



# 2023-2024

## ANNUAL REPORT



# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Hampton County First Steps:



**593 children**

were directly served in Hampton County



**421 parents & caregivers**

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



**42 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 HAMPTON COUNTY

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

**1,222**

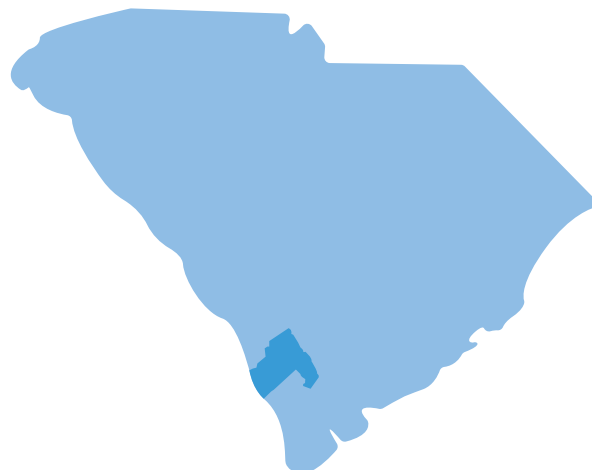
children under 6

**63%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

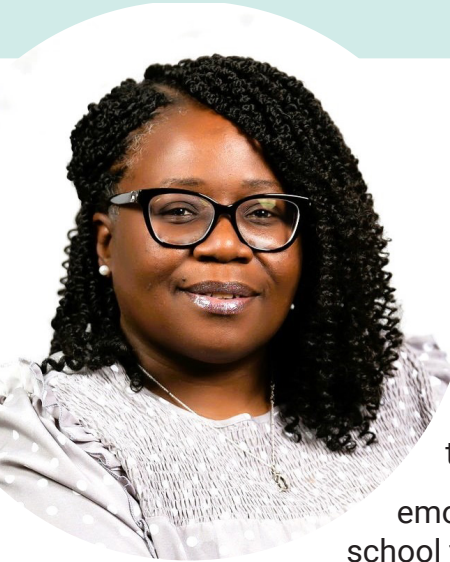
**59%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



# OUR MISSION

Fuel and inspire children emotionally, socially and physical in order to achieve their personal best in school through collaboration with parents, caregivers and communities



## Dwana Doctor

Executive Director

As I enter my 8th year as Executive Director, I am extremely excited to present our 2023-2024 Hampton County First Steps Annual Report. Our team has remained dedicated in our pursuit to empower and support the families and children in our programs. Throughout this report, you will find the successes of our mission to fuel and inspire children

emotionally, socially, and physically in order to achieve their personal best in school through collaboration with parents, caregivers, and communities. I invite you to invest in the future of children and families today. Every dollar you donate fills gaps to provide support for those who need it most. Thank you to our legislators, board members, parents, early childhood professionals and community partners for their support. We look forward to embarking on a new year of meaningful, engaging and quality programs for our youngest learners in Hampton County.

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

"Being involved with Hampton County First Steps' parenting program (PAT) has given me and my family the tools and guidance that every new parent could use after having their first child. Having Victoria as my parent educator has been a blessing, as she has given me such good advice in addition to the information and materials provided. My daughter and I have enjoyed every single visit she has had with us. It's allowed us to have an even closer bond and I'm so glad we volunteered to be in this program."

Hampton 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.

25

children served

14

group meetings  
and events

388

home visits

### Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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

230

children served

1,956

books distributed

## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

### Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

161

children served

30

providers served

22

certified training  
hours

### Child Care Scholarships

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

13

children served

13

families served

4

providers served

## HEALTH

### Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

21

children served

78

materials distributed

### Reach Out and Read

Free, high-quality books provided by a child's pediatric provider during doctor's visits.

300

children served

857

book distributed

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

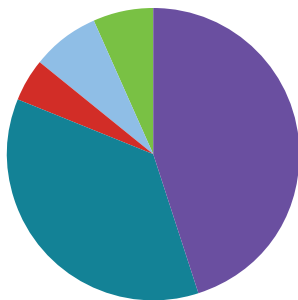


**\$1 = \$1.68**

Hampton County First Steps leveraged \$111,368.67 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.68 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

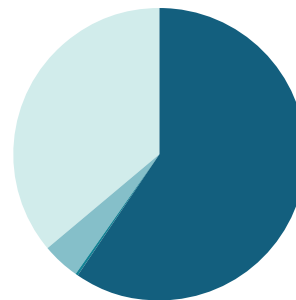
Total: \$339,673.10



- Parenting - \$153,628.42
- Early Care & Education - \$122,318.76
- Health - \$15,955.46
- Administrative - \$25,841.75
- Core Functions - \$21,928.71

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$276,084.09



- State Funding - \$164,715.42
- Federal Funding - \$635
- Private Funding - \$11,361.67
- In-kind Contributions - \$99,372

## FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

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

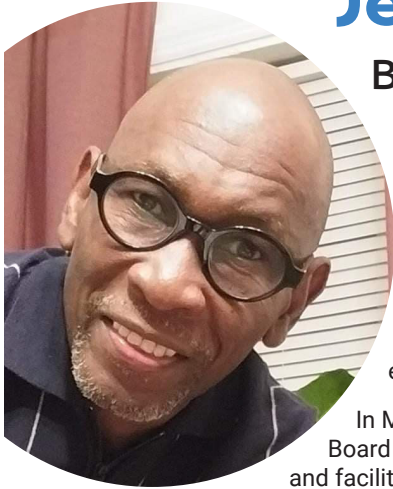
\*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105

\*\*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.

# Jeremy Dunbar

## Board Chair



The Hampton County First Steps Board is thriving and on the move. Our goal is to become more acclimated and engaged with SC First Steps so that we can provide a great source of strength to HCFS as well as serving our “little ones” to the fullest.

The Hampton County First Steps FY24 Annual Meeting was held on December 12, 2023, at the James P. Hagood Learning Center in Hampton, SC. The guest speaker for the event was Synetria Singleton, who is the Assistant Principal of the newly consolidated Hampton County High School. There many partner vendors on hand, providing resource materials for both parents and children. Evening entertainment came in way of dance from a youth group from the Greater Faith International Ministries.

In May 2024, the Hampton County First Steps Board fellowshipped with the Jasper County First Steps Board in a weekend retreat in Hardeeville, SC. The event commenced with a phenomenal workshop organized and facilitated by the county directors (Ms. Hilton – Jasper and Ms. Doctor – Hampton). After lunch we took a tour Hilton Head, SC, followed by an invigorating and fun-filled escape room challenge.

In June 2024, the board was honored to be part of the Local Partnership Leadership Convention, help at the DoubleTree Hilton, Columbia, SC. The event was very fruitful and resourceful, as it allowed our board to transcend into another level of SC First Steps.

The Hampton County First Steps Board would like to thank the SC First Steps executive staff and all the governmental/partnering agencies for shining a beaconing light on our path. We will forever strive to impart that which is given to us to our families, leading them to greater educational and social foundations.

## Our Local Supporters

SC First Steps  
Save the Children  
SC Department of Social Services  
Rotary Club of Hampton County  
CODE 92  
H&H Car Care  
SC Endeavors  
Huspah Baptist Church  
Lowcountry Rehab  
Wade Landscaping Services  
STAND Organization  
Palmetto State Bank  
Lee Furniture,  
Mommy & Me Bakery  
Hampton County School District

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## CONTACT US

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