



# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Chester County First Steps:



**186 children**

were directly served in Chester County



**268 parents & caregivers**

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



**763 educators**

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

## THE NEED PERSISTS IN CHESTER COUNTY

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

**2,128**

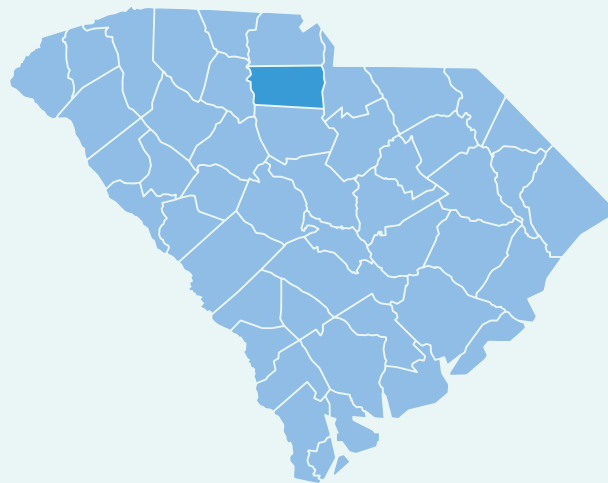
children birth to five

**61%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**74%**

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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## Donor List

Springs Close Foundation - \$27,500

First Choice of SC Select Health - \$2499

Chester Natural Gas - \$500

## CONTACT US

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



# OUR MISSION

To collaborate with community partners to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.



David W. Lisk, Sr.  
Executive Director

We strive to help our youngest children prepare for success and their parents to nurture and support their children in their learning journey. This is where Chester County First Steps can partner with our families in impactful ways, through our parenting programs, our helping Childcare Centers teach children the learning skills they will need or partnering with the community to reach even more families of preschool children.

I was involved with our family's childcare business before I joined First Steps, and I remember my wife telling the parents that "Play is their child's work". This sense of "play" can be a strong motivator for children and fill their childhood with fun and awesome opportunities to learn and experience new things. There are a number of changes taking place in our world, and our children need our collective guidance to reach their full potential.

I hope you will join us in our efforts to allow our children the "joy of play" as they dream big!



Dr. Tammy Graham  
Board Chair

As the Board Chair, I am honored to serve alongside a dedicated team committed to ensuring that every child in Chester has the opportunity to thrive. Our mission—to support families and strengthen communities - is more urgent than ever.

This year, we've deepened our partnerships, expanded our reach, and sharpened our focus on equity and impact. From home visiting programs to early literacy initiatives, First Steps continues to be a catalyst for change, helping children enter school healthy, nurtured, and ready to succeed.

I want to thank our many partners for their tireless work, and for their unwavering support. Together, we are building a stronger foundation for SC's future—one child, one family, one step at a time.

We remain steadfast in our belief that early investment yields lifelong returns. And as we look ahead, we invite you to walk with us—to advocate, to invest, and to lead—so that every child, has a real chance to flourish.

# PROGRAMS

## PARENTING

### Parents as Teachers

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

16 children served    12 group meetings and events    369 home visits

## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

### Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

8,361 children served    18 providers served    15 certified training hours

### Quality Counts

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

368 children served    18 providers served    15 training hours provided

## 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.

8 children served    1 schools served    45 home/school visits

### 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.

11 children served    1 schools served    63 home/school visits

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

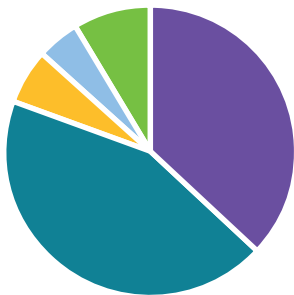


\$1 = \$1.34

Chester County First Steps leveraged \$76,238.98 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.34 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

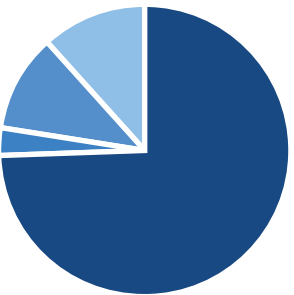
Total: \$287,287.83



- Parenting - \$106,237.47
- Early Care & Education - \$125,440.82
- School Transition - \$17,840.12
- Administrative - \$13,112.13
- Core Functions - \$24,657.29

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$300,890.19



- State Funding - \$224,651.21
- Federal Funding - \$8,765
- Private Funding - \$33,073.98
- In-kind Contributions - \$34,400

## 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