



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Dorchester County First Steps:



139 children

were directly served in Dorchester County



76 parents & caregivers

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



180 educators

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



Lisa Hart

Board Chair

It is with great pleasure that I celebrate Dorchester First Steps for their successes this year. The executive director and her staff have implemented and completed many programs despite the minimal funds. On behalf of the DCFS Local Partnership Board, I want to highlight Ariel Taylor, Alicia Turner, Delores Footman, Roslyn Young and Courtnee Benjamin for connecting and helping parents in preparing their children for school success. I want to highlight Dr. Sabrina Marshall for single-handedly connecting families to scholarships and parenting programs. I also want to highlight Maria Michalet for keeping up with our social media and posting all of the events DCFS conducted all year. This team of experts led by Crystal Campbell, ED has done a phenomenal job. Congratulations to all on a robust and productive year.

Our Local Supporters

Dorchester School District Four (In-Kind) \$55,717

Julia Walker Legacy Foundation \$25,000

Jerusalem Triumphant Church (In-Kind) \$12,000

Morningstar Storage Landson Road Summerville (In-Kind) \$3,000

SC Endeavors \$2,500

Barbara Phillips \$1,000

Coastal Community Foundation \$500

Board of Directors

Trimeka Johnson

Ronda Simmons

Tarsha Wheaton

Almarie Scroggins

Lisa Hart

Travis Shaffer

Sharon Bennett

Crystal Rouse

Tracey Jackson

Kathy Sanders

Marvin Pendarvis

Hafeezah Yates

Barbara Phillips

Donna Alexander

Senora Waiters

Cheryl Benson

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 DORCHESTER COUNTY

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

10.492

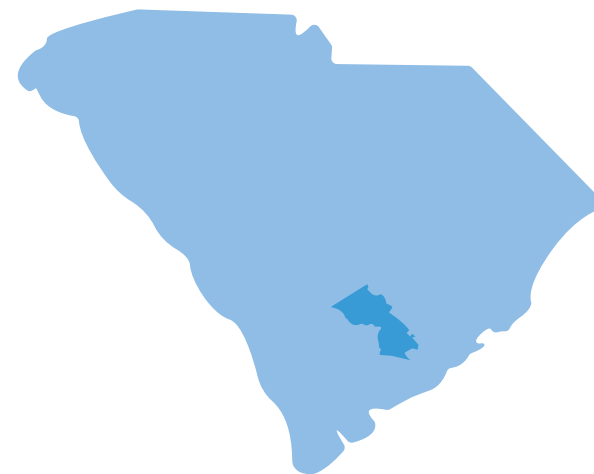
children under age 5

34.6%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

61%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



CONTACT US

P. O. Box 50399 Summerville, SC 29485 | 843.998.5505 | dorchesterfirststeps.org



2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.



Crystal Campbell Executive Director

Dorchester County First Steps once again has implemented and completed goals for numerous programs on a shoe-string budget. We have a robust Parenting Program led by Alicia Turner and supported by Roslyn Thomas, Delores Footman, Ariel Taylor and Courtnee Benjamin. We have invested in the community by providing scholarships to families so parents can go to work or school knowing that their children are well cared for and being prepared for school success. Scholarships and Quality Enhancement, led by Dr. Sabrina Marshall improves the economic vitality of the Dorchester community. Through our Childcare Training process, nearly 100 childcare teachers have earned their DSS hours. We served 71 three and four year olds in our Countdown to Kindergarten Program which was led by Kecia Simmons. FY23 has been a very full and productive year. A special thanks to our Local Partnership Board, the foundation of our success. We have much to be proud of and I am honored to be the executive director.

Serving Dorchester County's children birth through age five.

"Ms. Alicia (DCFS) is the first person to work with us and help us feel comfortable learning how to care for our child. She helps us to feel at ease and that we can ask her anything and not feel judged."

Dorchester County First Steps parent

PROGRAMS

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Quality Enhancement

Promotes quality in child care by providing early educators with one-on-one coaching and support.

171 children served 53 providers served 189 technical assistance hours

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

2,157 children served 23 providers served 37 certified training hours

Child Care Scholarships

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

17 children served

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.

41 children served 3 schools served 234 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.

30 children served 1 schools served 102 home visits

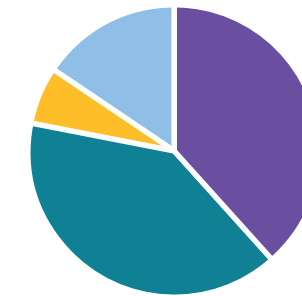
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$1 = \$1.67

Dorchester County First Steps leveraged \$197,930.54 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.67 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

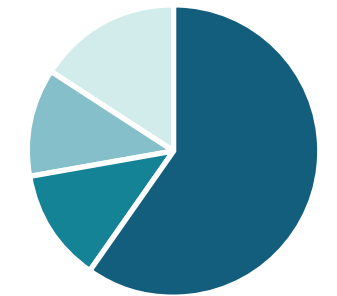
Total: \$535,988.02



- Parenting - \$206,464
- Early Care & Education - \$213,275.1
- School Transition - \$34,251.58
- Administrative - \$81,997.34

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$492,298.54



- State Funding - \$294,368
- Federal Funding - \$61,931.67
- Private Funding - \$58,082.87
- In-kind Contributions - \$77,916

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant 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

**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