

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2024 – 2026



Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the Marlboro County First Steps Board, Coalition of Family Enrichment, Marlboro County School District, Marlboro County DHEC, Marlboro County DSS and others in this process.

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Message from the Executive Director



Randall Johnson, M.Ed.
Executive Director
Marlboro County First
Steps

Marlboro County First Steps is excited to try and continue supporting Parents and children in this county in anyway possible. We hope to continue to work with stakeholders to make our community a better place for parents to reside.

Randall S. Johnson, M.Ed

Needs Assessment Process

CONVENE

Held two community convenings with 22 participants and developed a vision for young children and their families

December 2022– March 2023



PRIORITIZE

Organized the insight gathered from the convenings and data to prioritize the concerns, needs, and gaps the partnership wants to address and formalized Needs Assessment

January 2023 – March 2023

UNDERSTAND

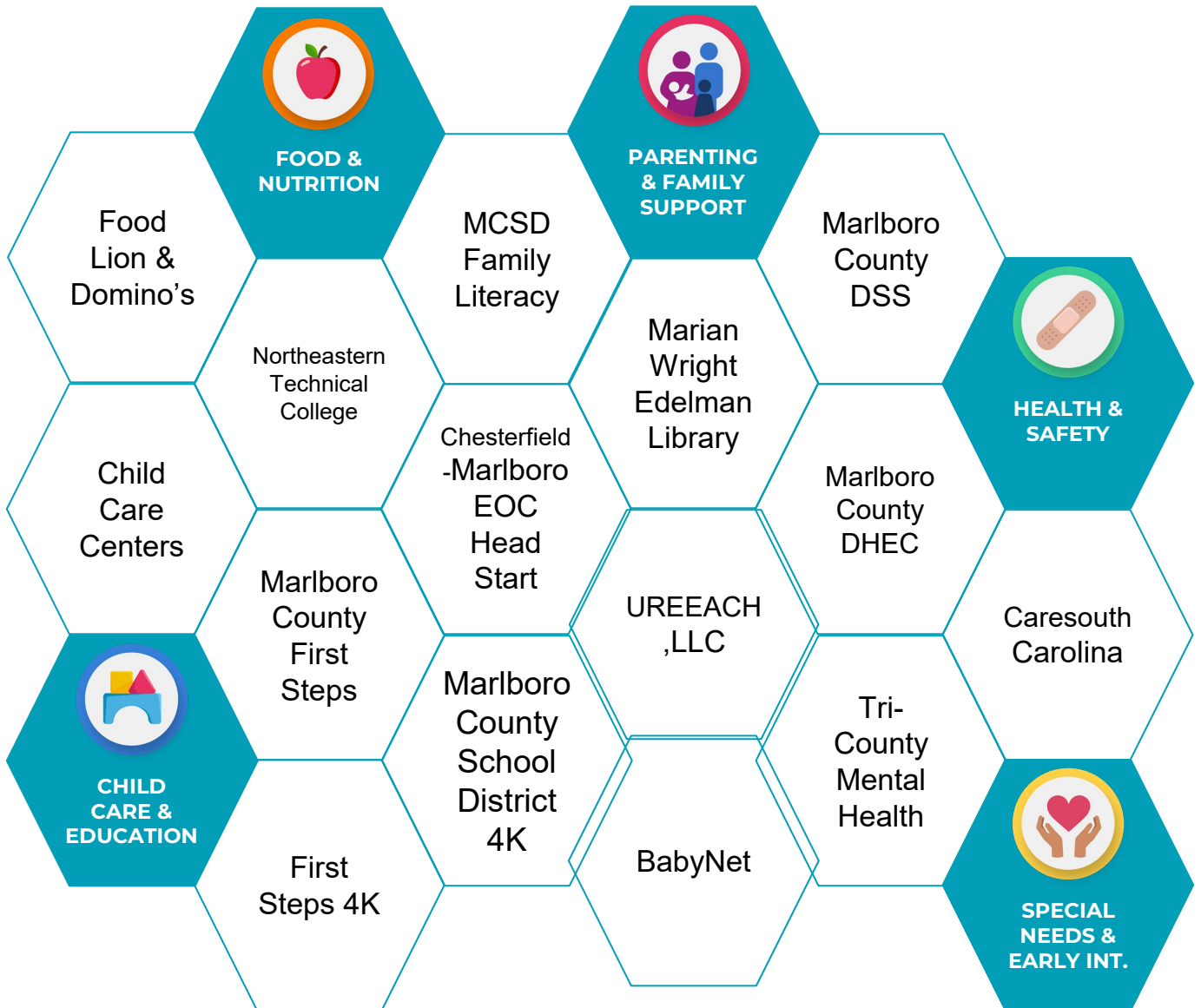
Reviewed Marlboro data and map assets to understand the state of young children, their families, and the early childhood system

January 2023 – March 2023

“Hopefully this process will help us strive to change the state of our county as it relates to the well being of our children & families”

-Rosalyn Coleman, Parent/Teacher

Asset Map: Marlboro County



Priorities: Marlboro County

1. Family Well Being

The well being of the families in our county continues to be of significant importance as it relates to health & safety.

2. Child care Deserts

Marlboro County continues to have areas that struggle with quality childcare.

3. Children Birth-5 below the federal poverty level

Unfortunately, 33% of children under 5 live below the poverty level which is 13% from the state average of 21%

Priority One: Family Well Being

The well being of families and young kids in Marlboro County in all areas of Health continues to be an issue. We rank #40 out of #46 counties in the state in a cultivation of various areas of health.

- Health
- Mental Health
- Health Behaviors

For more information click on the QR code below for county rankings from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org>

“...we need to really get a hold on the health disparity, which effects families for generations” Dr. Damien Johnson

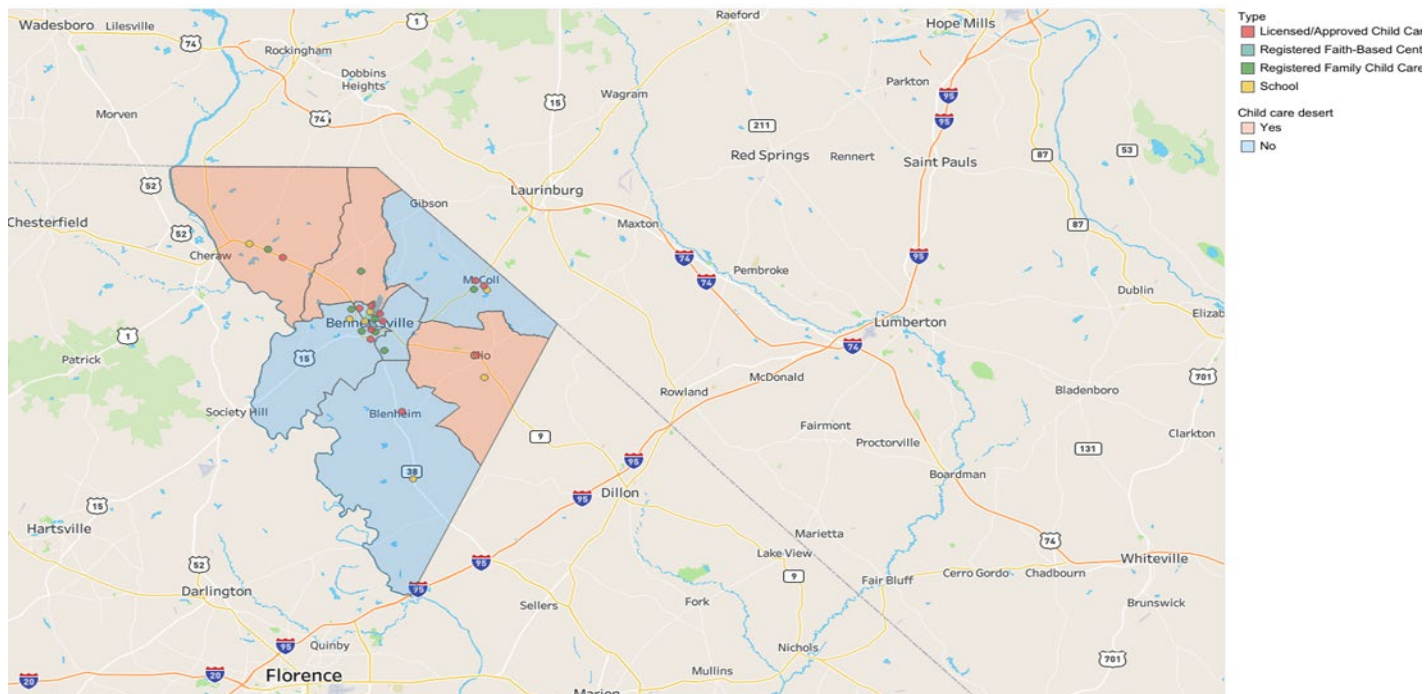


Priority Two: Childcare Desert

Based on the most recent census tract, Marlboro County has childcare deserts in the following zip code areas that can be seen in orange below 29512, 29516, 29525 29570: Provider location and center capacity obtained from scchildcare.org on January 26, 2023. All calculations were done by Chelsea Richard of S.C. First Steps.

In this case as it relates to childcare most of the places identified are in the rural most areas of Marlboro County. This also effects different areas as it relates to early education for

“I live and work in Clio, SC and unfortunately, I have to take my child to a facility in Bennettsville for quality childcare” Sarah David

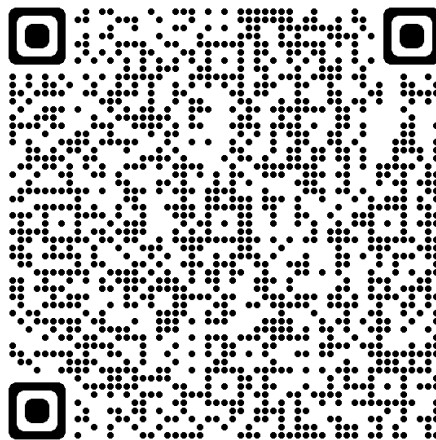


Priority Three: Marlboro Children Under 5 Below the Poverty Level

33% of children under 5 live below the poverty level in Marlboro County which is 13% from the state average of 20%. Most of these areas are in the most rural parts of the county. QR code below will take you to the data table. Information taken from Kids Count <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.

Lack of resources in those particular areas including jobs, housing, transportation, quality early education care contribute to this problem. This is a topic that came up in our sessions as well as in other community meetings.

“As a community we must continue to help the most at risk children and families in anyway possible” Nichelle Nichols



Next Steps



PLAN

Write the partnership's three-year Strategic Plan using the Needs Assessment

March 2023 – May 2023

APPLY

Utilize the Strategic Plan to inform the partnership's Annual Formula Funding Grant Application

May 2023, May 2024, May 2025



IMPLEMENT

Execute the programs and services outlined in the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026

MONITOR

Track the partnership's progress on implementing programs to fidelity and on achieving the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026

