



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Marlboro County First Steps:



571 children

were directly served in Marlboro County



555 parents & caregivers

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



32 educators

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

THE NEED PERSISTS IN MARLBORO COUNTY

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

1,568

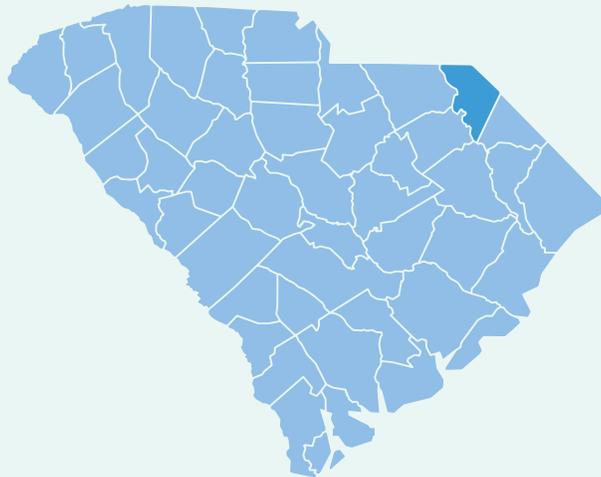
children birth to five

60%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

74%

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

Collaborate with other community stakeholders that help the families of Marlboro County in the areas of parenting, early childhood and well-being by maximizing resources to expand services to our parents and children.



Randall Johnson
Executive Director

The Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to be a quality contributor to the well-being for the families with young children in the Marlboro County Community. This can especially be noticed via parenting and childcare. This past fiscal year we worked with 31 families who may not receive other quality services. MCFS also continued to be the lead county agency that works with childcare facilities throughout the community. We stress quality and efficient learning. MCFS works in collaboration with other state and local partners to focus on advancing Marlboro County towards a few strategic goals in support of school readiness.

*MCFS will work to ensure that families understand the importance of their child's well-being as it relates to early development & preschool.

*MCFS will ensure that Early Intervention is the key tool in determining what's needed for the families & support early childhood education through our programs.



Shasta Loyd
Board Chair

Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to take pride in servicing the families of Marlboro County. Our success is seen through the passion and involvement of the parents that we work with on a daily basis. During the FY 25 fiscal year, watching the growth of the families in our program was evident to the hard work of our staff and the willingness of the parents to grow. I am proud to be the Chair of the Marlboro County First Steps Partnership Board.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

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

38

children served

607

home visits

9

group meetings
and events

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

119

children served

10

providers served

10

certified training
hours

Child Care Scholarships

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

35

children served

HEALTH

Reach Out and Read

Free, high-quality books provided by a child's pediatric provider during doctor's visits.

477

children served

698

books distributed

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

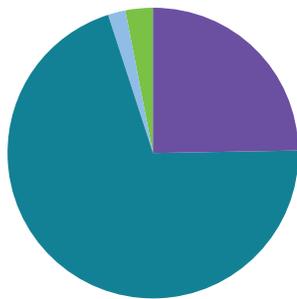


\$1 = \$2.36

Marlboro County First Steps leveraged \$305,341.67 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.36 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

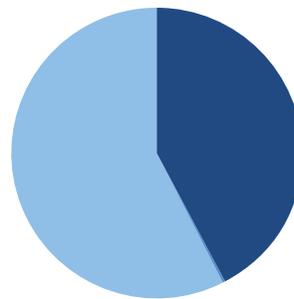
Total: \$491,054.39



- Parenting - \$122,672.74
- Early Care & Education - \$344,400.08
- Administrative - \$9,430.49
- Core Functions - \$14,551.08

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$529,994.67



- State Funding - \$224,653
- Private Funding - \$1,950.67
- In-kind Contributions - \$303,391

FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

“

We really enjoy being a part of the Marlboro County First Steps Parenting & Child care Scholarship programs. Both of our children have benefited from the PAT interactions, especially when we were new parents.

Josh and Kelli Dew



Board of Directors

Ulysses Sullivan
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Donor List

Parker's Used Cars

CONTACT US

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