



To: Program and Grants Committee
From: Debbie Robertson, Chief Partnership Officer, SC First Steps
Date: June 3, 2015

RE: FY16 County Partnership Renewals

May and June mark a busy time on the annual First Steps calendar, as partnerships complete - and state staff review and summarize - the annual partnership grant renewals.

Attached you will find a matrix detailing staff recommendations related to Partnership Grant Renewals for FY16. 209 strategies are proposed for FY16 (with 12 strategies discontinued or redirected from FY15).

The staff recommends that the board give full approval to 175 strategies (as depicted on the grid attached) and “conditional approval” to the 24 remaining strategies. (10 additional strategies, funded with non-First Steps funds are presented as “information only.”) As has been the BOT’s recent tradition, these conditional approvals reflect failure to meet targets related to one or more performance standards during FY15. Strategies recommended for conditional approval will be revisited by the committee and BOT as necessary in January 2016 to ensure standards compliance. Failure to ensure compliance by this time may result in additional sanctions, up to and including suspension.

Note that First Steps’ technical assistance staff will be working with the agency’s general counsel and partnerships during FY16 to provide focused technical assistance on issues related to governance and partnership [operational] performance in anticipation of expanding conditional approval recommendations to these areas in FY17.



Program and Grants Committee
FY16 Renewal Summary
June 9, 2015

209 Strategies Proposed for FY16

- 145 Strategies with uniform performance standards recommended for approval (9 new)
- 30 Strategies with customized performance standards recommended for approval (7 new)
- 24 Recommended for conditional approval (14%)
- 10 Presented for information only (funded by non-FS sources)

- 12 Discontinued from FY15 (Note that in order to depict a three-year history the recommendations grid also contains a number of “previously discontinued” strategies.)

Conditional Approval Codes

1. **HOME VISIT INTENSITY: Did not meet threshold for average visits per month (2.0 for PAT and ESSS, 6 for PCH).**

No counties cited

2. **HOME VISIT DURATION: Did not meet threshold for AVERAGE VISIT DURATION (45 min for PAT and ESSS, 30 min for PCH).**

No counties cited

3. **(A) HOME VISIT ASSESSMENT: Fewer than 75% of clients received KIPS assessments at appropriate intervals, per FY14 Program Standards.**

2 Counties/ 2 Strategies: Barnwell, Marlboro

- (B) HOME VISIT ASSESSMENT: Fewer than 75% of clients received ACIRI assessments at appropriate intervals, per FY14 Program Standards.**

2 Counties/ 2 Strategies: Jasper, Lee

4. **DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY (212) 92% BOOKS: Did not meet threshold of 92% expenditures devoted to book procurement.**

No counties cited

5. **STAFF CERTIFICATIONS: Required staff certifications not on file with SCFS. Home visitation: current certification in the program model, current certification in KIPS. Child care quality enhancement: certification as a technical assistance provider with CCCCD.**

No counties cited

6. **CHILD CARE INTENSITY: Did not meet threshold for average T.A. visits per month (2.0)**

4 Counties / 4 Strategies: Dorchester, Kershaw, Marion, York



7. **CHILD CARE ASSESSMENT: Fewer than 90% of providers received an ERS during the program year**

No counties cited

8. **FAMILY LITERACY: Did not adequately track client data in the First Steps Data System.**

No counties cited

9. **CLIENT TARGETING: Did not meet threshold for risk factor targeting for newly enrolled clients in FY15.**

No counties cited

10. **COST PER VISIT: Exceeded maximum cost per visit of \$150**

No counties cited

11. **MAINTENANCE T.A. REQUIRED: Strategies in this category have had prior conditional approvals for which ongoing TA is recommended. Approval is conditional upon on-site TA for Continuous Quality Improvement along with ongoing TA to the Partnership Board.**

No counties cited

12. **SCHOLARSHIP SCREENING: Did not ensure that First Steps child care scholarship or Home Visiting clients received a developmental screening during FY15.**

6 Counties/ 7 Strategies: Barnwell, Chester, Dorchester, Marlboro, Sumter (2), York

13. **(A) PENDING SCHOLARSHIPS: Partnerships with DSS-administered scholarships did not connect all of their purchased scholarships during the program year.**

No counties cited

(B) PROVIDER STANDARDS: Did not connect scholarships to child care providers that meet standards, nor did partnership seek waiver of these requirements.

1 County / 1 Strategy: Marlboro

14. **PROJECTED VS. ACTUAL SERVED: Did not serve at least 75% of projected clients during the program year in a strategy.**

8 Counties/ 8 Strategies: Abbeville, Chester, Charleston, Dorchester, Greenville, Greenwood, Jasper, Lee

FYI: STRATEGIES with customized performance standards: Approval

19 Counties / 30 Strategies (7 new): Abbeville, Barnwell, Beaufort, Charleston(2), Chesterfield (3), Colleton (1), Darlington (3), Dorchester (2), Georgetown, Greenville (2), Greenwood, Lancaster (2), Lee, Lexington, McCormick (3), Newberry, Pickens (2), Saluda, and Spartanburg.



NOTE: Board committee review for 7 NEW strategies as per program standards:

Beaufort, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Georgetown, Pickens, Spartanburg (see attached descriptions for detail on program evaluation plans).

First Steps' annual partnership renewal process is labor intensive for both the Partnerships and state staff. Below is a partial list of the data system reports utilized to track Partnership compliance.

Home Visitation Reports:

- 2 Visit Intensity Reports: number of risk factors, frequency of visits, duration of visits, number of months in the program, number and percentage of exited cases
- Risk Factor Report: detail on types of risk factors
- KIPS/ACIRI Report
- Retention Report: clients served for 9 or more months continuously during the current year or at any point in time
- Dashboard Report: newly enrolled clients who are pregnant women or children under 36 months
- Connections Report: connections to other early childhood interventions besides home visitation
- ASQ Report

Scholarship Reports:

- Scholarship Report: number of risk factors, type of scholarship, assigned child care provider
- Connections Report: connections to other early childhood interventions besides scholarships
- ASQ Report
- Risk Factor Report: detail on types of risk factors

Child Care Reports:

- Intensity Report: frequency of visits, duration of visits
- ERS Report: ITERS, ECERS, FDCRS assessments

CTK:

- Countdown to Kindergarten Report: risk factors, number of visits, placement in the home visitor's K classroom
- Risk Factor Report: detail on types of risk factors