

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2024 – 2026



Acknowledgments

I am privileged to work at York County First Steps and have the support of such a wonderful array of partners that work diligently to make York County a great place to raise children. Like many counties, there are challenges, barriers, and areas for improvement. However, the prevailing spirit of collaboration continues to persevere. There are many individuals, groups, and organizations that have been partners to York County First Steps that help inform our work and priorities. There is not sufficient space to acknowledge them all, however, I would like to highlight several that have not only been instrumental in helping inform our Needs Assessment Process, but more importantly, are just as committed to addressing the priorities we have identified.

- We are blessed to have all four school districts, York #1, Clover #2, Rock Hill #3, and Fort Mill #4 that see full investment in preschool children and their families as a continuing priority.
- Supportive Colleges and Universities, Clinton, York Technical, and Winthrop, support our efforts in a variety of ways.
- We have an amazing staff willing to go beyond their limits to see how to make our interventions even more effective.
- Awesome community partners including the United Way, Rock Hill Housing Authority, and Community Coalitions making sure that early interventions are at the forefront of our priorities.

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Message from the Executive Director



We are very fortunate to have multiple partners in our county diligently working to help our children prepare for success when they enter school. We are included in many conversations throughout the year about how we can expand our impact to serve more families. The priorities we have chosen to concentrate on for the next few years will serve the community and our children well. They will take serious collaborative effort from our partners, current and new and we look forward to our families reaping the benefits of our progress.

David W. Lisk, Sr.
Executive Director
York County First Steps

Needs Assessment Process

CONVENE

Held **two** community convenings with **XXX** participants and developed a vision for young children and their families

October 2022 – January 2023



UNDERSTAND

Reviewed local data and map assets to understand the state of young children, their families, and the early childhood system

October 2022 – March 2023

PRIORITIZE

Organized the insight gathered from the convenings and data to prioritize the concerns, needs, and gaps the partnership wants to address and formalized Needs Assessment

January 2023 – March 2023

“Lack of affordable childcare is becoming a serious burden to more and more families and the pandemic has only made this worse.”

-Rock Hill Mother of 3 preschool children

“Nurse-Family Partnership was a life changing program for me and I am so thankful for it.”

-NFP Graduate Mom, Octashia

Asset Map



Priorities: Summary

1. Increase Funding for Childcare Costs

- Current Partnerships with the Rock Hill Housing Authority, the United Way, and York Tech can offer a template for engaging other State and Community funders to increase funding.
- Current market conditions within the childcare industry have owners trying to balance securing and retaining adequate staffing to offer full enrollment.
- Parents struggling to pay for quality childcare have limited options in some areas of York County between access and pricing.
- Affordable and quality childcare are essential to allow parents to fully participate in the State's economic market.

2. Increase Availability of Quality Childcare in York and Clover

- The York and Clover SD's are interested in visiting the Franklin School in Spartanburg to learn more about the model used to bring community funding together to provide a quality childcare center sustained by blended funding and representative of a diverse community..
- There are outside partners interested in converting a site in York to a multi-generational site to include a childcare center.

3. Secure Sustainable Funding for Nurse-Family Partnership

- This program is a foundational intervention for our programs and sustainable funding is required to maintain long-term viability.
- This will require blended funding streams and securing a base of public funding will allow for more stability.

Priority One: 1. Increase Funding for Childcare Costs

Data points

Data sources: Rock Hill Housing Authority ROSS Program and Carolina Community Action Needs Assessment June 2022 by Winthrop University.

- Survey results from the CCA Needs Assessment indicated that Education and Childcare were the 4th highest priority of community members in York County. Housing, Transportation, and Utilities were the first three.
- Survey results from the same report from Service Providers listed Parenting and Childcare as 6th and 7th priorities for families they serve, again with Transportation and Housing as the top two.
- The Rock Hill Housing Authority received a 4 year Federal Grant to assist their families toward self-sufficiency and childcare costs were listed as one of the top barriers to achieving financial independence. We administer their childcare program for their clients.
- The United Way of York County identified childcare costs as a major obstacle for families to achieve self-sufficiency in a previous needs assessment and entered into a pilot program with York Technical College to provide childcare for students that may withdraw due to lack of affordability. We, too, are providing Administrative oversight for this program.

Priority Two: 2. Increase Availability of Quality Childcare in York and Clover

Data points

Data sources: Childcare Desert Census Tracts in York County and York Place Community Assessments

- Census tract data has indicated that childcare options in the western portion of York County have been in short supply.
- YCFS has been involved in a variety of discussions with York School District #1 and other community leaders about evaluating the Franklin School Model and its potential for their community.
- The current owners of York Place, a previous multi building development that was an orphanage, would like to develop a multi-generational site that includes a childcare center.
- York and Clover SD's have collaborated in several early childhood initiatives. Finding a blended funding childcare to serve both communities could add a significant asset to the community.

Priority Three: 3. Secure Sustainable Funding for Nurse-Family Partnership

Data points

Data sources: York NFP Service Area Birth Data and NFP National Service Office Program Assessments

- Current rates of Medicaid-funded births with additional risk factors continue to indicate a strong need for interventions for first-time mothers. Even with a 10% enrollment rate for eligible mothers in our service area, we would exceed our full capacity of 8 home visitation nurses.
- Our program was not a part of the recent Pay for Success Study of NFP in SC. We were the only NFP site in SC not included.
- Eventual sustainable funding was to include Medicaid funding, however this has been delayed.

Next Steps

