



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Fairfield County First Steps:



517 children

were directly served in Fairfield County



232 parents & caregivers

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



15 educators

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



Darreyl Davis

Board Chair

As the newly elected board chair of Fairfield County First Steps, I look forward to growing our board into a more working and involved board than ever before. We fund a lot of programs to have such a small budget.

As board members, I see us getting more involved in fundraising and volunteering our time this coming year. I also look forward to getting to know more about the work that the Executive Director does day in and day out. I am confident we will enjoy another great year of helping the youngest citizens in our county.

Our Local Supporters

Fairfield County Farm Bureau
Winnsboro Lions Club
Winnsboro Rotary Club
Inquirendo Book Club
Board members
Zuzammen Book Club
Community members
SCDSS - Inkind - \$129,860.00

Board of Directors

Misty Roberts	Sarah McMaster
Jill Coleman	T'Sheila Cooper
Dee Mattox	Eric Robinson
Darreyl Davis	Kay Hensley
Shamieka Sims	Sandi Gratic
Connie Pete	Mac Russell
Jimmy Burroughs	Jeffrey Sanders
Melyssa Shepard	Sunny Turner
Michelle Taylor	

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 FAIRFIELD COUNTY

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

1,263

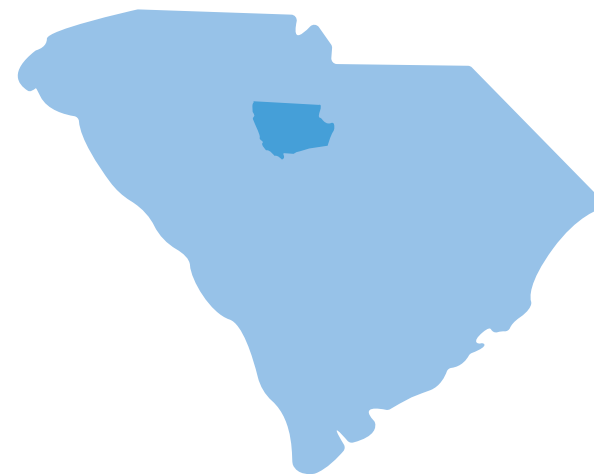
children under age 5

72.7%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

56%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



CONTACT US

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2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To Optimize school readiness for all children by helping those communities to recognize the role and responsibilities families have as the first and most important teacher of children. Motivate individuals and communities to help stabilize, strengthen, and empower families. Enable the communities to successfully accomplish tasks through the coordination of personnel, education, and financial resources.



Patti Wilkes

Executive Director

Building upon the collaborations and partnerships we have made through the years; Fairfield County First Steps continues to provide high quality programs to the community. We are providing a pathway to the available resources that can assist families on their road to success. Serving families with the highest needs is often a challenge. However, we continue to move forward with these families, building relationships and trust between us and the families.

We are committed to growing and strengthening the families using connections made throughout the years. Understanding that each child is unique, we continue to provide comprehensive services while simultaneously empowering the family.

Using the direction outline provided in our Strategic Plan, we continue to provide the programs that are most needed, locally. Building the competence and confidence of our families helps the community as a whole.

We look forward to another great year.

Serving Fairfield County's children birth through age five.

As a participant in the Parents as Teachers program and Tuition Assistance, I have learned a lot of valuable information that helps me be the best parent I can. My child is attending quality childcare allowing me to work without that worry. I am sure that my child is on the right path for success in school because of the assessments. I encourage other people to join this program.

Fairfield 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.

41 children served, 12 group meetings and events, 483 home visits

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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

222 children served, 2,229 books distributed

Library-Based Programs

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

159 children served

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Child Care Scholarships

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

2 children served

Quality Enhancement

Promotes quality in child care by providing early educators with one-on-one coaching and support.

48 children served, 4 providers served, 60 technical assistance 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.

28 children served, 155 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.

12 children served, 72 home visits

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

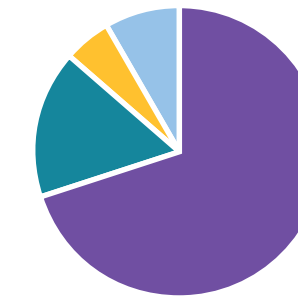


\$1 = \$2.10

Fairfield County First Steps leveraged \$220,062.45 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.10 for every state dollar invested.

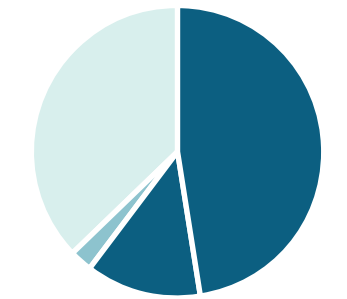
EXPENDITURES

Total: \$463,661.51



FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$420,062.45



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

*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