



# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Horry County First Steps:



**952 children**

were directly served in Horry County



**88 parents & caregivers**

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



**37 educators**

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

## THE NEED PERSISTS IN HORRY COUNTY

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

**18,447**

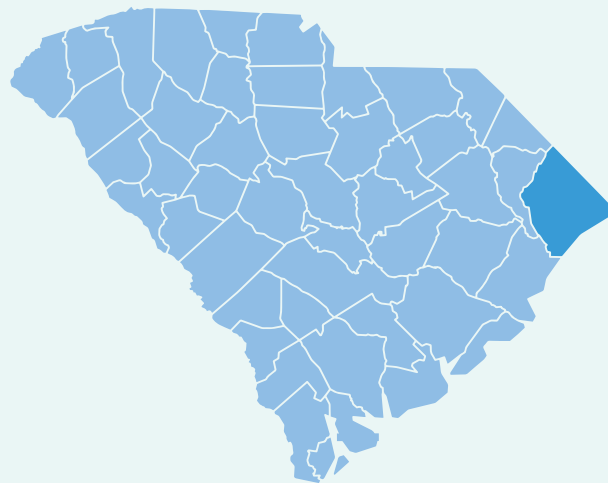
children birth to five

**39%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**72%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



## 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

## Board of Directors

Jennifer Cusack  
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## Donor List

City of Conway  
Center for Community Health Alignment  
Ms. Susan Jones

## CONTACT US

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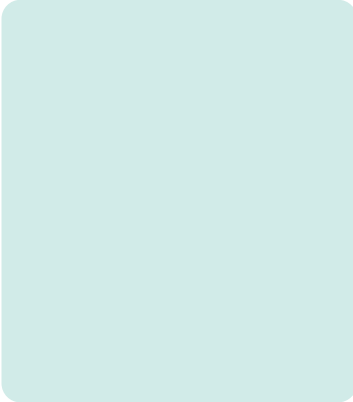


# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



# OUR MISSION

To ensure that children enter school healthy and ready to learn by supporting the caring adults who touch their lives. We establish partnerships and secure resources to provide programs that focus on quality early care and education, family support, health, and early literacy.



Amy Breault  
Executive Director

Dear Community Members and Friends,

I am honored to share highlights from this past year. Guided by our mission, we expanded services to Latino families through a new grant, ensuring greater access to vital resources and opportunities. We also provided family support materials to more than 50 families, helping to ensure children had a safe place to ride, sleep, and grow. In addition, our work in early childhood classrooms grew, reaching more children and educators than in prior years.

These achievements reflect the dedication of our staff, the trust of our partners, and the support of our community. As we look ahead, we remain committed to deepening our impact, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that every child enters school healthy and ready to learn.

# PROGRAMS

## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

### Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

917

children served

22

providers served

28

certified training hours

### Enhanced Early Education

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

491

children served

224

families served

16

parent and caregiver workshops

## HEALTH

### Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

179

children served

## SCHOOL TRANSITION

### Countdown to 4K

Supports transitions into pre-kindergarten by connecting incoming students, their families, and their teachers in a series of one-on-one sessions during the summer.

8

children served

1

schools served

48

home/school visits

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### \$1 = \$1.25

Horry County First Steps leveraged \$186,883.20 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.25 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

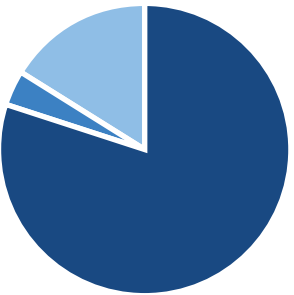
Total: \$951,356.75



- Parenting - \$349.05
- Early Care & Education - \$506,443.77
- Health - \$238,323.43
- School Transition - \$1,760
- Administrative - \$68,627.23
- Core Functions - \$135,853.27

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$936,586.74



- State Funding - \$749,703.54
- Federal Funding - \$1,586
- Private Funding - \$34,453.69
- In-kind Contributions - \$150,843.51

## FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding  
State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps