



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of McCormick County First Steps:



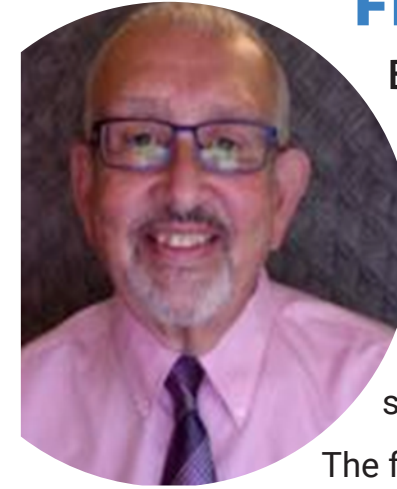
385 children

were directly served in McCormick County



39 parents & caregivers

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



Fredrick Fuller

Board Chair

The last four years have been extraordinary in every way. We have come through a unprecedented period of time of uncertainty due to the pandemic which put unbelievable strain upon families and especially our most vulnerable among us our children. But thanks to our staff wonderfully supportive donors and volunteers McCormick First Steps has answered the call and continued to provide the services so desperately needed by our children and families.

The future has never looked brighter for our program and I look forward to the continued success of this vital program that I have had the honor to be Chairman of for Board of Directors these last four years. I am excited about the future and ask for all your continued support.

Our Local Supporters

SC Department of Social Services \$97,395
McCormick School District \$35,299
McCormick Senior Center \$4,570
E Club of the Carolinas \$1,800
McCormick Lions Club \$1,500
Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church
Lutheran Church by the Lake
Larry & Maricai Tarbet
Friends of the Library
Good Shepherd's Women's Club

Board of Directors

Fredrick Fuller
Deborah Gunter
Ann Snyder
Donna England
Nathan McCasline
April Ouzts
Mae Phillips-Turner
Sharon Bordeauz
Salisa Mcteer
Daniel Lott
Brenda Moore
Earthy Gaskin

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 MCCORMICK COUNTY

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

305

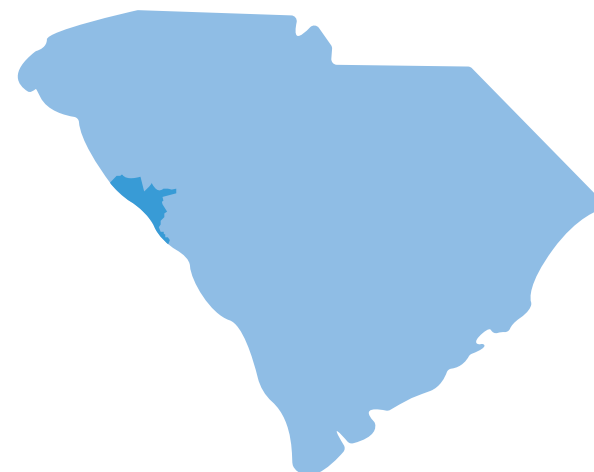
children under age 5

57.5%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

50%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



CONTACT US

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2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To collaborate with the community to holistically support all preschool aged children and their families to ensure all preschool aged children are ready to succeed in school.



NaToya Cartledge
Executive Director

I am writing this letter with a sense of pride about how well McCormick County First Steps performed this year. As a team we devised a new three-year strategic plan, met and or exceeded all of our program standards, grew our staff, and received funding from South Carolina First Steps for future capacity building! I am so excited about the future of our organization and can't wait to highlight the progress of the upcoming year.

As always, thank you to all our dedicated Board of Directors, staff, partners, and donors; without you there wouldn't be a McCormick County First Steps. It is my continued honor to work for this great organization and county!

Serving McCormick County’s children birth through age five.

“I am so incredibly grateful for the services McCormick First Steps offers our community. My family is enrolled in Nurturing Parenting, Scholarships, Library Literacy, and Early Education for Children under 4 programs. All of these programs have been a blessing to my family. I love the First Steps team!”

Shay Blair-Franklin
McCormick County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Library-Based Programs

Connect librarians with child care programs and preschool classrooms, providing books, storytelling, and staff training.

48

children served

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

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

120

children served

1,123

books distributed

Nurturing Parenting

Designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices.

22

children served

28

families served

407

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Early Education

Provides important support to students and their families through supplemental materials and book distributions to classrooms

22

children served

2

providers served

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.

10

children served

1

schools served

60

home visits

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

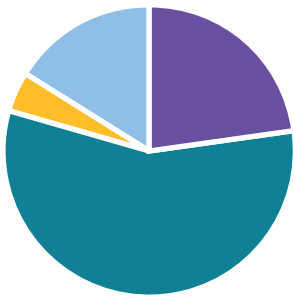


\$1 = \$1.91

McCormick County First Steps leveraged \$182,488.63 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.91 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

Total: \$403,588.46



- Parenting - \$92,342.87
- Early Care & Education - \$228,400.21
- School Transition - \$18,436.59
- Administrative - \$64,408.79

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$382,498.63



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$20,687.81
- Private Funding - \$24,536.82
- In-kind Contributions - \$137,264

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding**
- Federal ESSER Funding***
- 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