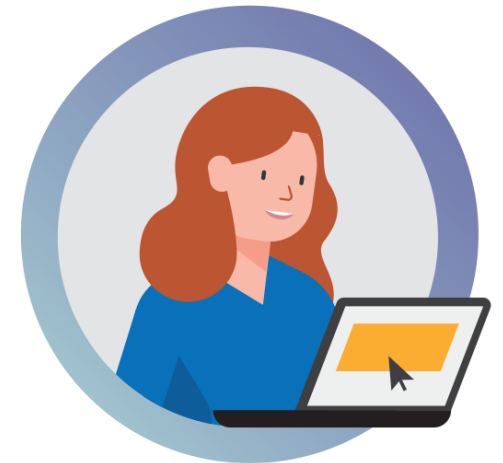


# Stories to tell about early learning



What is the value to stakeholders in early childhood, K–12 education, and postsecondary and workforce sectors of better integrating early childhood data into state longitudinal data systems?

What is the value to families, educators, leaders, and policymakers of better connecting different early childhood data sources?



# Our Three Use Cases

- Make it Easier for Families to Access Services
- Reduce the Reporting Burden on Providers
- Integrate Data Across Services to Inform Policy Decisions

## Make it Easier for Families to Access Services

- Create a parent portal to help families find the services they want – and determine eligibility
  - Families do not necessarily understand the differences among services, but do not have ideas about what they want for their kids
  - Families do not have much bandwidth to track down the services they want and determine their eligibility for those services

## Reduce the Reporting Burden on Providers

- States can revamp and automate their systems for provider data collection, reducing the burden of collecting and reporting data
  - Too many providers are collecting data by paper and pencil
  - Too many states require providers to report data separately for each funding stream they use
  - The administrative burden placed on providers reduces their capacity to serve children and families and often produces unreliable data

# Integrate Data Across Services to Inform Policy Decisions

- States can integrate data across a range of services to be able to answer key policy questions
  - In the short term, enriches understanding of on-the-ground conditions
  - In the long term, can help to illuminate the relationships among access, quality, and outcomes
  - Requires stakeholder engagement and analytic capacity

## Next Steps for DQC and the Use Cases

- Embarking on a use cases roadshow in states and various other venues
  - Engaging state leaders
  - Presenting at conferences and meetings
  - Creating data comms materials and resources
- Making connections to encourage state-level data advocacy and implementation

# Thanks!

# Discussion Questions

- What resonates with you from what you heard today?
- What more would you like to know?
- Have you had experience with any of these use cases? If so, any wisdom to share?



# Family-Centered Information Portals

Aligning Public Systems to Increase Access to Services



South Carolina  
**Early Childhood  
Advisory Council**

# Centering family voice

We listened to 7,500+ parents and caregivers in every county of the state and members of the SC Family Voice Council

"It takes forever to wait at offices in-person."

"Finding support can be difficult."

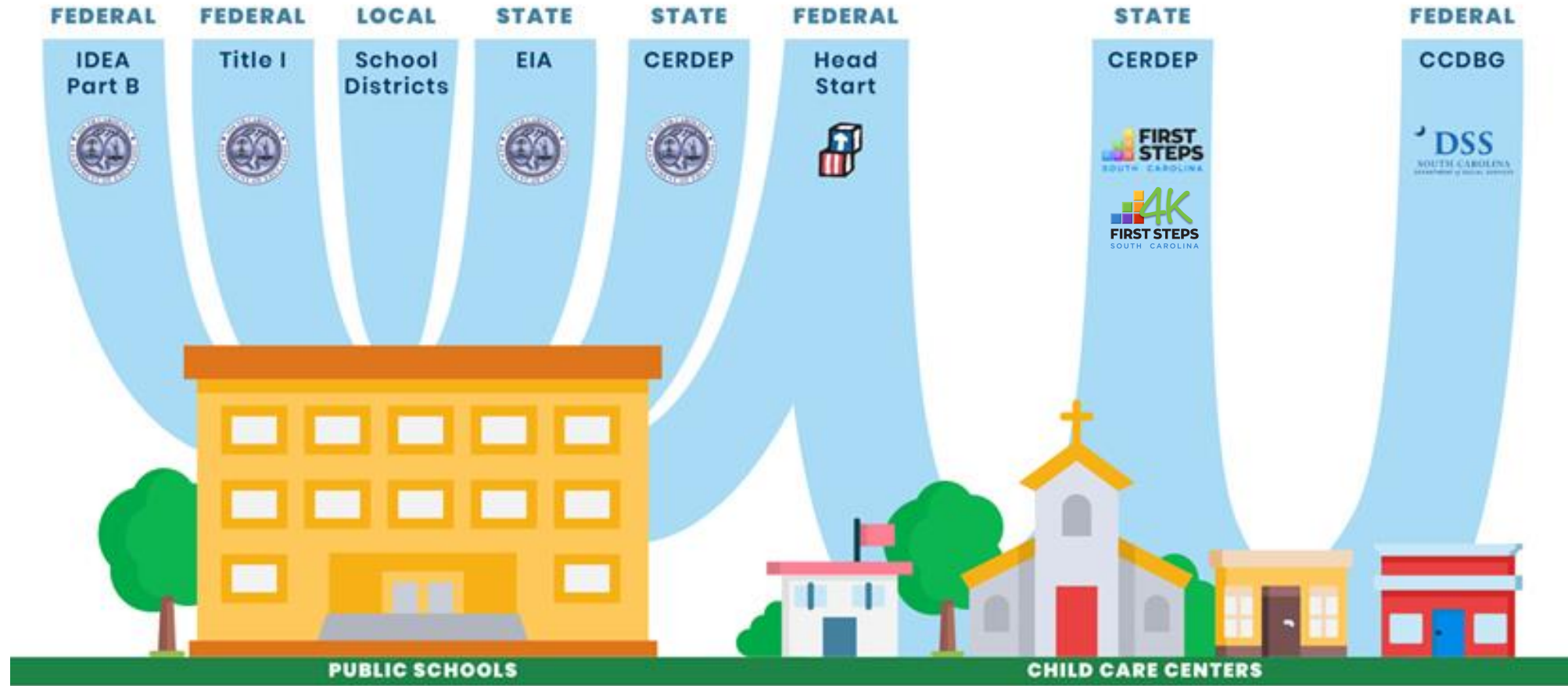
"As a parent you have to fill out [applications] several times, and it takes a lot of time."

The paperwork is always daunting... and with two the work doubles! One challenge has been obtaining services for both children. Since one is my biological grandchild and the other is not, they often don't qualify for the same types of services. It's difficult to conceive!

**Tre' Tailor**  
Family Voice Council member



# South Carolina's Pre-K Funding Landscape



[PalmettoPreK.org](http://PalmettoPreK.org)



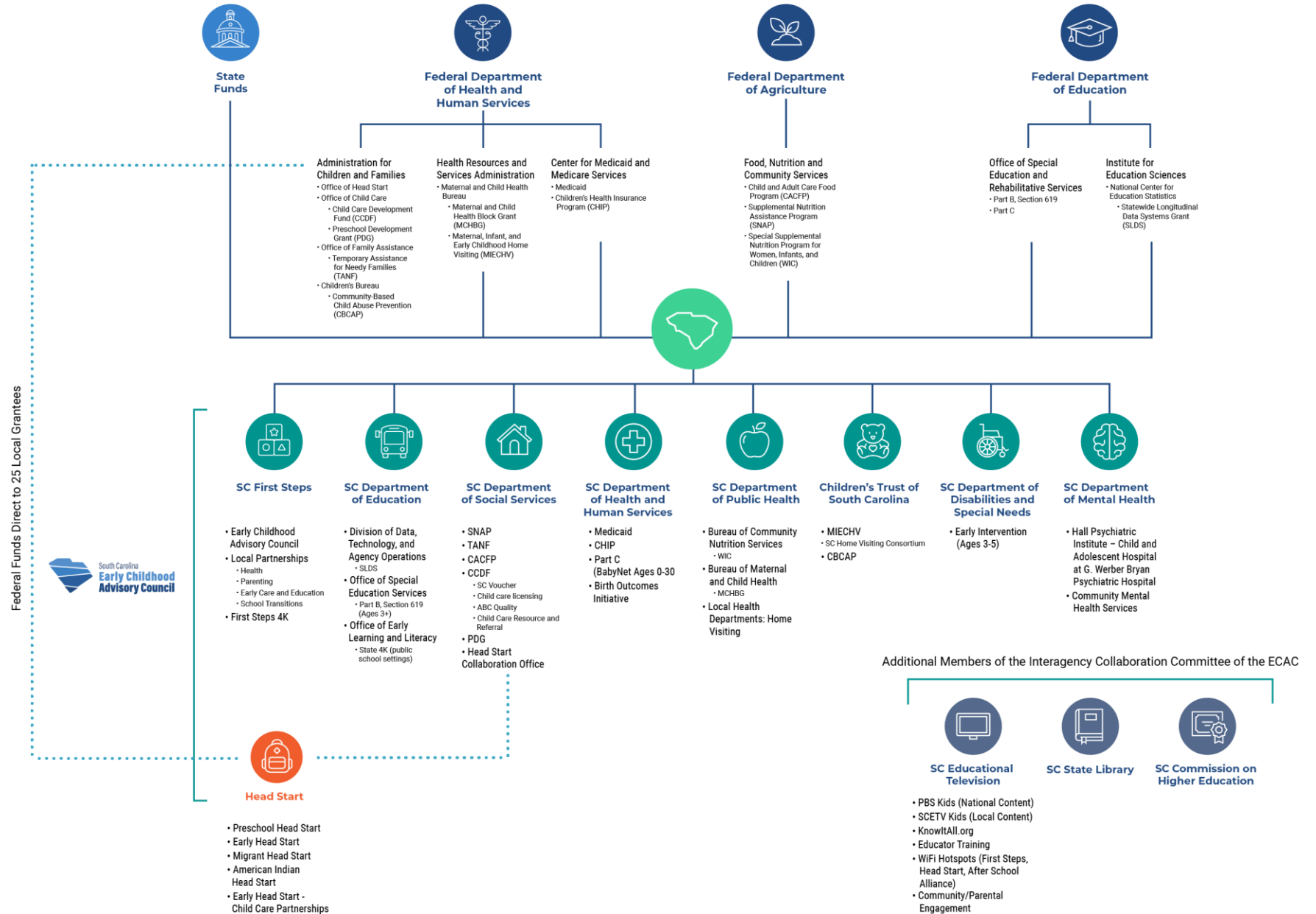


[palmettoprek.org](http://palmettoprek.org)

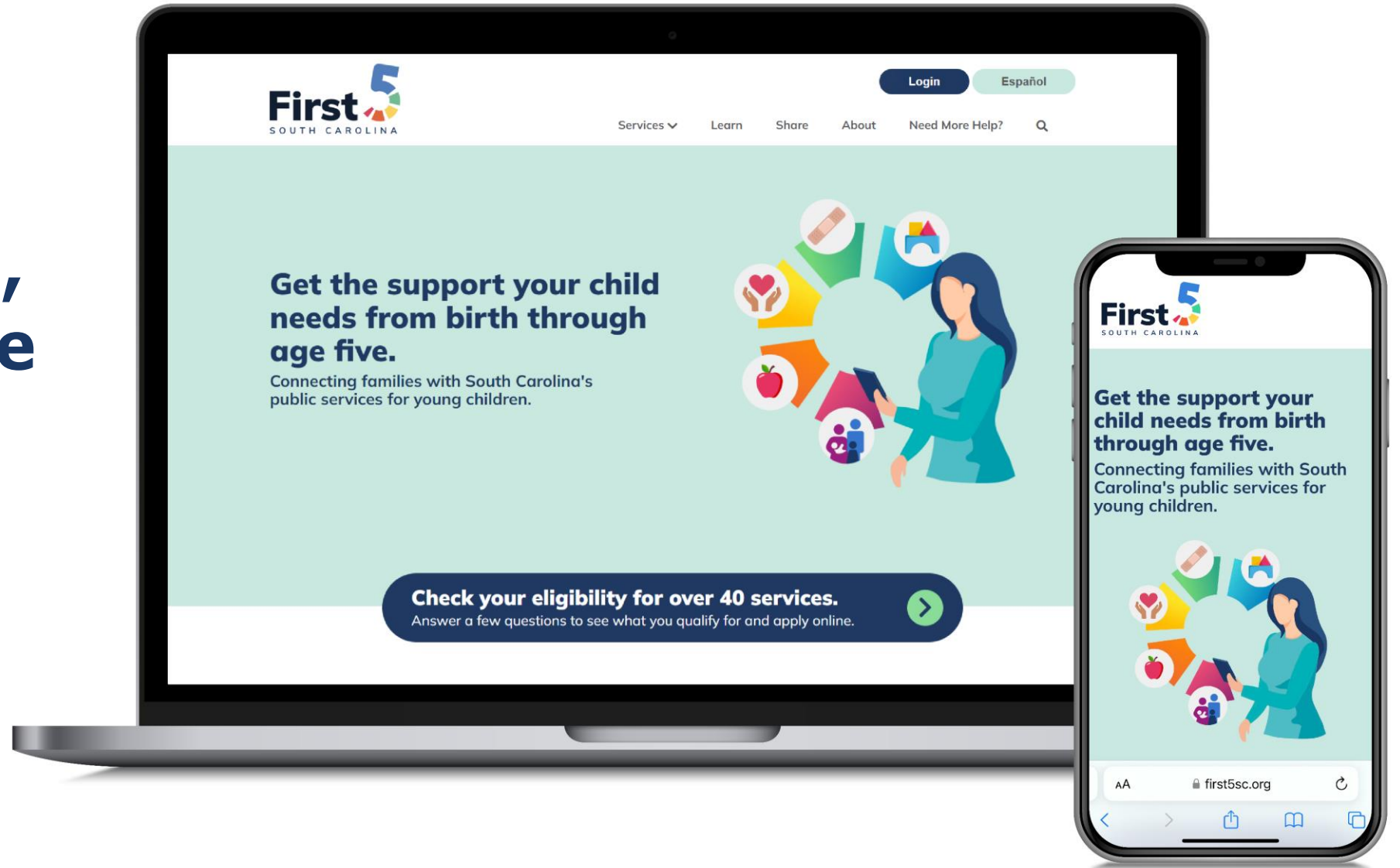
**Palmetto Pre-K is your one-stop shop for finding free educational preschool programs in South Carolina.**



# Flow of state and federal funds into South Carolina's early childhood system



An online portal that families want, need, and deserve



first5sc.org

# It's Working: For South Carolina

First Five SC by the numbers: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

**212,000**

households with children 0-5 in SC

**155,881**

unique visitors

**12,838**

checked their eligibility

**77%**

eligible for at least 1 program

**2383**

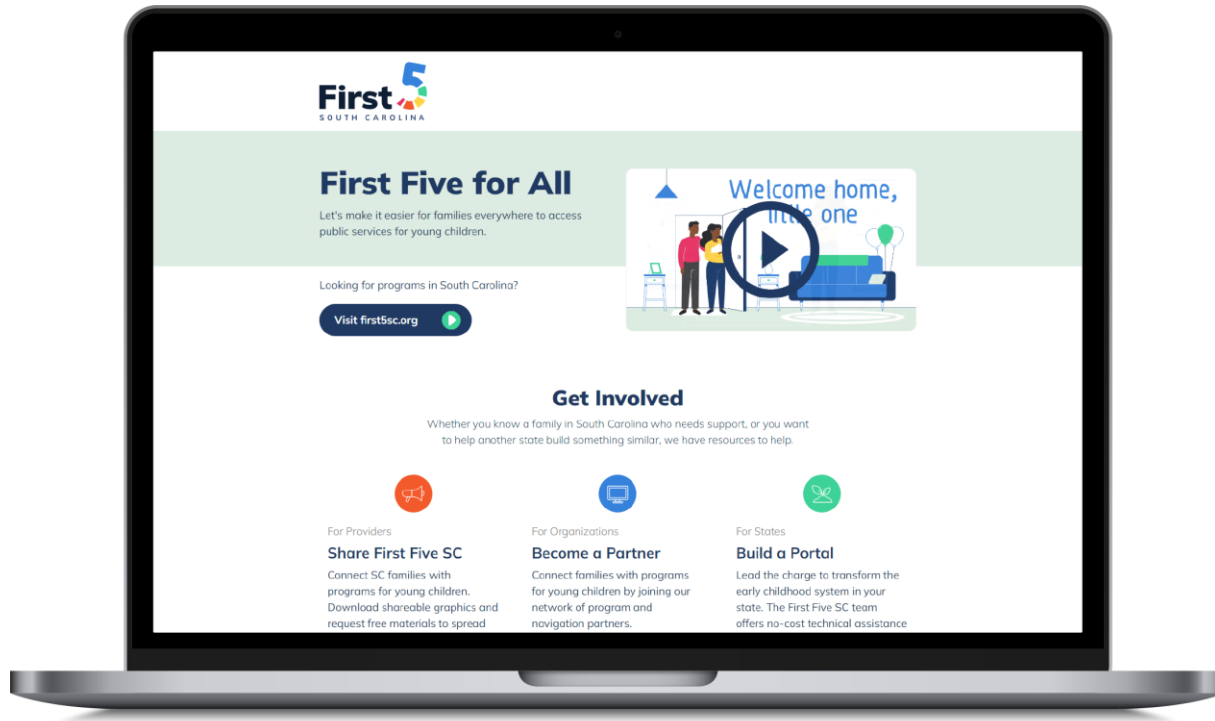
applications submitted



*Population Data: U.S. Census Bureau*

# First Five For All

Resources and technical assistance to help states build early childhood portals



[First5ForAll.org](https://www.First5ForAll.org)





# It's Working: For Families



When our two-year-old daughter was diagnosed with an extremely rare syndrome that impacted her hearing, we didn't know where to start. First Five SC connected us to the resources we needed and coached us through the application process. Having all that information in one centralized place was key to getting the right kind of help – fast.

**Katie H.**  
South Carolina parent



**Martha Strickland**  
4K State Director

**[mstrickland@scfirststeps.org](mailto:mstrickland@scfirststeps.org)**



South Carolina  
**Early Childhood  
Advisory Council**