

**University of South Carolina (SC) \$1,000,000** proposes to address the following objectives: increase stakeholder capacity to engage in effective partnerships that support parents as active participants in their children's learning & development and increase overall student achievement and student & family social and emotional outcomes, while fostering school improvement and achieving educational equity for all South Carolina students by narrowing persisting opportunity gaps for underserved populations. Proposed activities include: (1) Collaborate with state and local education agencies and organizations to achieve integration of shared policy & capacity-building goals statewide; (2) expand Carolina Family Engagement Center (CFEC)'s Parent Leadership Partners program; (3) enhance CFEC's multi-year, intensive School & District Partners & Teacher Partner programs; (4) continue professional development, special events, etc. supporting family engagement in education; (5) grow CFEC's statewide family engagement network; and (6) continue information dissemination and contribution to research, policy, and practice in the field of family engagement. Proposed outcomes include: (1) increased capacities for families to engage in effective school-family-community partnerships as partners, shared decision makers, and leaders; (2) increased school capacities to create welcoming schools, connect family engagement to learning and development, engage parents as co-creators, and honor families' knowledge; plan, implement, and evaluate effective, integrated family engagement programs school-wide; and grow local and regional partnerships providing schools, students, and families needed resources; and (3) increased capacities for state and local education agencies to implement policies and programs called for in SC Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act (2000) and the SC Family Engagement K-12 Framework (2019) and develop/deliver effective family engagement dual capacity-building opportunities.