



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Calhoun County First Steps:



359 children

were directly served in Calhoun County



61 parents & caregivers

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



Gary Jones

Board Chair

As the board chair for Calhoun County First Steps for the 2022-2023 term, I'm honored to introduce myself as Gary Jones, a business owner in Calhoun County. Since joining the board of Calhoun County First Steps in 2020, I have witnessed first-hand the positive impact of the organization's programs on the lives of families in our community.

Our various programs such as Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, and Imagination Library are specifically designed to prepare children for school and equip them with the necessary support and resources to excel academically and socially. The board's primary focus is promoting and expanding these programs to ensure that every child in Calhoun County is ready for school and equipped for success.

It has been an enriching experience to see the positive outcomes of our efforts. The board members and I will continue working towards building a better future for our community.

Our Local Supporters

United Way of the Midlands -
\$25,000.00

Tri-County Electric -\$2,000.00

Bethlehem United Methodist Church

Orangeburg Alumnae Chapter Delta
Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Saint Matthews Police Department

Board of Directors

Kimberly Glover

Gary Jones

Linda Hickson

Treda Keith-Nelson

Cherly Prickett

Beth Rast

Sam Richardson

Stanley Rivers

Theresa Spellman

Crystal Williams

Cinthia Wolfe

Frederick Golden

Ronald Johnson

Milton Howard

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 CALHOUN COUNTY

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

728

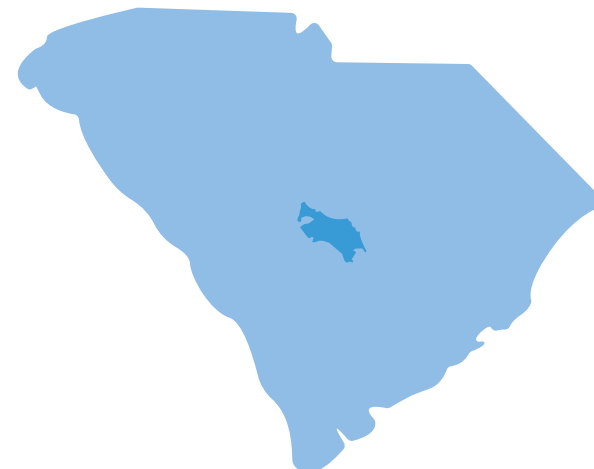
children under age 5

64.6%

of young children live in poverty or
low-income households

64%

of kindergarteners are considered
"not ready" for school



CONTACT US

304 Agnes St, Saint Matthews, SC 29135 | 803-655-5126 | calhounfirststeps.org



2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Collaborating with other entities, Calhoun First Steps helps Calhoun County families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.



JaVonna Lewis
Executive Director

Greetings! My name is JaVonna Lewis, the newly appointed Executive Director of Calhoun County First Steps. I am thrilled to be taking on this position after serving as a Program Assistant/Parent Educator for First Steps. As an organization, Calhoun County First Steps has a long-standing reputation for providing exceptional services to families and children in our community.

In the fiscal year of 2022-2023, we were fortunate enough to receive the READY Grant, which will enable us to retain our talented staff by offering competitive salaries and benefits. This grant will allow us to continue to provide high-quality early childhood education and support services to those who need it most.

I am looking forward to utilizing this experience in my new role and working with the dedicated staff and partners of Calhoun County First Steps.

Serving Calhoun County’s children birth through age five.

“Family is the most important thing in my life. I am grateful for the Nurturing Parenting classes through Saluda First Steps. I have learned positive ways to help my children. Thank you, Saluda County First Steps!”

Calhoun County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

Home visitation and group support for families, before birth and through age five.

44

families served

12

total home visits

668

total group sessions

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

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

295

children served

2,274

books distributed

SCHOOL TRANSITION

Countdown to Kindergarten

Home visitation and group support for families, before birth and through age five.

20

children served

1

schools served

115

home visits

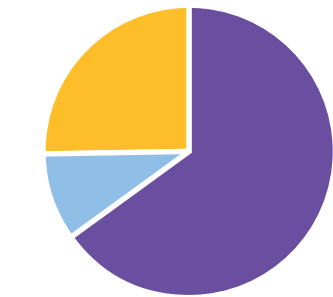
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$1 = \$1.47

Calhoun County First Steps leveraged \$94,635.87 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.47for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

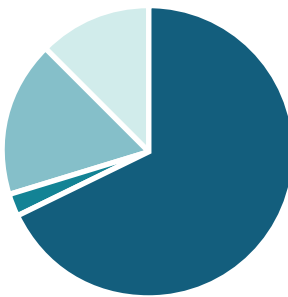
Total: \$304,377.14



- Parenting - \$198,564.73
- School Transition - \$28,952.06
- Administrative - \$76,860.35

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$294,635.87



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$7,270
- Private Funding - \$51,305.74
- In-kind Contributions - \$36,060.13

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

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

*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105
**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