



CHESTER COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 – 2026





Mission

To collaborate for ensuring that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.

Vision

We will be successful when all children reach their highest potential.

Values

Every child will enter school healthy and ready to learn



Message from the Executive Director



LaTonya Boyd
Executive Director
Chester County First
Steps

The strategies contained in this Strategic Plan for achieving specific goals by 2026 are aspirational and worth all the resources and endeavors of the Chester County First Steps' Board and Staff. We are privileged to have the opportunity to strengthen our community by providing support and services to assist families in accessing early childhood resources. Our desire is to see our children flourish, thrive and reach their greatest potential. As the African proverb states, "When the children are good, the village is good." Our desire is to ensure our children are good.

LaTonya W. Boyd

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 Chester County. See our full needs assessment here:

<https://www.scfirststeps.org/media/lsgd2g4b/chester-county-fy24-26-needs-assessment.pdf>

1. Parenting Skills & Help for Parents

65% of parents surveyed expressed the need for parenting skills, parenting programs and other resources for parents.

2. Affordable Quality Childcare

62% of parents surveyed expressed the need for more childcare providers and that those that currently exist need to be accessible for varying work hours.

3. Accessibility to Resources

75% of parents surveyed expressed difficulty in accessing needed resources for their families due to the lack of availability within our county.

Objective: Expand Parent Engagement

STRATEGY 1.1

NURTURING PARENTING

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY'26, we will increase the families participating in parenting workshops by 10%.
- By the end of FY'26, we will meet with Chester County Department of Juvenile Justice two times to establish referrals for participating parents.
- By the end of FY'26, the post AAPI scores of clients will increase by 5%.

COMMUNIUTY COLLABORATORS

- Chester County Department of Juvenile Justice
- Chester County Department of Social Services

STRATEGY 1.2

NURTURING PARENTING FATHERHOOD

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY'26, we will establish a Fatherhood Nurturing Parenting Group
- By the end of FY'26, we will meet with A Father's Way to collaborate on Fatherhood activities for Chester County fathers.

COMMUNIUTY COLLABORATORS

- A Father's Way



Objective: Increasing number of quality early childhood providers.

STRATEGY 2.1

Serve as a liaison between local providers and SCFS state 4K staff

SMART GOAL(S)

- Conduct site visits to local providers meeting criteria for SCFS 4K programs.
- Provide support to local providers interested in becoming 4K providers
- By the end of FY '26 we will increase number of SCFS 4K providers in Chester County by 3

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Local childcare providers
- SCFS 4K staff
- Chester County School District





Objective: Increase usage of First Five resource

STRATEGY 3.1

Provide community awareness of First Five

SMART GOAL(S)

- Provide First Five information at community events
- Provide First Five information at parent group connections
- Provide First Five information at library parent meetings

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- City of Chester
- Chester County Library
- Chester County Government





Overarching Measure(s) of Success

By FY2, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Chester County First Steps will increase from 11% to 14%. We'll do this by achieving the following objectives:

1. Expanding parent engagement.

Expand parenting services and activities.

2. Increasing number of quality early childhood providers

Provide support to local providers to establish First Steps 4K programs

3. Increasing usage of First Five resource.

Increase community awareness of First Five

