



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of McCormick County First Steps:



221 children

were directly served in McCormick County



83 parents & caregivers

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



22 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 MCCORMICK COUNTY

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

254

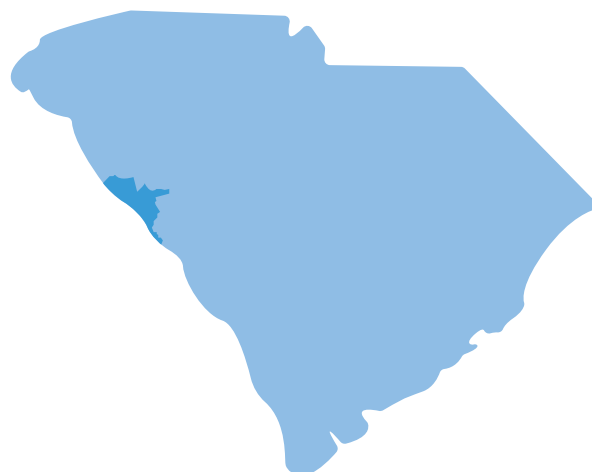
children under 6

55%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

56%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



OUR MISSION

We exist to fully support the success of all children and their families in McCormick County.



NaToya Cartledge

Executive Director

Fiscal year 2023 - 2024 has been a year of growth for McCormick County First Steps. We transitioned to an independent location, we grew our staff, and we added the Nurturing Fathers component to our Nurturing Parenting curriculum to better engage our males in the lives of their children! We are extremely proud of the progress we made this year and the impact we continue to make in the lives of all those who participate in our programs. We look forward to thrive in 2025!

As always, thank you to all our dedicated Board of Directors, staff, partners, and donors; without you we would not have a McCormick County First Steps. It is my continued honor to work for this great organization and county!

Serving McCormick County's children birth through age five.

"I am so incredibly grateful for the services McCormick First Steps offers our community. My family is enrolled in Nurturing Parenting, Scholarships, Library Literacy, and Early Education for Children under 4 programs. All of these programs have been a blessing to my family. I love the First Steps team!"

Kyashia Glover
McCormick County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Library-Based Programs

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

48

children served

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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

103

children served

926

books distributed

Nurturing Parenting

Designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices.

38

children served

36

families served

425

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Early Education

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

22

children served

Child Care Scholarships

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

15

children served

15

developmental screenings

2

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.

10

children served

1

schools served

60

home visits

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

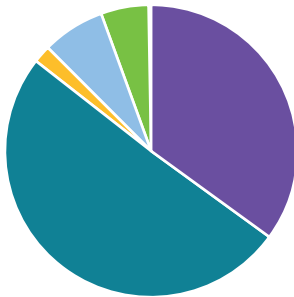


\$1 = \$1.96

McCormick County First Steps leveraged \$219,827.15 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.96 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

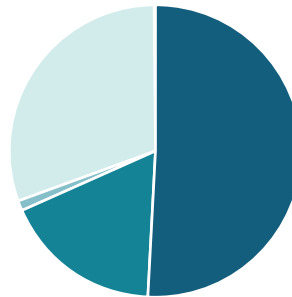
Total: \$446,812.38



Parenting	- \$156,589.08
Early Care & Education	- \$226,116.29
School Transition	- \$8,993.35
Administrative	- \$30,645.18
Core Functions	- \$24,468.48

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$449,444.57



State Funding	- \$229,617.42
Federal Funding	- \$78,719.05
Private Funding	- \$4,997.01
In-kind Contributions	- \$136,111.09

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

Fredrick Fuller

Board Chair



June 30, 2024 was my last term serving as the Board Chairman. It has been an extreme honor to serve the families and children of this county. I have mixed feelings about the new transitions on the horizon in my life. I am excited about moving back to New York to be with my biological family and sad to leave my First Steps family. I have no doubt that the future of this program is in great hands with our Executive Director and upcoming Board Chairman. It has been an extreme honor to serve alongside the Board of Directors and Executive Director to serve the families and children of this county.

Our Local Supporters

Denise Uitto Pod
Good Shepherd's Women's Club
E Club of the Carolinas
McCormick Friends of the Library
Lutheran Church by the Lake
Larry and Marcia Tarbet
Fate Jennings, Charles Jennings
Claude & Barbara Cartledge
Earl Anderson
Stephen & Ruth Detrick
McCormick Chamber of Commerce
Mt Lebanon Baptist Church
Joe & Annie Marshall
SC Department of Social Services
McCormick School District
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McCormick Lion's Club
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