



November 23, 2022

South Carolina General Assembly
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

This letter is to inform you that the number of children directly served by South Carolina First Steps last fiscal year was 57,435 – a 55% increase over the previous year. This is a tremendous accomplishment, which would not have been possible without your continued support.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Section 1-1-820, First Steps submitted a FY22 Agency Accountability Report on September 15, 2022, which contained a different number. Upon further review, we found that data for one program implemented in six counties were misreported to us, which has now been corrected. In the interest of transparency, we wanted to provide you with a revised FY22 Agency Accountability Report, which you will find enclosed. We have also provided this revised FY22 Agency Accountability Report to the Executive Budget and the Governor's Offices.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance regarding this matter, please contact Dr. Chelsea Richard, our Director of Research and Strategy at crichard@scfirststeps.org or (803) 734-1620.

We are grateful for the General Assembly's commitment to accountability and to improving the lives of young children and their families in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georgia Mjartan".

Georgia Mjartan
Executive Director
South Carolina First Steps

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AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

South Carolina First Steps: Working Together So Every Child Reaches Their Highest Potential

South Carolina First Steps is the state's only dedicated, comprehensive early childhood initiative focused on getting children ready for success in school and life. As both a state agency and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, First Steps works with families, early educators, and partners statewide to support children from birth through age five to close the gap on student's preparedness for success in school. Since the beginning, we have taken a holistic approach to accomplishing our mission, offering services that improve children's health, strengthen families, expand access to quality early care and education, and help transition rising kindergartners into school.

To have the greatest impact on young children requires collaboration across public agencies, community-based entities, and the private sector at both the local and state level. First Steps local partnership boards include a cross section of key early childhood stakeholders who assess local early childhood needs and provide services to young children and their families. First Steps 4K is a partnership between the South Carolina First Steps and private and faith-based child care centers, charter schools and private schools. At the state level, First Steps operates the Early Childhood Advisory Council, the statutorily authorized structure for coordinating all of South Carolina's public investments in early childhood services, ensuring efficient use of federal, state and local funds, and building a cohesive system that ensures young children are healthy and safe, ready for school, and supported by engaged families and communities. Our trustees serve concurrently as ECAC members and our staff coordinates their collaborative efforts.

In FY22, South Carolina First Steps directly served 57,435 children birth through age five with programs that improve children's health, strengthen families, expand access to quality child care, increase participation in four-year-old kindergarten, and help transition rising kindergartners into school. The agency's work with child care teachers, early educators, and child care providers impacted an additional 50,000+ children whose teachers and caregivers participated in First Steps teacher training and child care quality enhancement programs.

Like recent fiscal years, First Steps experienced another year of significant programmatic growth, serving 55% more children directly than last fiscal year. During FY22, First Steps...

- Served 57,435 children directly through our local partnerships and First Steps 4K (+55% over FY21)
- Enrolled 3,433 students in in-person, full-day 4K in 312 classrooms within private, non-profit, and faith-based First Steps 4K providers through the 180th day of school (+29% over FY21)
- Served 4,513 children in high-intensity programs through our local partnerships, which includes evidence-based home visiting and early care and education programs (+30% over FY21)
- Supported 1,415 rising kindergartners in their transition to school through the Countdown to Kindergarten program in summer 2021(+262% over FY21)
- Hosted over 4,461 hours of professional development for child care providers through on-site technical assistance via local partnerships (+116% over FY21)

Established New Programs and Initiatives

- Received \$14.7 million over three years from the SC Department of Education through the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding to...
 - Assist underserved students with school transition to kindergarten and Child Early Reading and Development Education Program (CERDEP) classes
 - Recruit and retain South Carolina First Steps CERDEP teachers

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- Provide summer and afterschool learning opportunities that leverage literacy with preschool-aged children throughout the state to accelerate learning
- Support parents in actively engaging in their child’s education through evidence-based parenting programs, included but not limited to Parents as Teachers (PAT) and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY)
- Screen and identify early childhood health and development concerns early, provide support to parents to ensure optimal maternal and child health, and make referrals through Healthy Steps and PASOs
- Secured \$3 million in recurring General Funds to expand First Steps programs, the single largest increase to the local partnerships in the history of First Steps with support from Governor McMaster and bi-partisan legislative support from the General Assembly.
- Awarded \$282,731 in competitive early childhood innovation grants to seven local First Steps partnerships
 - Anderson County First Steps (\$11,374): to implement the Ready Rosie Active Family Engagement System in partnership with four Anderson County school districts (Anderson School Districts One, Two, Three, and Four).
 - Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester County First Steps (\$198,000 over two years): to support the Tri-County Pyramid Play Collaborative, a multi-faceted initiative that integrates the principles of the evidence-based Pyramid Model for supporting children’s healthy development into programs and services for young children and their caregivers.
 - Cherokee County First Steps (\$19,00 over two years): to implement the Reach Out Project, a county-wide community education and outreach initiative to provide Cherokee County families with the information they need to access available programs and services that support their child’s development and family well-being.
 - Chesterfield County First Steps (\$39,357 over two years): to establish a three-year-old classroom at Compass Point, a child development center operated by Chesterfield County First Steps on the campus of Northeastern Technical College that currently serves as a First Steps 4K center.
 - Colleton County First Steps (\$15,000 over two years): to create Bags for Babes, an outreach program to provide every Colleton County family with a child under 3 with information about developmental milestones and local services, as well as an age-appropriate book for the child to keep.
- Launched Connected Families in seven counties (Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Lexington, Richland, Pickens, and York) through a collaborative philanthropic investment of \$3.8 million over three years from the Duke Endowment and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Through Connected Families, Department of Social Services case workers refer families to a local First Steps, where they can participate in Parents as Teachers, an evidence-based home visitation program. Families who need additional support may receive Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) services. ABC is an in-home mental health intervention that is proven to increase parent sensitivity and promote positive parent-child interactions.
- Developed and launched Countdown to 4K. Modeled after the popular and successful Countdown to Kindergarten program, it pairs the child’s soon-to-be 4K teacher or teaching assistant with the child and parent for one-on-one sessions the summer before school starts. The Countdown teachers follow a curriculum and model activities to promote learning at home, provide high-quality learning materials, and – perhaps most importantly - create relationships for strong home-school connections.
- Developed and launched Catch-up to Kindergarten as a response to schools that told us that several students were entering kindergarten in turmoil due to the strains and isolation of the pandemic. Not only were they significantly lacking in learning skills, many were in emotional

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distress and needed additional support. The Countdown model was implemented in Fall 2021, after the start of school to bolster the children and parents during these difficult times.

- Conceptualized, developed, and implemented First Steps 4K + Siblings, an interagency, nationally-recognized innovation which braids state and federal funds and in this inaugural year resulted in 1,723 children being able to access this additional support for their and their siblings' enrollment in a high-quality child care program.

Expanded the Reach of our Existing Programs

- Implemented the first year of statewide expansion of First Steps 4K successfully with 4,159 students served through day 220 (highest number ever) and expanded geographic accessibility and reach of the program.
- Expanded 4K in Underserved Communities through four grants totaling \$100,000
 - C.A.R.E. Academy, Charleston (\$20,000): to contribute towards remodeling construction of a building with a classroom to meet licensing requirements serving a class of ten four-year-olds.
 - New Generation Daycare and Learning Center, LLC, Greenville (\$30,000): to contribute towards construction of a building with a classroom to meet licensing requirements serving a class of twenty four-year-olds.
 - Plymouth Childcare Development Center, Charleston (\$20,000): to contribute towards construction of a bathroom to meet licensing requirements to serve a class of twenty four-year-olds.
 - This is My Child, Middle Tyger Community Center, Lyman (\$30,000): to contribute towards remodeling construction of a building with a classroom to meet licensing requirements serving a class of ten four-year-olds.
- Supported the opening of a 4K classroom at the Bethlehem Center in Spartanburg in November 2021. In 2020, First Steps awarded \$300,000 in state funds to The Bethlehem Center based on the community's plans to renovate an underutilized, city-owned building and establish a First Steps 4K program serving 18 children from the Highland community and surrounding areas.
- Granted \$17,664,476 to our network of 46 local First Steps partnerships. A combination of state, federal and private dollars, the funds will directly impact more than 30,000 children and will expand parenting programs, increase the quality of child care, support positive transitions between early childhood and elementary school and improve the health of South Carolina's youngest citizens.
 - \$14,435,228 in state funding to all 46 local First Steps partnerships.
 - \$3,229,248 in federal, state, and private funds in targeted and competitive grant funding to help 44 counties expand and add new programs that successfully prepare children for school.
- Had a successful second year of the First Steps AmeriCorps national service program. Highlights include:
 - 35 AmeriCorps members recruited, of which 27 (77%) completed their term of service
 - 20 sites participated in First Steps AmeriCorps, of which 18 (90%) were First Steps Local Partnerships
 - 17,782 hours were served by AmeriCorps members, of which 16,839.5 (95%) were direct service hours.
 - \$76,242 in Segal Education Awards were provided to members after completing their service term, which are used to pay student loan debt or upcoming tuition costs.
 - 90 volunteers supported the statewide MLK Week of Service project, where 198 First Steps 4K centers received a reading of the same book, 'Different' by Michael Buxton, and 3,600 copies of the book were distributed to First Steps 4K students.

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- 110 families were recruited for participation in Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, of which 66 (60%) families completed the program of at least 26 lessons.
- 337 families received a referral, screening, or attended a meeting facilitated by Family and Community Engagement members.
- 3,196 promotional materials were provided to families to promote school readiness, like the South Carolina, Profile of a Ready Kindergartner.

Increased Competence and Confidence of Early Care and Education Workforce

- Taught over 1,000 teachers of four-year-olds across the state at the virtual, two-day Palmetto Pre-K Jamboree with the theme, “Rooted in Nature: Inspiring Curiosity”
- Trained and oriented 248 total First Steps 4K directors, of which 105 (42%) were new, and 411 total First Steps 4K teachers, of which 125 (30%) were new, in a series of one to two day trainings in our First Steps 4K Academies in preparation for the 2021-22 school year.

Released the State’s First Comprehensive Birth through Five Strategic Plan

- Developed South Carolina’s inaugural Birth through Five Plan (2022-2027) over almost three years gathering voices from thousands of families, service providers, and leaders from a variety of sectors.
- Released the plan at a February 2022 press conference at the State House with Governor McMaster, Lieutenant Governor Evette, and all agency directors who serve on the ECAC and whose agencies participate in the Interagency Collaboration Committee.
 - Included four goal areas
 - South Carolina’s youngest children are healthy and safe. - 6 objectives with 17 strategies
 - South Carolina’s youngest children are actively supported by their families and communities. - 4 objectives with 12 strategies
 - South Carolina’s children arrive at school ready to reach their highest potential. - 4 objectives with 17 strategies
 - South Carolina’s early childhood system is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered. - 5 objectives with 16 strategies
 - Included seven “key measures of progress”

Increased Reach and Collaborative Relationships with State and National Partners

- Spoke as panelists on national stages
 - Martha Strickland, State Director of First Steps 4K, spoke at a national webinar presented by the Hunt Institute titled, “Supporting Children and Families through a Mixed-Delivery Pre-K System”. Other speakers included: Dr. Barbara Cooper (Secretary, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education); Dr. W. Steven Barnett (Senior Co-Director, National Institute for Early Education Research); Dr. GG Weisenfeld (Senior Early Childhood Education Policy Specialist, National Institute for Early Education Research)
 - Georgia Mjartan, Executive Director of First Steps and the Early Childhood Advisory Council, spoke as a panelist for the Hunt Institute’s virtual “2021 Big Wins for Little Kids”. Other speakers included: Stephen Blanford (Director, Washington Children’s Alliance); Dr. Barbara Cooper (Secretary, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education); Bill Jaeger (Vice President of Early Childhood and Policy Initiatives, Colorado Children’s Campaign); Chris Jones (Director of North Dakota Department of Human Services); Ted Lempert (President, Children Now); Representative Tana Senn (Chair of Children, Youth, and Families Committee,

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Washington State Legislature); Stephanie Spencer (Executive Director, Urban Baby Beginnings)

- Rachal Hatton-Moore, Two-Generation Coordinator of the Early Childhood Advisory Council, served on a four state panel at the Education Commission of the States Kindergarten Transition Policy Symposium in Denver, CO to highlight the development of the SC Pre-K to K Transition Plan: Family Engagement, which is aligned with the SC Birth-Five Plan.
- Director Mjartan and Rachal Hatton-Moore highlighted the work of FirstFive SC on the nationally-distributed Preschool Development Grant Policy Matters Podcast
- Added to the Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children as an ex-officio agency member.
- Supported the House Legislative Oversight process for the Department of Commerce by testifying before the Economic Development, Transportation, and National Resources and the Education and Cultural Subcommittees as members of the education to workforce pipeline.
- Visited our counterpart agency that we were initially modeled after, the North Carolina Partnership for Children, and have started working on collaborative initiatives.
- Received continued support from the Alliance for Early Success to partially fund a government affairs liaison position and to connect us with technical assistance from national experts.
- Communicated to internal and external stakeholders about South Carolina First Steps' strategic plan including mission, values and priorities. A national group funded by the federal Administration for Children and Families (Office of Child Care) sought permission from First Steps to use South Carolina First Steps' strategic plan as an example in the "Systems Building Resource Guide" published by the national Child Care State Capacity Building Center, which provides support and technical assistance to state child care administrators.
- Secured support from the Education Commission of the States to develop a PalmettoPreK Transition Plan to engage families in successfully supporting their child's transition from early childhood to Kindergarten.

Enhanced the Public's Awareness of and Ability to Access our Programs

- Developed and launched First Five SC, the state's single portal into publicly-funded early childhood programs and services across 10 state agencies and more than 60 different programs and services for young children (local, state, and federally funded). In the four and a half months since launch (February 17 – June 30, 2022), the site had 26,626 unique visitors and 69,003 page views. 2514 unique families completed the eligibility screener and of those who completed the screener, 83% were eligible for at least one program.
- Continued to lead the development, marketing, and interagency collaborative work driving the success of PalmettoPreK.org, South Carolina's single portal into all publicly-funded PreK programs for 3 and 4 year-olds. In FY2022, this included adding dozens of additional school districts (EIA and CERDEP funded) to the portal with targeted efforts to secure their participation. The site, which launched in February 2020, has now generated 114,923 unique visitors, 17,409 total leads, with 14,619 people children being eligible for at least one program, an 84% eligibility rate.
- Earned state and national media attention with at least 26 pieces of earned media, including television spots and newspaper articles.
- Deepened our partnership with SC ETV by collaborating on the *Countdown to Kindergarten* interstitial series, delivering messages to early learning families via Bright by Text, and producing an early learning focused episode of *Carolina Classrooms* called "First Five SC".
- Launched a tiered approach to this year's Countdown to Kindergarten, including:
 - Public Awareness. The #COUNTDOWNSC social media campaign directs families and communities to countdownsc.org, where they can find useful information to help prepare

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children for kindergarten. The new website includes tips and resources, a school directory, and calendar of local Countdown to Kindergarten events.

- Community Events. Across the state, communities hosted celebrations and learning opportunities for rising kindergartners and their families. SC First Steps partnered with 19 organizations to offer free events at locations including children’s museums, libraries, parks, schools, and community centers.
- Family Engagement. SC First Steps coordinates with local First Steps nonprofits and schools to provide one-on-one support for children who may be at-risk for academic challenges. The program connects 4K and 5K teachers with their incoming students and families during the summer before school, with five sessions in the home and a final visit in the kindergarten classroom. Specialized support is available for dual-language learners and children with disabilities. In 2022, approximately 400 teachers are expected to participate, serving up to 2500 children.
- Held the annual South Carolina Summit on Early Childhood with the theme, “From the Start: Prenatal to Three”. Highlights of the two-day, online event include:
 - 465 attendees
 - 22 presentation
 - 14 exhibitors
 - 1,890 chat messages
 - 1 Champion for Children, Debbie Robertson, who after over two decades of service to young children in South Carolina retired in July 2021 from First Steps
- Developed and successfully executed our inaugural fundraising event, “A Night to Celebrate Community” in Spring 2022, which attracted individual and corporate donations to fund local early childhood community needs. The event exceeded its goal of raising \$70,000, generating a net sufficient to fund each county partnership with an additional unrestricted grant award of over \$1,000.

Centered Family and Client Voice

- Measured the impact of First Steps 4K’s intervention on parents’ ability to return to work and / or school through direct participant surveying, results of which were so positive (70% can now work) that the Governor shared this data in his 2022 State of the State address.
- Continued establishing a culture of listening to and valuing "client voice" through the implementation of "Your Voice Matters," a surveying / continuous feedback loop process involving clients participating in First Steps local partnership programs and First Steps 4K programs. To date, 10 feedback loops have been completed on First Steps 4K, Parents as Teachers, Child Care Quality Enhancement, and Quality Counts with 2,368 individual survey responses from clients ranging from teachers and childcare directors to families. One-time grant funding from national funder Listen4Good ended on June 30, 2022, but the agency is committed to continuing these feedback loops and has developed a strong, ongoing partnership with Listen4Good that extends beyond the grant period.
- Put families at the center of our work, prioritizing their feedback and input in design, development, and continuous quality improvement. This included successfully completing 10 feedback loops of surveying with clients involved in First Steps programs (local partnership and 4K program) and conceptualizing, obtained funding for, and establishing South Carolina’s inaugural Family Voice Council, a leadership body created to provide a formal avenue for engagement, input, and feedback from participants and beneficiaries of public programs to the leadership of agencies responsible for administering those programs for children birth through five and their families. During this first full year of existence, the Family Voice Council consisted of 21 members from across the state and

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provided feedback and input on a variety of initiatives and state efforts including First5SC.org and South Carolina’s first interagency plan to ensure optimal engagement of families during the pivotal transition from early childhood into Kindergarten.

Improved our Accountability and Transparency

- Completed an all-team survey and meaning making focus groups with an external facilitator to understand the agency climate and culture. From the 56 respondents, we learned:
 - 53% highly recommended First Steps as a place to work to family and friends (20% increase from last year)
 - Over 90% of respondents agreed that First Steps is:
 - Family-friendly
 - A positive influence on professional growth
 - Encouraging the voices of families
 - Providing adequate feedback to employees
 - Providing fair and equitable compensation
 - About 50% of respondents agreed that First Steps:
 - Keeps them informed about important news and activities
 - Affirms diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Commissioned the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina to evaluate the reach and impact of our largest investment through local partnership state formula funding, Parents as Teachers (FY17-19). The study found:
 - 2,602 children from 2,150 families from 34 counties were served during the time period of interest
 - 85% of children were below the age of three at enrollment
 - 3.4 risk factors for early school failure were present per family on average
 - 61,969 total home visits were conducted for an average of 2.3 per family per month
 - Average parenting quality (+30%) and interactive reading (+9%) scores increased from the first assessment to the final assessment
 - Program participation was significantly related to school and well-child visit attendance rates
 - PAT program students were present for a significantly higher percentage of school days than their like-peers. On average, PAT students missed less than 6% of school days.
 - Children of PAT families who were enrolled in Medicaid attended the recommended number of well-child visits at a significantly higher rate than their like-peers. On average, PAT children met approximately half the recommended visits, while non-PAT children met only one-third.
- Secured the services of the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina to evaluate our local partnership’s child care technical assistance programs, which includes intensive, on-site coaching and child care training from FY19-21. The results of this evaluation will be provided to the SC General Assembly by November 1, 2022.
- Continued and improved upon regional meetings between local partnership board members and state board members after a successful first year. These meetings have provided helpful opportunities for connection, learning, and input. The 2022 sessions have also had an added component of soliciting feedback on reauthorization and the current legislation governing and defining First Steps.
- Concluded year one of development for the First Steps’ Knowledge, Information, and Teaming System, a program and case management system for 4K and local partnerships, with AnLar.

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- Proceeded on the development of the South Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (SC ECIDS). As the governing body for SC ECIDS, in FY22, the ECAC:
 - Adopted key questions that focus on the state’s early childhood landscape providing distinct, unduplicated counts of children that are eligible and enrolled in early childhood programs, and how existing programs support children’s future success.
 - Adopted the Data Governance Charter to ensure that current and future early childhood integrated data initiatives follow a consistent framework, which outlines the scope of the SC ECIDS, roles and responsibilities of the ECAC, the Data Governance Work Groups, and individual members of the Work Groups, and the authority within the governing structure.

Grew our Team

- Increased our team from 52 to 68 full-time equivalents and leveraged other workforce and associated human capital contributions. Including all position types, there were 101 team members on June 30, 2022 out of 119 total positions, constituting a 15% vacancy rate. This included: 60 of 68 FTE’s; 27 out of 37 AmeriCorps positions; 2 out of 2 full-time, temporary, grant-funded positions, 4 out of 4 full time, time-limited positions; 1 full-time, temporary employee; and 7 interns.
- Welcomed an inaugural Government Affairs Liaison, Kaitlyn Richards. Prior to joining First Steps, Kaitlyn was most recently working as a legal clerk in the Pennsylvania State Senate.
- Onboarded three new Board members
 - Michelle Gough Fry, J.D., Ph.D., LL.M, State Director of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, by virtue of her position
 - Jacque Curtin, COO/CFO at the South Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants, as a member of the business community
 - Representative Paula Calhoon, as a member of the House of Representatives
- Wished farewell to Representative Rita Allison as a Board member. After over a decade of service on the Board, Representative Allison delegated her seat to Representative Calhoon.

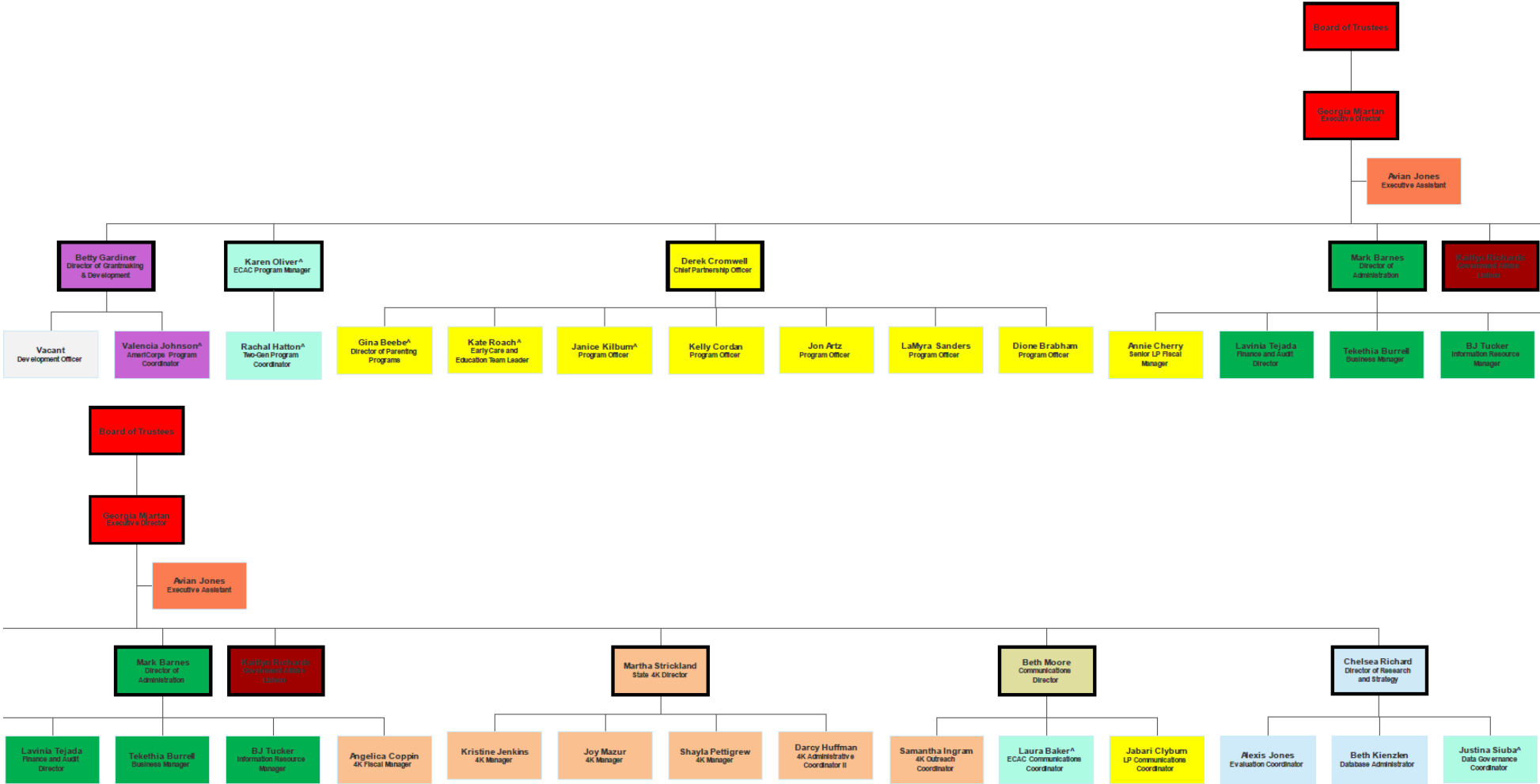
Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

Should First Steps fail to meet its goals and objectives, South Carolina’s young children will be less prepared for success in school and life. But it doesn’t end there. The evidence-based strategies delivered by the initiative are documented by research to help reduce the occurrence of costly negative outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, poor health, special education placements, academic remediation, unemployment, incarceration and more. In this sense, the work of SC First Steps is not only advancing the long-term success and prosperity of its clients, but reducing substantial taxpayer burdens associated with a host of undesirable outcomes.

In order to promote success and mitigate against these negative outcomes, First Steps requires the ongoing support of its public and private partners, Governor McMaster, and the SC General Assembly.

To mitigate against this failure and better ensure the success of the First Steps initiative, policy makers might consider expanding the resources made available to local First Steps Partnerships – allowing for the expansion of evidence-based early childhood interventions proven to impact the long-term success and prosperity of their participants.

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS



READ INSTRUCTIONS: Please list significant events related to your agency that occurred in FY2022. This may include, but is not limited to, programs added or cut and departmen(s) or division(s) changed. Only list one measure impacted per row. If the significant event impacted more than one agency measure, then the submitting agency should relist the significant event, and all corresponding data in the other columns, in as many rows as measures impacted, entering a different impacted measure per each row. Please note that some columns have a drop down menu. If a drop down menu is provided, only responses listed in the drop down menu may be used to complete the data. Do not leave blank. If additional responses are needed for Column G that aren't listed in the drop-down menu, email AAR@admin.sc.gov.

Fiscal year for reporting (autofills)	Description of Event:	Month Started (Choose July if continuing from previous year)	Month Ended (Choose June if the event continues past FY2022)	Agency Measures Impacted (one measure per row)	Other Impacts
FY2022	Statewide expansion of First Steps 4K	July	June	Expand student enrollment within the First Steps 4K program.	
FY2022	Statewide expansion of First Steps 4K	July	June	Expand the number of classrooms offering First Steps 4K to meet student enrollment goal.	
FY2022	Statewide expansion of First Steps 4K	July	June	On Day 45 of the school year, 60% of licensed, approved 4K slots will be filled.	
FY2022	Granted \$17,664,476 to First Steps network of 46 local First Steps partnerships	July	June	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	
FY2022	Released South Carolina's inaugural Birth through Five Strategic Plan	February	February	Increase website traffic to scfirststeps.org and earlychildhoodsc.org by 5% annually.	
FY2022	Launched FirstFiveSC, the state's single portal into publicly-funded early childhood programs and services across 10 state agencies and more than 60 different programs and services for young children (local, state, and federally funded)	February	February	Increase website traffic to scfirststeps.org and earlychildhoodsc.org by 5% annually.	
FY2022	Launched a tiered approach to this year's Countdown to Kindergarten	March	June	Increase SC First Steps, Palmetto Pre-K, and ECAC social media followers by 5% annually.	

STRATEGIC PLAN FY2022 RESULTS

STOP **ADMINISTRATIVE:** This table below has been pre-populated with data from last year's accountability report. Please review for correctness. Agencies are **NOT** to add, alter, or delete data other than data in columns highlighted in green (i.e., columns M and W). Enter the data requested in the columns M and W. Do NOT add any rows with additional information. If any columns other than M and W have incorrect information, please email AAA@admin.sc.gov. Please note that some columns have a drop-down menu. If a drop-down menu is provided, only responses listed in the drop-down menu may be used to complete the data.

Enter the state fiscal year for which you are reporting.	Statewide/Enterprise Objective from the drop-down menu.	Goal number corresponding to column F	Agency Goal Description	Strategy number corresponding to column H	Strategy description to meet corresponding agency goal listed in column F	Performance Measure number corresponding to column J	Performance Measure description aligned with corresponding strategy listed in column H.	Performance Measure Base	Performance Measure Target	Performance Measure Actual	Performance Measure Value Type	Distinct Outcome for Target Value	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Where can the data be found?	What stakeholder need is most satisfied when the agency meets this measure?	Please list the specific stakeholder or stakeholder population referenced in the previous question.	State Funded Program Number Reasonably for this Measure	Enter additional information for actual data that is inconsistent with the desired target.
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.1	Provide parents with access to support and resources that strengthen their families, build their confidence, knowledge and skills, and promote the optimal development of their children.	1.1.1	By 2025, family client feedback will be collected in a standardized way for 100% of high intensity programs delivered by local partnerships and First Steps 4K and used for program improvement.	10%	21%	21%	Percent Complete	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1- June 30).	Number of programs.	Survey done through SurveyMonkey	Agency/program records	Family feedback will be utilized in continuous quality improvement processes.	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.1	Provide parents with access to support and resources that strengthen their families, build their confidence, knowledge and skills, and promote the optimal development of their children.	1.1.2	Across high-intensity parenting programs, all children will improve in parent-child interaction.	11%	10%	10.00%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1- June 30).	ACRI results for children across all parenting programs per fiscal year.	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System	Family outcomes will improve through high-intensity interventions.	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.1	Provide parents with access to support and resources that strengthen their families, build their confidence, knowledge and skills, and promote the optimal development of their children.	1.1.3	Across high-intensity parenting programs, all adults will improve in parent-child interaction.	7%	10%	6.00%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1- June 30).	ACRI results for adults across all parenting programs per fiscal year.	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System	Family outcomes will improve through high-intensity interventions.	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	Adults on average started high at a 1.89 on a 3-point scale, so it is difficult to see a 10% gain. This measure will be revised in FY23.
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.2	Increase the number of families participating in evidence-based and evidence-informed parenting programs.	1.2.1	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	24%	20%	37%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1- June 30).	Numerator: Estimated number of children served directly, excluding those served in quality enhancement, training, community education, and consumer from Local Partnership matrix, plus 4K; Denominator: Children under age 6 (1825.97), from American Community Survey 5-year estimates	First Steps Data Collection System	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve by being directly served by First Steps.	Children served directly by First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.2	Increase the number of families participating in evidence-based and evidence-informed parenting programs.	1.2.2	By 2025, the percentage of children directly served by First Steps enrolled in high intensity programs will increase to 40%.	18%	23%	10%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1- June 30).	Numerator: Estimated number of children served directly in high intensity programs from Local Partnership matrix, plus 4K; Denominator: Estimated number of children served directly, excluding those served in quality enhancement, training, community education, and consumer from Local Partnership matrix, plus 4K	First Steps Data Collection System	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve through high-intensity interventions.	Children served by high intensity programs through First Steps 4K and Local Partnerships.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	Increase in overall children directly served by First Steps offsets the denominator of this measure. The First Steps Board of Trustees voted in April 2022 to revise this measure for FY23 to be more reflective of our reach of high intensity programs within our target population of children.
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.3	Maximize parent and family knowledge, choice and engagement in their child's early learning and development. Engage in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate about available options.	1.3.1	Annually distribute 20,000 copies of the Profile of the Ready Kindergarten across early childhood settings (child care centers, schools, libraries, local First Steps partnerships, etc.).	36800	20000	10400+	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1- June 30).	Number of copies distributed	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers are aware of what kindergarten readiness looks like.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	This document is available online through us, as well as many other resources available to parents. Therefore, counting distribution of hard copies from our office is no longer relevant. We will be removing this measure for FY23.	
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.3	Maximize parent and family knowledge, choice and engagement in their child's early learning and development. Engage in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate about available options.	1.3.2	Increase SC First Steps, Palmetto Pre-K, and ECAC social media followers by 5% annually.	7240	7602	8120	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Cumulative number of followers across platforms	Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/firststeps4k); Twitter (https://www.twitter.com/firststeps4k); Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/firststeps4k)	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.3	Maximize parent and family knowledge, choice and engagement in their child's early learning and development. Engage in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate about available options.	1.3.3	Increase leads generated from Palmetto Pre-K to 5% annually.	4911	5157	7855	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of leads reported by GoogleAnalytics	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000		
FY2022	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families	2.1	Expand statewide the geographic reach and enrollment in state-funded, full-day 4-year-old kindergarten available at no charge for eligible children in public schools, private schools and private child care centers	2.1.1	On Day 45 of the school year, 60% of licensed, approved 4K slots will be filled.	54%	60%	44%	Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	Numerator: children enrolled on Day 45; denominator: licensed capacity of active centers on Day 45	ChildPlus	ChildPlus	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	Ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic impacting children enrolling in in-person education, as well as teacher and center recruitment and retention
FY2022	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families	2.1	Expand statewide the geographic reach and enrollment in state-funded, full-day 4-year-old kindergarten available at no charge for eligible children in public schools, private schools and private child care centers	2.1.2	Expand student enrollment within the First Steps 4K program.	2588	6045	3343	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Total students served	ChildPlus	ChildPlus	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 44WV.99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	The first year of statewide expansion of First Steps 4K was highly successful with the highest student enrollment ever. This goal is for a three-year implementation of full statewide expansion from FY22-FY24. There were ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic impacting children enrolling in in-person education, as well as teacher and center recruitment and retention experienced in FY22 to consider, as well.

FY2022	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families	2.1	Expand statewide the geographic reach and enrollment in state-funded, full-day, year-old kindergarten available at no charge for eligible children in public schools, private schools and private child care centers.	2.1.3	Expand the number of classrooms offering First Steps 4K to meet student enrollment goal.	232	388	278	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of classrooms at average of 12 students per classroom	Program records	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4K.	Children eligible for First Steps 4K.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	The first year of statewide expansion of First Steps 4K was highly successful with the highest student enrollment ever. This goal is for a three-year implementation of full statewide expansion from FY22-FY24. There were ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic impacting children enrolling in all-person education, as well as teacher and center recruitment and retention experienced in FY22 to consider, as well.
FY2022	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families	2.2	Engage early care and education providers and providers in training, quality enhancement, and coaching, equipping them with the skills and resources to promote positive child development.	2.2.1	Increase the availability of high quality early care and education opportunities offered by First Steps. By 2025, the percentage of children under age 6 who benefit from First Steps quality enhancement and training efforts will increase to 15%.	18%	15%	15%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30)	Numerator: Estimated number of children in centers where quality enhancement and training have occurred from Local Partnership matrix + 4K students; Denominator: Children under age 6 for whom poverty status is known from American Community Survey 5-year estimates	Local partnership numbers served	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	
FY2022	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families	2.2	Engage early care and education providers and providers in training, quality enhancement, and coaching, equipping them with the skills and resources to promote positive child development.	2.2.2	Provide professional development: The number of hours of professional development for child care providers through on-site technical assistance via local partnerships and annual First Steps 4K Teacher and Leadership academies will increase by 1% annually.	2126	2147	4519.8	Count	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30)	Hours of on-site technical assistance provided to child care centers participating in intensive facility quality enhancement efforts (via local partnerships); total hours of 4K leadership and teacher academics	Local partnership numbers served	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	3	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced	3.1	Expand reach by implementing a service delivery system that includes both programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that are light-touch and have a broader reach	3.1.1	Of those entities that received discretionary grant funding from SC First Steps to expand service reach in underserved communities, 80% will reach their service targets annually.	57%	80%	76%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30)	Proportion of service targets reached	First Steps Data Collection System/Program records	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	Ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic impacting children, families, and workforce recruitment and retention for voluntary program services
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	3	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced	3.1	Expand reach by implementing a service delivery system that includes both programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that are light-touch and have a broader reach	3.1.2	Recruit 17 service-minded adults throughout targeted communities in SC to serve as AmeriCorps Members supporting local and state First Steps programs annually through 16 of AmeriCorps grants.	31	38	35	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of AmeriCorps members recruited	Program records	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps. Adult outcomes will improve through voluntary service via AmeriCorps.	All children and adults in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	Ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic impacting member recruitment and retention
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	3	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced	3.2	Set benchmarks using disaggregated data to track progress in reducing disparities of specific target groups	3.2.1	Reduce the racial/ethnic gap in kindergarten readiness: By 2025, the gap in the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment between white Kindergartners and Black/Hispanic Kindergartners will reduce by 1% each year to 15%.	19%	18%	24%	Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	(Numerator: Total white Kindergartners assess with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment); Denominator: Total Black and Hispanic Kindergartners assess with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready, regardless of race or ethnicity.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	Ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic impacting Black and Hispanic children and families more than their white counterparts.
FY2022	Healthy and Safe Families	3	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced	3.2	Set benchmarks using disaggregated data to track progress in reducing disparities of specific target groups	3.2.2	More children arrive at kindergarten ready for success: By 2025, the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 2% each year to 47%.	27%	32%	36%	Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	Provided in report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	
FY2022	Government and Citizens	4	The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families	4.1	Develop and implement an ongoing process for communicating across the early childhood state system	4.1.1	Enhance communication and understanding between South Carolina First Steps, its staff, local partnerships, 4K providers, and early childhood system stakeholders; increase email newsletter audience engagement by 10%.	13%	23%	45%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30)	Average open rate of First Steps Newsletter, Local Partnership Weekly Wrap, 4K Connection, and ECAC Council Briefs.	Robby	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	
FY2022	Government and Citizens	4	The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families	4.1	Develop and implement an ongoing process for communicating across the early childhood state system	4.1.2	Grow SCFIS and ECAC contact list: 10% annually.	45%	10%	44%	Percent	equal to or greater than	State Fiscal Year (July 1 - June 30)	Number of contacts	Robby, Raiser's Edge	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	
FY2022	Government and Citizens	4	The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families	4.2	By strengthening the Early Childhood Advisory Council and better communicating its role, position it to be a trusted source of advice for policymakers including the Governor and legislators.	4.2.1	Create a minimum of six ECAC newsletters per year highlighting news, emerging data and other actions associated with Council members and disseminate to a broad audience.	5	6	1	Count	equal to or greater than	Other	Number of Council Briefs released	Robby	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources and when the early childhood state system is aligned, coordinated, and family-centered.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	Time spent rebranding newsletter to "FirstFive News" and getting all partner agencies to board if expected the number released this year
FY2022	Government and Citizens	4	The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families	4.2	By strengthening the Early Childhood Advisory Council and better communicating its role, position it to be a trusted source of advice for policymakers including the Governor and legislators.	4.2.2	Increase website traffic to scfirststeps.org and earlychildhoodsc.org by 5% annually.	55%	5%	81%	Percent	equal to or greater than	Other	Cumulative unique visitors	Google analytics	Agency/program records	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.920100.000; 4400.92050000.000; 4400.92100000.000; 4489W 99180000.000; 8200.010000.000; 8200.10000000.000	

STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT FOR FY2023

READ INSTRUCTIONS: Use the templates below to record each Performance Measure (column 1) and 6 that your agency will be submitting for the 2023 accountability report. Only one Performance Measure should be completed per row. Complete the data in all corresponding columns occurring before (column D) and after (column F) each Performance Measure listed. Columns A,B,C, and P have drop-down menus. Please note that some columns have a drop-down menu. If a drop-down menu is provided, only responses listed in the drop-down menu may be used to complete the data.

Final Year for which this Strategic Plan will be used (start/end)	Strategic Enterprise Objective from the drop-down menu	Goal number corresponding to column F	Agency Goal Description	Measuring number corresponding to column W	Strategic description to most compelling agency goal listed in column F	Performance Measure number corresponding to column 1	Performance Measure description aligned with corresponding strategy listed in column H	Performance Measure Base	Performance Measure Target	Performance Measure Actual	Performance Measure Value Type	Desired Outcome for Target Value	Time Applicable	Calculation Method	Data Source	Where can the data be found?	What stakeholder need is most satisfied when the metric shows the greatest improvement?	Please list the specific stakeholder or stakeholder population referenced in the previous question.	State Funded Program for this Measure
F2023	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.1	Provide parents with access to support and resources that strengthen their families, build their confidence, knowledge and skills, and promote the optimal development of their children.	1.1.1	Access high-intensity parenting programs, at least 10% of families will show improvement in parent-child interaction.		50%		Percent	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	WFR results in parent-child interaction domain across all parenting programs, where available, per fiscal year, weighted proportion of those improving from baseline average at baseline to all above average at 6 months of enrollment and those improving from at average at baseline to above average at 6 months of enrollment.	First Steps Data Collection System	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs - all data are owned by First Steps	Family outcomes will improve through high-intensity interventions.	Families served by high intensity programs through First Steps Local Partnerships.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.2	Increase the number of families participating in evidence-based and evidence-informed parenting programs.	1.2.1	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps will increase to 20%.	37%	20%		Percent	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	Numerator: Estimated number of children served directly, excluding those served in quality enhancement, training, community education, and converter from Local Partnership matrix, plus 4E; Denominator: Children under age 6 - 185% FR from American Community Survey 5-year estimates	First Steps Data Collection System + ChildPlus	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being directly served by First Steps.	Families served directly by First Steps 4E and Local Partnerships.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.2	Increase the number of families participating in evidence-based and evidence-informed parenting programs.	1.2.2	By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by First Steps high intensity programs will increase from 7% to 4%.	5%	6%		Percent	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	Numerator: Estimated number of children served directly in high intensity programs from Local Partnership matrix, plus 4E; Denominator: Children under age 6 - 185% FR from American Community Survey 5-year estimates	First Steps Data Collection System + ChildPlus	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being directly served by First Steps.	Children served through First Steps and Local Partnerships.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.3	Maximize parent and family knowledge, choice and engagement in their child's early learning and development. Engage in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate about available options.	1.3.1	Increase SC First Steps, Palmetto Pre-K, and ECAC social media followers by 5% annually.	8120	8526		Count	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	Cumulative number of followers across platforms	Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/scfirststeps), https://www.facebook.com/palmettopre-k, https://twitter.com/scfirststeps, Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/scfirststeps/)	On each website	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.3	Maximize parent and family knowledge, choice and engagement in their child's early learning and development. Engage in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate about available options.	1.3.2	Increase leads generated from Palmetto Pre-K by 5% annually.	7855	8248		Count	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	Number of leads reported by Google Analytics	Number of leads	Google Analytics	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Healthy and Safe Families	1	Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.	1.3	Maximize parent and family knowledge, choice and engagement in their child's early learning and development. Engage in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate about available options.	1.3.3	Increase leads generated from FirstSteps by 5% annually.	2009	6300		Count	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	Number of leads reported by Google Analytics, baseline is from launch to end of FY22 (Feb 17, 2022 - Jun 30, 2022) - target based on 500 leads per month for 12 months + 5%.	Number of leads	Google Analytics	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families.	2.1	Expand outside the geographic reach and enrollment in state-funded, full-day 4-year-old kindergarten available at no charge for eligible children in public schools, private schools and private child care centers.	2.1.1	On Day 45 of the school year, 60% of licensed, approved 4E slots will be filled.	44%	60%		Percent	Equal to or greater than	Day 45 of October 18, 2022	Numerator: students enrolled on day 45; Denominator: licensed capacity of active centers on Day 45	ChildPlus	ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4E.	Children eligible for First Steps 4E.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families.	2.1	Expand outside the geographic reach and enrollment in state-funded, full-day 4-year-old kindergarten available at no charge for eligible children in public schools, private schools and private child care centers.	2.1.2	Expand student enrollment within the First Steps 4E program.	3143	6045		Count	Equal to or greater than	FY2022-23	Total students served through day 180	ChildPlus	ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4E.	Children eligible for First Steps 4E.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families.	2.1	Expand outside the geographic reach and enrollment in state-funded, full-day 4-year-old kindergarten available at no charge for eligible children in public schools, private schools and private child care centers.	2.1.3	Expand the number of classrooms offering First Steps 4E to 278	278	388		Count	Equal to or greater than	FY2022-23	Number of classrooms at average of 13 students per classroom for FY goal (4054)	Program records	Housed at First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4E.	Children eligible for First Steps 4E.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families.	2.1	Expand outside the geographic reach and enrollment in state-funded, full-day 4-year-old kindergarten available at no charge for eligible children in public schools, private schools and private child care centers.	2.1.4	Increase the proportion of families that would "highly recommend" First Steps 4E to a friend or family member.	88%	90%		Percent	Equal to or greater than	Around day 60 FY2022-23	Percentage scoring 9 or 10 to the question, "How likely is it that you would recommend First Steps 4E to a friend or family member?" on a scale of 0-10	SurveyMonkey	SurveyMonkey is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in First Steps 4E; Family feedback will be utilized in continuous quality improvement processes.	Children eligible for First Steps 4E.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families.	2.2	Engage early care and education programs and providers in training, quality enhancement, and coaching, equipping them with the skills and resources to promote positive child development.	2.2.1	Increase the availability of high quality early care and education opportunities offered by First Steps; By 2025, the percentage of children under age 6 who benefit from First Steps quality enhancement and training efforts will increase to 15%.	15%	15%		Percent	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	Numerator: Estimated number of children in centers where quality enhancement and training have occurred from local Partnership matrix + 4E diabetic; Denominator: Children under age 6 for whom poverty status is known from American Community Survey 5-year estimates	Local partnership numbers served matrix/ChildPlus	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	All children in South Carolina.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families.	2.2	Engage early care and education programs and providers in training, quality enhancement, and coaching, equipping them with the skills and resources to promote positive child development.	2.2.2	Provide professional development: The number of hours of in-person, on-site technical assistance for child care providers through Quality Enhancement/Quality Courts via local partnerships and estimated 4E coaching hours will increase by 2% annually.	20342	20545		Count	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	Hours of on-site technical assistance provided to child care centers participating in intensive facility quality enhancement efforts via local partnerships, plus estimated 4E coaching hours (8 hours per month of total centers enrolled through day 180 for 6 months)	Local partnership numbers served matrix/Program records	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; ChildPlus is licensed by First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	All children in South Carolina.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Education, Training, and Human Development	2	Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families.	2.2	Engage early care and education programs and providers in training, quality enhancement, and coaching, equipping them with the skills and resources to promote positive child development.	2.2.3	Provide professional development: The number of certified training hours provided to child care providers via local partnerships and annual First Steps 4E Teacher and Leadership academy will increase by 2% annually.	845	862		Count	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 31	Certified child care training hours via local partnerships plus annual First Steps 4E Teacher and Leadership academy.	Local partnership numbers served matrix/Program records	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; 4E program records are housed/maintained at First Steps - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve when they enroll in high quality child care.	All children in South Carolina.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000
F2023	Healthy and Safe Families	3	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced	3.1	Expand reach by implementing a service delivery system that includes both programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that are light touch and have a broader reach	3.1.1	Of those entities that received discretionary grant funding from SC First Steps to expand services reach to underserved communities, 80% will reach their service targets annually.	76%	80%		Percent	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	Proportion of service targets reached for grants with at least 6 months of funding during fiscal year	First Steps Data Collection System/Program records	First Steps Data Collection System is owned by First Steps and housed/maintained by the Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; other relevant Local Partnership program records are housed/maintained at First Steps or at the Local Partnership - all data are owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps.	All children in South Carolina.	3000.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 4400.00000000; 8200.00000000; 8200.00000000

FX2023	Healthy and Safe Families	3	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced	3.1	Expand reach by implementing a service delivery system that includes both programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that are light-touch and have a broader reach	3.1.2	Recruit 44 service-minded adults throughout targeted communities in SC to serve as AmeriCorps and VISTA Members or interns at First Steps supporting local and state First Steps programs annually.	-	44	Count	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	Number of AmeriCorps and VISTA members and interns recruited	Program records	All AmeriCorps and VISTA program records are housed, maintained, and owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps. Adult outcomes will improve through volunteer service via AmeriCorps.	All children and adults in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.001000.000; 4400.020500.000; 4400.021000.000; 4400.021500.000; 4400.022000.000; 4400.022500.000; 4400.023000.000; 4400.023500.000; 4400.024000.000; 4400.024500.000; 4400.025000.000; 4400.025500.000; 4400.026000.000; 4400.026500.000; 4400.027000.000; 4400.027500.000; 4400.028000.000; 4400.028500.000; 4400.029000.000; 4400.029500.000; 4400.030000.000; 4400.030500.000; 4400.031000.000; 4400.031500.000; 4400.032000.000; 4400.032500.000; 4400.033000.000; 4400.033500.000; 4400.034000.000; 4400.034500.000; 4400.035000.000; 4400.035500.000; 4400.036000.000; 4400.036500.000; 4400.037000.000; 4400.037500.000; 4400.038000.000; 4400.038500.000; 4400.039000.000; 4400.039500.000; 4400.040000.000; 4400.040500.000; 4400.041000.000; 4400.041500.000; 4400.042000.000; 4400.042500.000; 4400.043000.000; 4400.043500.000; 4400.044000.000; 4400.044500.000; 4400.045000.000; 4400.045500.000; 4400.046000.000; 4400.046500.000; 4400.047000.000; 4400.047500.000; 4400.048000.000; 4400.048500.000; 4400.049000.000; 4400.049500.000; 4400.050000.000;
FX2023	Healthy and Safe Families	3	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced	3.1	Expand reach by implementing a service delivery system that includes both programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that are light-touch and have a broader reach	3.1.3	Following their initial year of service, 50% of AmeriCorps members and interns will return for a second year of service, get a job, or enroll in school.	-	50%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	July 1 - June 30	AmeriCorps and VISTA members and interns who return to service, get a job, or enroll in school/AmeriCorps members in program year	Program records	All AmeriCorps and VISTA program records are housed, maintained, and owned by First Steps	Child outcomes will improve by being served by First Steps. Adult outcomes will improve through volunteer service via AmeriCorps.	All children and adults in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.001000.000; 4400.020500.000; 4400.021000.000; 4400.021500.000; 4400.022000.000; 4400.022500.000; 4400.023000.000; 4400.023500.000; 4400.024000.000; 4400.024500.000; 4400.025000.000; 4400.025500.000; 4400.026000.000; 4400.026500.000; 4400.027000.000; 4400.027500.000; 4400.028000.000; 4400.028500.000; 4400.029000.000; 4400.029500.000; 4400.030000.000; 4400.030500.000; 4400.031000.000; 4400.031500.000; 4400.032000.000; 4400.032500.000; 4400.033000.000; 4400.033500.000; 4400.034000.000; 4400.034500.000; 4400.035000.000; 4400.035500.000; 4400.036000.000; 4400.036500.000; 4400.037000.000; 4400.037500.000; 4400.038000.000; 4400.038500.000; 4400.039000.000; 4400.039500.000; 4400.040000.000; 4400.040500.000; 4400.041000.000; 4400.041500.000; 4400.042000.000; 4400.042500.000; 4400.043000.000; 4400.043500.000; 4400.044000.000; 4400.044500.000; 4400.045000.000; 4400.045500.000; 4400.046000.000; 4400.046500.000; 4400.047000.000; 4400.047500.000; 4400.048000.000; 4400.048500.000; 4400.049000.000; 4400.049500.000; 4400.050000.000;
FX2023	Healthy and Safe Families	3	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced	3.2	Set benchmarks using disaggregated data to track progress in reducing disparities of specific target groups	3.2.1	Reduce the racial/ethnic gap in kindergarten readiness: By 2025, the gap in the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment between white kindergartners and Black/Hispanic kindergartners will reduce by 1% each year to 15%.	24%	17%	Percent	Equal to or less than	Fall 2022 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Results	(Numerator: white kindergartners "Demonstrating Readiness"; Denominator: total white kindergartners' assess with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment)(Numerator: Black and Hispanic kindergartners "Demonstrating Readiness"; Denominator: total Black and Hispanic kindergartners' assess with the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment)	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready, regardless of race or ethnicity.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.001000.000; 4400.020500.000; 4400.021000.000; 4400.021500.000; 4400.022000.000; 4400.022500.000; 4400.023000.000; 4400.023500.000; 4400.024000.000; 4400.024500.000; 4400.025000.000; 4400.025500.000; 4400.026000.000; 4400.026500.000; 4400.027000.000; 4400.027500.000; 4400.028000.000; 4400.028500.000; 4400.029000.000; 4400.029500.000; 4400.030000.000; 4400.030500.000; 4400.031000.000; 4400.031500.000; 4400.032000.000; 4400.032500.000; 4400.033000.000; 4400.033500.000; 4400.034000.000; 4400.034500.000; 4400.035000.000; 4400.035500.000; 4400.036000.000; 4400.036500.000; 4400.037000.000; 4400.037500.000; 4400.038000.000; 4400.038500.000; 4400.039000.000; 4400.039500.000; 4400.040000.000; 4400.040500.000; 4400.041000.000; 4400.041500.000; 4400.042000.000; 4400.042500.000; 4400.043000.000; 4400.043500.000; 4400.044000.000; 4400.044500.000; 4400.045000.000; 4400.045500.000; 4400.046000.000; 4400.046500.000; 4400.047000.000; 4400.047500.000; 4400.048000.000; 4400.048500.000; 4400.049000.000; 4400.049500.000; 4400.050000.000;
FX2023	Healthy and Safe Families	3	Disparities in educational, developmental, and health outcomes for children of color and from low-income families are reduced	3.2	Set benchmarks using disaggregated data to track progress in reducing disparities of specific target groups	3.2.2	More children arrive at kindergarten ready for success. By 2025, the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 3% each year to 47%.	36%	39%	Percent	Equal to or greater than	Fall 2021 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Results	Provided in Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	Education Oversight Committee KRA Report	All children should arrive at kindergarten ready.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.001000.000; 4400.020500.000; 4400.021000.000; 4400.021500.000; 4400.022000.000; 4400.022500.000; 4400.023000.000; 4400.023500.000; 4400.024000.000; 4400.024500.000; 4400.025000.000; 4400.025500.000; 4400.026000.000; 4400.026500.000; 4400.027000.000; 4400.027500.000; 4400.028000.000; 4400.028500.000; 4400.029000.000; 4400.029500.000; 4400.030000.000; 4400.030500.000; 4400.031000.000; 4400.031500.000; 4400.032000.000; 4400.032500.000; 4400.033000.000; 4400.033500.000; 4400.034000.000; 4400.034500.000; 4400.035000.000; 4400.035500.000; 4400.036000.000; 4400.036500.000; 4400.037000.000; 4400.037500.000; 4400.038000.000; 4400.038500.000; 4400.039000.000; 4400.039500.000; 4400.040000.000; 4400.040500.000; 4400.041000.000; 4400.041500.000; 4400.042000.000; 4400.042500.000; 4400.043000.000; 4400.043500.000; 4400.044000.000; 4400.044500.000; 4400.045000.000; 4400.045500.000; 4400.046000.000; 4400.046500.000; 4400.047000.000; 4400.047500.000; 4400.048000.000; 4400.048500.000; 4400.049000.000; 4400.049500.000; 4400.050000.000;
FX2023	Government and Citizens	4	The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families	4.1	Develop and implement an ongoing process for communicating across the early childhood state system	4.1.1	Grow SCPS and ECAC contact lists 50% annually.	6368	7005	Count	Equal to or greater than	June 30 of fiscal year	Number of contacts	Robby, Reiser's Edge	Robby, Reiser's Edge	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.001000.000; 4400.020500.000; 4400.021000.000; 4400.021500.000; 4400.022000.000; 4400.022500.000; 4400.023000.000; 4400.023500.000; 4400.024000.000; 4400.024500.000; 4400.025000.000; 4400.025500.000; 4400.026000.000; 4400.026500.000; 4400.027000.000; 4400.027500.000; 4400.028000.000; 4400.028500.000; 4400.029000.000; 4400.029500.000; 4400.030000.000; 4400.030500.000; 4400.031000.000; 4400.031500.000; 4400.032000.000; 4400.032500.000; 4400.033000.000; 4400.033500.000; 4400.034000.000; 4400.034500.000; 4400.035000.000; 4400.035500.000; 4400.036000.000; 4400.036500.000; 4400.037000.000; 4400.037500.000; 4400.038000.000; 4400.038500.000; 4400.039000.000; 4400.039500.000; 4400.040000.000; 4400.040500.000; 4400.041000.000; 4400.041500.000; 4400.042000.000; 4400.042500.000; 4400.043000.000; 4400.043500.000; 4400.044000.000; 4400.044500.000; 4400.045000.000; 4400.045500.000; 4400.046000.000; 4400.046500.000; 4400.047000.000; 4400.047500.000; 4400.048000.000; 4400.048500.000; 4400.049000.000; 4400.049500.000; 4400.050000.000;
FX2023	Government and Citizens	4	The early childhood state system works collaboratively, aligning resources, strategy, and focus across agencies to benefit young children and their families	4.1	Develop and implement an ongoing process for communicating across the early childhood state system	4.1.2	Increase website traffic to scfirststeps.org, countdownsc.org, firststeps.org, firststeps.org, parentsteps.org, and earlychildhoodsc.org by 5% annually.	150967	158115	Count	Equal to or greater than	June 30 of fiscal year	Cumulative unique visitors	Google Analytics	Google Analytics	Child outcomes will improve when families and providers have access to resources.	All children in South Carolina.	3500.100100.000; 4400.001000.000; 4400.020500.000; 4400.021000.000; 4400.021500.000; 4400.022000.000; 4400.022500.000; 4400.023000.000; 4400.023500.000; 4400.024000.000; 4400.024500.000; 4400.025000.000; 4400.025500.000; 4400.026000.000; 4400.026500.000; 4400.027000.000; 4400.027500.000; 4400.028000.000; 4400.028500.000; 4400.029000.000; 4400.029500.000; 4400.030000.000; 4400.030500.000; 4400.031000.000; 4400.031500.000; 4400.032000.000; 4400.032500.000; 4400.033000.000; 4400.033500.000; 4400.034000.000; 4400.034500.000; 4400.035000.000; 4400.035500.000; 4400.036000.000; 4400.036500.000; 4400.037000.000; 4400.037500.000; 4400.038000.000; 4400.038500.000; 4400.039000.000; 4400.039500.000; 4400.040000.000; 4400.040500.000; 4400.041000.000; 4400.041500.000; 4400.042000.000; 4400.042500.000; 4400.043000.000; 4400.043500.000; 4400.044000.000; 4400.044500.000; 4400.045000.000; 4400.045500.000; 4400.046000.000; 4400.046500.000; 4400.047000.000; 4400.047500.000; 4400.048000.000; 4400.048500.000; 4400.049000.000; 4400.049500.000; 4400.050000.000;

AGENCY LEGAL DATA



READ INSTRUCTIONS: The table below has been pre-populated with data from last year's accountability report. Review for correctness. Please follow the instructions in the 2022 AAR Guidelines and Instructions to amend or maintain pre-populated data and add new data. Please note that some columns have a drop down menu. If a drop down menu is provided, only responses listed in the drop down menu may be used to complete the data.

Enter the state fiscal year for which you are reporting.	List each law number	Jurisdiction	Type	Please enter a description of the law.	What purpose does the law serve?	Notes (Optional)	Was there any change to this law during the past fiscal year?
FY2022	§59-152-10 through §59-152-160	State	Statute	The South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is a comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through local partnerships, public and private funds, and support for high-quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families' efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to succeed. The organization was created as a tax exempt organization under section 501 (c)(3) with Act 99 in 1999. Statute was updated in 2014 and again in 2018 with several changes. Modifications included a long range plan requirement, changes to the membership of the Board of Trustees, and direction in relation to allocation funding for local partnerships and others. Statute allows all funds received by SC First Steps to carry forward if unspent.	Requires a service	High-quality early childhood development and education service	No Change
FY2022	§59-156-110	State	Statute	Statute spells out the responsibilities for the State Department of Education and SC First Steps to School Readiness for the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program, or the states 4 year old kindergarten program. The statute restates much of the content in provisos included in the SFY 2015 appropriations act. Statute was updated in 2014 and in 2018.	Requires a service	High-quality early childhood development and education service	No Change
FY2022	§63-11-1710 thru 1750	State	Statute	Statute creates the First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees whose purpose is to oversee the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness initiative, a broad range of innovative early childhood development and education, family support, health services, and prevention efforts to meet critical needs of South Carolina's children through the awarding of grants to partnerships at the county level as provided for in Section 59-152-90. Statute was created in Act 361 in 2008. Act also creates the SC Advisory Council. This council is formed to fulfill the responsibilities under 42 U.S.C. Section 9837b(b)(1)(D)(i) of the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. Act was modified in 2014 and 2018 with a number of modifications. In 2014 the changes include the addition of the Early Childhood Advisory Council responsibilities and additional BabyNet responsibilities. In 2018, additional reporting requirements and a 7 year reauthorization of the agency. BabyNet was moved to DHHS per Executive Order effective June 30, 2017.	Requires a service	High-quality early childhood development and education service	No Change
FY2022	PL 110-134	Federal	Statute	Federal Head Start Act, governing operations of Early Head Start Program	Requires a service	High-quality early childhood development and education service	No Change
FY2022	Proviso 1.65 (SDE: First Steps 4K Technology)	State	FY21 Proviso	Proviso allows for unspent funds from the previous state fiscal year in the 4K Program to be used for specified information technology needs.	Requires a service	High-quality early childhood development and education service	Repealed
FY2022	Proviso 1.66 (SDE: First Steps 4K Technology)	State	FY20 Proviso	Proviso allows for unspent funds from the previous state fiscal year in the 4K Program to be used for specified information technology needs.	Requires a manner of delivery	High-quality early childhood development and education service	Repealed
FY2022	Proviso 1.73 (SDE: Military Child Care Centers)	State	FY21 Proviso	Proviso allows SC First Steps to deliver CERDEP 4K program in military child care centers monitored by the US Department of Defense.	Requires a service	High-quality early childhood development and education service	Repealed

FY2022	Proviso 1.74 (SDE: First Steps 4K Underserved Communities)	State		Proviso authorizes First Steps to create a pilot program through which grants of up to \$30,000 may be awarded for the purpose of creating new 4K classroom enrollment capacity in underserved communities. In addition, it allows up to \$1 million in grant funds for Public Private Partnerships that serve multi counties and multi districts for building renovations and designs to increase student enrollment.	Distribute funding to another entity		Repealed
FY2022	Proviso 1.75 (SDE: Military Child Care Centers)	State	FY21 Proviso	Proviso allows SC First Steps to deliver CERDEP 4K program in military child care centers monitored by the US Department of Defense.	Requires a manner of delivery	High-quality early childhood development and education service	Repealed
FY2022	Proviso 1.76 (SDE: First Steps 4K Underserved Communities)	State	FY20 Proviso	Proviso authorizes First Steps to create a pilot program through which grants of up to \$30,000 may be awarded for the purpose of creating new 4K classroom enrollment capacity in underserved communities. In addition, it allows up to \$1 million in grant funds for Public Private Partnerships that serve multi counties and multi districts for building renovations and designs to increase student enrollment.	Requires a manner of delivery		Repealed
FY2022	Proviso 1A.50 (SDE-EIA: CDEPP Student Information and Reporting)	State	FY20 Proviso FY22-23 Proviso	State Department of Education and SC First Steps to School Readiness required to acquire unique student numbers and report that. SDE and First Steps required to provide information to Education Oversight Committee.	Report our agency must/may provide		Amended Proviso Number Only
FY2022	Proviso 1A.53 (SDE-EIA: CDEPP Student Information and Reporting)	State		State Department of Education and SC First Steps to School Readiness required to acquire unique student numbers and report that. SDE and First Steps required to provide information to Education Oversight Committee.	Report our agency must/may provide		Repealed
FY2022	Proviso 1A.9	State	FY21 Proviso FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso directs payment of teacher supply funds to individuals, including teachers serving in private First Steps 4K classrooms.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
FY2022	Proviso 1A.9	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Proviso directs payment of teacher supply funds to individuals, including teachers serving in private First Steps 4K classrooms.	Distribute funding to another entity		No Change
FY2022	Provisos 1.56 and 1A.29 (SDE: Full Day 4K)	State		Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) set the funding, payment guidance, and geographical parameters of the SC Early Reading and Child Development Program per Act 284 which included Read to Succeed. Requires payments to the EOC annually. Proviso allows SC First Steps to deliver CERDEP 4K program in military child care centers monitored by the US Department of Defense. Proviso authorizes First Steps to create a pilot program with up to \$2,000,000 for higher reimbursement rates, and up to \$100,000 through which grants of up to \$30,000 may be awarded for the purpose of creating new 4K classroom enrollment capacity in underserved communities. In addition, if funding is available, funds may be used to extend the day up to 8 1/2 hours, and the year up to 220 days. \$1 million can be used for Public Private Partnerships that serve multi counties and multi districts for building renovations and designs to increase student enrollment. Identifies specific reports that have to be delivered related to the activities specified in the proviso.	Requires a service	High-quality early childhood development and education service	Amended
FY2022	Provisos 1.57 and 1A.29 (SDE: Full Day 4K)	State	FY22 Proviso	Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) set the funding and geographical parameters of the SC Early Reading and Child Development Program per Act 284 which included Read to Succeed.	Requires a manner of delivery	High-quality early childhood development and education service	Amended
FY2022	Provisos 1.68 and 1A.56 (SDE: CDEPP Unexpended Funds)	State	FY21 Proviso	Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) permit First Steps to retain and utilize up to \$1M in unexpended 4K funding from the prior fiscal year for the purpose of improving classroom quality. Establishes the option of delivering extended-day, extended-year and summer programs in the event of available carry forward.	Requires a service	High-quality early childhood development and education service	Repealed
			FY21 Proviso				

FY2022	Provisos 1.69 and 1A.59 (SDE: CDEPP Unexpended Funds)	State		Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) permit First Steps to retain and utilize up to \$1M in unexpended 4K funding from the prior fiscal year for the purpose of improving classroom quality. Establishes the option of delivering extended-day, extended-year and summer programs in the event of available carry forward.	Requires a manner of delivery	High-quality early childhood development and education service	Repealed
FY2022	Title 12-6-5060	State	FY20 Proviso Statute	Creates tax check off donation to the First Steps to School Readiness Fund.	Funding agency deliverable(s)		No Change
FY2022	Provisos 1.55 and 1A.29 (SDE: Full Day 4K)	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Companion provisos (General Fund and EIA) set the funding, payment guidance, and geographical parameters of the SC Early Reading and Child Development Program per Act 284 which included Read to Succeed. Requires payments to the EOC annually. Proviso allows SC First Steps to deliver CERDEP 4K program in military child care centers monitored by the US Department of Defense. Proviso authorizes First Steps to create a pilot program with up to \$2,000,000 for higher reimbursement rates, and up to \$100,000 through which grants of up to \$30,000 may be awarded for the purpose of creating new 4K classroom enrollment capacity in underserved communities. In addition, if funding is available, funds may be used to extend the day up to 8 1/2 hours, and the year up to 220 days. \$1 million can be used for Public Private Partnerships that serve multi counties and multi districts for building renovations and designs to increase student enrollment. Identifies specific reports that have to be delivered related to the activities specified in the proviso.	Requires a service	Changes include establishing a minimum amount for the funding for the 4K providers, rather than a standard amount. In addition, quarterly reports for those amounts paid will be required starting Oct. 1, 2022. Dates were updated.	Amended
FY2022	Proviso 1.105 (SDE: READY Program)	State	FY22-23 Proviso	Creates new grant program for SC First Steps and establishes that the funds appropriated will be awarded to the Local Partnerships through a competitive and targeted grants process. Establishes the priorities and restricts amount for each partnership and the amount used by SC First Steps to administer, monitor and evaluate the program. It also requires an annual report on the state's investment in early learning and development.	Requires a service	New proviso associated with additional recurring general funds appropriated to SC First Steps.	Added

AGENCY SERVICES DATA



READ INSTRUCTIONS: The table below has been pre-populated with data from last year's accountability report. Review for correctness. Please follow the instructions in the 2022 AAR Guidelines and Instructions to amend or maintain pre-populated data and add new data. Please note that some columns have a drop down menu. If a drop down menu is provided, only responses listed in the drop down menu may be used to complete the data.

Enter the state fiscal year for which you are reporting.	Service Number	Enter a description of service.	Enter a description of direct customer	Enter customer name.	Enter others impacted by the service.	Enter the division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Enter a description of division or major organizational unit providing the service.	Enter the primary negative impact if service not provided.	Was there any change to this service during the past fiscal year?	If there was a change in service, please provide a summary explaining the reason.
FY2022	1	Oversight of the finances and	Approximately 341,000+	Children under age 6	Families (adult family members and siblings); child	Early Childhood Services; Policy and	SC First Steps serves as a grantor and provides	Children across the state will not receive necessary	No Change	
FY2022	2	Oversight and technical assistance to	Non-public school settings	Child care providers in non-	Families (adult family members and siblings)	First Steps 4K	First Steps administers publicly-funded full-day,	Children across the state will not receive necessary	No Change	
FY2022	3	Provision of tuition and transportation	Eligible children must be four	Age and income eligible four-	Families (adult family members and siblings); child	First Steps 4K	First Steps administers publicly-funded full-day,	Children across the state will not receive necessary	No Change	

AGENCY PARTNERSHIP DATA



READ INSTRUCTIONS: The table below has been pre-populated with data from last year's accountability report. Review for correctness. Please follow the instructions in the 2022 AAR Guidelines and Instructions to amend or maintain pre-populated data or add new data. Please note that some columns have a drop down menu. If a drop down menu is provided, only responses listed in the drop down menu may be used to complete the data.

Enter the state fiscal year for which you are reporting.	Enter the type of partner entity	Enter the name of partner entity	Enter the description of partnership	Was there any change to this partnership during the past fiscal year?
FY2022	Non-Governmental Organization	Alliance for Early Success	Providing technical assistance to First Steps	No Change
FY2022	Non-Governmental Organization	Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of South Carolina	Funding direct service via First Steps local partnerships	No Change
FY2022	State Government	Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN)	DDSN is a valued partner and service provider within the interagency BabyNet system. Agency Interim Director Constance Holloway sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	Amend
FY2022	Non-Governmental Organization	Doris Duke Charitable Foundation	Funding direct service via First Steps local partnerships	No Change
FY2022	Non-Governmental Organization	ECE Business Collaboratory	Providing technical assistance to First Steps	No Change
FY2022	Non-Governmental Organization	Fund for Shared Insight	Providing technical assistance to First Steps	No Change
FY2022	State Government	Head Start Collaboration Office	As the federal government's liaison between Head Start and local grantees, the Head Start Collaboration Office is a valued partner. SC Collaboration Director Mary Lynne Diggs sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
FY2022	Non-Governmental Organization	Local First Steps Partnerships	First Steps' local partnership grantees deliver needed early childhood education services in each of the state's 46 counties.	No Change
FY2022	State Government	Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs	Current home of the First Steps Data Collection System; partner in development of Early Childhood Integrated Data System	No Change
FY2022	Private Business Organization	Private 4K Service Providers	Non-public school settings partner with SC First Steps to ensure the delivery of high-quality four-year-old kindergarten statewide.	No Change
FY2022	State Government	SC Department of Education	As a co-administrator of the state's four-old-kindergarten program and the representative of public school districts statewide, the SC Department of education is a valued partner. Dr. David Mathis represents State Superintendent Molly Spearman as a member of the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
FY2022	State Government	SC Department of Health and Environmental Control	DHEC is a valued partner in the area of maternal-child health. Agency Director Edward Simmer sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
FY2022	State Government	SC Department of Health and Human Services	As the state's Medicaid agency, DHHS is a valued partner. Agency Director Robert Kerr sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
FY2022	State Government	SC Department of Social Services	DSS is a valued partner in the areas of child care and child welfare. Agency Director Michael Leach sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
FY2022	State Government	The Children's Trust of SC	As the state's Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting grantee and an active partner in the prevention of child abuse and neglect, The Children's Trust of SC is a valued agency partner. Agency Director Sue Williams sits on the SC First Steps Board of Trustees.	No Change
FY2022	Non-Governmental Organization	The Duke Endowment	Funding direct service via First Steps local partnerships	No Change
FY2022	Non-Governmental Organization	United Way Association of South Carolina	As the state's administrative agent for South Carolina's AmeriCorps program, the United Way Association of SC is a valued partner for the success of our AmeriCorps program.	No Change
FY2022	Non-Government Organization	Aspen Institute	Providing technical assistance to First Steps	No Change
FY2022	Non-Government Organization	Hunt Institute	Providing technical assistance on early childhood policy development	No Change

BUDGET DATA



READ INSTRUCTIONS: The table below has been pre-populated with program information submitted via the 2021 Accountability Report. Submitting agencies will review data for correctness, add new programs as needed, and complete the financial data per the 2022 AAR Guidelines and Instructions. If any information changes after the agency submits its 2022 Accountability Report, the agency should email AAR@admin.sc.gov with the updated information.

Fiscal Year Entered	State Funded Program Number	State Funded Program Title	Description of State Funded Program	(Actual) General	(Actual) Other	(Actual) Federal	(Actual) TOTAL	(Projected) General	(Projected) Other	(Projected) Federal	(Projected) TOTAL
FY2022	8200.010000.000	First Steps To Sch Readiness	Policy and Accountability Private Funds		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$1,323,223.00			\$1,323,223.00		\$209,720.00	0	\$209,720.00
FY2022	8200.100000X000	CDEPP - Private	General Funds for 4K		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
				\$6,521,510.00			\$6,521,510.00	\$6,525,880.00	0	\$1,873,457.00	\$8,399,337.00
FY2022	4400.920100.000	First Steps to School Readiness	Policy and Accountability	\$ -		\$1,988,913.00	\$7,070,973.00	\$247,873.00	\$2,439,087.00	0	\$2,686,960.00
FY2022	4400.920500X000	County Partnerships	Local Partnership Funding	\$ -		\$5,082,060.00	\$18,777,793.00	\$3,000,000.00	\$18,142,276.00	\$2,612,457.00	\$23,754,733.00
FY2022	4400.921000X000	CDEPP	EIA Funds for 4K	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$26,065,799.00	0	\$26,065,799.00
FY2022	3500.100100.000	Office of First Steps to School Readiness	Private Grants for Early Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$1,251,330.00	\$4,316,531.00	\$5,567,861.00
							\$53,776,033.00				\$66,684,410.00

AGENCY REPORT DATA



READ INSTRUCTIONS. The table below has been pre-populated with data from last year's Accountability Report. Please review and edit the list for correctness. Please note that some columns have a drop down menu. If a drop down menu is provided, only responses listed in the drop down menu may be used to complete the data. The submitting agency should complete columns G, K, and L for existing data. If no date is entered into column G, the agency should also complete column M for the applicable row. New reports should be added below the pre-populated data using one row per report, and all columns should be completed, exempt column M, which only needs to be completed if there is no data provided to column G. Do not re

Enter the state fiscal year for which you are reporting.	Enter report name.	If this report is required by law, enter the law number.	Enter a summary of information requested in the report	Enter date of most recent submission DURING FY2022. (If not submitted during FY2022, but should have been submitted, complete column M)	Enter reporting frequency.	Enter type of entity/entities	Enter method to access the report.	Enter direct access hyperlink or agency contact (if not provided to LSA for posting online).	Was there any change to this report during the past fiscal year?	If a report was not submitted, please provide an explanatory summary below.
FY2022	4K Underserved Communities	Proviso 1.76: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Process, expenditures and expanded enrollment for needs grants.		Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online		Amend	This report was submitted on time in FY22 under "Proviso 1.56 & Proviso 1A.29: FY 21-22 State Budget". This proviso was revised which altered the content of the report. Column E of this data template needs to be revised.
FY2022	Agency Accountability Report	\$1-1-810, 59-152- 20	The report "must contain the agency's or department's mission, objectives to accomplish the mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being met." Agencies must "identify key program area descriptions and expenditures and link these to key financial and performance results measures."	September of 2021	Annually	Governor or Lt. Governor AND Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aaar2021/h620.pdf	No Change	
FY2022	Annual Report	\$59-152-50	Report on the agency's activities, strategic plan, progress on initiatives, financial information, as well as a number of other items for the most recent year.	December of 2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/aaar2021/h620.pdf	No Change	
FY2022	Audited Financial Statement for the year ending June 30, 2019.	\$11-7-20	Audited financial statement.	October of 2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Available on another website	https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/SCFS-Annual-Report-2020-21.pdf https://osa.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/OFS-Financial-Statements-2021-FINAL.pdf	No Change	
FY2022	CDEPP Student Information and Reporting	Proviso 1A.53: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Report required to inform about students SUNS numbers for each student on the 45th day.	November of 2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/1A.56.%20First%20Steps%204K%20SUNS%20numbers%20report,%2011.15.2021.pdf	Amend	This report was submitted on time in FY22 under "Proviso 1A.50: FY 21-22 State Budget". Column E of this template needs to be revised.
FY2022	CDEPP Unexpended Funds	Provisos 1.69 and 1A.59: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Expenditures for Quality Improvement and Professional Development		Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online		Remove	
FY2022	Education Improvement Act (EIA)	Proviso 1A.34: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	EIA Program Report activities and expenditures	September of 2021	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	eoc.sc.gov	Amend	Column E needs to be revised in this template. "Proviso 1A.34 for FY 21-22 State Budget."
FY2022	Education Oversight Committee Review of 4K	Proviso 1.57 and 1A.29: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Annual statutory review of the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP)	January of 2022	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/eoc/files/Documents/CERDEP%202022/CE RDEP%20Annual%20Report%2022.GA01142022.pdf	Amend	The report was submitted on time in FY22 under "Proviso 1.56 and 1A.29: FY 21-22 State Budget". Column E needs to be revised in this template.
FY2022	Education Oversight Committee Review of Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	Proviso 1.57 and 1A.29: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Annual statutory review of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	June of 2022	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website	https://eoc.sc.gov/sites/eoc/files/Documents/KRA/KRA_Brief.06252021%20(1).pdf	Amend	"Proviso 1.56 and 1A.29: FY 21-22 State Budget", Column E needs to be revised in this template.
FY2022	First Steps 4K Technology	Proviso 1A.66: FY 19-20, and 20-21 State Budget	Updated List of Expenditures for fiscal year.		Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online		Remove	Not required in FY22, was removed from the budget.
FY2022	IT Data Collection Plan	\$1-11-10	Summary of the agencies IT Needs and Plans for the next year.	June of 2022	Annually	Legislative entity or entities AND South Carolina state agency or agencies	Available on another website		No Change	
FY2022	4K Extended Day, Professional Development, Impact on Parents	Proviso 1.56 & Proviso 1A.29: FY 21-22 State Budget	Expenditures for Extended Day, Quality Improvement and Professional Development, and Impact on Parents	April of 2022	Annually	Legislative entity or entities	Provided to LSA for posting online	https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/FirstSteps/First%20Steps%204K%20Report%20Pursuant%20to%20Proviso%201.56%204.1.2022.pdf	Add	