



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





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

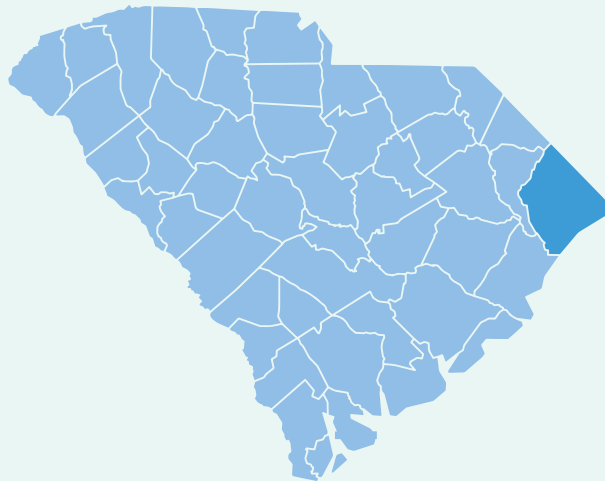
children birth to five

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

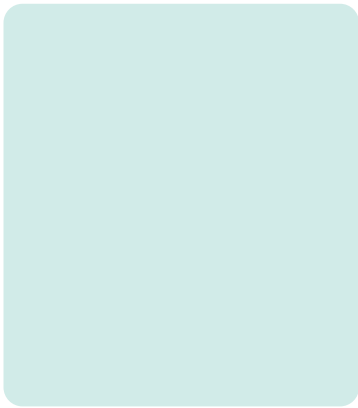


34% less likely

to be chronically absent in kindergarten

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

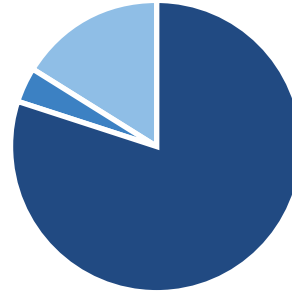
Total: \$951,356.75



- 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

Board of Directors

Jennifer Cusack
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Donor List

City of Conway
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Ms. Susan Jones

CONTACT US

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