



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Allendale County First Steps:



198 children

were directly served in Allendale County



764 parents & caregivers

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



375 educators

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

THE NEED PERSISTS IN ALLENDALE COUNTY

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

477

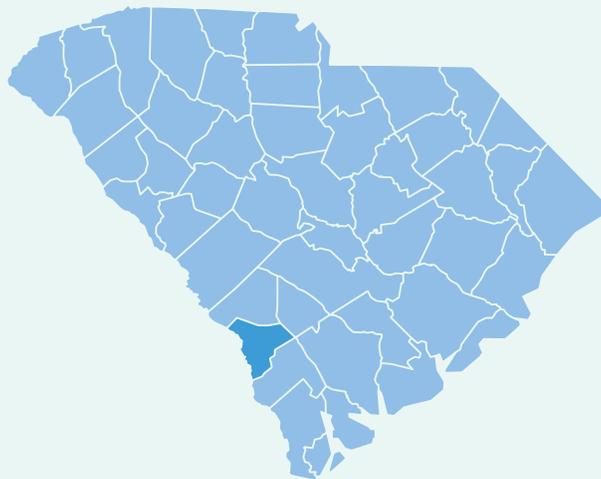
children birth to five

51%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

51%

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 start school ready to learn by supporting the caring adults who touch their lives.



Patricia Hall
Executive Director

To Our Valued Families and Community Partners,

Allendale County First Steps want to take a moment to express their heartfelt appreciation for all your support and dedication throughout the 2025 fiscal year. The energy, collaboration, and constant support have been truly inspiring. This work could not be done without you.

To the families who have been supportive of our programs, your commitment to your children success and well-being has played a crucial role in our shared achievements.

To our community partners, your involvement has strengthened the bonds between our families, school, and the community. Together, we have created an educational environment that sets the foundation for lifelong success.

Allendale County First Steps will continue to serve as a lifeline for our community. Feedback, insights, and ideas on how to strengthen our partnership is welcome. Thank you for being such an essential part of the team.



Theresea Kennedy
Board Chair

Connecting All the Pieces: Child – Family – Education – Health – Community

Greetings,

I would like to thank our legislators, state agencies, early childhood educators, business community, and parents of our future leaders. They have demonstrated their overwhelming effort, support, and commitment for the development of the children of Allendale County as we continue getting children ready for school by making sure they are able to receive the services they need.

Allendale County First Steps has met and will continue meeting the requirements for policies and procedures including governance, guidance, financial, and resources.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Nurturing Parenting

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

23

children served

19

families served

394

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Enhanced Early Education

Provides important support to students and their families through supplemental materials and book distributions to classrooms

13

children served

13

families served

24

parent and caregiver workshops

HEALTH

Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

25

children served

22

families served

“

To Allendale First Steps Staff,
Thanks for your support that has helped our family on every level! You definitely guide us to get unstuck and be more effective.

Shameeka



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

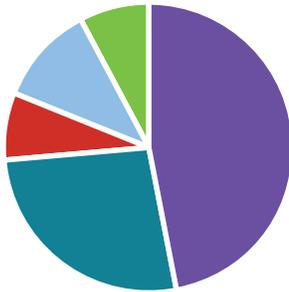


\$1 = \$1.26

Allendale County First Steps leveraged \$64,968.03 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.26 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

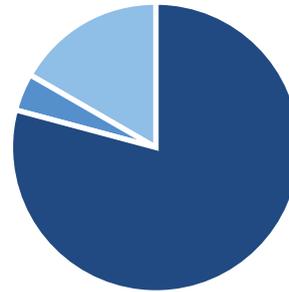
Total: \$301,844.09



- Parenting - \$142,322.11
- Early Care & Education - \$80,312.24
- Health - \$22,293.90
- Administrative - \$34,044.48
- Core Functions - \$22,871.36

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$313,123.40



- State Funding - \$248,155.37
- Private Funding - \$13,422.03
- In-kind Contributions - \$51,546

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

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Donor List

County of Allendale
Town of Allendale
Save the Children
United Way of Allendale
Allendale County First Steps
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CONTACT US

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