

Meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council August 17, 2023, immediately following the SC First Steps Board Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83722694987?pwd=dDhVLzIMYkRPMHIPYktkb0NwbFgzUT09

<u>AGENDA</u>

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Report onEarly Childhood Advisory CounciActivities August 17, 2023

ECAC

First Steps submitted state budget requests for a number of needs for the 2023 -24 fiscal year. One request submitted and approved by the General Assembly was for \$851,000 in recurring State General Funds to fund two employees supporting the EOAC, bringing the total to thread ong with other needs including marketing and the continued maintenance and development of Palmetto PreK FirstFive SC. This is the most significant appropriation to date by the State to support these efforts.

South Carolina's Birth Through Five Plan

For our Future., has been used as a reference for the Coordinating Council on Workforce Development (CCV/D). First Steps/ECAC staff have consulted with the Department of Work force as this agency undertakes the work of bringing together a range of stakeholders for the purpose of developing and then implementing a unified plan.

As reported previously, *For our Future* was awarded a Notable State Document Award by the State Library in March. The State Library submitted *For Our Future* to Legislative Research Librarians (LRL) Professional Staff Association of the <u>National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)</u> which also holds an <u>annual document awards program</u>. *For Our Future* was one of 15 notable document winners.

SC Early Childhood Integrated Data System

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation invited First Steps to apply for and then awarded a two-year Strategic Data Fellowship to support data use for the South Carolina Early Childhood Advisory Council.

ECAC staff

Staff served on a panel with SC Department of

Managing the

Palmetto PreK and First Five SC

Palmetto Prek (portal address: <u>www.PalmettoPrek.org</u>)

Feb. 1, 2020[^]Jul. 31, 2023

- x Uhique website visitors: 193, 915
- x Total leads: 25,872
- x Bigible for at least one program21, 123
- x Head Start eligible: 10,582
- x Public School eligible: 9,297
- x First Steps 4K eligible6,859
- x SC DSS Child Care Scholarship Programeligible: 3,750

First Five SC p(ortal address: www.First5SC.org)

First Five SC launched the common application to the public on May 1, 2023, representing 29 early childhood programs and services across three agencies. The event was held at the SC State Museum, and had notable media attention, including interviews with SC Family Voice Council Member Ashley Berendzen.

x Website: February 1, 2022 July 31, 2023

- Unique Visitors: 161,715
- o Uhi que Leads: 15, 601
- o Pageview s: 356, 582
- x Applications: May 1, 2023 July 31, 2023
 - o Total Applications Received: 851

By program.

- f First Steps 4K: 40
- f WC 154
- f SC Child Care Scholarships: 280
- f First Steps Local Partnerships: 377

Family Voice Council (FVC)

Currently, 14 parents and caregivers represent the FVC Nine members erns end ed in July. Five new members joined for August 2023 - July 2024 terms. Six seats remain open, and several candidates currently are being considered. The open seats should be filled by 10/1/23.

Grants

1. <u>Alliance for Early Success</u>

\$25,000 grant to its nost recent unrestricted award of \$75,000. The Alliance continues to be a source of information about issues at both state and national levels. The Alliance also has been a support in connecting the First Five SC team with other leaders interested in supporting families through efficient and effective technical solutions.

2. <u>Preschool Development Grant (PDG B5)</u>

The FDG B5 grant has provid ed a great deal of support for the ECAC and First Steps since it was awarded in 2019. In turn, First Steps has been able to offer the H30% natch required to receive this grant. Since 2019 SC DSS as the lead applicant and First Steps as the natch partner have brought 40.6 million doll V1/994 (I) 4.006 (V1/994 (V1/94 (V1/94