



What is First Five SC?

First Five SC is a website that connects families with publicly funded programs and services for young children. At first5sc.org, families can check their eligibility for more than 40 services and apply for multiple programs at once.

This one-stop-shop not only streamlines the application process for families, but also simplifies the referral process for providers. With First Five SC, you can quickly connect families to South Carolina's full spectrum of early childhood services, including child care assistance, preschool programs, healthcare, special needs services, food and nutrition assistance, and parenting support.

Help Spread the Word

Use First Five SC to guide families in making informed decisions about the right programs for their children.

Request free materials to share with families in your community.

first5sc.org/share



Ideas for sharing:

- Display a poster in waiting areas and breakrooms.
- Hand out flyers at community events.
- Place brochures at the reception desk.
- Share with new staff during orientation.
- Follow us on Facebook and share posts with your network.



Connecting South Carolina families to programs and services for young children.

first5sc.org

With First Five SC, you can easily guide families to the supports they want and need.



Child Care & Early Education

Families can find free preschool programs, child care scholarships, and support for transitions into school.



Health & Safety

From maternal and infant health to early childhood development, families can connect with care that meets their needs. The site features information about Medicaid, safe car seats, hearing screenings, and more.



Special Needs & Early Intervention

Every child develops differently. First Five SC helps parents determine when they need extra help and access the right supports and resources.



Food & Nutrition

Families can log on to First Five SC to get help accessing WIC, SNAP, and other food resources as well as information about nutrition and preparing healthy meals.



Parenting & Family Support

First Five SC offers families resources and coaching support for things like caring for a new baby, parenting a toddler, and covering child-related costs through TANF and other supports.

Ensuring All Children Reach Their Potential

Designed with input from parents and caregivers, First Five SC streamlines the delivery of publicly funded programs, making them more effective and efficient in meeting the needs of young children and their families.

Together, we can ensure all of South Carolina's children reach their full potential while putting families on a pathway to better health, prosperity, and overall well-being.

FAQs

How comprehensive is the resource?

First Five SC includes information about more than 60 federally and state-funded programs across 10 state agencies, with the possibility of expanding to include additional publicly funded programs.

How do families determine eligibility?

Families can use a simple, secure screening tool to check their eligibility for 40+ programs in minutes.

How do families apply?

First Five SC now features a common application, where families can apply for multiple programs at once, using information they entered during the screening process.

Is there a cost to use First Five SC?

No. As a public resource, First Five SC is completely free to use for both families and service providers.

How do families access First Five SC?

Families can access First Five SC anytime, anywhere from a smartphone or computer. The website is available in both English and Spanish.

What about privacy and security?

First Five SC adheres to strict data security measures. The collected data is used solely for the purpose of determining eligibility and streamlining the application process.

Who manages First Five SC?

First Five SC is an initiative of the SC Early Childhood Advisory Council and managed by South Carolina First Steps, which coordinates with participating agencies to provide the most current information on available programs and services.