

University of South Carolina

U310A180058

State Served: SC

Title: Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC)

Goals: Enhance student achievement, foster school improvement, and build capacity of all stakeholders to engage in effective partnerships through parent engagement by developing and delivering (a) high-quality parent education/family engagement initiatives and (b) training/ technical assistance to South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE/SEA), districts/schools identified by SCDE, and (c) collaborating with partner organizations to integrate, enhance, and increase the reach of existing family engagement programs/services across South Carolina (SC).

Expected outcomes (increased capacities for *families, schools and SCDE*); population served: *Families*: to engage (1) in effective school-family-community partnerships and in children's learning using evidence-based practices linked to improved achievement and development and (2) as informed participants in decisions regarding their children's education and in development of school, LEA, and SCDE policies, plans, and programs. *Schools*: to (1) create school climates that support school-family partnerships, (2) plan and implement comprehensive whole community-responsive family engagement programs that build parent capacity to engage with schools and in their children's learning, and (3) form school-community partnerships that support schools and families and that strengthen the whole community. *Districts and SCDE*: to (1) develop/implement systemic family engagement policies and programs and (2) develop/ deliver effective capacity-building family engagement training and technical assistance to schools and families.

Additional statewide outcomes: (1) networks connecting existing statewide family engagement service providers, districts, and schools, (2) increased reach of existing family engagement training/technical assistance resources, and (3) increased integration of programs/services to support specific categories of families among all family engagement training/technical assistance provided statewide.

CFEC will serve (1) all SC families (emphasis on low income defined in Title I of ESEA); (2) all SC districts/schools (emphasis on Title I and those that serve high concentrations of disadvantaged students or students not yet meeting grade-level standards); (3) SCDE; and (4) other family engagement organizations.

Brief project description: CFEC will develop a state-wide collaborative network of family engagement organizations to increase communication and coordination, increase dissemination of information and resources to families and educators, and strengthen the infrastructure and capacity of SC to serve all families through evidence-based family engagement practices.

Key partner organizations: University of South Carolina's SC School Improvement Council, housed in the Center for Educational Partnerships in the College of Education (LEAD agency)

Other partner organizations: SCDE (SEA); *Francis Marion University Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty*; *Family Connection of SC* [the only Parent Training and Information Center (PIRC) funded in SC under section 671 of IDEA]; *Children's Trust of SC*; *SC First Steps to School Readiness*; *SC Center for Fathers and Families*; *Consortium for Latino Immigration Studies* and *PASOs* at the University of SC's Arnold School of Public Health