



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of York County First Steps:



2,609 children

were directly served in York County



2,994 parents & caregivers

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



3,250 educators

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

THE NEED PERSISTS IN YORK COUNTY

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

19,702

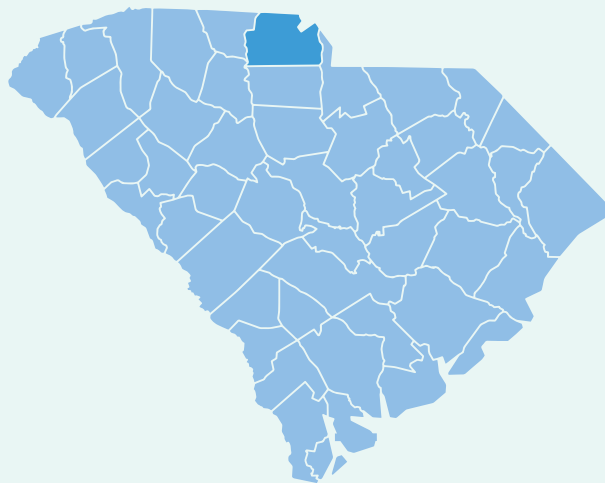
children birth to five

28%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

55%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



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

OUR MISSION

To assist children, birth to six, and their families by supporting collaborative efforts that ensure all children are prepared to succeed in school.



David Lisk
Executive Director

As we take a moment to reflect on the last year, I am reminded of a quote from William Butler Yeats, "Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire." Our mission is to facilitate this objective by meeting the needs of our families as they strive to "light that fire" in their children. We meet them as soon as the children are born through our programs and continue with programs and community partnerships until the child starts the next phase of their educational journey in 5K. We seek to help parents understand their role as engaged parents and develop the needed skills to help their children attain dreams we can't even imagine.

We encourage you to review our Annual Report as we close one year to advance to the next. We also encourage you to find your place in "lighting fires" of inspiration for our preschool children. We welcome you to join in our efforts as we help our youngest to achieve great things.

Thank you for your support!



Cindy Taubenkimel
Board Chair

There are a great many things changing in our world today and it can be overwhelming for many parents of young children. Our efforts are to help them navigate the many challenges they face so their children can thrive. Many families struggle to meet basic needs, or to know how best to nurture their children, or even how to prepare their children for a journey of lifelong learning. York County First Steps continues to serve as the resident expert in early childhood programs and interventions, whether through our own programs or through our many like-minded partners.

I thank my fellow Board Members for their time and support, as well as our dedicated staff members. I also thank our many Funders and Community Partners who believe as we do, that investing in our youngest children is the best investment for our future economic wellbeing.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in helping children have a successful start when they enter school.

PROGRAMS

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Quality Enhancement

Intensive support to child care centers and preschool classrooms to improve quality.

327

children served

11

providers served

564

technical assistance
hours provided

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

6,570

children served

85

providers served

15

certified training
hours

Child Care Scholarships

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

34

children served

32

families served

15

providers served

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.

133

children served

16

schools served

785

home/school
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.

127

children served

12

schools served

769

home/school
visits

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

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

69

children served

1,407

home visits

81

group meetings
and events

Connected Families

Prevents the unnecessary removal of young children from their homes by providing parents and caregivers with voluntary, coordinated services.

89

children served

64

families served

378

home visits

HEALTH

Nurse-Family Partnership

Home visitation for first time mothers, from pregnancy until the child turns two.

63

children served

84

families served

911

home visits

HealthySteps

A pediatric primary care program that supports early childhood development and effective parenting.

894

children served

2

clinics served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

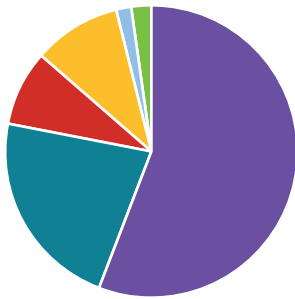


\$1 = \$1.89

York County First Steps leveraged \$817,200.49 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.89 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

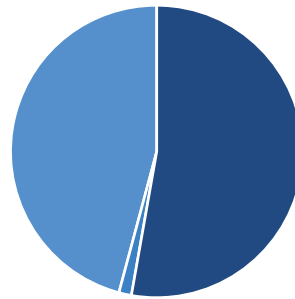
Total: \$1,806,853.67



Parenting	- \$1,012,032.11
Early Care & Education	- \$400,213.84
Health	- \$153,340.88
School Transition	- \$174,358.40
Administrative	- \$27,130.05
Core Functions	- \$39,778.39

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$1,737,086.10



State Funding	- \$919,885.61
Federal Funding	- \$24,644.10
Private Funding	- \$792,556.39

FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding

State READY Funding*

Federal AmeriCorps Service Site

Federal ESSER Funding**

The Duke Endowment & Doris Duke Foundation

State Dept. of Social Services and Dept. of Public Health Funding (Healthy Steps Program)

Enterprise Mobility Foundation ROAD Forward Grant

State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.84

**American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Education

Board of Directors

Elizabeth Williams
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Carolyn Green
Cindy Taubenkimel
Julie Ward
Vivian Agurs
Joyce Argo
Elizabeth Cooper
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Angela Mikolajczak
Fredrica Page
Elizabeth Johnston

Donor List

Children's Trust - MIECHV - \$199,677
Levine Foundation - \$50,000
Sister's of Mercy NC Foundation - \$47,000
United Way of York County - York Technical College - \$48,600
Rock Hill School District - \$15,500
Rock Hill Housing Authority - \$15,530
United Way of York County - Nurse-Family Partnership - \$15,000
Kaplan - \$2500
AmeriHealth Caritas Services - \$2499
York County First Steps Board and Staff - \$2350

CONTACT US

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