



The Honorable Nikki Haley
SC Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

September 25, 2015

Dear Governor Haley,

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of our state's youngest learners. Attached, please find South Carolina First Steps' SFY 2016-17 state budget request. In addition to the enclosures, there are three other items which are critical enough to request your assistance.

1. **Provide 50% of the state funding in the form of State General Funds.**

First Steps continues to struggle during the first months of the year to pay for ongoing normal costs of operations due to almost all of its funding being out of the Education Improvement Act revenues. These funds are submitted over the course of the year and funds that are available at the first of the year are statutorily committed to other organizations. This leaves us struggling during the first months of the year to pay vendors in a timely fashion. We have received support from staff at the State Department of Education and the Education Oversight Committee for a change that would improve this situation.

2. **Change our budget structure to one that more clearly shows our efforts.**

The following structure would be more transparent and allow for clearer accountability and understanding of areas of expenditures.

- A. Policy and Accountability
- B. BabyNet
- C. Private 4 K
- D. Early Childhood Services
- E. Employee Benefits

3. **BabyNet.**

Proviso 1.82, SDE: First Steps Accountability, which was included in the SFY 2015-16 State Budget, requires us to report to you and members of the General Assembly by December of 2015, as to whether the additional funding for the BabyNet Program in the SFY 15-16 budget are sufficient to cover the cost of bringing the program into compliance. As part of our efforts to improve the BabyNet Program, we are working through a comprehensive process with a very broad group of partners to evaluate the current structure of the program and identify the best way to accomplish this task. We anticipate that one of the outcomes of this effort will be a joint budget request to finally correct the deficiencies in the program that was transferred to us in 2011. We plan to forward this to you as soon as it is completed, which we project to be prior to the December reporting date.

We look forward to reviewing this request with you over the next few weeks and with your support will continue to strive to provide for the needs of our children, to the best of our resources and abilities. Please contact me at (803) 920-4811 or sdevenny@scfirststeps.org with any questions. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Susan W. DeVenny
Director

Cc: Ken Wingate, Chair, SC First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees
Judith Aughtry, Finance Chair, SC First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees
Josh Baker, Office of Governor Nikki Haley
Morgan O'Donnell, Budget Analyst, Executive Budget Office
Brenda Hart, Director, Executive Budget Office

AGENCY NAME:

SC First Steps to School Readiness

AGENCY CODE:

(H630) SC Dept of Education

SECTION:

SC First Steps



Fiscal Year 2016-17 Agency Budget Plan

FORM A – SUMMARY

RECURRING FUNDS (FORM B DECISION PACKAGES)	My agency is submitting the following recurring decision packages (Form B):	
	For FY 2016-17, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a net increase in recurring General Fund appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting a net increase in recurring General Fund Appropriations.
CAPITAL & NON-RECURRING FUNDS (FORM C DECISION PACKAGES)	My agency is submitting the following one-time decision packages (Form C):	
	For FY 2016-17, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting capital and/or non-recurring funds.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting capital and/or non-recurring funds.
PROVISOS	For FY 2016-17, my agency is (mark "X"):	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Mark Barnes	803 734-8079	MBarnes@scfirststeps.org
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Dan Wuori	803 734-0100	dwuori@scfirststeps.org

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2016-17 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
SIGN/DATE:		
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Susan W. DeVenny	Kenneth B. Wingate

This form must be signed by the department head – not a delegate.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

FORM B – PROGRAM REVISION REQUEST

DECISION PACKAGE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6972</div> <p><i>Provide the decision package number issued by the PBF system ("Governor's Request").</i></p>																				
TITLE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Early Childhood Data System</div> <p><i>Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.</i></p>																				
AMOUNT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$140,011</div> <p><i>What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2015-16? This amount should correspond to the decision package's total in PBF across all funding sources.</i></p>																				
ENABLING AUTHORITY	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>In order to meet the requirements and revisions to Section 59-152-50 and 59-125-160 in the statutes that were made as part of Act No. 287, First Steps to School Readiness Initiative, in 2014, improvements need to be made to the data system that is used to track and manage our data.</p> </div> <p><i>What state or federal statutory, regulatory, and/or administrative authority established this program? Is this decision package prompted by the establishment of or a revision to that authority?</i></p>																				
FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Mark "X" for all that apply:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>(Base Adjustment) Allocation of statewide employee benefits.</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>(Base Adjustment) Realignment within existing programs and lines.</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>(Base Adjustment) Restructuring of agency programs – <i>requires pre-approval.</i></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience.</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Change in case load / enrollment under existing program guidelines.</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Non-mandated change in eligibility / enrollment for existing program.</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas.</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative.</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program.</td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program.</td></tr> </table> </div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Base Adjustment) Allocation of statewide employee benefits.	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Base Adjustment) Realignment within existing programs and lines.	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Base Adjustment) Restructuring of agency programs – <i>requires pre-approval.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load / enrollment under existing program guidelines.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility / enrollment for existing program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program.
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>These funds would be used to pay a contractor for the ongoing maintenance and license fees associated with the data system. They would also be used to fund one employee at SC First Steps to manage, monitor and utilize the system.</p> </div> <p><i>What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?</i></p>																				

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

RELATED REQUEST(s)	Yes, there is an associated non-recurring request.
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Is this decision package associated with other decision packages requested by your agency or other agencies this year? Is it associated with a specific capital or non-recurring request?

MATCHING FUNDS	This request is to cover the part of the cost of the system for the Local Partnerships.
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Would these funds be matched by federal, institutional, philanthropic, or other resources? If so, identify the source, amount, and terms of the match requirement.

FUNDING ALTERNATIVES	Other funds are being used to cover the cost of the data system for other First Steps programs.
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What other possible funding sources were considered? Could this request be met in whole or in part with the use of other resources, including fund balances? If so, please comment on the sustainability of such an approach.

SUMMARY		<p>This request is for the recurring cost of implementing a appropriate data system for data collection, partnership monitoring and program outcome assessments for programs and services provided by First Steps Local Partnerships. This is to meet the legislative mandates as described in Section 59 – 152 – 50, item 7, which requires us to provide for ongoing data collection. The request would also fulfill a recommendation provided by the Legislative Audit Council in their report of First Steps completed in 2013. Additional mandates exist in Section 59-125-160 for First Steps to provide evaluations of each program investment using valid and reliable measures. The data system would provide those measures. The funds being requested would cover the cost of recurring maintenance, license fees, and one Research and Planning Administrator for a joint system to be used by multiple SC First Steps programs. We are working with DTO and DIS with all of our data systems and they are currently under contract with SC First Steps. We plan to include this request in our IT Plan which is being currently developed.</p>
Information Technology /Security	Y/N	
Consulted DTO during development	Y/N	

Provide a summary of the rationale for the decision package. Why has it been requested? How specifically would the requested funds be used? If the request is related to information security or information technology, explain its relationship to the agency's security or technology plan.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

METHOD OF CALCULATION	<p>Funds were based on work taking place in projecting the cost of the total data system needs for multiple programs at SC First Steps. They were compiled by evaluating the cost of available options in the marketplace for like systems.</p>
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How was the amount of the request calculated? What factors could cause deviations between the request and the amount that could ultimately be required in order to perform the underlying work?

FUTURE IMPACT	<p>This request is for the recurring cost of the system and associated staffing needs. Without these funds the existing system will have to be used and the organization will have a very difficult time meeting statutory and program requirements. The cost of non-compliance is difficult to determine at this time. It is anticipated that it could be significant.</p>
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Will the state incur any maintenance-of-effort or other obligations by adopting this decision package? What impact will there be on future capital and/or operating budgets if this request is or is not honored? Has a source of any such funds been identified and/or obtained by your agency?

PRIORITIZATION	<p>This is a critical need. Without the funding, the organization may have to then support multiple systems which would increase cost and reduce our effectiveness.</p>
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If no or insufficient new funds are available in order to meet this need, how would the agency prefer to proceed? By using fund balances, generating new revenue, cutting other programs, or deferring action on this request in FY 2015-16?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

INTENDED IMPACT	<p>This package would have a significant impact on our ability to evaluate, monitor and make quality improvements for multiple programs that the organization operates. These quality enhancements could have an impact on the efficiency, effectiveness, and outcomes for many of our services going forward.</p>
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What impact is this decision package intended to have on service delivery and program outcomes, and over what period of time?

PROGRAM EVALUATION	<p>Successful implementation of the software would allow us to evaluate many of our services provided to young children across the state. We would determine our success based on the quality of the data made available, and our ability to access it. The timeliness of the completed project would be one data point, along with successful use of the system by the local partnerships.</p>
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How would the use of these funds be evaluated? What specific outcome or performance measures would be used to assess the effectiveness of this program?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

FORM B – PROGRAM REVISION REQUEST

DECISION PACKAGE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6990</div> <p><i>Provide the decision package number issued by the PBF system ("Governor's Request").</i></p>																				
TITLE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Local Partnership Funding</div> <p><i>Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.</i></p>																				
AMOUNT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$1,741,963</div> <p><i>What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2015-16? This amount should correspond to the decision package's total in PBF across all funding sources.</i></p>																				
ENABLING AUTHORITY	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Revisions to sections 59-152-10 through 160, Section 59-156-110 through 240, and Section 63-11-1710 through 1725 that took place in 2014 clarified and added additional duties to the role of the First Steps State Office and the First Steps Local Partnerships. This request will help cover the additional cost to meet many of those requirements. </div> <p><i>What state or federal statutory, regulatory, and/or administrative authority established this program? Is this decision package prompted by the establishment of or a revision to that authority?</i></p>																				
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>These funds would be distributed through the required allocation and grant processes stipulated in the state statutes to the local partnerships throughout the state.</p> </div> <p><i>What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?</i></p>																				

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

RELATED REQUEST(s)	Yes, with the other funding requests for support of the Local Partnerships.
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Is this decision package associated with other decision packages requested by your agency or other agencies this year? Is it associated with a specific capital or non-recurring request?

MATCHING FUNDS	Yes, there would be a 15% matching requirement to be met at each Local Partnership.
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Would these funds be matched by federal, institutional, philanthropic, or other resources? If so, identify the source, amount, and terms of the match requirement.

FUNDING ALTERNATIVES	There are no other funds available.
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What other possible funding sources were considered? Could this request be met in whole or in part with the use of other resources, including fund balances? If so, please comment on the sustainability of such an approach.

SUMMARY		<p>State statutes revised in 2014 require the local partnerships to provide a number of new services to their local communities. Three of these require them to 1. Provide a portal for services for all children between 0 and 5 and their families in their community; 2. Serve as the convener for community partners for services to the population in number 1.; 3. Provide support for state priorities. These three items add additional duties to each partnership. This budget request, when added to their current funding, would ensure a minimum amount of \$200,000 in funding for each to meet these needs and the other needs they are required to provide. At this time many of these partnerships only receive annual funding of approximately \$138,000 for all of their requirements. They will not be able to meet their requirements with the current amount of funding.</p>
Information Technology /Security	Y/N	
Consulted DTO during development	Y/N	

Provide a summary of the rationale for the decision package. Why has it been requested? How specifically would the requested funds be used? If the request is related to information security or information technology, explain its relationship to the agency's security or technology plan.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
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METHOD OF CALCULATION	<p>Calculated the amount needed to bring each partnership up to a minimum of \$200,000 per year in recurring funds. The \$200,000 is based on new duties as described in the revised statutes from 2014. These include serving as the portal for 293,725 children between 0 and 5, and their families in SC each year. Estimates on the number of children are from the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. In addition, the additional funding would support their convening local partners to meet many needs as identified in each community and to meet state level initiatives, which will be determined as the organization completes its strategic plan.</p>
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How was the amount of the request calculated? What factors could cause deviations between the request and the amount that could ultimately be required in order to perform the underlying work?

FUTURE IMPACT	<p>The future impact of not honoring this request could be considerable, as the organization would have great difficulty in meeting its legislative mandates. Costs to the state and local communities would potentially be reduced if children are referred to needed services more quickly.</p>
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Will the state incur any maintenance-of-effort or other obligations by adopting this decision package? What impact will there be on future capital and/or operating budgets if this request is or is not honored? Has a source of any such funds been identified and/or obtained by your agency?

PRIORITIZATION	<p>This is a critical need that will not be met without additional funding.</p>
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If no or insufficient new funds are available in order to meet this need, how would the agency prefer to proceed? By using fund balances, generating new revenue, cutting other programs, or deferring action on this request in FY 2015-16?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

INTENDED IMPACT	<p>This will result in a permanent improvement for a portal for services for children in each community across the state. In addition, additional capacity for each local community to improve outcomes, as well as moving the state forward as it determines state priorities while meeting the legislative mandates.</p>
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What impact is this decision package intended to have on service delivery and program outcomes, and over what period of time?

PROGRAM EVALUATION	<p>Each service provided by the local partnerships will be monitored and evaluated on a recurring basis as required by statutes. Additional data will be collected through the organizations data system so that permanent improvement can be monitored and reported.</p>
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How would the use of these funds be evaluated? What specific outcome or performance measures would be used to assess the effectiveness of this program?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

FORM B – PROGRAM REVISION REQUEST

DECISION PACKAGE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6996</div> <p><i>Provide the decision package number issued by the PBF system ("Governor's Request").</i></p>																				
TITLE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Local Partnership Support</div> <p><i>Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.</i></p>																				
AMOUNT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$199,252</div> <p><i>What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2015-16? This amount should correspond to the decision package's total in PBF across all funding sources.</i></p>																				
ENABLING AUTHORITY	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Revisions to sections 59-152-10 through 160, Section 59-156-110 through 240, and Section 63-11-1710 through 1725 that took place in 2014 clarified and added additional duties to the role of the First Steps State Office and the First Steps Local Partnerships. This request will help cover the additional cost to meet many of those requirements. </div> <p><i>What state or federal statutory, regulatory, and/or administrative authority established this program? Is this decision package prompted by the establishment of or a revision to that authority?</i></p>																				
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Funds would be for two FTE's to provide technical assistance and training, monitor, and ensure performance standards for local partnerships. Positions would be for the Office of First Steps. Funding would also provide operating costs of \$16,718. </div> <p><i>What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?</i></p>																				

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AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

RELATED REQUEST(S)	Yes, with the other funding requests for support of the Local Partnerships.
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Is this decision package associated with other decision packages requested by your agency or other agencies this year? Is it associated with a specific capital or non-recurring request?

MATCHING FUNDS	No.
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Would these funds be matched by federal, institutional, philanthropic, or other resources? If so, identify the source, amount, and terms of the match requirement.

FUNDING ALTERNATIVES	There are no other fund sources available.
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What other possible funding sources were considered? Could this request be met in whole or in part with the use of other resources, including fund balances? If so, please comment on the sustainability of such an approach.

SUMMARY		<p>Section 59-152-50 requires the State Office of First Steps to provide technical assistance, consultation, and support to local partnerships to facilitate their success including, but not limited to, model programs, strategic planning, leadership development, best practice, successful strategies, collaboration, financing, and evaluation. With the current number of four staff and one supervisor, we require added capacity to provide this function at an acceptable level. These two additional staff members will allow each technical assistant to support approximately 8 local First Steps partnerships and provide consultation and support to additional integrated school readiness programs (such as 4K, BabyNet, and deliverables from the DSS-First Steps interagency plan). The funds would be used to pay for the personnel cost and operating cost of the two additional employees.</p>
Information Technology /Security	Y/N	
Consulted DTO during development	Y/N	

Provide a summary of the rationale for the decision package. Why has it been requested? How specifically would the requested funds be used? If the request is related to information security or information technology, explain its relationship to the agency's security or technology plan.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

METHOD OF CALCULATION	Two Technical assistants at the Senior Consultant level of salary and benefits would be \$91,267 each, for a total of \$182,534. Their operating would include transportation of \$6,828, leased computer, phones and communications access for \$1,531 and a total of \$8,359 for operating per person. This brings the total to \$199,252.
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How was the amount of the request calculated? What factors could cause deviations between the request and the amount that could ultimately be required in order to perform the underlying work?

FUTURE IMPACT	This item is one of the required activities based on our statutes revised in 2014. Without the adjustments we will have considerable difficulty in accomplishing the requirements as stipulated in SC statute. It is difficult to project the impact of not meeting the requirements.
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Will the state incur any maintenance-of-effort or other obligations by adopting this decision package? What impact will there be on future capital and/or operating budgets if this request is or is not honored? Has a source of any such funds been identified and/or obtained by your agency?

PRIORITIZATION	This is a critical request. Without the funds the organization will have a very difficult time meeting the requirements as required by SC statutes. There are no other methods available to cover these costs.
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If no or insufficient new funds are available in order to meet this need, how would the agency prefer to proceed? By using fund balances, generating new revenue, cutting other programs, or deferring action on this request in FY 2015-16?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

INTENDED IMPACT	<p>This package will provide the organization the capacity to meet the needs as specified in the statutes on an ongoing basis. It will have a significant impact on the ability of the organization to improve the operations of the local partnerships. This will have a permanent positive impact on the success, effectiveness and quality of the services being provided across the state.</p>
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What impact is this decision package intended to have on service delivery and program outcomes, and over what period of time?

PROGRAM EVALUATION	<p>There are a considerable number of indicators that will be monitored and evaluated for each partnership to ensure that the assistance is effective. Indicators include partnerships leveraging of resources, number of children and families they serve, and outcomes for their clients. Specific indicators will be established for each staff member to ensure we are maximizing their effectiveness and are achieving expected results.</p>
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How would the use of these funds be evaluated? What specific outcome or performance measures would be used to assess the effectiveness of this program?

AGENCY NAME:

SC First Steps to School Readiness

AGENCY CODE:

(H630) State Dept. of Education

SECTION:

First Steps

FORM B – PROGRAM REVISION REQUEST**DECISION PACKAGE**

7011

*Provide the decision package number issued by the PBF system ("Governor's Request").***TITLE**

Local Partnerships Home Visitation Services

*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.***AMOUNT**

\$1,812,000

*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2015-16? This amount should correspond to the decision package's total in PBF across all funding sources.***ENABLING AUTHORITY**

Various SC Statutes which include sections 59-152-10 through 160, Section 59-156-110 through 240, and Section 63-11-1710 through 1725 that took place in 2014 clarified and added additional duties to the role of the First Steps State Office and the First Steps Local Partnerships. This request will help meet the mission of the organization as specified in the statutes, specifically, school readiness for children.

*What state or federal statutory, regulatory, and/or administrative authority established this program? Is this decision package prompted by the establishment of or a revision to that authority?***FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST****Mark "X" for all that apply:**

- ☐ (Base Adjustment) Allocation of statewide employee benefits.
- ☐ (Base Adjustment) Realignment within existing programs and lines.
- ☐ (Base Adjustment) Restructuring of agency programs – *requires pre-approval.*
- ☐ Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience.
- ☒ Change in case load / enrollment under existing program guidelines.
- ☐ Non-mandated change in eligibility / enrollment for existing program.
- ☐ Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas.
- ☐ Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative.
- ☐ Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program.
- ☐ Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program.

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

These funds would be distributed to the Local Partnerships for direct services to families.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

RELATED REQUEST(s)	No.
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Is this decision package associated with other decision packages requested by your agency or other agencies this year? Is it associated with a specific capital or non-recurring request?

MATCHING FUNDS	Each local partnership is required to provide 15% match for all funds received.
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Would these funds be matched by federal, institutional, philanthropic, or other resources? If so, identify the source, amount, and terms of the match requirement.

FUNDING ALTERNATIVES	No other fund sources are available.
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What other possible funding sources were considered? Could this request be met in whole or in part with the use of other resources, including fund balances? If so, please comment on the sustainability of such an approach.

SUMMARY		<p>These funds would expand home visiting services to families to help prepare children for school. Studies and outcomes have shown that these programs are among the most effective programs in improving readiness for school. These include the Parents as Teachers Program (PAT), and Countdown to Kindergarten. Many of the local partnerships do not have the funding to provide any of these services. This funding request would allow an additional 600 of the families with the most critical needs across the state to receive the Parents as Teachers service that will have a dramatic positive impact on the success of their children once they enter school. The amount of the request for the PAT Program is \$1,500,000. This request will also provide another 1,000 children access to services in the Countdown to Kindergarten Program (CTK). By identifying and serving the most critical children, the quality of the student's classroom instruction is greatly enhanced, not only for the participating children, but for the other children in the classrooms as well. These programs, many times, make a difference between success and failure for these students. The amount of the request for Countdown to Kindergarten is \$312,000. The funds for both of these services would be used to pay for teachers and trained staff in the Local Partnerships to provide the services.</p>
Information Technology /Security	Y/N	
Consulted DTO during development	Y/N	

Provide a summary of the rationale for the decision package. Why has it been requested? How specifically would the requested funds be used? If the request is related to information security or information technology, explain its relationship to the agency's security or technology plan.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

METHOD OF CALCULATION	<p>The PAT program services cost \$2,500 per family served. 600 families would cost a total of \$1,500,000. The CtK Program costs \$312 per family served and the 1,000 participants would cost a total of \$312,000. The combined cost for this package would be \$1,812,000.</p>
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How was the amount of the request calculated? What factors could cause deviations between the request and the amount that could ultimately be required in order to perform the underlying work?

FUTURE IMPACT	<p>There are no additional requirements beyond the recurring funds requested. The impact to the communities will be significant as these very high risk children will have a much better chance of being successful as they enter and proceed through school. The cost benefits would be significant.</p>
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Will the state incur any maintenance-of-effort or other obligations by adopting this decision package? What impact will there be on future capital and/or operating budgets if this request is or is not honored? Has a source of any such funds been identified and/or obtained by your agency?

PRIORITIZATION	<p>There are no other funds available for this service. These children and their families will not receive this service if it is not funded.</p>
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If no or insufficient new funds are available in order to meet this need, how would the agency prefer to proceed? By using fund balances, generating new revenue, cutting other programs, or deferring action on this request in FY 2015-16?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

INTENDED IMPACT	<p>This recurring source of funding will have a significant impact on the local communities and the participating children and their families. Many children will have a much greater chance of success in school, and in life, through receiving these services.</p>
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What impact is this decision package intended to have on service delivery and program outcomes, and over what period of time?

PROGRAM EVALUATION	<p>Through data collection and evaluation at the Local Partnership level, as well as through the State Office of First Steps. These programs are very structured and are evaluated as part of the service provision, as well as through an external evaluation process.</p>
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How would the use of these funds be evaluated? What specific outcome or performance measures would be used to assess the effectiveness of this program?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

FORM B – PROGRAM REVISION REQUEST

DECISION PACKAGE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7014</div> <p><i>Provide the decision package number issued by the PBF system ("Governor's Request").</i></p>																				
TITLE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Office of First Steps to School Readiness</div> <p><i>Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.</i></p>																				
AMOUNT	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">\$65,000</div> <p><i>What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2015-16? This amount should correspond to the decision package's total in PBF across all funding sources.</i></p>																				
ENABLING AUTHORITY	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p>Various SC Statutes which include sections 59-152-10 through 160, Section 59-156-110 through 240, and Section 63-11-1710 through 1725 that took place in 2014 clarified and added additional duties to the role of the First Steps State Office and the First Steps Local Partnerships. This request will help meet the mission of the organization as specified in the statutes, specifically, school readiness for children.</p> </div> <p><i>What state or federal statutory, regulatory, and/or administrative authority established this program? Is this decision package prompted by the establishment of or a revision to that authority?</i></p>																				
FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p>Mark "X" for all that apply:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 30px; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>(Base Adjustment) Allocation of statewide employee benefits.</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>(Base Adjustment) Realignment within existing programs and lines.</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>(Base Adjustment) Restructuring of agency programs – <i>requires pre-approval.</i></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience.</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Change in case load / enrollment under existing program guidelines.</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Non-mandated change in eligibility / enrollment for existing program.</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas.</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative.</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program.</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program.</td></tr> </table> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Base Adjustment) Allocation of statewide employee benefits.	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Base Adjustment) Realignment within existing programs and lines.	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Base Adjustment) Restructuring of agency programs – <i>requires pre-approval.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load / enrollment under existing program guidelines.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility / enrollment for existing program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program.
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<input type="checkbox"/>	(Base Adjustment) Restructuring of agency programs – <i>requires pre-approval.</i>																				
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility / enrollment for existing program.																				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas.																				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative.																				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program.																				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program.																				
RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p>\$40,000 of these funds would be used to pay for an external evaluation of one of the organizations programs each year as mandated by the revised statute in 2014. The remaining funds, \$25,000 would be used to pay for a projected increase in leasing costs for the state office.</p> </div> <p><i>What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?</i></p>																				

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

RELATED REQUEST(s)	No
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Is this decision package associated with other decision packages requested by your agency or other agencies this year? Is it associated with a specific capital or non-recurring request?

MATCHING FUNDS	No
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Would these funds be matched by federal, institutional, philanthropic, or other resources? If so, identify the source, amount, and terms of the match requirement.

FUNDING ALTERNATIVES	There are no other funding source available for these services.
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What other possible funding sources were considered? Could this request be met in whole or in part with the use of other resources, including fund balances? If so, please comment on the sustainability of such an approach.

SUMMARY		<p>The statutory changes made in 2014 require the organization to conduct an external evaluation of its programs on a recurring basis. This process costs \$40,000 for each of the programs. These funds would allow of one of our programs to be evaluated each year. In addition, the lease for the state office space expires this year. The projected increase in the cost of this lease annually is \$25,000.</p>
Information Technology /Security	Y/N	
Consulted DTO during development	Y/N	

Provide a summary of the rationale for the decision package. Why has it been requested? How specifically would the requested funds be used? If the request is related to information security or information technology, explain its relationship to the agency's security or technology plan.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

METHOD OF CALCULATION	<p>The projected cost of the external evaluation is based on an RFP that is in process. The projected cost of the increase in the lease was developed by information obtained through discussions with the Department of Administration staff.</p>
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How was the amount of the request calculated? What factors could cause deviations between the request and the amount that could ultimately be required in order to perform the underlying work?

FUTURE IMPACT	<p>The future impact of the evaluations will be to improve the quality of our programs through continual improvement. The renewed lease will cost significantly less than moving and the cost of other like space in the same area.</p>
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Will the state incur any maintenance-of-effort or other obligations by adopting this decision package? What impact will there be on future capital and/or operating budgets if this request is or is not honored? Has a source of any such funds been identified and/or obtained by your agency?

PRIORITIZATION	<p>This is a critical request. Without these funds we will have to reduce other required activities.</p>
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If no or insufficient new funds are available in order to meet this need, how would the agency prefer to proceed? By using fund balances, generating new revenue, cutting other programs, or deferring action on this request in FY 2015-16?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) State Dept. of Education	SECTION:	First Steps

INTENDED IMPACT	<p>The intended impact of the annual evaluation will be to improve each of our programs and to be able to evaluate whether they are being successful in their state outcomes. The impact of the lease will ensure continued space for our operations for the next 5 years.</p>
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What impact is this decision package intended to have on service delivery and program outcomes, and over what period of time?

PROGRAM EVALUATION	<p>The evaluation funds are to evaluate each of the programs we are providing.</p>
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How would the use of these funds be evaluated? What specific outcome or performance measures would be used to assess the effectiveness of this program?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

FORM C – CAPITAL OR NON-RECURRING APPROPRIATION REQUEST

DECISION PACKAGE	7109
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Provide the decision package number issued by the PBF system ("Governor's Request").

TITLE	Early Childhood Data System
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$215,000
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How much is requested for this project in FY 2016-17?

BUDGET PROGRAM	XII I – County Partnerships
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

SUMMARY	<p>This request is for the non-recurring cost of implementing an appropriate data system for data collection, partnership monitoring and program outcome assessments for programs and services provided by First Steps Local Partnerships. This is to meet the legislative mandates as described in Section 59 – 152 – 50, item 7, which requires us to provide for ongoing data collection. The request would also fulfill a recommendation provided by the Legislative Audit Council in their report of First Steps completed in 2013. Additional mandates exist in Section 59-125-160 for First Steps to provide evaluations of each program investment using valid and reliable measures. The data system would provide those measures. The funds being requested would cover the cost of programming services and training for a joint system to be used by multiple SC First Steps programs.</p>
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Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. If the request is related to information security or information technology, explain its relationship to the agency's security or technology plan.

CLASSIFICATION OF FUNDS	<p>This is the only non-recurring request for the agency and will be the one time cost of implementation of the new data system, which will be included in the First Steps IT Plan.</p>
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Is this request in support of a capital project or is it in support of other non-recurring expenditures? If this request is for a capital project, is it included in the agency's CPIP (please include CPIP year and priority)? How does this project rank in priority to all other nonrecurring agency requests?

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

RELATED REQUEST(s)	Yes, it is related to the Data System recurring request in our packet.
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Is this decision package associated with other decision packages requested by your agency or other agencies this year? Is it associated with a specific capital or non-recurring request?

MATCHING FUNDS	Funding for other programs will cover their costs and this request is to cover the part of the cost of the system for the Local Partnerships.
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Would these funds be matched by federal, institutional, philanthropic, or other resources? If so, identify the source and amount.

FUNDING ALTERNATIVES	Other funds are being used to cover the cost of the data system for other First Steps programs.
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What other possible funding sources were considered?

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	The recurring request attached to this year's budget request includes the recurring cost of the system.
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What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured?

OTHER APPROVALS	No, First Steps is developing a request for other First Steps programs such as the Federally funded Early Head Start Programs. This request will be included in the 2016 IT Plan, which is currently being prepared.
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What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, BCB, etc.)

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

EXPLANATION	<p>The statutes require an annual increase in the tuition amount based on an inflation factor. This factor was provided by the State of SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office as a projection for SFY 2016-17. The amount adjusted reflects this increase. This amount has not been increased since the inception of the program in 2006, contrary to state statutes. This is causing significant hardships on many providers as costs increase, but no corresponding increase in revenue.</p> <p>In addition, the transportation amount per student has also not been increased. We have adjusted the amount based on the same inflation factor.</p> <p>Also, one item added is a grant process which would allow long term providers to be able to replace broken or worn out items. This is a result of existing classrooms supplies being depleted over time, as well as class room tools becoming tattered and worn out after constant use. This would allow for continued quality in the classroom.</p>
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Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT	<p>Increase in tuition rate per child of \$105 to support SC Revenue and Fiscal Affaris inflation factor. This would mean an additional cost of \$271,530 per year, which the current budget levels would support without additional funds. The increase in cost of the transportation would be \$4,046 which the current budget levels would support without additional funding. The cost of the grants to support replacements for long term class rooms would be initially funded at \$250,000, which the current budget levels would support without additional funding.</p>
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Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

AGENCY NAME:

SC First Steps to School Readiness

AGENCY CODE:

(H630) SC Dept. of Education

SECTION:

SC First Steps

PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT

1.62. and 1A.30 (SDE: Full-Day 4K) For the current school year, eligible students residing in a school district with a poverty index of seventy percent or greater may participate in the South Carolina Early Reading Development and Education Program. Public and private providers will be reimbursed for instructional costs at a rate of ~~\$4,218~~ **\$4,323** per student enrolled. Eligible students enrolling during the school year or withdrawing during the school year shall be funded on a pro rata basis determined by the length of their enrollment. Private providers transporting eligible children to and from school shall also be eligible for a reimbursement of ~~\$550~~ **\$564** per eligible child transported. All providers who are reimbursed are required to retain records as required by their fiscal agent. New providers participating for the first time in the current fiscal year and enrolling between one and six eligible children shall be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 per child in materials and equipment funding, with providers enrolling seven or more such children eligible for funding not to exceed \$10,000. **Additionally, the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School Readiness are authorized to develop a grant application process designed to replace worn and/or consumable materials within existing classrooms in an annual amount not to exceed \$2,500 per classroom.** Providers receiving equipment funding are expected to participate in the program and provide high-quality, center-based programs as defined herein for a minimum of three years. Failure to participate for three years will require the provider to return a portion of the equipment allocation at a level determined by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps to School Readiness. Funding to providers is contingent upon receipt of data as requested by the Department of Education and the Office of First Steps.

Of the funds appropriated, \$300,000 shall be allocated to the Education Oversight Committee to conduct an annual evaluation of the South Carolina Child Development Education Pilot Program and to issue findings in a report to the General Assembly by January fifteenth of each year. To aid in this evaluation, the Education Oversight Committee shall determine the data necessary and both public and private providers are required to submit the necessary data as a condition of continued participation in and funding of the program. This data shall include developmentally appropriate measures of student progress. Additionally, the Department of Education shall issue a unique student identifier for each child receiving services from a private provider. The Department of Education shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the public state funded full day and half-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. The Office of First Steps to School Readiness shall be responsible for the collection and maintenance of data on the state funded programs provided through private providers. The Education Oversight Committee shall use this data and all other collected and maintained data necessary to conduct a research based review of the program's implementation and assessment of student success in the early elementary grades.

Paste FY 2015-16 text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

EXPLANATION	<p>The requested change would broaden the definition of the assessments to be consistent with upcoming planned changes along with conforming date changes.</p>

Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT	<p>Expenditures of up to \$75,000 which will have no fiscal impact to the SFY 2016-17 operations as it will be from carry forward funds.</p>

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

1.74. (SDE: First Steps 4K Technology) During the current fiscal year, South Carolina Office of First Steps to School Readiness is authorized to expend up to \$75,000 ~~from the~~ of four-year-old kindergarten carry forward funds to purchase electronic devices for the administration of ~~early literacy and language development~~ required school readiness assessments to children enrolled in the full-day 4K program in private centers in the current fiscal year. The State Office of First Steps may purchase one device, which would be the property of the Office of First Steps, for every ten centers serving children in the program. The regional coordinators who provide support to the centers shall coordinate the usage of the devices among the centers. First Steps shall provide a report documenting its technology and materials expenditures to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee no later than January 15, ~~2016~~ 2017.

Paste FY 2015-16 text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	1.79 and 1A.71
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list for FY 2016-17 (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	SDE: CDEPP Unexpended Funds
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Provide the title from the FY 2015-16 Appropriations Act or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	X D CDEPP & XII I EIA CDEPP
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

DECISION PACKAGE	
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Is this request associated with a decision package you have submitted for FY 2016-17? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	State Department of Education, Education Oversight Committee
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY	<p>Proviso directs the use of any carry forward funds remaining at SC First Steps after the close of the 2014-15 state fiscal year.</p>
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

<p>EXPLANATION</p>	<p>The carry forward funds have been distributed to the organizations as directed so most of the proviso is no longer needed. The additional change would allow First Steps to use up to \$2,000,000 of any carry forward during the next fiscal year for the same purpose as specified in the current proviso. It would also allow any carryforward to remain in the 4K program, to be used only for that purpose, at SC First Steps.</p>
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Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

<p>FISCAL IMPACT</p>	<p>The proviso would allow for expenditures of up to \$2,000,000 but it would not have a fiscal impact as it would only include carry forward amounts.</p>
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Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

AGENCY NAME:

SC First Steps to School Readiness

AGENCY CODE:

(H630) SC Dept. of Education

SECTION:

SC First Steps

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

1.79. and 1A.71 (SDE: CDEPP Unexpended Funds) For Fiscal Year ~~2015-16~~ **2016-17**, the Office of First Steps to School Readiness is ~~directed~~ **permitted** to retain the first \$2,000,000 of any unexpended CDEPP funds from the prior fiscal year and expend these funds to enhance the quality of the full-day 4K program in private centers and provide professional development opportunities. No later than April 1, ~~2016~~ **2017**, the Office of First Steps must report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on the expenditure of these funds to include the following information: the amount of money used and specific steps and measures taken to enhance the quality of the 4K program and the amount of money used for professional development as well as the types of professional development offered and the number of participants.

~~By August 1, the Office of First Steps is directed to allocate any unexpended CDEPP funds from the prior fiscal year and any CDEPP funds carried forward from prior fiscal years that were transferred to the restricted account for the purposes:~~

~~— 1. Department of Education — \$4,250,000 for full day 4K; and~~

~~— 2. Education Oversight Committee — \$2,000,000 for the South Carolina Community Block Grants for Education Pilot Program.~~

~~— If carry forward funds are less than the amounts appropriated, funding for the items listed herein shall be reduced on a pro rata basis.~~

~~— If any funds are remaining, they shall be transferred to the Department of Education to be expended only on full day 4K.~~

Paste FY 2015-16 text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	1A.60
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list for FY 2016-17 (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	SDE-EIA: BabyNet Early Intervention Autism Therapy
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Provide the title from the FY 2015-16 Appropriations Act or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	XII I EIA Baby Net Autism
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

DECISION PACKAGE	
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Is this request associated with a decision package you have submitted for FY 2016-17? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Amend
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY	<p>Proviso requires funds provided and to be used to increase the rate of payments to autism therapy providers to a set amount as well as recurring reports to the General Assembly.</p>
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

EXPLANATION	<p>The current proviso requires a specific payment of \$13.58 to autism therapy providers, which was the Medicaid rate when the proviso was drafted. The change recommended would require that payment to be adjusted up or down based on the current Medicaid rate.</p>

Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT	<p>No impact at this time.</p>

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

1A.60. (SDE-EIA: BabyNet Early Intervention Autism Therapy) The \$814,348 in funds appropriated in this act to the Office of First Steps to School Readiness for BabyNet Autism Therapy must be used only to increase the BabyNet autism therapy provider hourly rate and the individual hourly pay of line therapists during the current fiscal year. The Office of First Steps must consult with the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs regarding the implementation of these increases. The Office of First Steps must ensure that, prior to payment, these line therapists meet all current state requirements. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these monies be used solely for the purpose of increasing the BabyNet autism therapy provider rate to ~~\$13.58 per hour~~ **the current Medicaid rate** and the hourly pay to individual line therapists being increased to a minimum of \$10.00 per hour. Quarterly, the Office of First Steps must send a letter to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee reporting on their compliance with the requirements of this proviso. The report must include information regarding the expenditure of state funds as well as the receipt and expenditure of Federal Medicaid funds associated with the program.

Paste FY 2015-16 text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

<p>EXPLANATION</p>	<p>Many times there are children who live very close to the private 4K centers in high poverty areas of the state that might not live in approved school districts. This proviso would allow the Private 4K program to enroll and pay for these children. It also allows children who are identified as having early learning deficiencies to extend their school year. This would allow further developmental improvements for those children.</p>
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Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

<p>FISCAL IMPACT</p>	<p>There would be a potential slight increase in the number of children who would be served. The cost would be absorbed in the program since they would only be approved if funding was available. No additional funding would be needed.</p>
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Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

AGENCY NAME:	SC First Steps to School Readiness		
AGENCY CODE:	(H630) SC Dept. of Education	SECTION:	SC First Steps

NEW (First Steps 4K) If by September 15 of the school year, South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness projects sufficient funding to expand student enrollment within private settings participating in the Child Early Reading Development and Education Program, funds appropriated for this program may be used in the current fiscal year to enroll age- and income-eligible students from any SC school district and/or to provide extended school year services to children identified as possessing early literacy deficiencies.

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

Paste FY 2015-16 text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.