



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Chesterfield County First Steps:



237 children

were directly served in Chesterfield County



129 parents & caregivers

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



97 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 CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

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

2,776

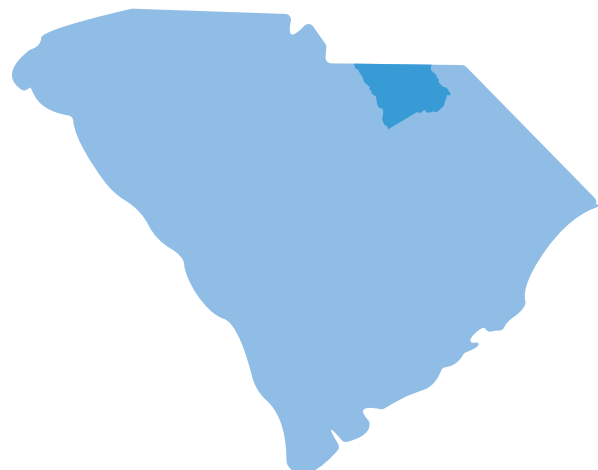
children under 6

60%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

73%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



OUR MISSION

To ensure opportunities for young children and their families in Chesterfield County so that every child enters school healthy and ready to learn.



Karen Martini-Waller

Executive Director

It is my pleasure to provide the 2023- 2024 Annual Report of the Chesterfield County First Steps nonprofit organization. With South Carolina's sustained investments, other grant funding and local donors, Chesterfield County First Steps continued to help the county's youngest children arrive at kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

We supported children and their families through collaboration and leveraging state support and local resources to support our communities. Chesterfield County First Steps is a critical part of South Carolina's early childhood system, and we are focused on helping young children become successful at school, within our community, and in our future workforce.

The success of the work of Chesterfield County First Steps can be attributed to an engaged and supportive board of directors, our faithfulness to our mission of preparing children to learn and succeed in school, our dedication to excellence, thorough planning, committed professional leadership, dedicated teachers and staff, strong community partnerships and support, and selfless volunteers.

Chesterfield County First Steps looks forward to continuing our progress in service to the children and families of our communities. We hope you enjoy learning about the outstanding work our local partnership is doing in Chesterfield County and encourage you to reach out with any questions.

Serving Chesterfield County's children birth through age five.

"ParentChild+ and the services are a must for every household with small children. Jump in with your whole heart and take advantage of the books and toys provided. Your child will learn and so will you."

Helio
Chesterfield County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

ParentChild+

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

30

children served

30

families served

1,502

home visits

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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

170

children served

1,420

books distributed

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Compass Point Preschool

Child care center that employs best practices in early education to prepare children for kindergarten and provides a positive and encouraging environment for student learning.

24

children served

24

families served

Child Care Scholarships

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

10

children served

10

families served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

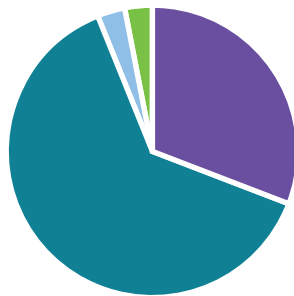


\$1 = \$2.96

Chesterfield County First Steps leveraged \$567,371.61 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.96 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

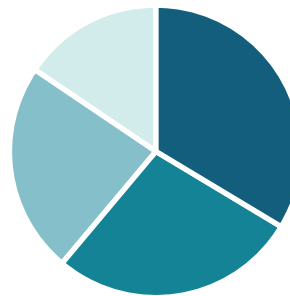
Total: \$790,315.98



- Parenting - \$243,854.70
- Early Care & Education - \$498,677.54
- Administrative - \$24,151.95
- Core Functions - \$23,631.79

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$856,975.52



- State Funding - \$289,603.91
- Federal Funding - \$234,639.67
- Private Funding - \$200,519.98
- In-kind Contributions - \$132,211.96

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

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

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

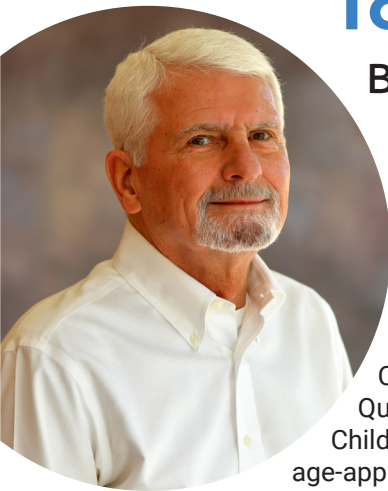
**Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0080-01-00 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Division of Early Care and Education

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

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.

Tony Nolan

Board Chair



Fiscal Year 2023-24 continued Chesterfield County First Steps' (CCFS) record of early childhood education achievement in service to our communities' children and families.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Karen Martini-Waller, CCFS's programs – Compass Point Preschool, ParentChild+, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library – enhanced its already considerable impact on quality early education in Chesterfield County.

Compass Point Preschool served 12 3K and 14 4K students, maintained its SC DSS ABC Quality "A" rating continued its progress toward attaining NAEYC national certification. Parent Child+ served 23 children and families. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provided hundreds of age-appropriate books to dozens of families.

The outstanding work of Ms. Martini-Waller and her excellent professional staff has further established CCFS as a model of convening people, organizations, and resources to help ensure that our communities' children will be ready to learn and succeed in school.

As talented and committed as CCFS personnel are, their accomplishments would not be possible without our partnerships with South Carolina First Steps, Northeast Technical College, Chesterfield County School System, numerous volunteers, local businesses, and our dedicated board of directors.

The CCFS board of directors and our accomplished Executive Director and her staff are most grateful to everyone who has supported our efforts and look forward to much more progress, greater achievements and even more meaningful impact on the lives of our early learners in the future.

Our Supporters

Grants: READY CAPACITY, READY - Classroom, DSS EXPANSION/OPERATIONS, ESSER, DSS GRANT - Operating Grant

DSS GRANT - Materials and Health Grant

Individuals: Roddy Outen, Mary B. Redfearn, Karen Martini, Bernice Linton, Gerard Myatt

Organizations: Chesterfield County Friends of the Library, Wolf Pond Baptist Church, Delta Kappa Gamma, Malloy Foundation and Sandhill Telephone Cooperative

Board of Directors

Tony Nolan
Chandar Anderson
Kathryn Cress

CONTACT US

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