



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Jasper County First Steps:



776 children

were directly served in Jasper County



128 parents & caregivers

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



87 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 JASPER COUNTY

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

1,456

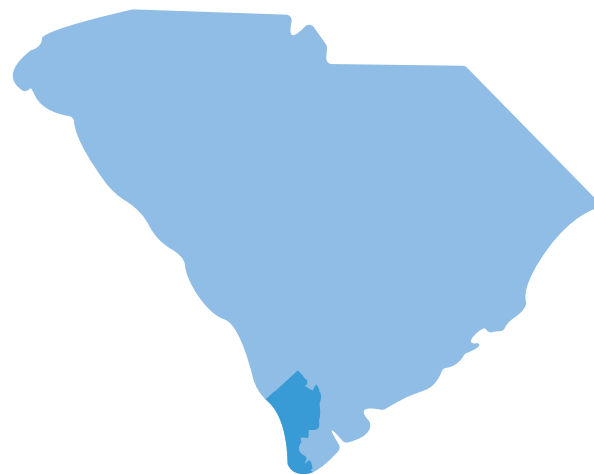
children under age 5

61.3%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

85%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Deloris Dunham

Board Chair



The Partnership Board is as pivotal to the success of an organization's mission as the services it implements. If the staff are the hands and feet of the organization, the Board is truly its head – setting and monitoring strategic plans and priorities.

Our Board undertook this precise exercise as we took a deep dive into the needs and resources of our community and developed our 3-year Strategic Plan - our guide to where we are going and how we will get there. With the permanent reauthorization of First Steps, we are encouraged that our work will be supported at all levels of government – local and statewide.

We now call on civic organizations and citizens to support JCFS. Volunteer to read at an event. Advocate for the rights and interests of young children. Donate to support meals at a group meeting.

First Steps is here – and we want you to be here with us.

Our Local Supporters

Jasper County Government \$15,000

Lowcountry Ministries Fund \$15,000

Richard & Elizabeth Witt Charitable Fund \$5,000

JCFS Board Contributions \$2,550

SC Endeavors \$2,500

SC Ports Authority - Giving Fund \$2,500

PAT Angel Tree - Various Private, Faith & Business Community \$1,200.00

Sun City Book Exxchange

Antioch Education Center

Dollywood Foundation - In-kind

Board of Directors

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Kenneth Bell

Gail Blackshear

Kelvin Bostick

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CONTACT US

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2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Jasper County First Steps works collaboratively to ensure all Jasper County children will start school ready to reach their highest potential through engaged support from parents, caregivers and our communities.



Duchett Hylton
Executive Director

In our role as a comprehensive early childhood agency, Jasper First Steps embodies the mandate to be holistic in meeting the needs of young children and their families. In doing so, we are both specific and diverse in our strategies, intensities, and service delivery.

In FY23, we met this objective by expanding high-quality programs and strategies, such as: increased PAT home visitation participation; increased DPIL literacy enrollment; addition of AmeriCorps Family and Community Engagement Member; enhanced Literacy/STEM Community Events (supported by The Palmetto Project); and continued #DadsMatter Fatherhood Initiative.

In FY24, we look to further pursue our vision of academic readiness and success for Jasper County’s children through the addition of Reach Out and Read. Further, we understand that equipped and supported parents raise ready children, reflected in our FY24 theme “Unmasking the Power of Empowered Parents”. Support JCFS by contributing your time, talent or treasure.

Serving Jasper County’s children birth through age five.

“Jasper County First Steps is an amazing organization that always finds a way to give back to the community! We try to attend all of their events because we know there will be opportunities to learn and grow.”

G. Bostick, grandmother
Jasper 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.

18

children served

13

group meetings and events

226

home visits

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
Free, high-quality books mailed to the home of children from birth until age five.

608

children served

5,728

books distributed

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

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

2,035

children served

61

providers served

20

certified training hours

Child Care Scholarships
Eligible children receive tuition-free enrollment at quality child care centers.

4

children served

4

families served

1

providers served

HEALTH

Early Identification & Referral
Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

14

children served

13

families served

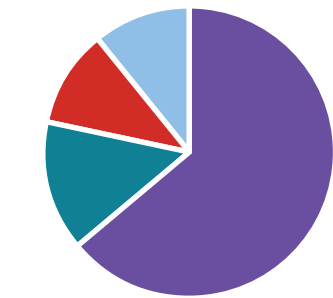
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$

\$1 = \$1.90
Jasper County First Steps leveraged \$180,387.48 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.90 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

Total: \$385,843.71



- Parenting - \$246,703.95
- Early Care & Education - \$55,957.45
- Health - \$42,247.81
- Administrative - \$40,934.5

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$380,387.48



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$5,270
- Private Funding - \$68,281.4
- In-kind Contributions - \$106,836.08

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant 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