



# 2023-2024

## ANNUAL REPORT



# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Colleton County First Steps:



**646 children**

were directly served in Colleton County



**810 parents & caregivers**

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



**961 educators**

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

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## 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

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## THE NEED PERSISTS IN COLLETON COUNTY

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

**2,498**

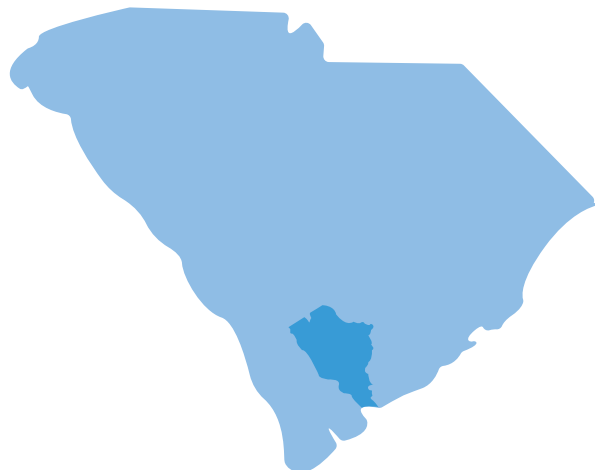
children under 6

**58%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**77%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



# OUR MISSION

To collaborate with other entities to help families and caregivers prepare our children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance, and expand high quality for early childhood services.



## Cindy Riley

Executive Director

Colleton County First Steps' staff and partnership board work throughout the community with other non-profits, faith based organizations, businesses and government entities to implement programs for children and their families. We collaborate with other agencies such as SC Department of Social Services, the Board of Disabilities, Baby Net, DHEC, and Colleton Adult Learning Center.

During the 2023-2024 year, our families set goals for themselves and worked diligently to meet these goals. Our staff and board worked hard to ensure that all of our children and their families' needs were met.

Our work with our families wouldn't be possible without our tremendous community partners! The Colleton County School District, the Walterboro Rotary Club, the Cherokee Plantation Charities Foundation, the Kumar Family foundation, and local individuals make our work possible by their very generous support!

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## Serving Colleton County's children birth through age five.

“The math activities at the Group Connections meeting were great! My children loved it!”

Colleton County First Steps Parent



# PROGRAMS

## PARENTING

### Parents as Teachers

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

41

children served

14

group meetings and events

533

home visits

### Nurturing Parenting

Designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices.

26

children served

20

families served

298

home visits

### Connected Families

Prevents the unnecessary removal of young children from their homes by providing parents and caregivers with voluntary, coordinated services.

12

children served

11

families served

151

home visits

## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

### Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

1,248

children served

18

providers served

40

certified training hours

### Child Care Scholarships

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

20

children served

23

families served

7

providers served

### Quality Counts

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

111

children served

3

providers served

52

training hours provided

## 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.

25

children served

4

schools served

150

home 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.

25

children served

4

schools served

150

home visits

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

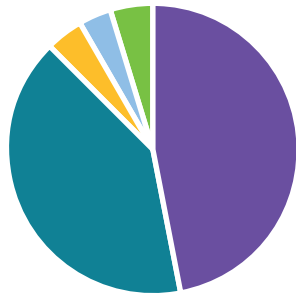


**\$1 = \$2.25**

Colleton County First Steps leveraged \$351,003.72 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.25 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

Total: \$563,870.36



- Parenting - \$264,995.18
- Early Care & Education - \$229,252.94
- School Transition - \$23,408.10
- Administrative - \$20,798.81
- Core Functions - \$25,415.33

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$632,443.72



- State Funding - \$281,440
- Federal Funding - \$66,504.18
- Private Funding - \$94,699.94
- In-kind Contributions - \$189,799.60

## FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding\*
- Federal ESSER Funding\*\*
- The Duke Endowment & Doris Duke Foundation
- State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

\*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105

\*\*American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Education

Note: Revenue amounts may show a difference between allocations and revenue based on penalties imposed by the SC First Steps Board of Trustees for non-compliance with organizational policies. The figures provided are based on unaudited financial statements and, as such, are subject to change.



# Tangela Green

## Board Chair

Colleton County First Steps Board works in our community to meet the needs of our children and their families. Our board's top priority continues to be to increase our reach in the community and to serve as many children and families as possible.

Our board realizes that the success of the local partnership wouldn't be possible without our dedicated staff and the willingness of our board members to volunteer their time and help when needed. Our board members take on a large community project each year and provide toys for needy children for the holidays since this is a great need in our community.

Our partnership wouldn't be as successful as it is without our community partners. We are fortunate that we live in a small community where individuals, community organizations, and businesses come together to help small non-profits such as Colleton County First Steps!

## Our Local Supporters

Coastal Community Foundation \$14,400

Kumar Family Foundation \$5,500

Cherokee Plantation Charities \$5,000

Walterboro Rotary Club \$3,000

SC Endeavors \$2,500

Colleton County School District - In Kind \$24,179

SC Department of Social Services - In Kind \$165,620

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## Board of Directors

Susan Dodd

Latoya Lynah

Catherine Fanchette

David Martin

Barbara Grant

Sandy Polk

Tangela Green

Redelma Saxby

Janis Headden

Jessica Williams

Julie Hiott

Juliette Williams

Martha Johnson

Janice Young

## CONTACT US

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