



# 2023-2024

## ANNUAL REPORT



# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of York County First Steps:



**2,255 children**

were directly served in York County



**2,573 parents & caregivers**

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



**2,838 educators**

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

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## 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

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## THE NEED PERSISTS IN YORK COUNTY

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

**19,108**

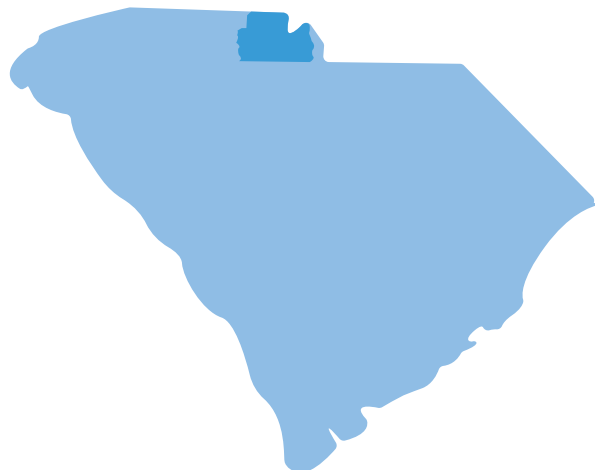
children under aged 0-5

**27%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**52%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



# OUR MISSION

To assist children, birth to six, and their families by supporting collaborative efforts that ensure all children are prepared to succeed in school.



## David Lisk

Executive Director

When we stop to reflect on this past year, we are excited by what we were able to achieve and humbled when we see how much more we need to accomplish. We occasionally seek inspiration from those that have helped guide our steps and one of the quotes from an anonymous educator shared, “Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together, they make this world a beautiful place.” Children can touch us in so many ways and when they grow up in a loving and nurturing environment with solid educational opportunities, our world can indeed be a “beautiful place.”

Our focus is to help families provide these things for their children when obstacles and challenges are present. Sometimes the need is for parenting help, others may need community resources, and even others may need longer term coaching and mentoring. Our end goal is the same but the means in which we provide the services are adaptive to the specific needs of the family circumstances. We have been fortunate to grow in our programming this past year to offer expansion in existing programs and even offering new innovative programs.

We invite you to read our Annual Report for FY 2024 and celebrate with us our achievements enabled through our staff, community donors and partners. We also invite you to join us as we strive even more to serve our families with effective early childhood interventions so we can all see and cherish the wonderful “flowers” our children will become.

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## Serving York County’s children birth through age five.

# PROGRAMS

## PARENTING

### Parents as Teachers

Offers research-based curricula that help families raise children to be healthy, safe, learning, and ready for school.

76

children served

81

group meetings  
and events

917

home visits

### Connected Families

Prevents the unnecessary removal of young children from their homes by providing parents and caregivers with voluntary, coordinated services.

89

children served

64

families served

378

home visits

## HEALTH

### HealthySteps

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

617

children served

2

health clinics  
served

### Nurse-Family Partnership

Home visitation for first time mothers, from pregnancy until the child turns two.

57

children served

99

families served

739

home visits

## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

### Quality Enhancement

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

504

children served

12

providers served

578

technical assistance  
hours

### Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

3,891

children served

203

providers served

19.5

certified training  
hours

### Child Care Scholarships

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

5

children served

5

families served

2

providers 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.

96

children served

28

schools served

576

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.

79

children served

22

schools served

469

home visits

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

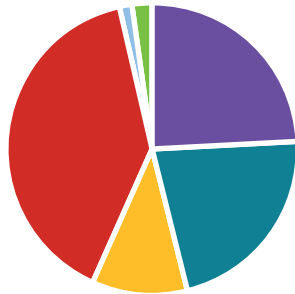


**\$1 = \$2.86**

York County First Steps leveraged \$687,406.58 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.86 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

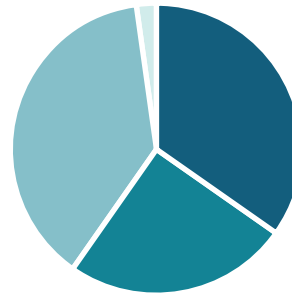
Total: \$2,016,076.23



- Parenting - \$490,086.80
- Early Care & Education - \$440,697.89
- School Transition - \$214,668.13
- Health - \$800,385.95
- Administrative - \$29,868.47
- Core Functions - \$40,368.99

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$1,964,206.14



- State Funding - \$687,406.58
- Federal Funding - \$487,621.23
- Private Funding - \$748,359.33
- In-kind Contributions - \$40,819

## FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding\*
- Federal AmeriCorps Service Site
- Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding\*\*
- Federal ESSER Funding\*\*\*
- The Duke Endowment & Doris Duke Foundation
- 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  
Federal AmeriCorps funding awarded to SC First Steps from the SC Service Commission at the United Way Association of SC

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.



# Cindy Taubenkimel

## Board Chair

It is often said that it takes a village, and this sentiment encapsulates the mission of the York County First Steps Partnership. Our organization is dedicated to providing comprehensive services that extend beyond early childhood and family strengthening; we also focus on enhancing community capacity at both local and state levels. Through our collaboration with early childhood centers, school districts, local universities, quality enhancement initiatives, parent education programs, the Department of Social Services, Countdown to Kindergarten, and the York County Interagency Coalition, York County First Steps leverages the knowledge and commitment of our dedicated team. Our goal is to ensure that those who need quality services most can access the support necessary for their success.

## Our Local Supporters

Children's Trust - MIECHV - \$132,400  
Rock Hill Housing Authority - \$98,947  
Levine Foundation - \$50,000  
Sisters of Mercy NC Foundation - \$50,000  
United Way of York County - York Technical College - \$38,700  
United Way of York County - Nurse-Family Partnership - \$25,000  
Rock Hill School District #3 - \$11,500  
YCFS Board Members, Staff, and Donors - \$2,950  
SC Endeavors - \$2,500  
Kaplan and Lakeshore

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## Board of Directors

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## CONTACT US

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