



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Lexington County First Steps:



701 children

were directly served in Lexington County



472 parents & caregivers

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



54 educators

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



Tengela Green

Board Chair

Countless research supports the urgency with which preschool aged children must be surrounded by rich experiences, not only in literacy and numeracy, but also have ample opportunities for motor development and social emotional development in order to be ready for school.

Through programs such as Parent As Teachers, LCFS provides highly qualified personnel to work with children and families prior to entering school. They also provide valuable resources to promote school readiness as well as connections to local organizations that help support a child's development.

Providing group connections across Lexington County is partnership with all 5 school districts builds community and strengthens protective factors for our children and their parents.

Countdown to Kindergarten allows for educators to develop relationships with families of the youngest learners in our community. This program assists with the successful transition.

It is a true privilege to serve as Chair of the Board.

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 LEXINGTON COUNTY

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

20,027

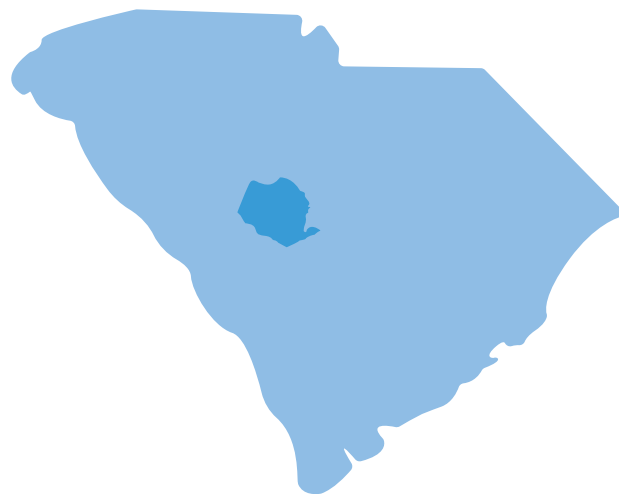
children under age 5

41.6%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

60%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Our Local Supporters

Lexington School District 1 \$127,590.00
Lexington School District 2 \$151,850.00
Lexington School District 3 \$88,043.00
Lexington School District 5 \$86,750.00
Lexington School District 4 \$67,149.01

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CONTACT US

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<http://lexingtonfirststeps.org>



2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Support families in Lexington County so that all children enter school ready to learn.



James "Jim" Riddle

Executive Director

Lexington County First Steps is excited to have completed another successful year with all traditional programs as well as new additions in recent years. Our most recent additional new programs of Connected Families (PAT curriculum) serving DSS referrals, and PASOS assisting new immigrant families navigate available public services, have both surpassed projections of families served. In addition, the long-standing Countdown to Kindergarten services for rising 5K since 2004 with 50 students, has added CTK for 4K students and has grown to 500 students served for 5K and 4K combined. New federal ESSER funding has allowed additional PAT staff and/or increased hours in the five school districts for the first time ever with new funding of \$529,000 over 3 years.

With much work to be done we plan to grow into a Quality Counts program partnering with neighboring Newberry County to serve Childcare Providers with improved services in the new year.

Serving Lexington County's children birth through age five.

"In-home Parenting Services has opened a new world to me and my family. I did not know that there was a free service available for single moms like me. My home visitor is kind to me and makes me feel like I can be a good mom."

Lexington County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

Offers research-based curricula that help families raise children to be healthy, safe, learning, and ready for school.

181 children served 129 group meetings and events 2,686 home visits

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Free, high-quality books mailed to the home of children from birth until age five.

104 children served 104 families served 1,262 books distributed

Connected Families

Prevents the unnecessary removal of young children from their homes by providing parents and caregivers with voluntary, coordinated services.

57 children served 8 group meetings and events 439 home visits

HEALTH

Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

78 children served 64 families served

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

1,560 children served 21 providers served 20 certified training hours

SCHOOL TRANSITION

Countdown to Kindergarten

Supports transitions into kindergarten by connecting incoming students, their families, and their teachers in a series of one-on-one sessions during the summer.

221 children served 1,234 home visits

Countdown to 4K

Supports transitions into pre-kindergarten by connecting incoming students, their families, and their teachers in a series of one-on-one sessions during the summer.

45 children served 266 home visits

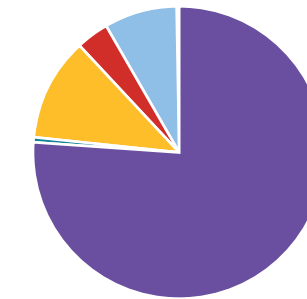
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$1 = \$2.57

Lexington County First Steps leveraged \$931,241.16 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.57 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

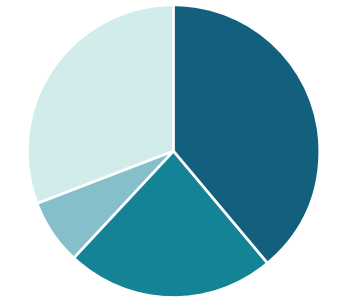
Total: \$1,692,462.54



- Parenting - \$1,290,509.73
- Early Care & Education - \$7,929.17
- School Transition - \$194,835.28
- Health - \$62,699.24
- Administrative - \$136,489.12

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$1,525,605.16



- State Funding - \$594,364.00
- Federal Funding - \$351,494.75
- Private Funding - \$110,985.04
- In-kind Contributions - \$468,761.37

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding**
- Federal ESSER Funding***
- The Duke Endowment & Doris Duke Foundation
- State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105

**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