. Each year it was utilized by the local board
4. Amount of funding it received each year
5. Number of children it served each year
6. Metrics utilized to determine if it was effectively helping the children it served and the results of those metrics each year

**RESPONSE: Most of the information detailed above is available to SC First Steps, however it is captured within multiple data sets and data collection systems, some of which predate SCEIS and/or First Steps’ existing client data system. The agency could provide responses related to items 1-4 above within three weeks.**

**Items 5 and 6 can be provided but would entail a very labor intensive, manual process. We would request at least two months to provide this data if necessary to the committee.**

List of individual programs the State Office recommended local boards utilize, or that local boards utilized on their own, that the State Office no longer recommends the local boards utilize because of a determination that the program was not effectively assisting the children or because the funds could be used for a more effective program.

**RESPONSE: The First Steps Board of Trustees utilizes a strategy-level grant renewal process in which each partnership strategy’s performance is reviewed annually. Strategies failing to meet key measures of success, detailed in the First Steps Accountability Standards are subject to discontinuation or “conditional approval” which entails additional monitoring and technical assistance, along with a six month review at which time strategies failing to demonstrate compliance are subject to discontinuation. (In at least two cases, the Board has frozen local strategy funding and required a meeting with local boards to address performance concerns.)**

**First Steps has not categorically prohibited the use of any partnership strategy, but has declined individual strategy proposals in the past and monitors the compliance of each individual partnership’s strategy performance. More than 90% of First Steps’ programmatic spending occurs within programs**

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for which the Board has conducted careful review and created detailed fidelity standards. Since 2004, the agency commissioned research to explore the risk factors most closely associated with early school failure among SC children.

Increased Number of Employees in the State Office

How has the increase in the number of employees in the state office from 1999 to the present helped with the original goal of ensuring children are ready to learn?

**RESPONSE:** The agency's staff increased in size in 2006, when the General Assembly charged it with implementation of the CDEPP 4K model in private settings and then again in 2010 with the transfer of BabyNet staff from DHEC, with each of these programs seeing continuing growth in the intervening years. As readiness-focused early childhood education initiatives, both BabyNet and 4K are entirely consistent with First Steps' legislative goals as established in 1999.

Section 59-152-30 - The goals for South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness are to:

- (1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
- (2) increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
- (3) promote high-quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
- (4) provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
- (5) mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed."

Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of additional assistance to the Committee.

Respectfully,

Signature Redacted

Susan W. DeVenny  
Director

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	TOTAL
Major Events								CDEPP created			BabyNet transferred to FS							
<b>Total Dollar Amount....</b>																		
Donations Received	\$ 1,119,682	\$ 1,523,783	\$ 2,014,180	\$ 1,163,989	\$ 719,000	\$ 636,000	\$ 415,100	\$ 709,867	\$ 24,668	\$ 68,972	\$ 230,896	\$ 537,341	\$ 646,101	\$ 516,122	\$ 233,698	\$ 332,123	\$ 17,640	\$ 10,909,162
Distributed to Local Boards from the Donation Fund	\$ 171	\$ 226,000	\$ 535,441	\$ 2,355,056	\$ 398,916	\$ 1,111,535	\$ 204,100	\$ 85,206	\$ 51,000	\$ 252,576	\$ 198,587	\$ 182,984	\$ 12,150	\$ 468	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 5,634,190
Distributed to the State Office from the Donation Fund <b>SPENT (*See note 3)</b>										*Note 1 \$ 2,681,493	\$ 230,357	\$ 500,472	\$ 554,660	\$ 421,836	\$ 167,078	\$ 21,618	\$ -	\$ 4,577,514
<b>In the Donation Fund at the end of the year (i.e., Carry Forward)</b>	<b>\$ 1,119,511</b>	<b>\$ 2,417,294</b>	<b>\$ 3,896,033</b>	<b>\$ 2,704,966</b>	<b>\$ 3,025,050</b>	<b>\$ 2,549,515</b>	<b>\$ 2,760,515</b>	<b>\$ 3,385,176</b>	<b>\$ 3,358,844</b>	<b>\$ 493,747</b>	<b>\$ 295,699</b>	<b>\$ 149,584</b>	<b>\$ 228,875</b>	<b>\$ 322,693</b>	<b>\$ 389,313</b>	<b>\$ 679,818</b>	<b>\$ 697,458</b>	<b>\$ 697,458</b>
Received in the Appropriations Fund	#####	\$29,800,000	\$ 20,927,553	\$ 25,540,421	\$ 18,355,017	\$ 21,125,579	\$ 20,150,966	\$ 30,042,095	#####	\$ 19,651,268	\$ 17,315,535	\$ 15,947,419	#####	\$ 18,046,944	\$ 27,205,209	\$ 34,038,785	\$ 35,654,088	\$ 405,180,473
Distributed to Local Boards from the Appropriations Fund	\$ 12,832	\$ 5,478,614	\$ 31,867,730	\$ 28,496,930	\$ 15,420,883	\$ 15,841,434	\$ 19,085,632	\$ 19,005,640	#####	\$ 16,503,710	\$ 9,850,428	\$ 8,566,584	#####	\$ 11,310,089	\$ 13,230,486	\$ 12,760,106	\$ 3,128,594	\$ 244,704,351
4K Program Appropriated Funds								\$ 1,713,259	\$ 2,492,699	\$ 2,689,791	\$ 2,536,236	\$ 2,526,729	\$ 2,460,791	\$ 2,522,550	\$ 7,638,862	\$ 9,410,392	\$ 2,358,597	\$ 36,349,906
BabyNet Program Appropriated Funds											\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,947,583	\$ 1,869,776	\$ 2,893,831	\$ 3,743,780	\$ 784,901	\$ 11,239,871
Distributed to the State Office from the Appropriations Fund <b>SPENT (See note 3)</b>										*Note 1 \$ 53,693,741	\$ 7,246,379	\$ 4,879,468	\$ 485,072	\$ 2,226,527	\$ 1,689,590	\$ 1,773,331	\$ 9,071,256	\$ 81,065,364
<b>In the Appropriations Fund at the end of the year (i.e. carryforward)</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>\$44,308,554</b>	<b>\$ 33,368,377</b>	<b>\$ 30,411,868</b>	<b>\$ 33,346,002</b>	<b>\$ 38,630,147</b>	<b>\$ 39,695,481</b>	<b>\$ 49,018,677</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>\$ 3,864,809</b>	<b>\$ 1,547,301</b>	<b>\$ 1,521,939</b>	<b>\$ 3,288,623</b>	<b>\$ 3,406,625</b>	<b>\$ 5,159,065</b>	<b>\$ 11,510,241</b>	<b>\$ 31,820,981</b>	<b>\$ 31,820,981</b>
<b>Employees</b>																		
Authorized FTEs	5	9	9	13	17	17	14	14	20	20	31	37	37	60.5	63.5	64.5	87.5	

**NOTES:**

1) Introduction of SCEIS

2) Decreased state funds during FY10 and FY11 are the result of an innovative partnership with DSS, designed to minimize mid-year budget cuts to local partnerships. Federal TANF funds not reflected here were distributed to local boards as a result of a mutually beneficial grant agreement which enabled DSS to draw down additional federal funds. FY 09=\$2.2M; FY 10=\$5.6M; and FY 11=\$5.6M

3) Prior to SCEIS, financial data for the State Office was kept within the finance system of the SC Department of Education. We have requested this data and will provide it to the committee as soon as possible.

Agency Submitting Report	First Steps to School Readiness
Individual Program Name	<b>Local Partnerships and Partnership Supports</b>
Brief description of the public benefit provided or public harm prevented by the individual program	First Steps' local partnerships are created by law to mobilize communities around the school readiness needs of young children for the purpose of promoting healthy development and school success.
Ranking (#1 = most effective and efficient)	1
Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15 (from all funding sources)	\$29,674,753
Amount of Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15 from funds appropriated by General Assembly	\$12,693,265
Associated Major Programs Area (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)	Local Partnerships is a major program area unto itself.
Associated Agency Objective #(s) (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 2.1.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 4.1.4, 4.2.2, 5.1.4, 5.2.5

Year	Notes and/or further Explanation	Total number of constituents served	Total Program Budget (from all sources of funding)	Total Program Expenditures
1999-00		In process	*	*
2000-01		In process	*	*
2001-02		In process	*	*
2002-03		In process	*	*
2003-04		In process	*	*
2004-05	*Includes duplicated counts and estimates of children benefitting from child care training - see explanation above.	55,117*	\$25,674,892	\$23,602,221
2005-06	*Includes duplicated counts and estimates of children benefitting from child care training - see explanation above.	54,338*	\$30,728,449	\$27,018,042
2006-07	*Includes duplicated counts and estimates of children benefitting from child care training - see explanation above.	66,299*	\$29,924,406	\$25,529,804
2007-08	*Launch of updated First Steps Data Collection System which reduced duplication. Policy shift from estimating children benefitting from child care training, to counting adults (staff) trained - see explanation above.	34,387*	\$31,669,688	\$26,470,115
2008-09		32,334	\$31,480,696	\$25,413,720
2009-10	Significant budget cuts, and mandate from SC First Steps Board of Trustees to focus on intensive services to high-risk clients, which reduced the overall numbers served because intensive services over long periods of time take additional staff and resources.	32,965	\$27,246,394	\$22,357,876
2010-11	Further budget cuts.	31,808	\$25,821,978	\$21,659,957
2011-12	Budget cuts not restored.	34,815	\$26,448,852	\$21,630,016
2012-13	Budget cuts not restored.	25,936	\$26,157,901	\$22,194,050
2013-14	Budget cuts not restored. New spreadsheet for reporting numbers served further eliminates duplication of numbers served, particularly for child care and parent training (counting those who attended multiple trainings or events once, instead of each time they attend).	23,451	\$27,062,907	\$24,264,943
2014-15			\$29,674,753	\$23,863,547

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**NOTE:** As established by the General Assembly, First Steps' local partnerships fund a wide variety of program types, each with specific client definitions. Some strategies are targeted to individual children (4K, scholarships), others primarily to their parents/family units (Parents as Teachers, Nurse Family Partnerships) and still more to child care centers and/or teachers serving a large number of individual children. Because of the substantial diversity of their statewide offerings, developing a precise annual count of constituents benefiting from First Steps Partnerships' services presents a methodological challenge. The figures below represent our best efforts to depict this data using the systems in place during each year in question. Because the agency's early data collection methodology was based heavily upon output counts by strategy, First Steps acknowledges duplication, particularly in early counts. This issue was partially addressed with the creation of a new client data system in 2007 (as indicated by the substantial drop in number served during this year) and has since been enhanced by a supplemental, summary data submission from partnerships. The figures below are appropriately considered in this context.

1) Program budgets and expenditures during this time cannot be compared with 04-05 to 14-15 since the expenses covered by the State Office were not broken out for these time frames. The resulting numbers would be partial amounts.

<b>Agency Submitting Report</b>	First Steps to School Readiness
<b>Individual Program Name</b>	<b>First Steps 4K</b>
<b>Brief description of the public benefit provided or public harm prevented by the individual program</b>	First Steps administers four-year-old kindergarten services in private and community-based settings in 61 SC school districts for the purpose of increasing school readiness and early academic achievement.
<b>Ranking (#1 = most effective and efficient)</b>	2
<b>Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15 (from all funding sources)</b>	\$16,668,280
<b>Amount of Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15 from funds appropriated by General Assembly</b>	\$9,662,864
<b>Associated Major Programs Area (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)</b>	First Steps 4K is a major program area unto itself.
<b>Associated Agency Objective #(s) (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)</b>	1.3.1, 1.3.2, 14.3.4, 1.3.5, 2.2.1, 2.3.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4

Year	Notes and/or further Explanation	Total number of constituents served	Total Program Budget (from all sources of funding)	Total Program Expenditures
1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2000-01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001-02	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2002-03	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003-04	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004-05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005-06	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2006-07	37 Trial and Plaintiff Districts	309	\$2,798,507	\$1,266,947
2007-08	37 Trial and Plaintiff Districts	482	\$3,033,907	\$1,929,770
2008-09	37 Trial and Plaintiff Districts	459	\$2,925,703	\$2,066,618
2009-10	37 Trial and Plaintiff Districts	524	\$2,704,293	\$2,067,692
2010-11	37 Trial and Plaintiff Districts	549	\$2,501,231	\$2,177,251
2011-12	37 Trial and Plaintiff Districts	577	\$2,484,628	\$2,460,791
2012-13	37 Trial and Plaintiff Districts	601	\$2,713,597	\$2,713,527
2013-14	51 districts (17 new)	1,402	\$11,642,893	\$7,676,544
2014-15	61 districts (10 new)	2,280	\$16,668,280	\$9,410,391

<b>Agency Submitting Report</b>	First Steps to School Readiness
<b>Individual Program Name</b>	<b>BabyNet</b>
<b>Brief description of the public benefit provided or public harm prevented by the individual program</b>	The BabyNet program is South Carolina's early intervention program under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C. By providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays, South Carolina reduces long term expenditures associated with special education and educational remediation.
<b>Ranking</b> (#1 = most effective and efficient)	3
<b>Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15</b> (from all funding sources)	\$10,862,614
<b>Amount of Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15 from funds appropriated by General Assembly</b>	\$ 2,396,426
<b>Associated Major Programs Area</b> (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)	BabyNet is a major program area unto itself.
<b>Associated Agency Objective #(s)</b> (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)	1.3.3, 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 2.1.2, 2.3.3, 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3

Year	Notes and/or further Explanation	Total number of constituents served	Total Program Budget (from all sources of funding)	Total Program Expenditures
1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2000-01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001-02	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2002-03	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003-04	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004-05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005-06	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2006-07	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2007-08	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008-09	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009-10	First Steps assumed "lead agency" status for the interagency BabyNet system on January 1, 2010.	4600	Due to changes to First Steps budget structure with the SCEIS system since FY12, compilation of FY10 and FY 11 cannot be broken down to this level of detail.	
2010-11		4625		
2011-12		4405	\$9,659,605	\$9,659,605
2012-13	Eligibility change required under federal law.	3789	\$9,149,713	\$9,149,713
2013-14		3672	\$10,468,701	\$9,847,065
2014-15		3968	\$10,862,614	\$10,197,842

<b>Agency Submitting Report</b>	First Steps to School Readiness
<b>Individual Program Name</b>	<b>Policy and Accountability</b>
<b>Brief description of the public benefit provided or public harm prevented by the individual program</b>	The state office of SC First Steps to School Readiness provides infrastructure, technical assistance, oversight and accountability supports designed to ensure the entire First Steps system operates to the benefit of SC citizens and in compliance with legal mandates.
<b>Ranking (#1 = most effective and efficient)</b>	4
<b>Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15 (from all funding sources)</b>	\$1,559,714
<b>Amount of Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15 from funds appropriated by General Assembly</b>	\$ 1,343,130
<b>Associated Major Programs Area (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)</b>	Policy and Accountability is a major program area unto itself.
<b>Associated Agency Objective #(s) (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)</b>	1.3.5, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 3.1.3, 4.2.1, 4.2.3, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3, 5.2.4

Year	Notes and/or further Explanation	Total number of constituents served	Total Program Budget (from all sources of funding)	Total Program Expenditures
1999-00			Data for these years is not available to First Steps within SCEIS and was previously captured in the finance system of the SC Department of Education. Financial reports are available for these years, but did not track data in these categories.	
2000-01				
2001-02				
2002-03				
2003-04				
2004-05		Constituent service is not tracked at this level. The		
2005-06		Policy and Accountability functions of First Steps		
2006-07		support all programs (Local Partnerships, 4K,		
2007-08		BabyNet, and Early Head Start), providing		
2008-09		infrastructure and oversight on behalf of		
2009-10		constituents in each of these program areas.	Due to changes to First Steps budget structure with the SCEIS system since FY12, compilation of FY10 and FY 11 cannot be broken down to this level of detail.	
2010-11				
2011-12			\$1,055,814	\$1,055,814
2012-13			\$1,577,770	\$1,015,744
2013-14			\$1,297,957	\$1,181,358
2014-15			\$1,559,714	\$1,341,558

<b>Agency Submitting Report</b>	First Steps to School Readiness
<b>Individual Program Name</b>	<b>EARLY HEAD START -CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS</b>
<b>Brief description of the public benefit provided or public harm prevented by the individual program</b>	This newest program area, recently funded by the federal Office of Head Start is designed to expand high-quality early care and education to at-risk infants and toddlers in partnership with private preschool providers in 12 SC counties.
<b>Ranking (#1 = most effective and efficient)</b>	NEW
<b>Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15 (from all funding sources)</b>	\$1,944,933
<b>Amount of Total Program Budget in FY 2014-15 from funds appropriated by General Assembly</b>	\$0
<b>Associated Major Programs Area (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)</b>	Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships is an anticipated/new major program area.
<b>Associated Agency Objective #(s) (as identified in the 2013-14 Accountability Report)</b>	1.3.4, 1.3.5, 2.2.1, 2.3.3

Year	Notes and/or further Explanation	Total number of constituents served	Total Program Budget (from all sources of funding)	Total Program Expenditures
1999-00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2000-01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001-02	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2002-03	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003-04	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004-05	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005-06	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2006-07	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2007-08	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008-09	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009-10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2010-11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2011-12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012-13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013-14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2014-15	NEW	NEW GRANT (CLIENT SERVICE ANTICIPATED TO BEGIN IN FALL OF 2015)	<b>\$1,944,933</b>	<b>\$14,929</b>