



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Newberry County First Steps:



1,800 children

were directly served in Newberry County



1,233 parents & caregivers

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



88 educators

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

THE NEED PERSISTS IN NEWBERRY COUNTY

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

2,242

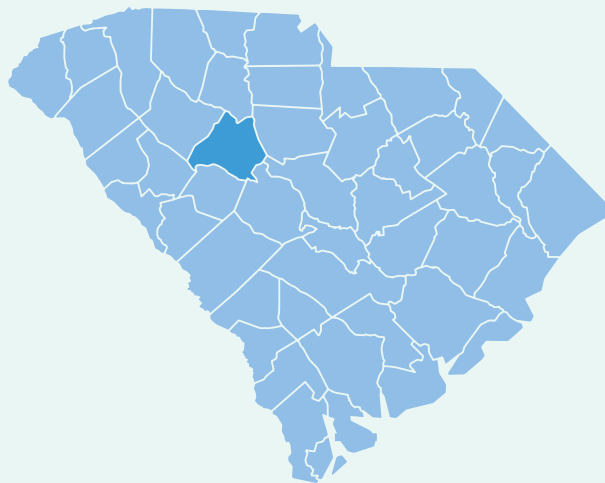
children birth to five

44%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

67%

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

OUR MISSION

Working in collaboration with parents, families, caregivers, educators, and our community, Newberry County First Steps provides opportunities and experiences so that all children enter school ready to reach their highest potential.



Sarah Eargle
Executive Director

Community, relationships, and collaboration are at the heart of Newberry County First Steps (NCFS). Our priorities are clear: expand parenting education, strengthen communication about available resources, and build equitable relationships with parents, children, educators, and our community.

NCFS champions quality early learning, ensuring children enter school ready to thrive. We are committed to using public and private funds effectively and efficiently to meet family needs. I am grateful to our Board, staff, donors, community partners, SC First Steps, and—most importantly—the families we serve. Together, we will continue to grow, strengthen our impact, and build a future where every child has the opportunity to succeed. We cannot do this vital work without you.



Abigail Fuller
Board Chair

As Chair of the Newberry County First Steps Board, I am honored to be part of an organization that makes such a lasting impact on our community. While literacy has improved greatly over the past century, the inability to read and write still exists and affects every part of a person's life. Newberry County First Steps works to break this cycle by serving our most vulnerable children, ensuring they grow into literate, thriving adults. Through programs, resources, and partnerships with schools, child care providers, organizations, and families, First Steps brings the gift of literacy and learning to children across our county. As both the County Library Director and a parent whose daughter participated in the program, I have seen firsthand how it fosters a love of reading and opens doors for the future. I am grateful to serve alongside our dedicated partners, board members, and families, and I look forward to the continued impact First Steps will make this year.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

Offers research-based curricula that help families raise children to be healthy, safe, learning, and ready for school.

18

children served

272

home visits

11

group meetings
and events

Positive Parenting Program (TripleP)

A parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioral and emotional problems in children.

32

children served

27

families served

20

group meetings
and events

Library-Based Programs

Connect librarians with child care programs and preschool classrooms, providing books, storytelling, and staff training.

542

children served

20

providers served

HEALTH

Reach Out and Read

Free, high-quality books provided by a child's pediatric provider during doctor's visits.

857

children served

991

books distributed

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Quality Counts

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

104

children served

2

providers served

124

training hours
provided

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

133

children served

12

providers served

28

certified training
hours

SCHOOL TRANSITION

Countdown to Kindergarten

Supports transitions into kindergarten by connecting incoming students, their families, and their teachers in a series of one-on-one sessions during the summer.

76

children served

8

schools served

447

home/school
visits

Countdown to 4K

Supports transitions into pre-kindergarten by connecting incoming students, their families, and their teachers in a series of one-on-one sessions during the summer.

35

children served

206

home/school
visits

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

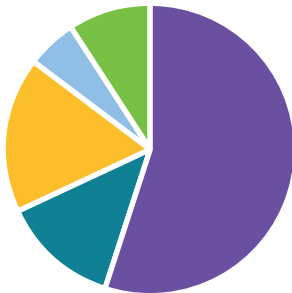


\$1 = \$1.39

Newberry County First Steps leveraged \$32,221 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.39 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

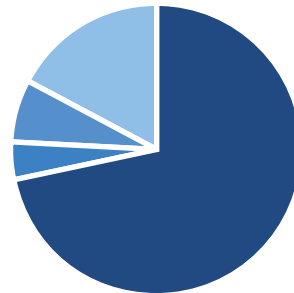
Total: \$413,433.82



- Parenting - \$227,502.26
- Early Care & Education - \$54,008.10
- School Transition - \$72,199.65
- Administrative - \$21,856
- Core Functions - \$37,867.81

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$402,074.85



- State Funding - \$289,137.12
- Federal Funding - \$16,850.65
- Private Funding - \$27,649.08
- In-kind Contributions - \$68,438

FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding

State READY Funding*

State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

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

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Since attending Triple P classes, I've seen big improvements with my 4-year-old. He has fewer tantrums, and learning and using Triple P methods has helped make mornings and getting ready for school much easier.

R'Darius W.



Board of Directors

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Antionette Alston
Kelly Bannister
Lynn Williams
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Donor List

School District of Newberry County
Newberry County Library
United Way of the Midlands
SC Endeavors
Thrivent Financial Action Teams
Westview Behavioral
Individual Donors and Community Members
ADK Sorority
Children's Trust of SC
Board Members
Newberry County First Steps Staff
The Newberry Opera House
Central Carolina Community Foundation
SLW Charitable fund in honor of the teachers at Gallman

CONTACT US

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