



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Georgetown County First Steps:



131 children

were directly served in Georgetown County



527 parents & caregivers

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



13 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 GEORGETOWN COUNTY

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

3,045

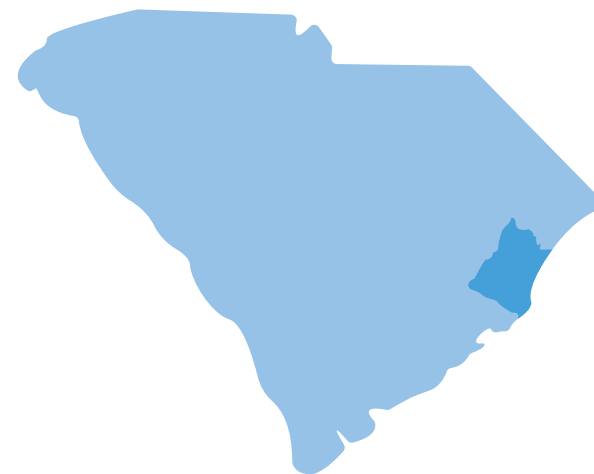
children under age 5

56%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

46%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



CONTACT US

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FIRST STEPS
GEORGETOWN COUNTY

2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Collaborating with other entities, Georgetown County First Steps helps families prepare their children for school and school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance, and expand high-quality early childhood services.



Ayesha Smith Executive Director

I am writing this letter with immense gratitude and a heart full of appreciation for the collective efforts that have made a lasting impact on the children of our community.

As the Executive Director of Georgetown County First Steps, I am thrilled to acknowledge the remarkable collaboration and support we have received from our community members, partners, and the local school district.

Preparing children for school is a shared responsibility, and I am genuinely touched by the dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by each of you. Whether you are a parent, community volunteer, partner organization, or an educator within our local school district, your commitment to the well-being and education of our children has not gone unnoticed.

Board of Directors

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Tracey Antley | Tiffany Jenkins |
| Yolanda Bradford | Quentin Lance |
| Sandra Cruz | Diane Owens |
| Joseph Enoch | Desmond Phillips |
| Towanna Grant | Shanna Scott |
| Shannon Hazel | Sheila Sullivan |

Our Local Supporters

- Georgetown County School District - \$90,000.00
- International Paper - \$4,000.00

Serving Georgetown County's children birth through age five.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

ParentChild+

Home visitation for families with 2- and 3-year olds to promote early literacy skills.

19

children served

525

home visits

Positive Parenting Program (TripleP)

A parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioral and emotional problems in children.

13

children served

5

group meetings and events

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

341

children served

2

providers served

4

certified training hours

Child Care Scholarships

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

45

children served

“As a 4K teacher, I believe in nurturing not just the potential in children but the spark of joy and curiosity within each tiny heart. In their laughter and discoveries, we find the essence of a future filled with promise and possibility.”

Georgetown County First Steps Child Care Provider



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

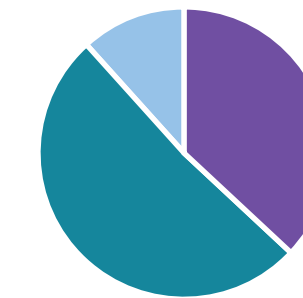


\$1 = \$1.41

Georgetown County First Steps leveraged \$81,939.69 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.41 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

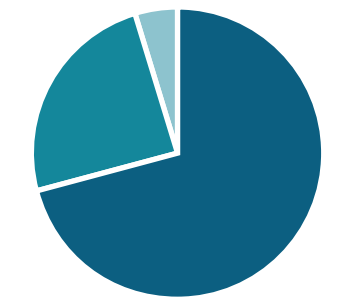
Total: \$250,617.88



- Parenting - \$92,986.51
- Early Care & Education - \$128,510.38
- Administrative - \$29,120.99

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$281,939.69



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$69,052.50
- Private Funding - \$12,887.19

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding*
- Federal ESSER Funding**
- State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*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