



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Georgetown County First Steps:



618 children

were directly served in Georgetown County



740 parents & caregivers

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



246 educators

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

THE NEED PERSISTS IN GEORGETOWN COUNTY

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

3,055

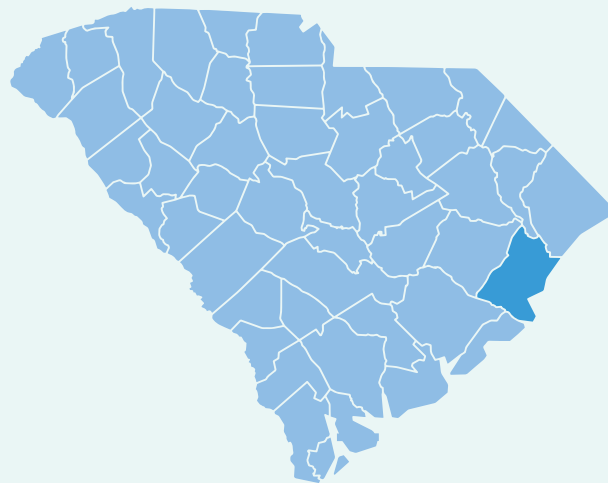
children birth to five

44%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

55%

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

“

Georgetown County First Steps has truly made a difference for our family. The support, resources, and care we've received have helped us feel confident as our child begins their learning journey. Knowing that our community is invested is important.

Georgetown County First Steps Parent



Board of Directors

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Donor List

Georgetown County School District
The Period Project
Abundance Healthcare
Small Minds of Tomorrow



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



CONTACT US

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OUR MISSION

Georgetown County First Steps takes a holistic approach to provide every child with the best possible start for school success and life; providing programs and support to help physical, emotional, and intellectual growth. We promote healthy development in children birth to five, regardless of their background or circumstance.



Dr. Ayesha Smith-Salim
Executive Director

Dear Georgetown County Community,

As we reflect on this past year, I am deeply grateful for the families, partners, educators, and community members who make Georgetown County First Steps strong. Together, we are laying the foundation for every child to enter school ready to succeed.

With your support, we have expanded access to early learning, strengthened partnerships, and equipped families with the tools to be their child’s first and most important teacher. From our 3K classrooms to family engagement programs, our shared commitment to children’s well-being continues to guide our work.

This progress would not be possible without your trust and collaboration. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to expanding access, equity, and excellence in early childhood education.

On behalf of our Board and staff, thank you for walking with us. Together, we are shaping brighter futures for the children of Georgetown County.



Tiffany Ladson-Jenkins
Board Chair

Dear Friends and Partners,

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Georgetown County First Steps Board of Directors this year. Together with our dedicated staff, community partners, and families, we have worked to expand opportunities for our youngest learners and ensure they have the strong start they deserve.

The impact of our programs is a reflection of what can be accomplished when a community unites around children and families. On behalf of the Board, I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported this mission with time, resources, and commitment.

We look forward to continuing this important work and building on the progress we have made together. Thank you for joining us in preparing Georgetown County’s children for success in school and in life.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

HIPPY

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home visiting program that supports parents in their role as a child’s first and most important teacher.

35 children served
677 home visits
30 group meetings and events

ParentChild+

Home visitation for families with 2- and 3-year olds to promote early literacy skills.

42 children served
1,376 home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

4 children served
13 providers served
3 certified training hours

Early Education Program Support

Providing families with early care and education by supporting center-based child care programs.

41 children served
6 group meetings and events

Child Care Scholarships

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

45 children served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

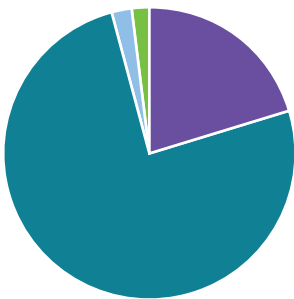


\$1 = \$1.98

Georgetown County First Steps leveraged \$355,117.79 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.98 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

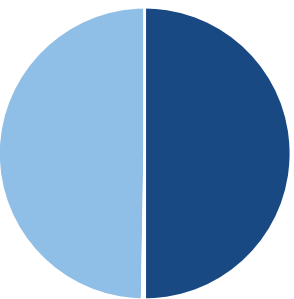
Total: \$699,617.03



- Parenting - \$142,367.24
- Early Care & Education - \$529,006.55
- Administrative - \$15,665.55
- Core Functions - \$12,577.69

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$717,630.87



- State Funding - \$362,513.08
- Private Funding - \$1,949.55
- In-kind Contributions - \$357,030

FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
State READY Funding*
Federal AmeriCorps Service Site
State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.84