



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Marlboro County First Steps:



598 children

were directly served in Marlboro County



135 parents & caregivers

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



27 educators

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



Shasta Loyd

Board Chair

Marlboro County First Steps Partnership takes pride in servicing the families of Marlboro County. Success is seen through the passion and involvement of the parents that we work with each and everyday.

Last fiscal year watching the growth of our 25 families was evident to the hard work of our staff and the willingness of the parents to grow. I am proud to be Chair of the Marlboro County First Steps Partnership.

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 MARLBORO COUNTY

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

1,560

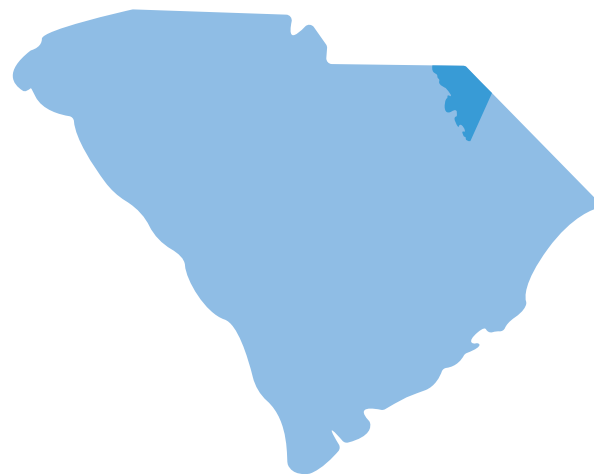
children under age 5

66.4%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

71%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Our Local Supporters

Parker's Used Cars (Tommy Parker)

Board of Directors

Shasta Loyd	Shirley Jones
Ulysess Sullivan	Brenda McRae
Linda Sanders	Nichelle Nichols
Pam Burns	Denise O'Neal
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CONTACT US

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2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Collaborating with other community stakeholders that help the families of Marlboro County in the areas of parenting, early childhood and well being by maximizing resources to expand services to our parents and children.



Randall Johnson
Executive Director

The Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to be a quality contributor to the well-being for families with young children in the Marlboro community. This can especially be notice via parenting and childcare. This past fiscal year we worked with 25 families who may not receive other quality services. MCFS also continued to be the lead county agency that works with childcare facilities throughout the community. We stress quality and efficient learning..

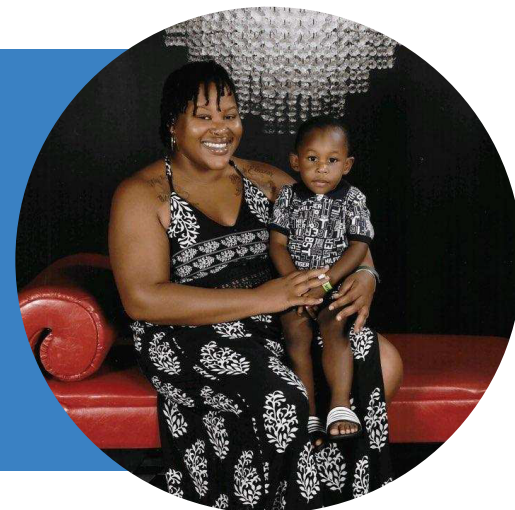
MCFS works, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Marlboro County towards these strategic goals in support of school readiness:

- *Marlboro County First Steps will work to ensure that families understand the importance of their child's well-being as it relates to early development & preschool.
- *MCFS will ensure that Early Intervention is key tool in determining what's needed for the families
- *MCFS will support early childhood education in the county through various programs that we provide.

Serving Marlboro County's children birth through age five.

"My son RJ and I really enjoy being a part of the Marlboro County First Steps Parents As Teachers Program and I was really appreciative of receiving a childcare scholarship as well. The home visits from the Parent Educator Ms. Warney have been really informative and a plus in relating to my son. The group meetings provide resourceful information as well."

Shakelah Pearson
Marlboro 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.

34 children served
10 group meetings and events
580 home visits

Reach Out and Read

Site visits for home child care providers to encourage developmentally appropriate practices.

407 children served
814 book distributed

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Child Care Scholarships

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

11 children served
11 families served
5 providers served

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

58 children served
7 providers served
13 certified training hours

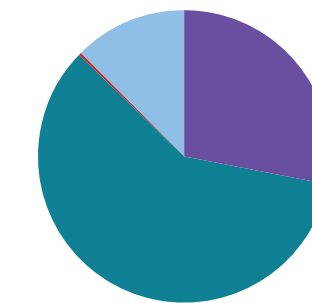
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$1 = \$1.84

Marlboro County First Steps leveraged \$168,827.49 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.84 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

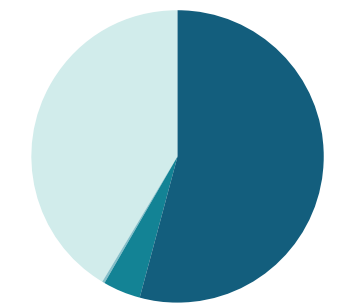
Total: \$344,203.01



- Parenting - \$97,116.88
- Early Care & Education - \$203,304.8
- Health - \$1,221
- Administrative - \$42,560.33

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$368,827.49



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$15,424
- Private Funding - \$1,466.48
- In-kind Contributions - \$151,937.01

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

"I've always enjoyed working with families in my community and helping strengthen the connection between young children and literacy. As a Americorp member, I am able to observe the benefit of my participation by forging strong bonds via education and service. This is why I enjoy volunteering with MCFS Americorps. Interacting with people and forming lifelong ties via knowledge and experiences."

Aniyah Covington
First Steps AmeriCorps Member



*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