



# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Anderson County First Steps:



**738 children**

were directly served in Anderson County



**927 parents & caregivers**

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

## 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 ANDERSON COUNTY

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

**13,755**

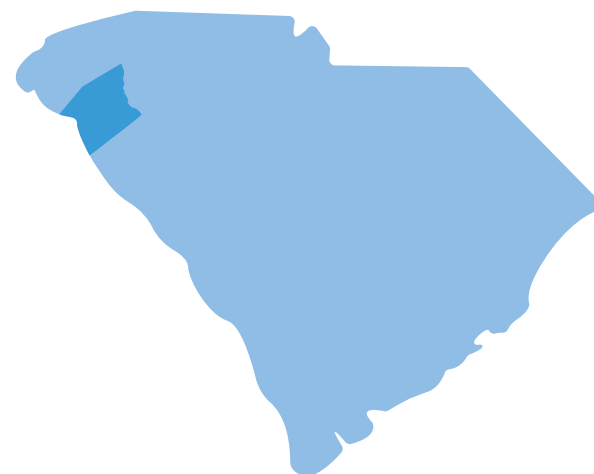
children under age 5

**42.4%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**60%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



## Dian Smiley

Board Chair



During 2022-2023, Anderson County First Steps celebrated 23 years of providing school readiness support and resources to children ages 0-5 and their families. During the past 23 years, the Anderson County First Steps Partnership has distributed over \$14,400,000. to area education, medical and other local community agencies for parenting, health, and school transition programs as well as services and early education classes for at-risk children.

Anderson County First Steps Partnership is proud of achieving these important milestones. Our mission could not have been accomplished without the passion, dedication, and support of our community partners. We look forward to continuing our efforts to make sure the children of Anderson County are healthy and ready for school.

## Board of Directors

Sherry Adger

Jackie Blakley

April Brown

Lisa Butler

Wendy Burgess

Betty Carson

Maria Torres-Green

Josie Jones

Jackie McCall

Sheryl McCollum

Nicole Schmidt

Kimberly Sharp

Audrey Shaw

Greta Young

Diane Smiley

Allison Strickland

Shannon Vaughn

Charity Walker

Liz Wittebort

Penny Whiteman

Keri Davis

Ashlea Hatcher

## CONTACT US

107 Broadbent Way, Anderson, SC 29625 | (864) 222-0410 | 1stepsac@bellsouth.net



# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# OUR MISSION

To work collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.



**Paige Wall**  
Executive Director

During 2022-2023, Anderson County First Steps Partnership is pleased to announce that it provided high-quality early learning and parenting programs and services, referrals and resources, and community education and outreach events for 1,569 children and 1,124 adults and families. In addition, 1,504 books and 10,883 printed and online early learning and parenting education materials and supplies were distributed.

We are grateful for our community partners who assist us every year to serve our Anderson County young children and their families to be successful in school and throughout their lives. We remain thankful for the opportunity to serve our children in Anderson County.

Please review our Annual Report to learn how we worked together to make an impact in Anderson County. We invite you to join us in our efforts to help all children reach their highest potential.

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

"My goal was to read to my child more often and Anderson County First Steps provided me with the tools and resources to accomplish that goal."

Anderson County First Steps parent



# PROGRAMS

## PARENTING

### Positive Parenting Program (TripleP)

A parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioral and emotional problems in children.

21 children served    20 families served    159 group meetings and events

### Raising a Reader - Enhanced

Helps families develop, practice, and maintain home literacy habits.

46 children served    46 families served    71 group meetings and events

### Half Day 4K

Free four-year-old kindergarten to qualifying children in South Carolina.

36 children served    36 families served    44 home visits

## HEALTH

### Healthy Steps

A pediatric primary care program that supports early childhood development and effective parenting.

413 children served    191 total number of screenings

## 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.

19 children served    5 schools served    112 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.

31 children served    8 schools served    185 home visits

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

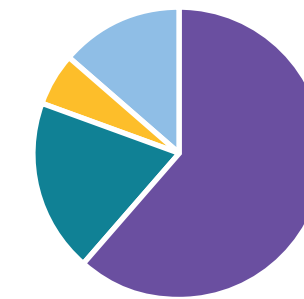


**\$1 = \$1.35**

Anderson County First Steps leveraged \$144,501.15 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.35 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

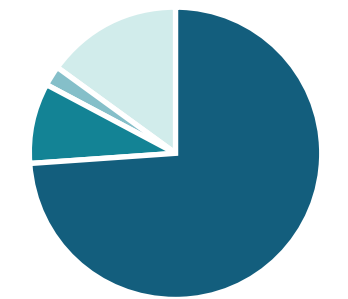
Total: \$599,777.74



- Parenting - \$352,941.36
- Early Care & Education - \$102,089.76
- School Transition - \$32,105.27
- Administrative - \$72,641.35

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$555,937.15



- State Funding - \$411,436
- Federal Funding - \$49,626.50
- Private Funding - \$12,052.94
- In-kind Contributions - \$82,821.71

## SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS FUNDING SUPPORT

- 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