



2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Newberry County First Steps:



1,598 children

were directly served in Newberry County



366 parents & caregivers

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



73 educators

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

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 NEWBERRY COUNTY

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

2,370

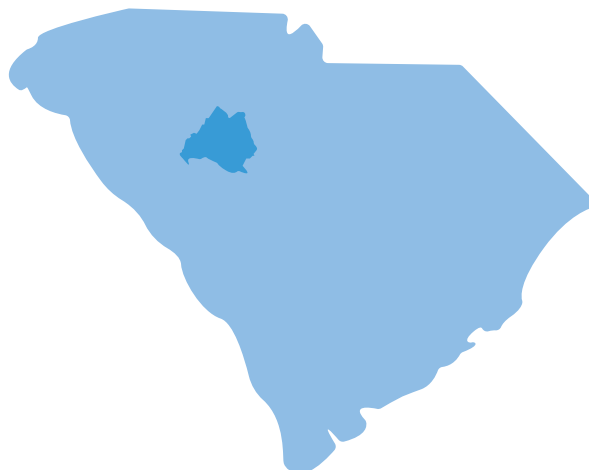
children under age 5

48.8%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

69%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



OUR MISSION

Working in partnership with parents, families, caregivers, educators, and our community, Newberry County First Steps fosters nurturing experiences so that children will reach their highest potential.



Sarah Eargle

Executive Director

Community, relationships, and collaboration are the hallmarks of Newberry County First Steps (NCFS) work. This past year, NCFS worked with community stakeholders and partners to complete a Need and Resource assessment and a three-year Strategic Plan. The insights gained helped set our priorities for the coming year - to provide more parenting education opportunities, communicate more effectively with each other and the community about available resources for families, and ensure we build relationships and engage parents, children, our community, and educators with equity.

I am grateful to our Board, staff, donors, partners, local government, state government, SC First Steps, and our families, children, and community members. Thank you for investing in Newberry County children and their families and supporting NCFS to increase access to and participation in parenting and early childhood programs and services. We look forward to continuing to grow and making a lasting impact together.

Serving Newberry County's children birth through age five.

"Thank you so much! It was because of Newberry First Steps and your (Mrs.Saddler, PAT coordinator) help and assistance that I was able to graduate (HS) on time, and here we are 18 years later, and those two babies are about to walk across that same stage!"

Newberry 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.

27

children served

12

group meetings
and events

435

home visits

Positive Parenting Program (TripleP)

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

39

children served

28

families served

29

group meetings
and events

Library-Based Programs

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

430

children served

430

families served

21

providers served

HEALTH

Reach Out and Read

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

1,020

children served

2,000

book distributed

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Quality Counts

Community-based child care quality improvement strategy, designed to build and sustain high quality in early care and education programs.

93

children served

2

providers served

80

technical
assistance hours

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

263

children served

11

providers served

24

training hours
offered

SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

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.

64

children served

8

schools served

383

home 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.

27

children served

5

schools served

160

home visits

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

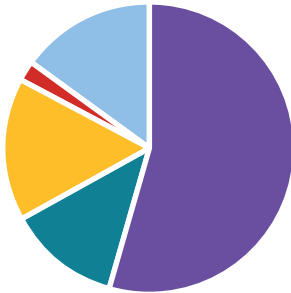


\$1 = \$1.76

Newberry County First Steps leveraged \$151,091.76 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$.76 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

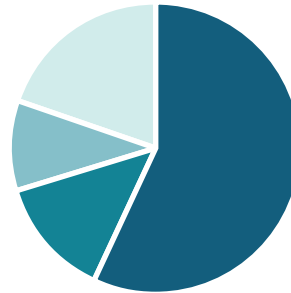
Total: \$360,971.16



- Parenting - \$196,554.50
- Early Care & Education - \$46,038.23
- School Transition - \$56,874.97
- Health - \$8,347.06
- Administrative - \$53,156.40

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$351,091.76



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$46,755.20
- Private Funding - \$35,456.16
- In-kind Contributions - \$68,880.40

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



Board Chair

Serving as Chair for Newberry County First Steps (NCFS) is a great honor. Mrs. Sarah Eargle, Executive Director, and the Newberry First Steps team embrace the mission of First Steps and work tirelessly to provide effective early childhood services to those in the community. Research has proven that early childhood interventions can positively change a child's development path.

This past year, the Board had the opportunity to participate in Strategic Planning, setting our priorities for the next three years and re-committing to our mission. Our community is filled with creativity, diversity, and opportunity, but only by coming together can we create a lasting impact that allows Newberry County families to flourish.

With the support of community members, partners, and the Board of Trustees, NCFS will continue providing high-quality resources and services to ensure all children begin school ready to learn at their highest potential.

Our Local Supporters

School District of Newberry County
Newberry County Library
United Way of the Midlands
SC Endeavors
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Thrivent Financial
Westview Behavioral
Newberry Parks and Recreation
Newberry Museum
The Newberry Opera House

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CONTACT US

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