

STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 – 2026



Mission

The Abbeville County First Steps Mission is to create strong connections within the community to ensure families of preschool aged children arrive to Kindergarten with the skill sets required to reach their highest potential.

Vision

To strengthen parents and teachers with appropriate practices that develop social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills of Abbeville's young children.

Values

Quality- Insuring the programs and services provided to each family are individualized to meet their unique and diverse needs.

Relationships- Building positive relationships with families as well as stakeholders within the public, private and faith sectors.

Respect- Treating each and every family the way you would want to be treated.

Integrity- Know and do what it is right for all involved.

Message from the Executive Director



Rebecca Lyman
Executive Director
Abbeville County First Steps

As the Executive Director of Abbeville County First Steps I look forward to making a positive impact in the lives we serve and throughout the community. Abbeville County First Steps will continue to foster positive partnerships to help reduce the needs of this community. I believe creating strong ties and relationships within the community will only further Abbeville County's success in reaching as many parents and children as possible. Pinpointing the needs of our community is my main goal. This strategic plan will guide us throughout the next three years to address the needs in Abbeville County.

Rebecca Lyman

Strategic Plan Process

CONVENE

Held community convenings to develop a vision for young children and their families

October 2022 – January 2023



UNDERSTAND

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

October 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



PLAN

Wrote 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



Priority Needs: Summary

Through a series of community convenings, a needs assessment and asset mapping process, the following needs were prioritized for Abbeville County. See our full needs assessment here: <link>.

1. Kindergarten Ready Rate

Provide programs to increase the Kindergarten ready rate currently at 36% in Abbeville County.

2. Child Care Desert

Ensure quality enhancement for local childcare centers

3. Nurturing Parenting Program

Expand Nurturing Parenting Home Visitation Program

Objectives

- 1. Provide high-quality comprehensive programs to ensure children arrive to kindergarten with the skill sets needed to succeed**
- 2. Provide high quality trainings for childcare providers and early childhood educators to ensure childcare sustainability in Abbeville County**
- 3. Serve as a community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote programs to aid in the restoration of families**

Objective One: High quality programs to promote Kindergarten readiness

STRATEGY 1.1

Countdown to Kindergarten

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY-26 Abbeville County First Steps will have developed a strong partnership with the Abbeville County School District to recruit at least 5 children to participate in the Countdown to Kindergarten Program.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Abbeville County School District and Head Start programs in our community.

STRATEGY 1.2

4k and 5k Registration

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY-26 Abbeville County First Steps will have participated in yearly 4k and 5k Registration to promote the Countdown to Kindergarten Program and to promote school readiness.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Abbeville County School District. Long Cane Primary, Cherokee Trail Elementary, Dimond Hill Elementary, John C. Calhoun Elementary.

Objective Two: High quality Trainings for childcare providers

STRATEGY 2.1

Childcare Trainings

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY-24 our community childcare providers will have received at least 15 hours of trainings.
2. By the end of FY-26 our community childcare providers will have received at least 30 hours of trainings.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Abbeville County First will collaborate with Palmetto shared Services Alliance, and Lander University.

Objective Three: High quality comprehensive parenting programs

STRATEGY 3.1

Nurturing Parenting Home Visitation Program

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY-24 Abbeville County First Steps will have increased the number of families being served from 15 to 20.
- By the end of FY- 26 Abbeville County First Steps will have increased its number of families from 20 to 30.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Abbeville County School District Adult Education, Department of Social Services.

STRATEGY 3.2

Connected Families

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY-26 we will have implemented the Connected Families Program to decrease the number of open and reoccurring DSS cases.
- By the end of FY-26 we will have at least 5 DSS cases referred to the Connected Families Program to help decrease the number of open investigations and reoccurring cases in families.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Abbeville County Department Of Social Services

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

More children arrive at Kindergarten ready for success

By FY25, the percentage of children in need who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 2% each year to 47%