THE SANTEE-LYNCHES TENANT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (S.T.E.P.)

- The program is intended to help individuals (and their families) attain and maintain self-sufficiency by providing temporary assistance with housing.
- The assistance will allow participants to better dedicate themselves to educational and training activities to successfully enter the workforce or move to a higher-wage position.
- One (1) year duration.
- Student progress will be verified on a monthly basis with mandatory monthly appointments.
- The candidates’ household must have a low-to-moderate level income, measured as being 80% or less than the median household income for their county of residence, according to HUD regulations.
- Individuals must qualify according to the HUD income requirements, must be enrolled at an approved institution of higher education or in a work/training development program and meet at least one of following criteria; 24 years or older, or be a US military veteran, be married, or have a dependent child, or a participant in the Santee-Lynches Regional Reentry Program.
- Assistance must be applied to a new lease.
- The maximum assistance available will be capped at 30% of the candidate’s gross household income.
- The program will pay assistance directly to the landlord, and the renter will be responsible for the remaining balance due each month of the lease.

Approved Educational Providers for STEP Assistance:
- Central Carolina Technical College
- University of South Carolina (Sumter and Palmetto College)
- Morris College
- (Training funded by) Vocational Rehabilitation (Sumter, Clarendon, Lee and Kershaw)
- (Training funded by) WIOA/ SC Works
- Francis Marion University
- Midlands MedTech
- Professional Development and Training Services, LLC
- FORTIS- online
- Strayer University- online
- University of Phoenix- online
- St. Leo University
- Troy University

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Applicant information sheet
02/25/2020