



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Oconee County First Steps:



2,246 children

were directly served in Oconee County



2,022 parents & caregivers

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



50 educators

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

THE NEED PERSISTS IN OCONEE COUNTY

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

4,160

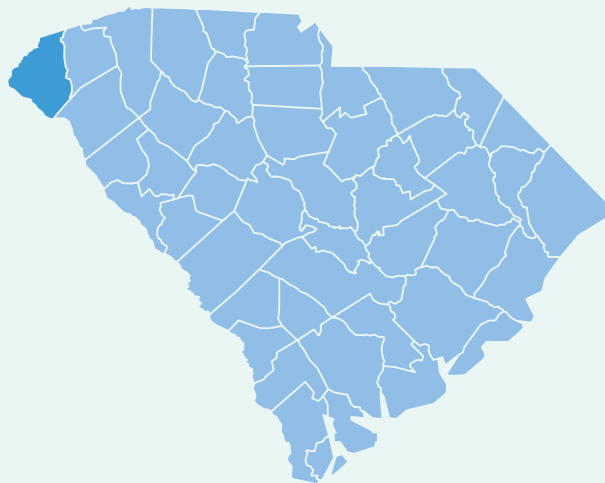
children birth to five

52%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

61%

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

Oconee County First Steps works collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.



Kaylee Osbon
Executive Director

What an incredible year it has been! I am honored to step into the role following Mrs. Daby Snipes' retirement and continue the strong foundation she built. Over the past year, Oconee First Steps has distributed more than 18,000 books through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, provided every 4K student with a book bag and book, and hosted our Annual Baby Shower where 75 diaper bags were given to new parents with the support of Trinity Baptist Church. We also launched our Story Walk at WP Anderson Park, partnered with the Westminster Recreation Department to distribute over 500 meals during school breaks, and joined the library for its Summer Reading Kick-Off Event where we provided more than 70 life jackets, sunscreen, towels, and other summer safety items. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our community. Thank you for investing in our children and families. Together, we are preparing every child for success in school and in life.



Vanessa Earle
Board Chair

It is my distinct honor to serve as the Board Chair for Oconee County First Steps and I am very proud of our accomplishments. Being able to address these issues from a board standpoint, makes serving in this role matter. With continued support, Oconee County First Steps will make sure children are ready for school! As partnerships with local organizations and our schools grows, they continuously strive to meet First Steps' goal of Getting Children Ready for School. Our collaborations with Local organizations are more important than ever before.

Contact the local partnership and inquire how you can help us continue providing school readiness opportunities for children and families. Thank you to the board, local partners, and Kaylee Osbon for work is dedicated to preparing our young children for success in school and life.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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

2,155

children served

18,310

books distributed

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Child Care Scholarships

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

13

children served

10

families served

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.

39

children served

233

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.

18

children served

105

home/school visits

HEALTH

Nurse-Family Partnership

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

14

children served

19

families served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

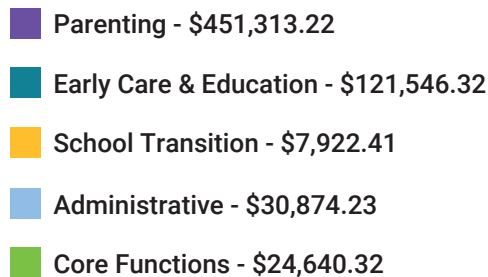
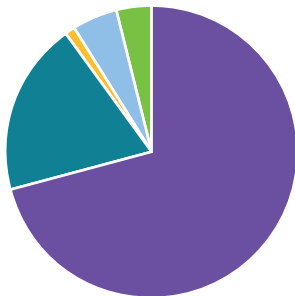


\$1 = \$2.57

Oconee County First Steps leveraged \$280,592.85 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.57 for every state dollar invested.

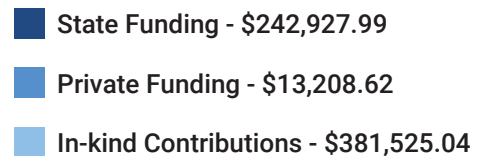
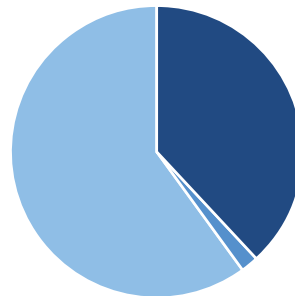
EXPENDITURES

Total: \$636,296.50



FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$623,520.84



FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding

State READY Funding*

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

“

Kathy was an incredible nurse throughout my pregnancy and the first two years of my child's life. Her support, knowledge, and kindness made every visit feel reassuring and uplifting.

Pearl Rubin



Board of Directors

Reg Tatum
Lacey Moore
Nivia Miranda
Sharon Jenkins
Breanne Alexander
Alice Lee
Vanessa Earle
Ashley Robertson
Sarah Tate
Blair Hinson
LaToya Earle

Donor List

Barrett Trading Company
The Paul Hayne Circle
Cliffs Residents Outreach Inc
Trinity Baptist Church
The Marine Corps League
Anonymous Community Donors
The City of Westminster
South Carolina DSS Child Care Scholarship
Prisma Health-Upstate Nurse Family Partnership
The Dolly Parton Imagination Library

CONTACT US

oconeefirststeps.org | (864)784-2834 | ocfsdirector@gmail.com