

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2024 – 2026



Needs Assessment Process

CONVENE

Held two community convenings 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

Asset Map



Priorities: Summary

1. Family supports

Increase the number of families participating in evidence-based and evidence-informed parenting programs.

2. High quality early childhood environments

Support and develop the early childhood workforce through training and professional development.

3. Expand reach

Implement a service delivery system that include both programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that are light-touch and have a broader reach.

Priority One: Family Supports

9% of children living in poverty are being served directly by Horry County First Steps and SC 4K

SC Office of First Steps

Over the past five years, Horry County has experienced a substantial increase in families with small children. As a result, a priority of Horry County First Steps is to increase access to services that will assist families with young children.

While it is essential to ensure that families have access to direct services provided by Horry County First Steps, we must also ensure that collaboration with partnering agencies is a priority. Multiple family support and education programs are working with families throughout Horry County. Collaboration among all agencies and programs will assist in avoiding duplication of services and promote a seamless scope of service for families.

Priority Two: High Quality EC environments

34% of Kindergarteners demonstrate school readiness

SC State Department of Education

School readiness is directly impacted by the quality of childcare environments where children are enrolled. Children in classrooms staffed by highly qualified caregivers are likelier to be identified as demonstrating readiness on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

This priority focuses on workforce development through ongoing staff training and support. Staff will show the implementation and correct use of Creative Curriculum within the classroom. Therefore, enrolled children will benefit from higher-quality learning environments and be prepared for Kindergarten entry.

Priority Three: Expand Reach

5% of children under 6 living in poverty served by Horry County First Steps

SC First Steps

According to the FY 21-23 Strategic Plan, Horry County First Steps would serve 12% of the children residing within the 29568, 29569, 29545, and 29526 zip codes.

COVID-19 presented many challenges to our efforts to serve more children and families. Our programs and partners experienced delayed implementation, suspension of services, and lack of participation. Now that we are returning to a more "normal" mode of operations, we are focusing on our effort to expand our reach.

We also plan to accurately track where children and families reside to ensure that we meet this priority.

Next Steps



PLAN

Write 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