



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Chesterfield County First Steps:



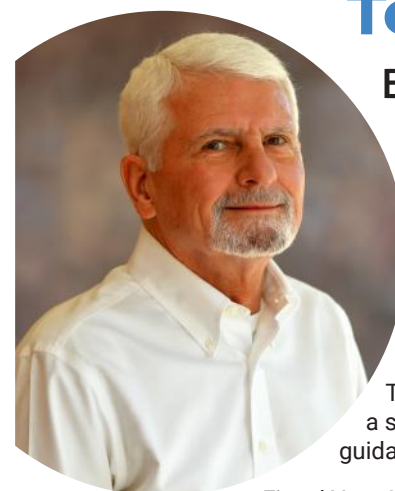
281 children

were directly served in Chesterfield County



174 parents & caregivers

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



Tony Nolan

Board Chair

Five years ago, Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) Executive Director Karen Martini-Waller presented to the CCFS board an idea for a new program, a significant new collaboration, and a new opportunity to augment our partnership with South Carolina First Steps (SCFS) State Office.

Ms. Martini-Waller envisioned an education collaboration with Northeastern Technical College (NETC) that would offer a high quality, fully licensed, nationally accredited 4K program in a lab school environment with exceptional facilities, a proven curriculum, and caring, effective teachers.

The CCFS board fully supported her intention to move forward. NETC President Dr. Kyle Wagner became a strong advocate and prime mover of the concept. South Carolina First Steps, through grants and program guidance, has been an active partner.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 marked our third successful year for Compass Point Preschool. CCFS is confident that Compass Point Preschool leadership, faculty and staff is progressively achieving the high goals the executive director set for the program from the beginning. Our thriving SC DSS ABC Quality A-rated preschool now serves 27 young learners. Ms. Martini-Waller also completed planning and, with NETC's continuing invaluable assistance, implemented Compass Point's new First Steps 3K program.

As well, in 2022-23, CCFS launched, in partnership with Chesterfield County School District and funded with a grant from SCFS, the nationally acclaimed, evidence-based, parenting program ParentChild+. Directed by Ms. Martini-Waller, a very capable program coordinator and a staff of dedicated early learning specialists guided 23 families from across Chesterfield County through completion of the forty-six-week home visitation program.

The CCFS board of directors includes parents and leaders of the education, business, service sector and faith communities. Informed by our organization's success in providing quality early learning services to the children and families of Chesterfield County, we are as encouraged for the future as we are gratified by the proven results of CCFS programs.

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.

3,980

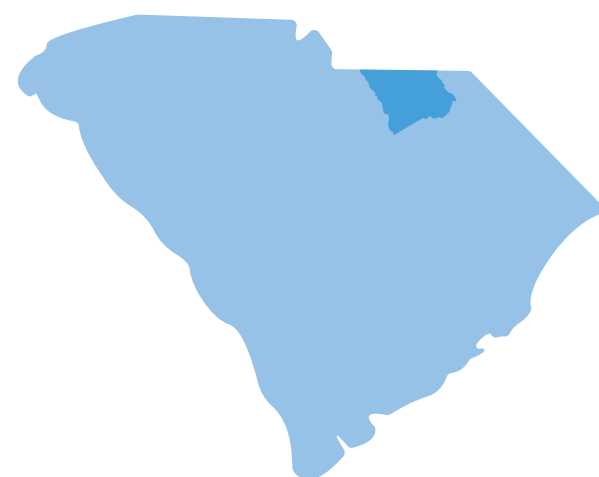
children under age 5

58.2%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

81%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Marek Calhoun | Jed Reid |
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| Mark Evans | Kyle Wagner |
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CONTACT US

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2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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

Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) completed one of its most successful years in 2022-23. This past year, CCFS transitioned its programs to one hundred percent evidence-based, best practice, direct services to children and families.

Our organization, in close concert with South Carolina First Steps, increased the enrollment of our SC DSS ABC Quality A-rated First Steps 4K program to staff-enabled maximum capacity. This successful program, an educational collaboration with Northeastern Technical College, is in its fourth year of providing excellent early childhood education.

CCFS also expanded our preschool operation to include a much anticipated First Steps 3K program. CCFS's 3K program filled up quickly and, like our 4K, has a substantial waiting list.

CCFS's Compass Point Preschool is currently preparing twenty-seven young learners for kindergarten.

Through a grant awarded by South Carolina First Steps and a partnership with the Chesterfield County School District, we implemented the nationally acclaimed ParentChild+ home visitation parenting program. Twenty-three families successfully completed the 46-week in-home, parental support/ childhood education program.

CCFS also augmented our child literacy efforts by including Dolly Parton's Imagination Library book gifting program in all our educational and outreach strategies.

The success of CCFS 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.

Serving Chesterfield County's children birth through age five.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

ParentChild+

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

22

children served

952

home visits

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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

134

children served

1,199

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.

14

children served

14

families served

HEALTH

Weekend Backpacks

Provides preschool children with nutritious, kid-friendly meals on weekends and holidays when school meals are not available.

73

children served

15,094

materials distributed

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

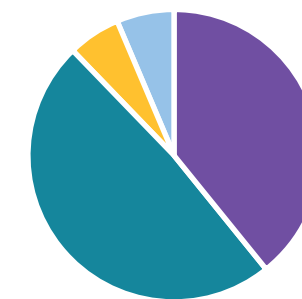


\$1 = \$3

Chesterfield County First Steps leveraged \$400,653.58 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$2.00 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

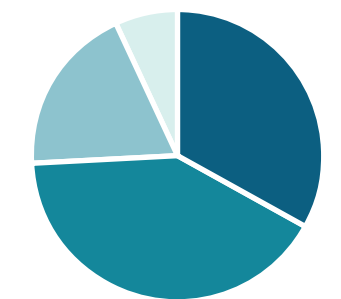
Total: \$656,893.80



- Parenting - \$257,585.6
- Early Care & Education - \$319,083.27
- School Transition - \$39,267.87
- Administrative - \$40,957.06

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$600,653.58



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$246,366.56
- Private Funding - \$113,980.18
- In-kind Contributions - \$40,306.84

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

"ParentChildPlus of Chesterfield County has helped my child a lot. We liked the variety of activities from week to week. You basically gave us the tools of books and toys, and we taught her. But you helped us. We had never thought of ourselves as her teachers, but we do now. Thank you!"

Chesterfield County First Steps parent



*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