

STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 – 2026



Mission

Jasper County First Steps works collaboratively to ensure all Jasper County children will start school ready to reach their highest potential through engaged support from parents, caregivers and our communities.

Vision

We will be successful when all Jasper County children reach their highest potential.

Values

Children

To focus on and prioritize young children, from prenatal development to kindergarten entry, and their families and caregivers.

Community

To cultivate positive, supportive and respectful interactions between stakeholders that shape development, build community, increase success and productivity, foster learning and growth and affirm the intrinsic value of all individuals.

Equity

To actively work towards a community where all people have the opportunity and resources to be successful. To ensure that all voices are solicited and heard.

High Quality

To ensure that our programs are inclusive and developmentally-appropriate and are delivered with fidelity to the program model. To ensure that our programs, services and operations are marked by excellence.

Results

To produce meaningful, measurable impact and outcomes.

Message from the Executive Director



Duchett Hylton

Executive Director

Jasper County First Steps

This 2023-2026 Strategic Plan will serve as the roadmap to guide Jasper County First Steps to the realization of our vision of ready children equipped for academic success. The exercises to develop this plan required self-awareness of our strengths and opportunities as well as acknowledgement of needs to be addressed. It will focus our efforts to meet our goals and motivate us as well work towards our objectives.

Ms. Duchett Hylton

Message from the Board Chair



Eleanor Hazel

Board Chair

Jasper County First Steps

We are pleased to share with you Jasper County First Step's Strategic Plan for FY2024 through FY2026. It is an exciting and ambitious plan that provides a framework for First Steps to meet the needs of our community and deliver higher levels of service. The plan was developed by involving residents in identifying the assets of their neighborhoods, looking at opportunities, and creating a picture of what it is like to live there. We appreciate the support of our board and the community for helping to identify JCFS needs and create goals to meet those needs.

Ms. Eleanor Hazel

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 Jasper County. See our full needs assessment [here](#).

1. Kindergarten Readiness

Ensure that children arrive at kindergarten with the healthy, with the skills and physical well-being necessary to ensure early school success.

2. Single Parent Households & Teen Parents

Target services and supports that are most effective in reducing disparities to close equity gaps ensuring a fair chance for every child.

3. Community Convener and Portal of Children's Services

Explore and develop the role as a connector and conduit of services and referrals for the needs of young children, their families, and service providers.

Objectives

- 1. Provide seamless transition for children across early learning programs from early childhood to kindergarten entry**
- 2. Close equity gaps ensuring a fair chance for every child**
- 3. Support a coordinated, family-centered early childhood system**

Objective One: Provide seamless transition for children across early learning programs from early childhood to kindergarten entry

STRATEGY 1.1

Support parent knowledge of early childhood milestones, Kindergarten readiness to build parent skills in supporting their children's early learning success through Kindergarten entry

SMART GOAL – Parents As Teachers

1. By FY26, increase the total number of families served through Parents As Teachers program by 20%

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Jasper Co. Department of Social Services, Jasper Co. Health Department, Jasper Co. School District, Local Child Care Providers, Faith Community

SMART GOAL – Reach Out and Read

2. By FY25, implement Reach Out and Read Strategy at three health care sites serving Jasper County children.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Reach Out and Read, Jasper Co. Health Department, local pediatric medical providers

Objective One: Provide seamless transition for children across early learning programs from early childhood to kindergarten entry

STRATEGY 1.2

Collaborate with local school district to establish relationships and agreements to strategically implement to fidelity kindergarten transition practices

SMART GOAL – Countdown to Kindergarten

1. By Summer 2024, implement Countdown to Kindergarten strategy at two public elementary schools, serving 20 rising kindergarteners

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Jasper Co. School District, Local Child Care Providers

Objective Two: Close equity gaps ensuring a fair chance for every child

STRATEGY 2.1

Prioritize service delivery for families and children most at-risk of early school failure including single-parent families, teen parents, families experiencing homelessness, dual-language learners, and children with disabilities.

SMART GOAL – Parents As Teachers

1. By FY26, increase the number of high-risk families or children served through Parents As Teachers program by 15%

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Jasper Co. Department of Social Services, Jasper Co. Health Department, Jasper Co. School District, Local Child Care Providers, Faith Community, PASOs, Families in Transition

Objective Two: Close equity gaps ensuring a fair chance for every child

STRATEGY 2.2

Intentionally strengthen the cultural competence of Partnership programs and staff by partnering with immigrant-serving and other diverse community-based organizations to coordinate services, identify providers and refer families; Promote inclusivity, equity and accessibility as valued attributes in hiring and staff development

SMART GOAL – Parents As Teachers

1. By FY26, provide current and newly hired partnership staff “Spanish in the Workplace” training to increase cultural and linguistic competence in service delivery.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- USC-B, PASOs, local faith community, La Isla news outlet

Objective Three: Support a coordinated, family-centered early childhood system

STRATEGY 3.1

Further develop the role that Partnership plays in serving a community “hub” for early childhood services, ensuring community services reach families most-in-need and who would most benefit.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Each April, convene one community forum comprised of community stakeholders, service providers, parents, ECE providers for ongoing community needs and resource assessment.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Jasper County Human Services Alliance, Lowcountry Early Childhood Coalition, Department of Social Services, Jasper School District, Hardeeville Community Library, Jasper County Health Department, Antioch Education Center, PASOs of the Lowcountry, Jasper County Sheriff Department, Police Department – Hardeeville & Ridgeland, CAPA- Child Abuse Prevention Association, Hopeful Horizon, New Life Center, Jasper Board of Disabilities, Lowcountry Council of Government, Morris Center, Agape Family Life Center, KTM Center, Lowcountry Food Bank, E&M Foundation, Tech College of Lowcountry, USC-B

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

By FY26, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Jasper County First Steps high intensity programs will increase from 6% to 8%.

Acknowledgments

Jasper County First Steps would like to thank our Board Members, Staff, Community Stakeholders, Child Care Providers, and Family Members who have helped us shape the strategic path for our organization for the next three years. Your input has been an invaluable contribution in evaluating where our efforts will produce the greatest impacts in meeting the greatest needs for our greatest treasures – the children of Jasper County.

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