



Building South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan

South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan will build a coherent framework for our collective efforts to strengthen the early childhood system. It will bring together various strategic planning efforts conducted over the past five years into a bold, comprehensive, actionable strategy for our state that includes joint interagency commitments.

Partners and key stakeholders will play essential roles in the development of the plan:

Background

We will have **engaged leadership** from:

- Governor's Office
- Agency Directors, Deputies, and Division Leaders
- Legislative Leaders
- Content Experts

Expert facilitation will be provided by:

- Community Building Institute (Bill Potapchuk)
- MBST Solutions (Mary Beth Salomone Testa)

In developing this plan, we will respect each agency's autonomy and governance structure and seek guidance from agency directors on how the plan can best support and serve our youngest children and their families, their agency, and the state.

We will be building upon existing plans that have been recently completed or are still in process including the Preschool Development Grant Plan, Pritzker Children's Initiative South Carolina B-3 Plan, Agency Accountability Reports, State Agency Strategic Plans, and Federally-Required Plans

The final plan will include:

- Context and baseline data
- Comprehensive goals
- Measures of success
- Action items
- Joint, Interagency Commitments

Plan Development Process

The major steps of the process will include:

- **Review of the SC Early Childhood Needs Assessment (2019) and Survey of Parents' Needs During Covid-19 (2020).** Responses from 4615 parents/caregivers, organizational representatives, and community members provided feedback about needs of young children and families in SC in 2019. Another 1245 parents and caregivers shared how they were managing childcare during the pandemic. Data from these sources assure that community voices will be used to inform the Birth through Five Plan.
- **Key Informant Interviews.** Key stakeholders will be interviewed to learn their perspectives and ideas for the plan
- **Engagement with committees and councils** that are working to improve outcomes for young children and their families
- **Regular "coordination meetings"** to ensure continuity between the efforts underway on the Early Childhood Needs Assessment, Preschool Development Grant Plan, and South Carolina's Birth through Five Plan.

Plan Review and Approval Process

Development of draft plan. This work will be completed by staff, expert advisors, key stakeholders, and the facilitation team.

Review of initial internal working draft plan. The draft plan will be reviewed by agency leadership, members of the ECAC, and Interagency Collaboration Committee. The initial plan will be revised based on this guidance and become a public review draft.

Presentation of Review Draft and Public Comment. The review draft of the plan will be available for Public Comments which includes all stakeholders and residents. Comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the Review Draft as appropriate. This work will be completed by staff, expert advisors, and the facilitation team.

Present Final Plan for Approval. The final approval of the plan will be by the ECAC.