



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Union County First Steps:



99 children

were directly served in Union County



327 parents & caregivers

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



12 educators

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

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

THE NEED PERSISTS IN UNION COUNTY

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

1,879

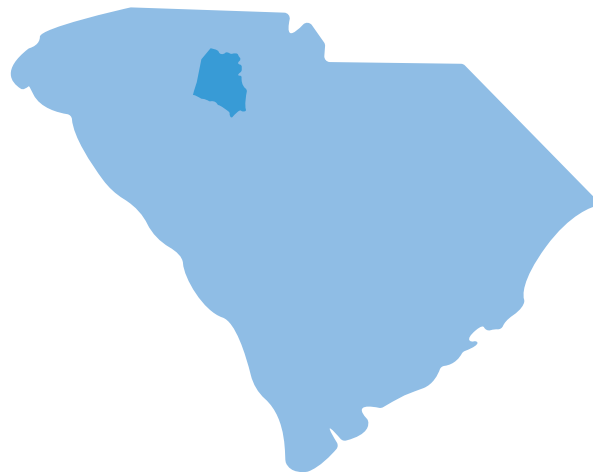
children under age 5

60.6%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

73%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Amanda Newton

Board Chair



First Steps has continued to work together with families and businesses throughout Union County over the past year to help ensure that children are ready to start school with the skills they need to be successful. Over the past year, our local First Steps program has been able to send teachers into homes to work with children and parents, provided books to Union County children at different events, and planned and executed different parent meetings held at various locations across the county. It is often said that "It takes a village to raise a child" and we at First Steps firmly believe that our entire community must work together to help provide a safe and healthy environment for the children of Union County.

Our Local Supporters

Union County School District

City of Union

Lockhard Power Company

Frontstream

Board of Directors

Amanda Newton

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CONTACT US

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2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To connect families to the resources they need for their children to be safe, healthy and ready for school.



Nicole Glenn
Executive Director

Union County First Steps' mission is to connect families to the resources they need for their children to be safe, healthy, and ready for school. Some of our recent accomplishments are Kindergarten Roundup, Kidsfest, the Little Free Libraries, and distributing kindergarten readiness kits throughout the county. These accomplishments would have not been possible without the contributions of the Union County School District, Lockhart Power, Union County Library System, Union County Department of Social Services, and the continuous support of various community members.

We look forward to continuing working with Union County families and partners as UCFS strives to accomplish our mission while making an impact our the community.

Serving Union County’s children birth through age five.

“When I met them at their booth at an afterschool activity, they began to tell me what they do, and it sounded great. We were placed with Marah (Parent Educator). She has created a very special bond with Lily. She gets down in the floor to teach and reads her a book. She has a lot of knowledge in her job. I strongly recommend this organization. They show so much compassion and concern for the babies.”

Union County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

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

55

children served

20

group meetings and events

657

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development
Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

5

children served

1

providers served

30

certified training hours

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.

25

children served

3

schools served

150

home 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.

5

children served

1

schools served

30

home visits

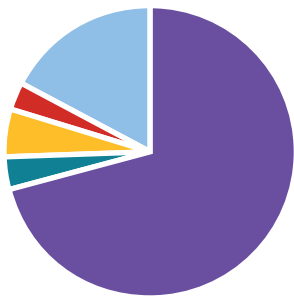
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$

\$1 = \$1.55
Union County First Steps leveraged \$109,782.74 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.55 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

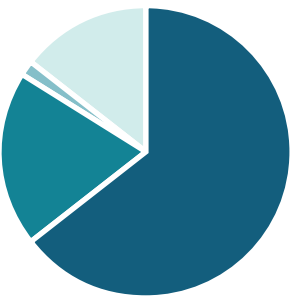
Total: \$301,764.72



- Parenting - \$218,661.22
- Early Care & Education - \$11,140.63
- School Transition - \$16,382.76
- Health - \$8,725.11
- Administrative - \$52,855

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$309,782.74



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$60,691.60
- Private Funding - \$4,913.14
- In-kind Contributions - \$44,178

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding**
- Federal ESSER Funding***
- State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105
**Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0080-01-00 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Division of Early Care and Education
***American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Education