



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Abbeville County First Steps:



517 children

were directly served in Abbeville County



405 parents & caregivers

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



371 educators

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

THE NEED PERSISTS IN ABBEVILLE COUNTY

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

1,334

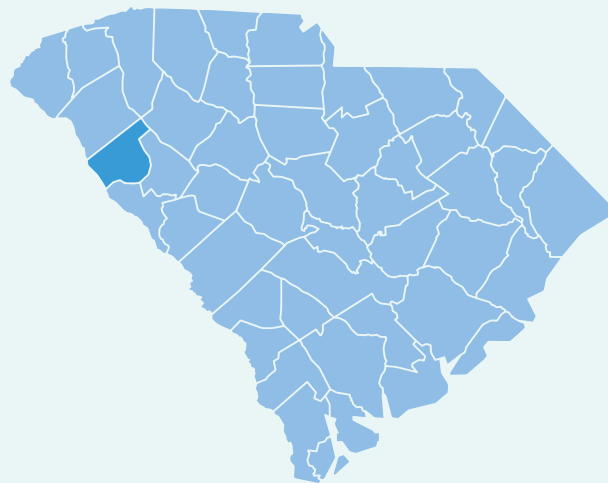
children birth to five

52%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

45%

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

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Abbeville Civic Center
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Abbeville Library

CONTACT US

acfirststeps.com | (864)366-0656 | info@acfirststeps.org



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



OUR MISSION

The Abbeville County First Steps mission is to ensure families of preschool aged children arrive to kindergarten with the skill sets required to reach their highest potential.



Rebecca Lyman
Executive Director

Throughout the 2024–2025 program year - a time marked by growth, innovation, and resilience - we are celebrating the collective impact of a community united by one powerful belief: every child deserves a strong start.

This past year has brought both new challenges and new opportunities. In the face of ongoing change, our team remained steadfast, innovative, and committed. Through community partners, dedicated staff, and the unwavering support of families, we’ve expanded access to high-quality early childhood education, strengthened school readiness, and empowered caregivers with the tools they need to nurture their children’s development.

Our programs are not just about preparing children for kindergarten - they are about building a foundation for lifelong success.

Thank you for believing in this work and walking alongside us as we continue to grow, adapt, and lead with purpose.



Faith Line
Board Chair

I am delighted to share the Abbeville County First Steps Annual Report for 2024-2025. This report provides a comprehensive overview of our progress and key achievements in advancing early childhood education in our county. It highlights our dedication to the children of Abbeville County through the various programs and initiatives that we offer.

The Board and I are proud to share this report and thank all of the participants, community partners and supporters that make the work we do successful. We invite you to explore the pages that follow to learn more about the incredible impact we’ve made together. By working together, we can empower children to overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and ultimately build brighter futures for themselves and for generations to come!

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

Offers research-based curricula that help families raise children to be healthy, safe, learning, and ready for school.



Library-Based Programs

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



EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

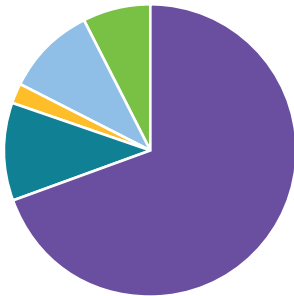


\$1 = \$1.17

Abbeville County First Steps leveraged \$38,849.30 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.17 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

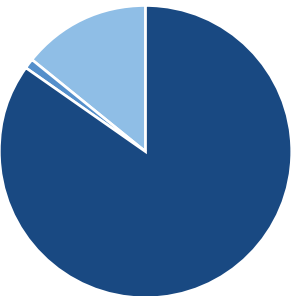
Total: \$269,835.99



- Parenting - \$188,048.41
- Early Care & Education - \$29,019.42
- School Transition - \$5,607.29
- Administrative - \$27,465.35
- Core Functions - \$19,695.52

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$263,787.30



- State Funding - \$224,938
- Private Funding - \$2,915.26
- In-kind Contributions - \$37,100

FUNDING SUPPORT

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 1.84*