



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Horry County First Steps:



576 children

were directly served in Horry County



120 parents & caregivers

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



82 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 HORRY COUNTY

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

18,066

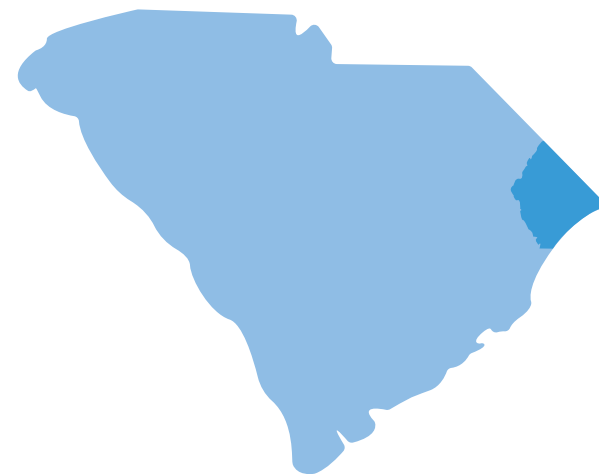
children under age 5

49.5%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

72%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



CONTACT US

1511 9th Avenue, Suite A, Conway SC 29526 | 843-488-3336 | hcfirststeps.org



2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Ensure that children start school ready to learn by supporting the caring adults who touch their lives. We establish partnerships and secure resources to provide programs that focus on quality early care and education, family support, health, and early literacy.



Amy Breault

Executive Director

As I look back over Fiscal Year 2023, HCFS has much to be thankful for and excited about. Our ability to serve caring adults impacting the lives of young children ended with a return to “normal.” The agency began to look at the needs and resources available through a post-COVID lens. We are thankful that families continue to have access to programs and services to ensure their children enter school healthy and ready to learn. My highest calling is to serve the community. I cherish the opportunity to impact the lives of young children for the better. I am proud to present the FY2023 Annual Report as it reflects the impact Horry County First Steps has made on behalf of our youngest citizens.

Our Local Supporters

- Finklea High/Loris Training Schools Alumni Association \$72,768.00
- PASOs \$26,500
- MB Art Museum \$20,473
- Lakeshore Learning Materials \$6,167.33
- TRIO Solutions \$5,851.55
- University of Kentucky, College of Social Work \$3,879
- Parent Powered \$1,223.25
- Kaplan Early Learning Company \$1,627.77
- Brittain Law Firm \$1,633.57
- Chapin Memorial Library \$949

Board of Directors

- Tina Winesette
- Jennifer Cusack
- Sabrina Long
- LaTonya Vareen
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- Debi Coburn
- Angela Grissett
- Karen Vassell
- Lynn Doyle
- Tammy Martin

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

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

26 children served 13 group meetings and events 403 home visits

Raising a Reader - Enhanced

Helps families develop, practice, and maintain home literacy habits.

113 children served 1,342 books distributed 4 group meetings and events

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

802 children served 32 providers served 30 certified training hours

Enhanced Early Education

Provides important support to students and their families through supplemental materials and book distributions to classrooms

334 children served

SCHOOL TRANSITION

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.

9 children served 2 schools served 44 home visits

HEALTH

Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

93 children served 53 families served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

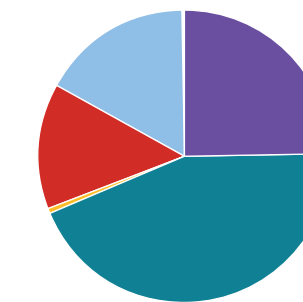


\$1 = \$1.27

Horry County First Steps leveraged \$183,184.23 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.27 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

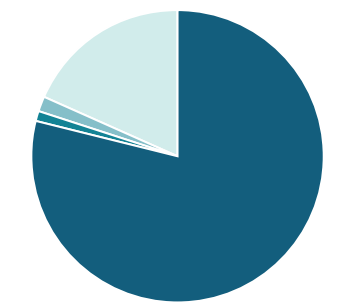
Total: \$963,434.74



- Parenting - \$239,183.78
- Early Care & Education - \$423,300.14
- School Transition - \$4,314.24
- Health - \$133,987.18
- Administrative - \$162,649.4

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$871,108.23



- State Funding - \$687,924
- Federal Funding - \$10,990
- Private Funding - \$13,452.26
- In-kind Contributions - \$158,741.97

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

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

Serving Horry County's children birth through age five.

*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