

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

Through community collaboration, KCFS will provide access to resources and support for families, enabling children to enter school ready to learn.

Vision

Every Kershaw County child will be prepared for success in school.

Values

The years of early childhood are a critical window of development during which much of human potential is shaped.

Families are the single most important influence on the development of their young children.

The work of supporting families and caregivers is a collaborative effort between state and local stakeholders within the public, private and faith sectors.

School readiness is the result of a child's development in many areas, with each contributing to the child's success.

Services must be individualized and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.

We value, and demonstrate in our collaborative work and advocacy, diverse perspectives in the development of public policy and programs. To achieve desired results, services must be high-quality and grounded in strong evidence.

We operate with a culture of accountability.

Message from the Executive Director



Kimberley Jordan
Executive Director
Kershaw County First Steps

The whole world seems to be catching on to the idea that learning starts at birth, and that it takes place, not just in the home, but in the early learning centers that we call “child care.” The science of brain development, coupled with long-term studies that compare children who have received high quality preschool experiences with those who have not, point to the need for public policies that support families in being able to find and afford high quality child care and out-of-school-time programs. Children do better in school and in life if they receive this positive early start. At Kershaw County First Steps, we feel a strong responsibility to educate parents, providers, public policy makers and other members of the community on why school readiness is so important.

Kimberley Jordan

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY KERSHAW COUNTY FIRST STEPS

By 2023, the percentage of children under age 6 who benefit from Kershaw County First Steps quality enhancement and training efforts will increase from 2% to 5%.

INCREASE THE REACH OF KERSHAW COUNTY FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By 2023, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Kershaw County First Steps will increase from 9% to 18%.

Objectives

1. Families are part of a connected community; have the resources they need to support their children and inform ongoing school readiness efforts.
2. Children birth to five have positive early childhood experiences and the supports they need in all settings.
3. A cohesive system of school readiness supports is accessible, equitable, data driven and directly linked to family needs.

1. Families are part of a connected community, have the resources they need to support their children and inform ongoing school readiness efforts.

STRATEGY 1.1

Parents As Teachers

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, KCFS will increase the proportion of clients connected to community resources by 10%.
- By the end of FY22, our clients' Life Skill Progression scores will increase by at least 5%.
- By the end of FY23, our clients connected to SCTHRIVE data system will increase by at least 10%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Kershaw County Child Care Centers
- Kershaw County Department of Social Services
- Early Care and Education Central Carolina Technical College
- BabyNet
- Child Find

2. Children birth to five have positive early childhood experiences and the supports they need in all settings.

STRATEGY 2.1

Child Care Quality Counts

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY22, coordinate with state partners , to host KCFS childcare education and recruitment events.
- By the end of FY23, expand KCFS services in childcare desert communities.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- SC Daycare Licensing

3. A cohesive system of school readiness supports is accessible, equitable, data driven and directly linked to family needs.

STRATEGY 3.1

Core Function

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY22, develop a public awareness campaign to reach all communities of the county.
- By the end of FY23, present a clear and consistent message to local and elected officials about the value of high quality early care and education programs.
- By the end of FY22, inform local partners of legislation that has/will have a local impact.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Kershaw County First Steps Board of Directors
- Kershaw County United Way
- Kershaw County School District
- SC First Steps
- National Parents As Teachers
- National Raising A Reader
- Kershaw County Department of Social Services