



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Oconee County First Steps:



1,805 children

were directly served in Oconee County



8 parents & caregivers

received services and support to be their child's first and most important teacher



153 educators

participated in First Steps training and professional development, benefitting 500+ children

PROVEN RESULTS

A 2019 study found that children who received First Steps local partnership services were:



74% more likely

to score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment



34% less likely

to be chronically absent in kindergarten

THE NEED PERSISTS IN OCONEE COUNTY

First Steps works but we need to expand our reach to ensure that all children are ready.

4,409

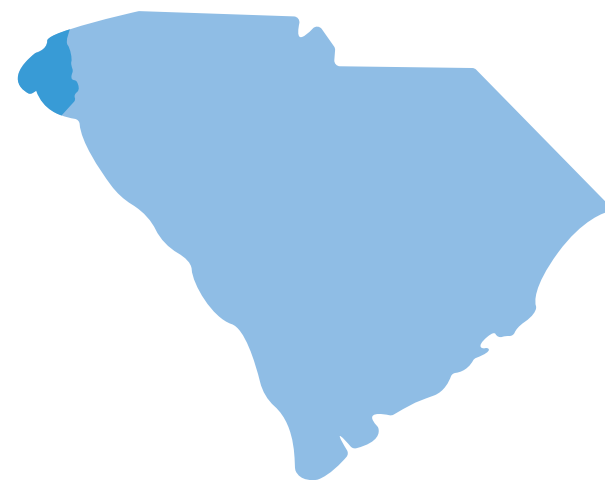
children under age 5

51.2%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

68%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Barbara L. Dyar

Board Chair



I am so happy that we were able to reinstate the Countdown to Kindergarten Program. Our Executive Director Daby Snipes worked tirelessly to get this program back in place and we are so grateful for her hard work. The connections she has made with other organizations and agencies have allowed us to make the most of our resources and participate in more opportunities to support families and prepare children for school. I am also excited that SC First Steps is now a permanent State agency. The first five years of life are so important in setting children up for success. It is an honor to be part of an organization that strives to give families support to do the very best for our children at the most important time of their development. I encourage everyone to become a partner of Oconee County First Steps!

Our Local Supporters

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library \$311,058.49

DSS Child Care Scholarship Vouchers \$45,451

Prisma Health- Upstate Nurse-Family Partnership \$11,362.01

Cliffs at Keowee Falls \$5,000.00

City Of Westminster \$4,474.00

Community Friends \$3,285.00

Westminster Prayer Group

Lazy Daisy Garden Clubb

Salem Seventh Day Adventist Church

Paul Hayne Circle

Board of Directors

Barbara Dyar

Vanessa Earle

Ashley Robertson

Darcy Arnall

Tony Vincent

Nivia Miranda

Sharon Jenkins

Alice Lee

Bre Yoder

Reg Tatum

Katie Conlin

Lorilei Swanson

Lacey Moore

CONTACT US

135 E Main St, Westminster, SC 29693 | 864-985-379 | oconeefirststeps.org



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Oconee County First Steps works collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.



Daby Snipes
Executive Director

"Another Trip Around The Sun" for Oconee County First Steps. We had a great year only because of our partnering agencies, volunteers, families and our Board of Trustees that dedicate their time, energy, and passion to prepare children for school. A new year brings a new partnership " The Mobile Children's Museum of the Upstate". Our families will experience wonder and discovery through their programing in our county. We are ready for new adventures! Are You?

Serving Oconee County's children birth through age five.



"I can't thank ya'll enough for how you have helped me and my twins. As a single mom, life is tough. My son had problems when he started, but his teacher has helped him so much."

Oconee County First Steps parent

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
Free, high-quality books mailed to the home of children from birth until age five.

1,481 children served
1,481 families served
19,596 books distributed

Nurse-Family Partnership
Home visitation for first time mothers, from pregnancy until the child turns two.

18 children served
32 families served

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development
Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

2,845 children served
50 providers served
4.5 certified training hours

HEALTH

WIC
Serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5

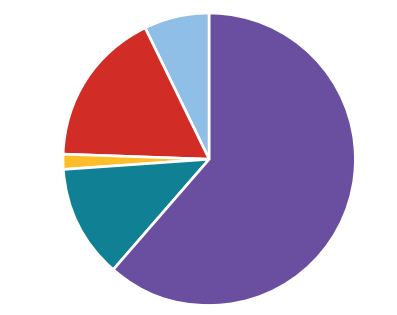
100 families served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$1 = \$3.02
Oconee County First Steps leveraged \$404,144.43 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$2.02 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

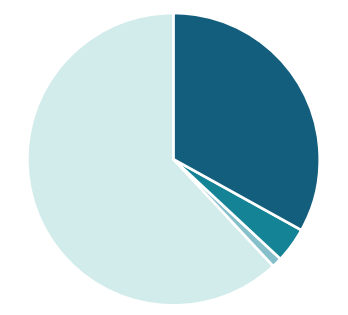
Total: \$597,512.05



- Parenting - \$368,250.24
- Early Care & Education - \$74,308.69
- School Transition - \$10,441.46
- Health - \$101,919.29
- Administrative - \$42,592.37

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$604,144.43



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$23,750
- Private Funding - \$7,783.43
- In-kind Contributions - \$372,611

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding*
Federal ESSER Funding**
State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0080-01-00 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Division of Early Care and Education
**American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Education