



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Charleston County First Steps:



765 children

were directly served in Charleston County



483 parents & caregivers

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



65 educators

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



Richardine Singleton-Brown

Board Chair

As Chair of the Charleston County First Steps Partnership Board of Directors, I'm honored to share our impact on school readiness in this Annual Report and invite you to join our efforts. The hard work of our staff and the skilled guidance of our board is evident in the gains we have made in elevating family engagement and the quality of early childhood education.

I am grateful that serving as Chair of the Charleston County First Steps Partnership Board of Directors has allowed me to contribute my expertise and passion for education, and I hope you will join us and support our mission.

Financial contributions, collaborations with local organizations, and spreading awareness amplify our impact. Contact us to learn how you can help empower children and families in our area. Together, we can work for a brighter future for our community.

Thank you!

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 CHARLESTON COUNTY

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

27,237

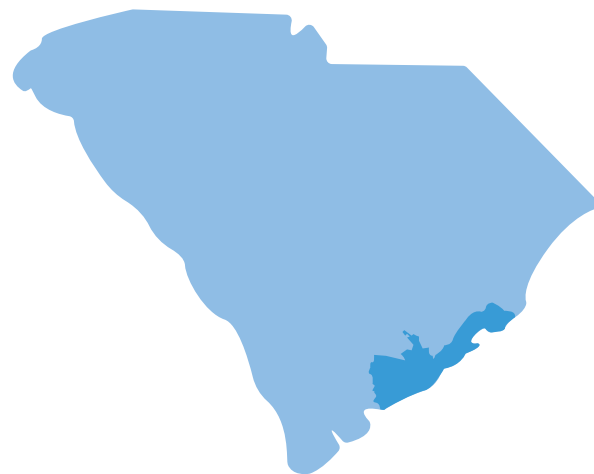
children under age 5

32.4%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

47%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Our Local Supporters

City of North Charleston \$3,200
The Walker Foundation \$30,000
Kaplan Early Learning Company \$8,760

Board of Directors

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Richardine Singleton-Brown | Nichole Myles |
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CONTACT US

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2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To improve the overall well-being of young children. We accomplish this by offering rigorous early childhood programming, providing opportunities for family engagement and support, and fostering community partnerships.



Tamatha Kohler

Executive Director

As a new Executive Director for Charleston County First Steps, I stepped into this role with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of responsibility. At Charleston County First Steps we believe every child deserves the best start in life. This principle remains at the heart of our mission.

Despite challenges from the pandemic, we strengthened our relationships and reintroduced ourselves to the community. Forging new partnerships with local businesses, schools, and organizations. These relationships have helped us expand our services and broaden our impact.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful and excited for the future. Together we will build on the solid foundation that has been laid before us and continue to make a difference in the lives of the children and families in our community.

With your continued support, we aim to further elevate early childhood programs in our community to ensure every child can thrive.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Serving Charleston County's children birth through age five.

"Thanks to Ms. Janette Glen, who is my Parent Educator. I was able to obtain my GED. She helped me connect with wonderful people who prepared me for my GED tests. This program has been a blessing. I hope more people get to know about it and can accomplish their goals like I did by obtaining my GED. I'm sure this will open new doors, and I'm ready to see what the future holds for me and my family."

Charleston County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

Early childhood development program that helps families raise children to be healthy, safe, learning, and ready for school.

35

children served

16

parent and caregiver workshops

441

home visits

Supporting Care Providers Through Visits

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

18

children served

4

providers served

63

provider visits

Connected Families

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

66

children served

45

families served

395

home visits

Raising a Reader - Enhanced

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

299

children served

272

families served

1697

books distributed

Library-Based Programs

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

10

children served

10

families served

80

parent and caregiver workshops

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Quality Enhancement

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

146

children served

4

providers served

106

technical assistance hours

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

153

children served

4

providers served

6

certified training hours

Child Care Scholarships

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

9

children served

9

families served

6

providers served

Early Head Start

A federally funded program that provides family-centered services to infants and toddlers under age 3, pregnant women, and their families.

33

children served

26

families served

538

home visits

HEALTH

Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

69

children served

73

families served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

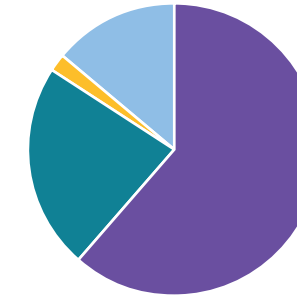


\$1 = \$2.14

Charleston County First Steps leveraged \$806,047.01 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.14 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

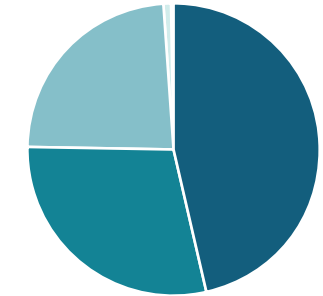
Total: \$1,462,542.71



- Parenting - \$898,963.17
- Early Care & Education - \$332,381.03
- School Transition - \$29,101.70
- Administrative - \$202,096.81

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$1,510,031.01



- State Funding - \$703,984
- Federal Funding - \$433,539.17
- Private Funding - \$359,890.31
- In-kind Contributions - \$12,617.53

SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding**
Federal ESSER Funding*

The Duke Endowment & Doris Duke Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation ROAD Forward Grant
State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

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