



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024-2025





# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Greenville County First Steps:



**9,935 children**

were directly served in Greenville County



**10,518 parents & caregivers**

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



**526 educators**

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

## THE NEED PERSISTS IN GREENVILLE COUNTY

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

**38,462**

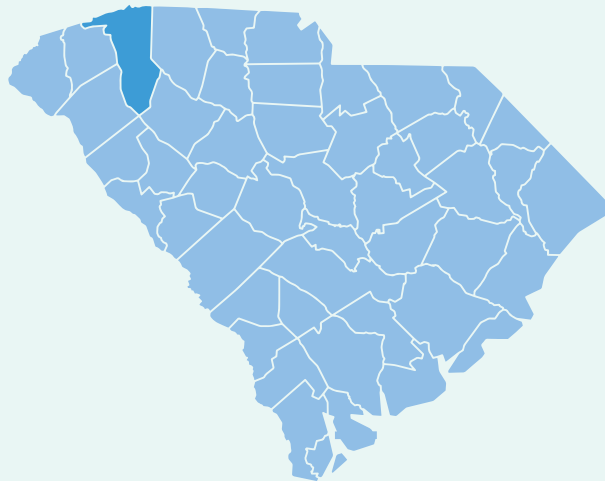
children birth to five

**36%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**56%**

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

Greenville First Steps will serve as a convener of early childhood champions to coordinate services to measurably improve the early childhood development of all children in Greenville County.



**Derek Lewis**  
Executive Director

"Don't you know baby I'll be there  
Whenever you need me, I'll be there"  
The Jackson 5

September 2024 seems like a million years ago. Our board had explored FY24 data accelerating investments in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Then Hurricane Helene began its trek across the south- leaving communities without power and cutoff from essential services. Like thousands, our office was without power, and staff had to work from home. Rather than closing ranks, our Board and staff took action, immediately dispersing Publix gift cards for 50 registered Home-based childcare providers to ensure they could restock their fridge and pantry, and authorizing \$25,000 for emergency supplies (diapers, wipes, formula). I am proud of the work we do on a typical Tuesday- keeping partners supported, ensuring program compliance, and building systems of support within Greenville County. I am MOST PROUD of what our team does when crisis hits- stepping into support where we are most needed.

“

Thanks for "The Little Engine that Could"- it was my favorite book growing up, and gave our family support and encouragement during a difficult time.  
Your work means so much!

**Kaitlyn, Dolly Parton Imagination Library Participant**

# PROGRAMS

## PARENTING

### Nurturing Parenting

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

131

children served

118

families served

### Positive Parenting Program (TripleP)

A parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioral and emotional problems in children.

535

children served

413

families served

25

group meetings  
and events

### Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Free, high-quality books mailed to the home of children from birth until age five.

2,240

children served

20,437

books distributed

## HEALTH

### Nurse-Family Partnership

Home visitation for first time mothers, from pregnancy until the child turns two.

123

children served

164

families served

1,244

home visits

### Reach Out and Read

Free, high-quality books provided by a child's pediatric provider during doctor's visits.

4,286

children served

2,143

books distributed

### Family Connects

Strengthening bonds within families of newborns and linking them directly to supportive community resources.

1,662

children served

2

clinics served

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

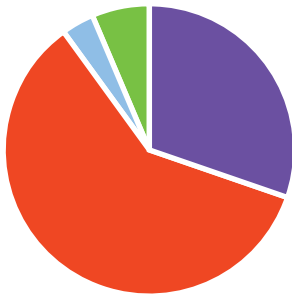


**\$1 = \$1.82**

Greenville County First Steps leveraged \$1,087,718.37 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.82 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

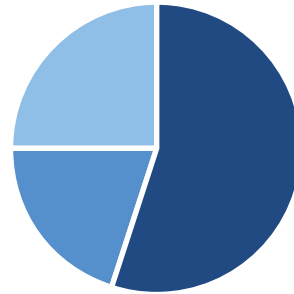
Total: \$2,283,937.18



Parenting	- \$692,894.16
Health	- \$1,363,237.09
Administrative	- \$84,826.72
Core Functions	- \$142,979.21

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$2,420,070.55



State Funding	- \$1,332,352.18
Private Funding	- \$487,719.42
In-kind Contributions	- \$600,000

## 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

## Board of Directors

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## Donor List

Greenville First Steps Endowed Fund  
United Way of Greenville County  
The Duke Endowment  
Children's Trust of SC  
Leon Levine Foundation  
Greenville Health Authority  
Individual Donors

## CONTACT US

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