



## Museums for America

Sample Application MA-20-18-0296-18  
Project Category: Community Anchors

### EdVenture

Amount awarded by IMLS:	\$247,493
Amount of cost share:	\$286,921

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Abstract
- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion

Please note that the instructions for preparing applications for the FY2019 Museums for America grant program differ from those that guided the preparation of FY2018 applications. Be sure to use the instructions in the FY2019 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program and project category to which you are applying.

## Abstract

EdVenture, Inc. seeks an IMLS Museums for America grant in the category of Community Anchors to support a three-part program for improving early learning and increasing family engagement around early literacy and health education in Colleton County, South Carolina: the Readiness Alignment Project (RAP). In close partnership with Colleton County First Steps and Colleton County School District, EdVenture will lead RAP's three parts: professional learning for early childhood educators, parent education series, and standards-based educational activities for children in their classroom and at EdVenture Children's Museum.

Colleton County, part of the South Carolina Lowcountry Promise Zone, is among the most under-resourced counties and school districts in the United States. Over 35% of Colleton's children live in poverty—nearly 15% more than the national average—which has compromised children's health and academic achievement overtime. Nearly 58% of children in Colleton County scored below state standards in Mathematics on the 2015 ACT Aspire test, with approximately 80% of children in Colleton County scoring below state standards in Reading.<sup>1</sup> Many gaps in public services exist, particularly in helping Colleton County communities strengthen parenting and early education practices, and improve access to high-quality family health services.

EdVenture has developed a deep relationship with Colleton County First Steps and Colleton County School District's early childhood center, Black Street Early Childhood Center. Colleton County's early education leaders have engaged in the Promise Zone reform efforts led by EdVenture, and are committed to strengthening their early childhood offerings, valuing early education's role as the gatekeeper to a child's academic achievement, health and wellbeing, and ultimately, economic success.

To further define Colleton's needs, EdVenture utilized the needs assessment completed by the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance upon the South Carolina Lowcountry Promise Zone designation. When EdVenture began to lead the Promise Zone's education workgroup, it, too, convened meetings with key community stakeholders including Colleton County First Steps and Black Street Early Childhood Center leaders who expressed need for increased professional learning for early childhood educators, high-quality preschool programs encouraging kindergarten readiness, and health and nutrition education for caregivers. The three distinct parts of the Readiness Alignment Project will directly resolve these gaps by providing professional learning for 4K teachers (24 total educators) through an 8-week, spring semester series of 45-minute classroom enrichment programs and two early learning conferences each year at EdVenture Children's Museum; quarterly Family Engagement Nights that include family dinner, standards-based educational programs for children, and programs for caregivers that cover health, nutrition, and student educational milestones; and inquiry- and standards-based instruction led by EdVenture early childhood educators in each participating classroom (12 total classrooms) and at EdVenture during a spring field study experience.

Formal, annual evaluation of RAP will measure each cohort of children's kindergarten readiness as well as a likely increase in their caregivers' knowledge of available education and health resources, and an improved relationship with Colleton County Schools. RAP also seeks to resolve issues around teacher burn-out, and to improve the quality of early childhood instruction through enhanced professional learning—which will in turn increase children's readiness for kindergarten and broaden their perspective of the world around them, beyond poverty and beyond Colleton County.

RAP offers new, direct resources to a community whose early childhood and health-focused organizations are often under-staffed and poorly funded. The introduction of a cooperation of services for the county's earliest learners will bring new opportunities to Colleton, allow for a better-organized and multifaceted approach to meet children and families' needs, and provide the basis for research and evaluation that may lead to additional or improved services for rural families. RAP will build the capacity of local leaders and service providers while bringing new ideas and expertise to early childhood education in Colleton County.

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<sup>1</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS Count 2015

## Project Justification

### *Program Proposal and Background*

Colleton County and its neighboring counties are among the most impoverished, under-resourced, and high-need locales and school districts in the United States. Despite efforts by charitable organizations, local public schools and governments, many gaps remain—particularly in helping communities and families develop the capacity to strengthen parenting and early education practices, and to improve access to high-quality family health services. Many of these families never travel from their home communities.

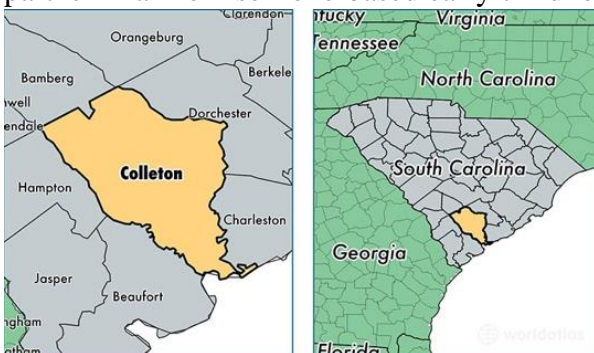
EdVenture, Inc. seeks an Institute of Museums and Library Services Museums for America grant in the category of Community Anchors to support a three-pronged program for improving early learning and increasing family engagement in early literacy and health education in Colleton County, South Carolina: The Readiness Alignment Project (RAP). In close partnership with Colleton County First Steps and Colleton County School District, EdVenture will lead RAP's three parts: professional learning for early childhood educators, parent education series, and standards-based educational activities for children in their classrooms and at EdVenture Children's Museum. Through RAP, EdVenture aligns community partners and introduces South Carolina's academic standards and learning and health resources to educators, parents, and children in the under-resourced Promise Zone county of Colleton, South Carolina.

#### **Three Level Approach to Improve Early Learning**

1. Professional Learning for Early Childhood Educators
2. Parent/Caregiver Education
3. School and off-site Education for Children

In 2015, the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance (the Alliance) was awarded a federal Promise Zone designation for a six-county region in the South Carolina Lowcountry west of Interstate 95 (Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties). After completing a thorough needs assessment of the Promise Zone, the Alliance contacted EdVenture to gauge the organization's interest in leading the Promise Zone's education improvement strategy. EdVenture embraced the opportunity and has worked over the past year to catalyze an education workgroup in the counties—a responsibility and area of focus that has become embedded into EdVenture's strategic plan for outreach. EdVenture has a long history of collaborating with each of the 10 Promise Zone school districts through its wide range of education outreach initiatives. From professional learning for teachers, to curriculum-enhancing field study experiences, for over 10 years EdVenture has maintained strong relationships with schools and education and health-focused community organizations in the six counties of the Lowcountry Promise Zone.

EdVenture has developed a uniquely deep relationship with Colleton County First Steps and Colleton County School District's early childhood center, Black Street Early Childhood Center. First Steps is South Carolina's comprehensive early childhood education initiative. Colleton County's early education leaders have actively engaged in the Promise Zone education reform efforts led by EdVenture. Furthermore, Colleton County is overtly committed to strengthening their early childhood programs and value early education's role as the gatekeeper to a child's academic achievement, health and wellbeing, and ultimately, economic success—as evidenced by their school district-supported early childhood center. Colleton County is a very able and willing partner in a Promise Zone-based early childhood program pilot such as RAP.



#### ***South Carolina and Colleton County's Needs Up Close***

South Carolina has both great needs and significant opportunities. While some areas of the state are seeing unprecedented economic growth and prosperity, rural sections of the state have few major private employers and relatively low property values, meaning property tax revenues provide inadequate funding for rural public schools and family education programs. More than 20 years ago, dozens of school districts sued the state of South Carolina to seek a greater share

of school funding to help provide more equitable resources. The state Supreme Court ruled in 2014 in that case that more resources must be provided for the rural districts, calling the districts “educational ghettos.” Unfortunately, in 2017, the case was overturned continuing and expounding these inequities. The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s 2016 KIDS COUNT report ranked South Carolina 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation for children’s well-being. While the state’s position has improved slightly over time, ranking in the bottom 20 percent of all states is not a distinction EdVenture or its partners want for children and families. Moreover, South Carolina ranks 42nd on the Measure of America Opportunity Index—a measure of economic, educational, and civic opportunity especially relevant to place-based and two-generation (or more) work.<sup>1</sup>

The Children’s Trust of South Carolina recently published results of its state Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, confirming rural counties like Colleton’s desperate situation. The study showed that experiencing certain kinds of adversity in the first years of life (abuse, neglect, dysfunctional family circumstances) are remarkably common in South Carolina, that adverse experiences tend to come in clusters—compounding their negative impact—and that adversity in early childhood specifically can lead to significant health, mental health, and behavioral challenges over a lifetime. Chronic, toxic levels of adversity and stress (including living in multi-generational poverty) change the way brains and bodies work at the biochemical, synaptic, and genomic levels. These experiences often co-occur with poverty and economic challenge, placing an added developmental burden on young children and their adult caregivers. As expected for a poor region of the rural South, the means to support the healthy development of young children in counties like Colleton are scarce.

### Colleton and South Carolina Demographics

	Colleton County	South Carolina
Population ( <i>US Census Estimates 2016</i> )	37,923	4,961,119
Median Household (With Children) Income	\$31,674	\$52,241
Unemployment Rate	7%	5%
Population in Poverty	22.3%	15%
Children Living In Poverty	36.7%	24.4%
Cumulative % of Children Failing Grades 1, 2, or 3	4.5%	4.7%
Children Under 18 With No Parent in the Workforce	8.4%	9.2%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Testing Below State Standards in Reading	79.3%	66.7%
8 <sup>th</sup> Graders Testing Below State Standards in Math	86.3%	67.9%
Families Where Household Lacks a High School Diploma	15.9%	11.8%

*Annie Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT 2016 and 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates*

With economic and health disparity comes a gap in academic achievement among Colleton County’s children. Nearly 58% of children in Colleton County scored below state standards in Mathematics on the 2015 ACT Aspire test, with approximately 80% of children in Colleton County scoring below state standards in Reading.<sup>2</sup> A recent study by the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, “Double Jeopardy: How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation,” discovered that “students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave high school without a diploma than proficient readers.”<sup>3</sup> Moreover, the Campaign and its research suggest that “Poverty compounds the problem: Students who have lived in poverty are three times more likely to drop out or fail to graduate on time than their more affluent peers.”<sup>4</sup> In a county like Colleton, where so many children and their caregivers face abject living situations, high-quality early education and sharing of both health and education resources are thus imperative to a child’s future.

### Colleton County and Lowcountry Promise Zone Needs Assessment

<sup>1</sup> Early Childhood Annual Data Report 2014: Different Families, Disparate Outcomes., report, Institute for Child Success (2015).

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Campaign for GLR <http://gradelevelreading.net/uncategorized/study-links-3rd-grade-reading-poverty-and-hs-graduation>

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

To identify the significant areas of need in Colleton County, EdVenture utilized the needs assessment completed by the Southern Carolina Regional Development Alliance upon the South Carolina Lowcountry Promise Zone designation. Listening sessions were held in July 2015 with many different groups of individuals representing several areas of the Promise Zone, including Colleton County. The Alliance also held strategic planning sessions with concerned citizens and county leaders. These activities led the Alliance to include a section in its strategic action framework on the need to “redesign K-12 educational programs.”

When EdVenture began to lead the Promise Zone’s education workgroup, it also convened meetings with key community stakeholders including school and district leaders, South Carolina Department of Education officials, the Institute for Child Success, county First Steps coordinators (including Colleton County), and Nurse Family Partnership, among others. In preparation for this proposal, EdVenture met with Colleton County First Steps and the Black Street Early Childhood Center to gather additional support and more detailed information on their successful programs and unaddressed needs.

Based on the feedback garnered during the activities described above, EdVenture identified several critical, collective gaps and needs in Colleton County to be addressed by this proposal:

- Lack of collaboration between early learning/childcare centers, schools, and community resources.
  - *RAP Resolution: Increase interaction and collaboration between First Steps and Black Street Early Childhood Center in the development and execution of RAP.*
- Poor early childhood professional development opportunities (with emphasis on early childhood education and the unique role of rural educators); limited access to high-quality preschool, preventing kindergarten readiness.
  - *RAP Resolution: Comprehensive early childhood educator professional development for participating educators, both place-based and seasonal conferences; eight-week curriculum enrichment sessions and field study experiences to EdVenture Children’s Museum for 4K students, leading toward improved kindergarten readiness.*
- Insufficient health and nutrition education for parents/caregivers; addressing cultural barriers between communities and schools (making families feel more welcome and safe); one-stop opportunities for early detection health screenings and available child and family community resources/services.
  - *RAP Resolution: Quarterly Family Engagement Nights on the topics of literacy and learning at schools, health and nutrition (food choices, obesity, physical activity, and other chronic diseases impacting the community), and resources for children with special needs and disabilities.*
- Absence of basic knowledge and implementation of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) concepts utilized in 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning skills.
  - *RAP Resolution: Early childhood educator professional development, both place-based and seasonal conferences; eight-week curriculum enrichment sessions for 4K students; field study program at EdVenture Children’s Museum also with a STEAM focus.*
- Shortage of field study opportunities for students to experience learning outside of Colleton County.
  - *RAP Resolution: Field study program at EdVenture Children’s Museum focused on STEAM; 200 children and their caregivers to attend EdVenture’s “Countdown to Kindergarten” event.*

### ***EdVenture Serving as a Community Anchor***

When asked to serve as the leaders of the South Carolina Promise Zone’s education workgroup, EdVenture gained unanimous support from its Board of Trustees to emphasize work in the Promise Zone through EdVenture’s outreach initiatives. Although it may seem unusual that a nonprofit founded as a children’s museum is leading such an initiative, it is not unusual for EdVenture. The Institute for Museums and Library Services cited EdVenture as a community anchor in its *2015 Museums, Libraries and Comprehensive Initiative: A First Look at Emerging Experience* report for the organization’s work in transforming communities. EdVenture’s mission to serve children and families, and to improve access to and attitudes about education, is evident both at the museum and beyond its walls.

Committed to supporting early learners, their caregivers, and early childhood educators, EdVenture previously and successfully implemented RAP on a smaller scale in 2011. With support from the United Way, EdVenture executed the RAP learning and community engagement model in northeast South Carolina. From that project, EdVenture found that the three-pronged approach to early learning is effective: caregivers become more knowledgeable about health and education resources and more engaged in their child's learning; early childhood educators' ability to implement standards-based curriculum is improved; and children are more ready to enter kindergarten.

## **Project Work Plan**

### ***Sequence of Activities***

There are three distinct parts of the Readiness Alignment Project: 1) Professional Learning—both place-based and at EdVenture Children's Museum; 2) Family Engagement Nights at Black Street Early Childhood Center and a mutual location for the First Steps 4K programs, the Colleton County Learning Center Annex; 3) Standards-based education programs for participating 4K classes—both place-based and at EdVenture Children's Museum. *See Supporting Document One for detailed descriptions of program objectives, activities, population served, type of intervention and the length/intensity of the intervention.*

**Professional Learning:** For Colleton County's 4K teachers participating in RAP (24 total educators), an 8-week spring series of 45-minute classroom enrichment programs taught by an EdVenture early childhood educator will serve as a place-based professional learning opportunity. Through observation of high-quality instruction and hands-on learning experiences, and subsequent evaluation of their own instruction methods, the classroom educators can improve their practice. Participating teachers will also attend two early learning conferences each year at EdVenture Children's Museum (one in late fall, one in the spring) where they can uniquely experience the influence of play and informal learning. More specifically, these professional learning conferences will introduce educators to the South Carolina Early Learning Standards and provide instruction on how to incorporate these standards into curriculum. One conference will focus on social-emotional and language development, the other on academic/curriculum-based content; content will expand each year in consideration of teachers who have stayed in their 4K post with either Colleton County First Steps or Black Street Early Childhood Center. Teachers will leave each fall conference with curriculum planning kits. These conferences offer credits that the Department of Social Services requires certified and licensed teachers to obtain each year. *See Supporting Document One for EdVenture's Educator Evaluation Tool.*

**Family Engagement Nights:** Each Family Engagement Night includes family dinner, standards-based educational programs for children, and programs for caregivers that cover health, nutrition, and student educational milestones. Family Engagement Night focus areas include literacy, health/nutrition and programming for families with children with special needs and disabilities. Local community resource groups will attend the Family Nights to provide parents access to area services. Family Nights will take place in late November of the child's Pre-K year, and again in February, April, and June before the school year is over. In August 2019, 2020, and 2021, families (200 rising Kindergarten students and 200 parents) will travel to Columbia to attend *Countdown to Kindergarten*, an annual event held at EdVenture Children's Museum. Since 2006, *Countdown to Kindergarten* has welcomed an average of 1,200 rising kindergarteners and their caregivers to the museum where they learn about education and health resources, connect with school district teachers and leadership, experience a real kindergarten classroom, and access other school-readiness supports including hearing and vision tests and haircuts.

**Standards-based Education Programs:** EdVenture early childhood educators will provide 45-minute enrichment programs that are aligned with South Carolina's early childhood programming in Colleton County First Steps and Black Street Early Childhood Center 4K classrooms to Programming will be delivered weekly for eight weeks during the spring school semester. Programs focus on preparing children for Kindergarten: children study the alphabet, shapes, colors, numbers, and more while seamlessly being introduced to science concepts through engaging experiments and activities. Each participating classroom (12 total classrooms) will

also visit EdVenture for a field study experience which includes a 45 minute, standards-based and hands-on STEAM activity, lunch, and free exploration in the museum.

In August 2019, 2020 and 2021, EdVenture’s external evaluator, Dr. Charlotte Galloway, will evaluate change in attitudes and growth of knowledge among participating parents, educators, and children — specifically, children’s academic and emotional readiness for kindergarten. For participating educators, EdVenture will use its own evaluative scorecard to measure educators’ improved grasp of hands-on and standards-based curriculum in the early childhood setting. *See Supporting Document Two for the RAP Logic Model outlining outcomes.*

EdVenture values the connection between health and classroom success, and is particularly committed to supporting Colleton County First Steps and Black Street Early Childhood Center’s current health initiatives—which will be addressed through both the standards-based programs and RAP’s Family Engagement Nights. EdVenture has implemented a sophisticated series of health and nutrition-focused programs for both early learners and adults, from cooking classes at the museum and in the community, to biology lab field studies and a physical fitness curriculum in its 12 after-school sites. To support its public health efforts, EdVenture regularly partners with Molina Healthcare of South Carolina and their Nurse Family Partnership program—a healthcare organization and program that is already at work in Colleton County, and is intimately connected to Colleton County First Steps’ home visitation and Parents as Teachers programs. Additionally, Black Street Early Childhood Center was recently chosen as a pilot school for a grant program through South Carolina’s Department of Health and Environmental Control, Clemson University’s Cooperative Extension, and *Eat Smart, Move More SC*. Highlighting health education and resources, and underscoring the relationship between nutrition, physical activity, and a child’s emotional, physical, and intellectual development through RAP also aligns well with IMLS’ commitment to the national *Let’s Move!* initiative.

### ***Project Delivery and Risk Management***

An advisory group will be assembled to oversee project implementation and assist with connecting RAP to community organizations. The group will meet bi-monthly in the first year, and quarterly in years two and three. The advisory group includes:

- **Bryan Boroughs, Palmetto Projects Director** — Institute for Child Success
- **Cindy Dickerson, Executive Director** — Colleton County First Steps
- **Barbara Kulisiak, Principal** — Black Street Early Childhood Center
- **Jennifer Marze, Provider Services Director** - Molina Healthcare of South Carolina
- **Dr. Jon Pedersen, Dean** - School of Education, University of South Carolina

EdVenture will provide direct service and project management through the leadership of three of the museum’s educators and two Early Childhood Education Fellows. EdVenture’s RAP Team will include:

- **Project Director: Nikki Williams, Executive Vice President**, will provide project oversight ensuring that all programs and activities are implemented as outlined in the grant application, funds are spent as directed under the application budget and federal guidelines; payment requests and grant progress reports are submitted in a timely manner; and project information is disseminated.
- **Project Manager - Marc Drews, Director of Education Programs and Partnerships**, will serve as the primary staff member responsible for oversight of the project’s activities including supervision of the Early Childhood Educator and the Education Fellows. He will convene the Advisory Committee and coordinate program evaluation, specifically the instructional evaluation organized by EdVenture with support of the contract evaluator (Charlotte Galloway).
- **Early Childhood Educator - Dakota DeLuca, Early Childhood Education Coordinator**, will serve as the primary staff member responsible for all classroom program curriculum, program delivery and coordinating family engagement nights.
- **Two Early Childhood Education Fellows** — These paid fellows will be undergraduate education majors (junior year) from the University of South Carolina’s School of Education who will support the

work of EdVenture educators, be trained to lead standards-based programs, and family engagement night programs. Through this project, Fellows will learn informal teaching concepts, building their teaching experience as well as grassroots community awareness, and ultimately preparing to serve as the next generation of museum-based educators.

Also, key to successful implementation will be the use of evaluation findings at the end of each program year. The evaluations provided by Dr. Charlotte Galloway will allow EdVenture and the project's Advisory Group to assess how programs contribute to overall goals and intended outcomes.

### ***Strong School Relationships***

Working directly with rural schools can be challenging, as they are frequently under-staffed and under-resourced. Over the last 11 years, EdVenture has successfully partnered with rural schools in the Promise Zone counties, frequently providing standards-based programming and professional learning in the school districts through contracts with the South Carolina Department of Education. As a result, EdVenture has the reputation in the area and experience to manage any program risks through regular communication between RAP participants and the Advisory Group, as well as county leaders or supplemental partner organizations, to fully understand what works, identify any gaps, and make program adjustments. EdVenture's strong relationships with Colleton County First Steps and Colleton County School District are key assets.

Through its needs assessment work, EdVenture discovered that many caregivers—especially grandparents or other older persons who care for children in the Promise Zone—are sometimes intimidated by or unfamiliar with formal education settings and may feel they lack the education or experience to interact with teachers and community professionals. EdVenture will bridge this challenge by serving as a neutral community convener, helping share clear and plain-language information from the schools to families through its various community stakeholders, ideally improving the relationship between caregivers and both Colleton County First Steps and Colleton County Schools.

### ***Tracking Progress and Sharing Results***

EdVenture secured the professional evaluation services of Dr. Charlotte Galloway to provide an evaluation framework that includes formative and summative measures. Dr. Galloway has worked extensively with EdVenture on similar projects, with a specific focus on program development and implementation. Most recently, she evaluated EdVenture's 2013 IMLS-MFA funded project, *Aprendamos Jugando* (Learning through Playing), a project designed to improve accessibility and engagement with Hispanic/Latino families.

Evaluation will focus on the three distinct groups impacted by RAP: educators, parents/caregivers, and children in 4K in Colleton County. Across all groups, changes in knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and engagement will be measured using a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods. Importantly, the evaluation will suggest whether caregivers are better equipped to support their child developmentally as they enter primary school. The evaluation plan will examine the role of the Advisory Group and other community partners. Evaluation data will also guide the sustainability efforts of the proposed project, and perhaps most importantly, its feasibility in other Promise Zone counties. Ultimately, Dr. Galloway will determine if a kindergarten readiness program anchored by a children's museum that includes initiatives for educators and caregivers as well as children, is effective for a rural and under-resourced county.

The outcomes and recommendations of this project will be reviewed by the Advisory Group and shared with business leaders, legislators, school district leaders, partner agencies, and entities across the state and country desiring strategies to prepare under-resourced children for kindergarten. Williams will lead the dissemination efforts, including presenting a program session on Colleton's RAP program at the 2021 national conferences of the Association of Children's Museums and the American Alliance of Museums. A toolkit will be developed including a strategy plan, examples of successes and challenges, early learning programs, and the exhibit design documents. These materials can be used by other museums free of charge and will also be accessible through



EdVenture's website. EdVenture will also create a blog for RAP that will chronicle program progress. The blog will be accessible to all through EdVenture's website, and promoted to South Carolina community partners, policy-makers, and the wider social service and museum communities.

Furthermore, EdVenture will develop a case study, highlighting the information and lessons learned that can inform other rural Promise Neighborhoods, Promise Zones, and the greater rural education and health fields.

## **Project Results**

### ***IMLS Performance Goal Alignment***

RAP is designed to fulfill the IMLS Performance goals in the Community Anchors category. Reaching children, their caregivers, and their educators, the three-part program will meet the specific needs of Colleton County and their goal to improve their county's early education opportunities. EdVenture offers unique, direct resources to a community whose early childhood and health-focused organizations are often under-staffed and poorly funded. EdVenture also offers a new opportunity to engage in hands-on learning in a museum environment—an environment that many in Colleton County would not otherwise be able to visit.

This grant project would improve and accelerate EdVenture's relationships with community partners in Colleton, one of the more developed Promise Zone counties. In partnership with ICS, Colleton County School District and Colleton County First Steps, EdVenture will also seek support for future early childhood programs or studies in Colleton, model the program in other rural and Promise Zone counties, and appeal to other foundations or organizations that may have interest in supporting early learning programs in the Promise Zone.

### ***Changed knowledge and attitudes***

Because of the collaborative effort of the Advisory Group, which includes representatives of existing Colleton County community anchors, EdVenture believes RAP will build the capacity of local leaders and service providers while bringing new ideas, expertise, and passion to early childhood education in Colleton County. The introduction of a cooperation of services for the county's earliest learners will bring a host of new services to Colleton, allow for a better-organized and multifaceted approach to meet children and families' needs, and provide the basis for research and evaluation that may lead to additional or improved services for rural families. Through RAP, EdVenture aims to improve families' knowledge of available education and health resources, as well as strengthen their relationship with Colleton County Schools. RAP also aims to prevent teacher burn-out and to improve the quality of early childhood instruction through enhanced professional learning—which will in turn increase children's readiness for kindergarten and broaden their perspective of the world around them, beyond poverty and beyond Colleton County.

### ***Sustainability***

EdVenture and its partners recognize the need to build systems of sustainability into RAP. Too often families in the Promise Zone are provided services for a short period of time, only to be left disappointed at the end of a grant period. EdVenture pledges to work with program partners to develop strategic plans for related services. These plans can be used to solicit future, long-term funding or be easily adapted for other grant applications, easing the burden on rural and under-staffed school districts and community groups.

EdVenture heeds the calls of IMLS to demonstrate the effectiveness of museums in community impact models. RAP has the potential to be a model for any museum that wants to tackle a state- and nation-wide issue through partnerships that leverage the museum's unique resources, particularly as a convener. Museums demonstrate every day that learning is not limited to the classroom. EdVenture's RAP will show that museum impact is possible – and, indeed, necessary – beyond the museum walls, and in the community where children's achievements are impacted by their family, health and economic well-being. For families in Colleton County, South Carolina, RAP will change their perception of a museum from a building to visit occasionally to a positive force for community advancement.

Readiness Alignment Project: Colleton County												
Year One												
	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19
<b>Project Launch</b>												
Hire Early Education Fellows (2)												
Re-connect with Partner Agencies and Advisory Group												
<b>Project Implementation</b>												
Educator information sessions and community awareness												
Prep for Advisory Group Meetings												
Advisory group meetings												
<b>Programs</b>												
Early Childhood Conferences												
Family Engagement Nights												
8-Week Classroom Sessions												
Countdown to Kindergarten Event at EdVenture												
<b>Evaluation</b>												
Program Evaluation												
<b>Grant Reporting</b>												
Interim Reports												
Final Report												

<b>Readiness Alignment Project: Colleton County</b>												
<b>Year Two</b>												
	<b>Oct-19</b>	<b>Nov-19</b>	<b>Dec-19</b>	<b>Jan-20</b>	<b>Feb-20</b>	<b>Mar-20</b>	<b>Apr-20</b>	<b>May-20</b>	<b>Jun-20</b>	<b>Jul-20</b>	<b>Aug-20</b>	<b>Sep-20</b>
<b>Project Launch</b>												
Hire Early Education Fellows (2)												
Re-connect with Partner Agencies and Advisory Group												
<b>Project Implementation</b>												
Educator information sessions and community awareness												
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<b>Evaluation</b>												
Program Evaluation												
<b>Grant Reporting</b>												
Interim Reports												
Final Report												

<b>Readiness Alignment Project: Colleton County</b>												
<b>Year Three</b>												
	<b>Oct-20</b>	<b>Nov-20</b>	<b>Dec-20</b>	<b>Jan-21</b>	<b>Feb-21</b>	<b>Mar-21</b>	<b>Apr-21</b>	<b>May-21</b>	<b>Jun-21</b>	<b>Jul-21</b>	<b>Aug-21</b>	<b>Sep-21</b>
<b>Project Launch</b>												
Hire Early Education Fellows (2)												
Re-connect with Partner Agencies and Advisory Group												
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8-Week Classroom Sessions												
Countdown to Kindergarten Event at EdVenture												
Program Impact Dissemination and Conference Presentations												
<b>Evaluation</b>												
Program Evaluation												
<b>Grant Reporting</b>												
Interim Reports												
Final Report												