



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Sumter County First Steps:



364 children

were directly served in Sumter County



145 parents & caregivers

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



271 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 SUMTER COUNTY

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

8,304

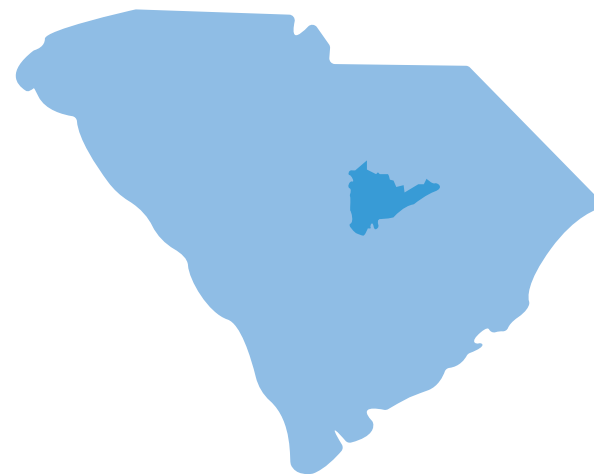
children under age 5

49.4%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

82%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Board of Directors

Toni Brew
Artrell Brown
Billy Bennett
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2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

CONTACT US

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OUR MISSION

Sumter County First Steps will cultivate, nurture and develop opportunities for children and families for success in school and life by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high quality early childhood services.



Julia A. Nelson
Executive Director

Every effort is made to provide quality strategies and programs to empower families, children and childcare providers with the skills needed to ensure school readiness. It is our goal to help children reach their fullest potential while preparing them with the foundation for long-term success through their adult life.

Our success is due to the commitment of our board, parents, school district, childcare providers, staff and other community partners in early education to collaborate and share limited resources for the greater good of our youngest population.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities to continue to ameliorate school readiness in Sumter County.

Serving Sumter County's children birth through age five.

During an end of year celebration for PAT, a parent stood up and addressed the attendees. She expressed her gratitude for everything she had learned from the Parents As Teachers program. She then began to give a short testimony about her life.

Sumter 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.

136 children served
23 group meetings and events
1,930 home visits

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Free, high-quality books mailed to the home of children from birth until age five.

228 children served
228 families served
4,095 books distributed

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Child Care Scholarships

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

9 children served
8 families served

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

5,604 children served
148 providers served
20 certified training hours

HEALTH

WIC

Serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5

65 families served

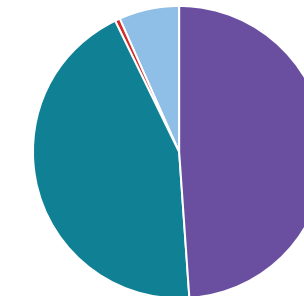
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$1 = \$1.94

Sumter County First Steps leveraged \$330,404.23 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.94 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

Total: \$676,079.32



- Parenting - \$331,692.88
- Early Care & Education - \$296,062.08
- Health - \$3,900
- Administrative - \$44,424.36

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$683,712.23



- State Funding - \$353,308
- Federal Funding - \$87,520.81
- Private Funding - \$9,135.42
- In-kind Contributions - \$233,748

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding*
Federal ESSER Funding**
State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

**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

***American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Education