

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2024 – 2026



Acknowledgments

Hampton County First Steps would like to graciously acknowledge the individuals from the community, board members, parents, and all others who were involved in this process of needs and resources assessment.

“The project described was supported through South Carolina First Steps by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0080-02-01 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.”

ReDiscover Hampton
Children’s Place Child Care
Childrens Keepers Learning Center
Adult Ed

Message from the Executive Director



**DELETE THIS IMAGE AND
REPLACE WITH YOUR PHOTO**



YOUR NAME

Executive Director

ABC County First Steps

If you choose to include a “Message from the Executive Director,” your message will go here. We recommend keeping it short and sweet, just about 100 words.



**DELETE THIS IMAGE AND
REPLACE WITH YOUR SIGNATURE**

Needs Assessment Process

CONVENE

Held three community convenings with 43 participants and developed a vision for young children and their families

October 2022 – January 2023



UNDERSTAND

Reviewed local data and map assets to understand the state of young children, their families, and the early childhood system

October 2022 – March 2023

PRIORITIZE

Organized the insight gathered from the convenings and data to prioritize the concerns, needs, and gaps the partnership wants to address and formalized Needs Assessment

January 2023 – March 2023

“Hampton County is in desperate need of more childcare centers with quality staff.”

-Participant

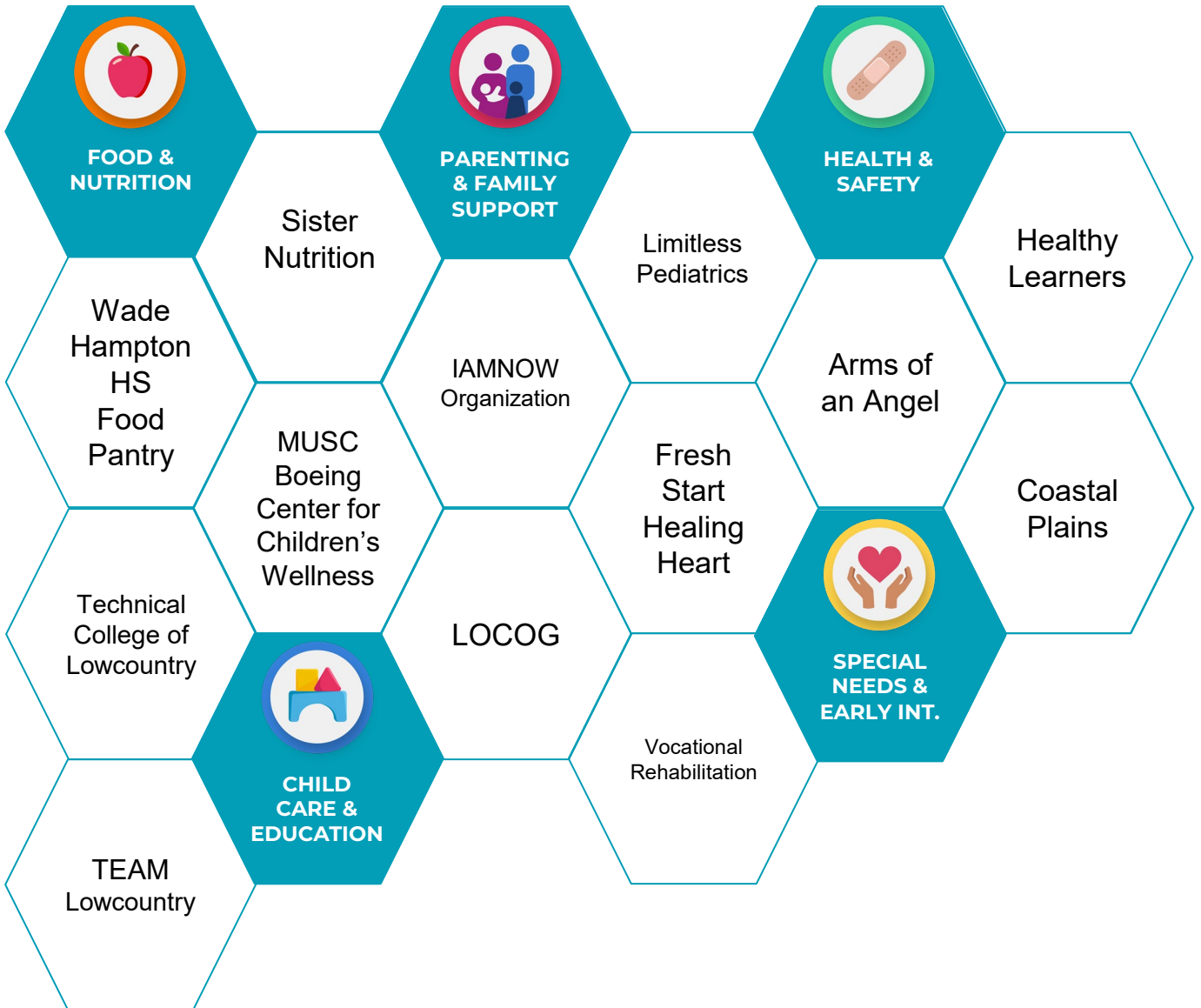
“My hope is that this assessment brings about a change in some of the areas. Hampton County First Steps cannot do it all by themselves.”

-Participant

Asset Map



Asset Map



Priorities: Summary

1. Counseling for Families and Children

After reviewing the surveys submitted by parents, approximately 60% agreed that more counseling services was a primary need in Hampton County. Currently, there is one mental health provider to every 1061 people.

2. Affordable Quality Childcare/Child Care Deserts

Surveys show that more quality child care centers are needed throughout Hampton County. In addition, they expressed the need for increased hours to serve families that do not work locally.

3. Help for Single Parent Families

After surveying parents, 50% of completed surveys indicated there is a need for helping single parent families.

Priority One: Counseling for Families and Children

Data point

Twelve percent of children in South Carolina have reported experiencing depression or anxiety in 2020, a 55% increase from 2016, according to the 2022 KIDS COUNT® Data Book. The 50-state report of recent household data developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation analyzes how children and families are faring.

Hampton County First Steps tentative plan is to increase awareness that this is a priority need for parents as well as children. COVID impacted many families dealing with virtual schooling, lack of childcare and the loss of many family members. In order to address this need, HCFS plans to collaborate with other agencies such as DSS to equip parents with more mental health resources. To meet this priority, HCFS will partner with South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association and inquire about grants to help fund any other initiatives to aid in this need.

“The local mental health office is okay, but there should be other places to go instead of there.” D. Grant, Parent

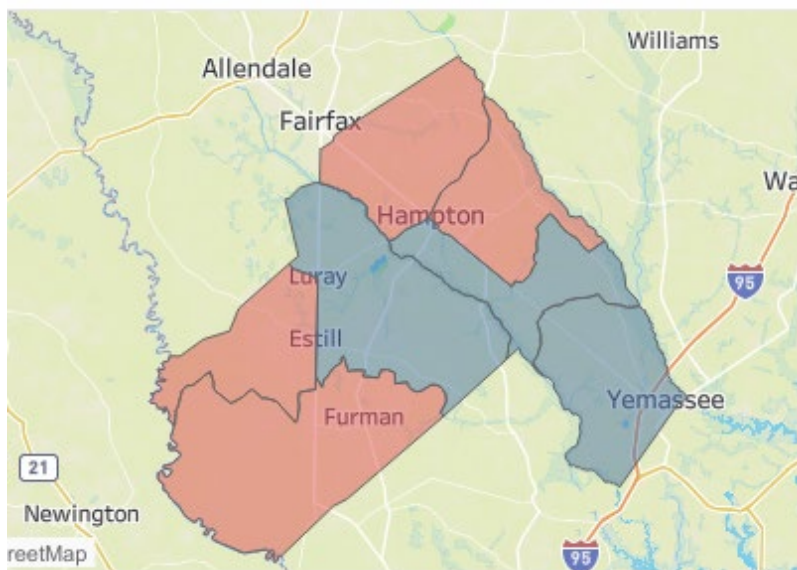


Priority Two: Affordable Quality Childcare/Child Care Deserts

Data point

37% of census tracts are considered child care deserts in Hampton County.

Provider location and center capacity obtained from scchildcare.org on October 16, 2022. Definition of a childcare desert obtained from the Center for American Progress, “A child care desert is any census tract with more than 50 children under age 5 that contains either no child care providers or so few options that there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots” (<https://www.childcaredeserts.org/>). Population under age 5 by census tract obtained from the American Community Survey 2016-2020 Five Year Estimates (Table B01001). US Census Bureau. Calculations done by Chelsea Richard of South Carolina First Steps (October 16, 2022).



With the increasing cost of childcare and lack of transportation, parents who need services are suffering due to providers' lack of availability or proximity to families especially in rural areas. This creates an additional and equally important barrier to access. HCFS plans to partner with agencies such as ABC Quality to provide workshops and other resources to try and combat this problem.

Priority Three: Help for Single Parents

Data point

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7361-children-living-in-single-parent-families-american-community-survey-series?loc=42&loct=5#detailed/5/6332/false/1983,1692,1691,1607,1572,1485,1376,1201,1074,880/any/14442source>

In 2019, approximately 53.4% of families were single parent homes. Although our Parents as Teachers addresses certain issues that single parents face, many are too busy working to receive home visits. HCFS will increase the number of parenting workshops specifically related to parents who are not enrolled in our programs. We will provide greater resources and aim to increase our reach in the community.



“Many parents don’t set out to be single parents but that does not mean they don’t deserve help. Just because you are a single parent, does not mean you cannot be a GREAT parent.”
T. Dobson, HCFS Supporter

Next Steps

PLAN

Write the partnership's three-year Strategic Plan using the Needs Assessment

March 2023 – May 2023



APPLY

Utilize the Strategic Plan to inform the partnership's Annual Formula Funding Grant Application

May 2023, May 2024, May 2025



IMPLEMENT

Execute the programs and services outlined in the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



MONITOR

Track the partnership's progress on implementing programs to fidelity and on achieving the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026

