

READY

**Resources for Early Acceleration
and Development in Youth**

June 30, 2023



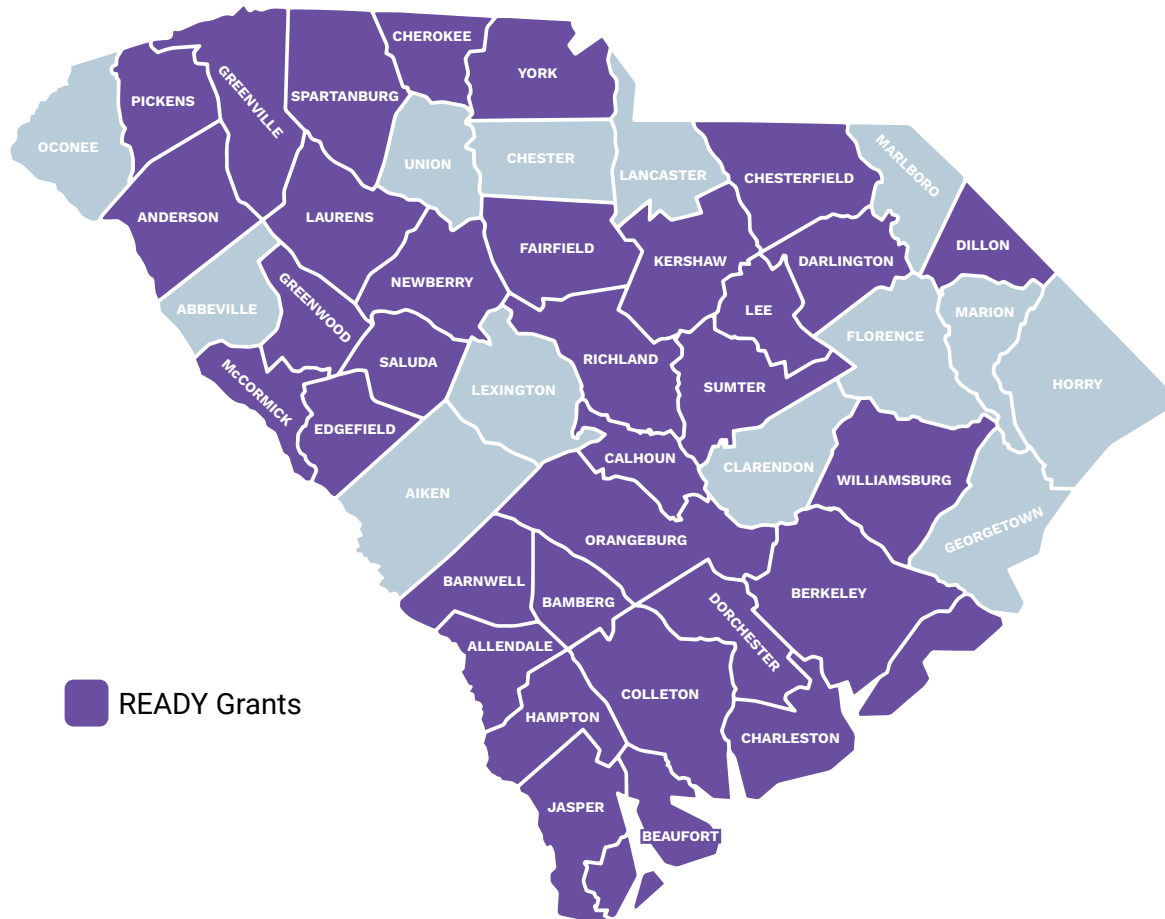
In 2022, the General Assembly made a historic investment in South Carolina's children, allocating \$3 million in recurring funds to be awarded to local First Steps partnerships through a grant-making process.

South Carolina First Steps has since awarded **Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY)** grants across 33 counties, prioritizing programs for children ages 0-3, rural communities, and counties where Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) scores are consistently below the state average.

In its inaugural year, READY funds have enabled First Steps to sustain and expand evidence-based parenting programs, increase the quality of child care, and address pressing workforce and infrastructure challenges.



In Spartanburg County, where KRA scores are consistently below the state average, Spartanburg County First Steps is using READY funds to improve the quality of child care in underserved areas.





Kershaw is a rural county where KRA scores are consistently below the state average. Kershaw County First Steps used a READY grant to establish a presence in a high-need area of public housing, offering improved access to families and needed space for parenting group meetings, child care trainings, and community resources. In May, the local partnership hosted a preschool graduation for a local child care center participating in their quality enhancement program.

READY Grants Awarded

The following amounts indicate the total funding committed for each of the grant program streams.

Create or Expand Child Care Technical Assistance Programs

\$1,651,583 over 3 years

Berkeley
Colleton
Dillon
Dorchester
Richland
Spartanburg
York

Sustain and Expand Effective Programs Serving Children and Families

\$1,592,473 over 2 years

Allendale
Bamberg
Charleston
Darlington
Dillon
Greenville

Greenwood
McCormick
Orangeburg
Pickens
Spartanburg
York

Support Family Child Care Providers through Parents as Teachers

\$48,000 for 1 year

Beaufort
Charleston
Colleton
Williamsburg

Pilot Family Cafés in Underserved Communities

\$71,900 for 1 year

Barnwell
Darlington
Fairfield

Greenwood
Lee
Williamsburg

Build Infrastructure and Capacity

\$2,203,034 over 3 years

Anderson
Bamberg
Barnwell
Beaufort
Berkeley
Calhoun
Cherokee
Chesterfield
Colleton
Darlington
Dillon
Edgefield
Greenville
Greenwood
Hampton

Jasper
Kershaw
Laurens
Lee
McCormick
Newberry
Orangeburg
Pickens
Richland
Saluda
Spartanburg
Sumter
Williamsburg
York



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