

Funding Opportunity : Countdown to Kindergarten Community Partners

Application Due Date: Friday, March 15, 2024, by 5 p.m.

Developed by South Carolina First Steps in 2003, Countdown to Kindergarten is a nationally recognized initiative to ensure that all children and families in South Carolina are actively supported in the transition to school. The centerpiece of this initiative is a curriculum-based family engagement program that connects families of rising 4K and 5K students with their future teachers in a series of 6 one-on-one sessions during the summer. Over the years the Countdown to Kindergarten initiative has expanded to include community events, professional development opportunities, and a campaign to increase awareness and understanding about the importance of school readiness. More information can be found on the Countdown to Kindergarten website, www.countdownsc.org.

To further expand the reach and impact of Countdown to Kindergarten, South Carolina First Steps seeks to make awards of up to \$10,000 in funding to qualified schools and community organizations offering innovative school transition activities and events for rising kindergartners and their families between April 1 and August 31, 2024. SC First Steps is requesting proposals for summer events, as follows:

<p>Summer Events</p> <p>Funding range:</p>	
<p>Apply if you want to:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x Create a fun and enriching experience for children and families in your community x Be a part of a statewide kindergarten readiness movement x Have your event listed on the official Countdown to Kindergarten event calendar at countdownsc.org x Receive print materials and promotional items to share with families

their families .

Funding Detail:

SC First Steps anticipates granting approximately 20-30 awards. Award amounts will be determined based on the quality of the applications received and total funding requested. Final budgets may be negotiated based on demonstrated needs. First Steps local partnerships may be eligible for awards over \$10,000.

Note: This funding opportunity is independent of participation in the traditional 6 -session Countdown to Kindergarten program and does not affect application scoring.

Eligible Applicants:

Funding may be used for:

