



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Allendale County First Steps:



127 children

were directly served in Allendale County



716 parents & caregivers

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



145 educators

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

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 ALLENDALE COUNTY

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

378

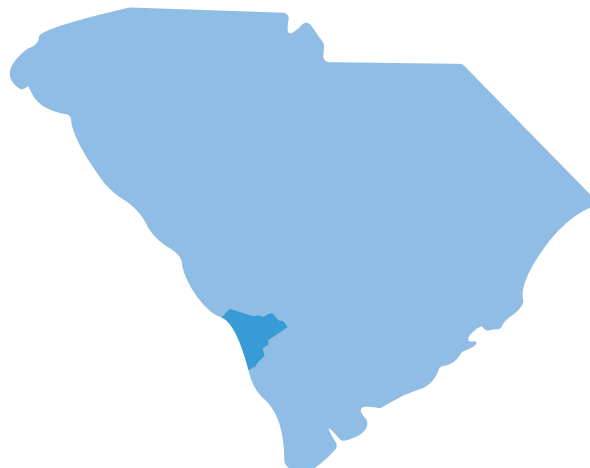
children under 6

74%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

52%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



OUR MISSION

To ensure that children start school ready to learn by supporting the caring adults who touch their lives.



Patricia Hall

Executive Director

Greetings,

As the Executive Director of Allendale County First Steps, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for all your support and dedication throughout the 2024 fiscal year, which have been filled with some amazing achievements and countless notable moments. To the families who have been supportive of our programs, thank you for your continuous involvement in your child's education. Your commitment to their success and well-being has played a crucial role in our shared achievements.

I also want to express my appreciation to our community for its continuous support and collaboration. Your involvement has strengthened the bonds between our families, school, and the community. Together, we have created a nurturing educational environment that sets the foundation for lifelong success. Thank you for choosing to partner with us to support the growth, development and learning of our child(ren).

Allendale County First Steps will continue to serve as a lifeline to our community and be known as the "go to agency" for information, services, and support.

"Education is not confined to the walls of a classroom. Learning happens everywhere, and the world is your classroom. Whether you are traveling, volunteering, reading, or engaging in creative endeavors, seize the opportunity to grow, learn, and make a positive impact."



Theresa Kennedy

Board Chair

Greetings,

I would like to thank our legislators, state agencies, early childhood educators, business community, and parents of our future leaders. We understand that literacy is the key to unlocking learning and educational success. One of the ways we empower our children is by giving books to the children in the community to promote parent/child reading together. This effort, support and commitment by all, is integral for the development of the children of Allendale County. We continue to prepare our children to be ready for school by making sure they are able to receive the pertinent services they need.

Allendale County First Steps has met and will continue meeting the requirements for policies and procedures including governance, guidance and resources. It is my distinct pleasure and honor to work with the entire membership of Allendale County First Steps.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Nurturing Parenting

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

25

children served

20

families served

352

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Enhanced Early Education

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

12

children served

12

families served

10

parent and caregiver workshops

HEALTH

Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services, independent of another partnership program.

59

children served

60

families served

Child Care Scholarships

Eligible children receive tuition-free enrollment at quality child care centers.

8

children served

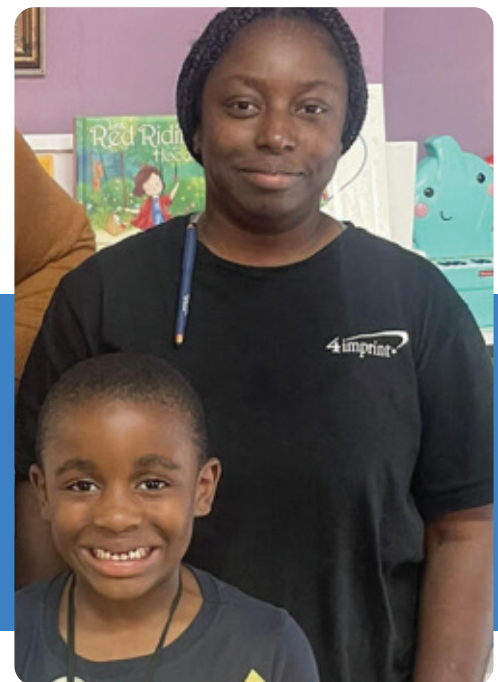
8

families served

Serving Allendale County's children birth through age five.

"I am happy for choosing Allendale County First Steps for my parenting education. I am a better parent at home, school, and in the community working with my child."

Allendale County First Steps parent



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

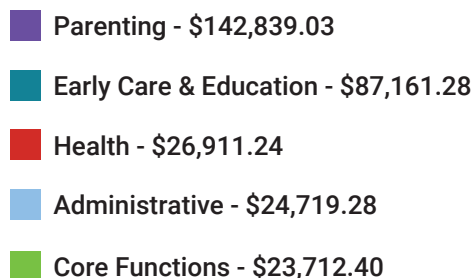
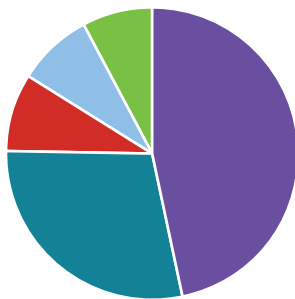


\$1 = \$1.23

Allendale County First Steps leveraged \$52,324.97 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.23 for every state dollar invested.

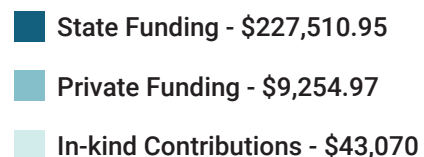
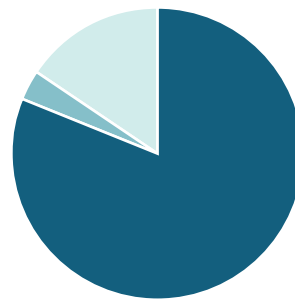
EXPENDITURES

Total: \$305,343.23



FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$279,835.92



FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
State READY 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

Note: Revenue amounts may show a difference between allocations and revenue based on penalties imposed by the SC First Steps Board of Trustees for non-compliance with organizational policies. The figures provided are based on unaudited financial statements and, as such, are subject to change.

Our Local Supporters

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Town of Allendale
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Allendale County First Steps Board Members
Private Donors

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