



STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 – 2026



Mission

Collaborating with other community stakeholders that help the families of Marlboro County in the areas of parenting, early childhood and well being by maximizing resources to expand services to our parents and children.

Vision

Every Marlboro County child we touch will come prepared and ready to succeed in school.

Values

- The Development of children is greatly affected by their families' interactions & influences.
- The services that we offer should meet the needs of all families no matter their current situation.
- MCFS collaborative efforts will help in the development of quality programs to service families.

Message from the Executive Director



Randall S. Johnson
Executive Director
Marlboro County First
Steps

Marlboro County First Steps will continue to thrive to be a driving force in the advocacy and difference in the lives of the early learners in Marlboro County. We hope this comprehensive plan becomes a tool that allows us to continue to focus on the importance of early childhood education in our community.

Randall S. Johnson, M.Ed

Strategic Plan Process

CONVENE

Held community convenings to develop 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



PLAN

Wrote the partnership's three-year Strategic Plan using the Needs Assessment

March 2023 – May 2023



APPLY

Utilize the Strategic Plan to inform the partnership's Annual Formula Funding Grant Application

May 2023, May 2024, May 2025



IMPLEMENT

Execute the programs and services outlined in the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



MONITOR

Track the partnership's progress on implementing programs to fidelity and on achieving the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



Priority Needs: Summary

Through a series of community convenings, a needs assessment and asset mapping process, the following needs were prioritized for Marlboro County. See our full needs assessment here:

<https://www.scfirststeps.org/media/1hvd0s3k/marlboro-county-fy24-26-needs-assessment.pdf>

1. Family Well Being

The well being of the families in our county continues to be of significant importance as it relates to health & safety.

2. Child Care Deserts

Marlboro County continues to have areas that struggle with quality childcare.

3. Children Birth – 5 Below the federal poverty level

Unfortunately, 33% of children under 5 live below the poverty level which is 13% from the state average of 21%

Objectives

- 1. Ensure the overall well being of children in Marlboro County by increasing the number of eligible children who are assessed for early intervention.**
- 2. Work to make sure the overall Well Being of the children in Marlboro County by engaging their families in learning experience as it relates to the early development.**
- 3. Ensure that the Marlboro County community understands early childhood and its importance in the development of the county children who are in poverty.**

Objective One: Increase the number of eligible children who are assessed for early intervention.

STRATEGY 1.1

Parents As Teachers

SMART GOALS

- By the end of FY 24, we will identify and work with 2.5% of children who have multiple delays.
- By FY 26, we will reduce multiple delays by referring children to Baby Net, DSS and other partnering agencies by 5%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will collaborate with Baby Net, Marlboro County School District, Marlboro DSS, Tri-Mental Health, U-REAACH,LLC

STRATEGY 1.2

Childcare Scholarship Initiative

SMART GOALS

- By the end of FY25, we will increase the number of child clients who are screened for early interventions to prevent developmental delays by 5%.
- By FY 26, we will reduce clients who have delays by 10% through identifying eligible children early to be screened by early intervention assessments.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- MCFS will collaborate with DSS, Marlboro County School District

Objective Two: The Overall Well Being of children as it relates to early childhood development will be increased.

STRATEGY 2.1

Parents As Teachers

SMART GOALS

- By the end of FY24, we will increase the proportion of our clients getting an on time well-child visit by 2.5%.
- By the end of FY25, we will increase the number of families by 10 who will receive parenting interventions and screenings.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Marlboro County School District, MC DSS, CareSouth Carolina

STRATEGY 2.2

Community Engagement

SMART GOALS

- Each year, we will host/co-host at least two community events, which will promote the well being of children through family wholeness.
- By the end of FY25, we hope to help move the county well being ranking up in S.C.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will partner with Marlboro County School District, Marlboro County Coordinating Council, Marlboro DSS, Tri-Mental Health, U-REACH,LLC & others

Objective Three: Understanding the importance of early childhood development as it relates to children in poverty

STRATEGY 3.1

Community Education

SMART GOAL

- FY 24, 25 and 26, we will continue to participate in community events such as back to school bash, Health Fair, etc. where we will distribute over 1000 Marlboro County brochures, PAT information, and childcare scholarship information.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will collaborate with Marlboro County School District, Chesterfield-Marlboro EOC Head Start, County Childcare facilities & others.

STRATEGY 3.2

Childcare Training

SMART GOAL

- By 2026, we will increase provider participation from centers, family daycares, and faith-based organizations by 10% with Childcare Trainings and other forms of professional development.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Marlboro County Adult Education, MCSD, Chesterfield Marlboro EOC, Marian Wright Edelman Library.

Overarching Measure of Success

INCREASE THE REACH OF FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By FY25, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Marlboro County First Steps will increase from 13% to 16%.

Acknowledgments

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