



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Greenwood County First Steps:



160 children

were directly served in Greenwood County



314 parents & caregivers

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



52 educators

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

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 GREENWOOD COUNTY

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

5,001

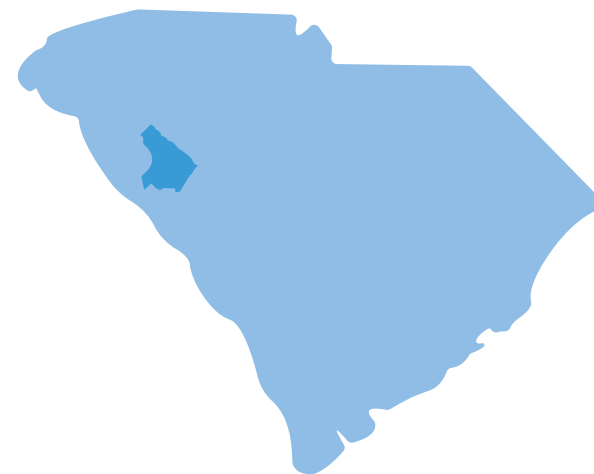
children under age 5

63.1%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

62%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Our Local Supporters

- Good 360 \$19,565.22
- United Way of the Piedmont \$17,858.30
- Sammie Robinson \$10,600
- Goodwill Industries \$9,280
- Save the Children \$3,999.90
- Community Giving \$1,221
- Elev8Designs \$699.86
- Wal-Mart \$600
- Ross Stores Foundation \$400

Board of Directors

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
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2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CONTACT US

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OUR MISSION

To provide quality services and support for Greenwood County families with children newborn through five years of old.



Santasha Highley
Executive Director

Greenwood County First Steps uses an innovative and creative approach to ensure every dollar received by Greenwood County First Steps is used to its maximum potential. Getting children ready for kindergarten is an engagement that requires every agency within Greenwood County to understand the importance of being passionate, dedicated, and committed stakeholders. The Greenwood County First Steps Full Partnership Board makes "high-quality" the goal in our service delivery and outreach efforts. The service quality of Greenwood County First Steps' programs grew tremendously with the addition of great local and state partnerships during the FY23 fiscal year. Greenwood School Districts, Lander University, and Save the Children, along with many other great community partners, have been and continue to be great partners to assist in reaching the most at-risk children in the community. Through these successful partnerships, Greenwood County First Steps offers children and families comprehensive services for school success.



Loretta Parker
Board Chair

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to the community we serve, for all the ways you have come together to support the mission and vision of Greenwood County First Steps. During this year, our board and staff undertook a strategic planning process and we looked back at the impact we have made through the FY23 program year, and look forward to ensuring that our strategies remain robust and aligned with the needs of the community. While we will continue to grow and evolve to respond to changing needs in the community, we will always stay true to our mission and vision in supporting the children and families of Greenwood County.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Nurturing Parenting

Designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices.

39 children served
12 families served
343 home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

1,610 children served
25 providers served
19.5 certified training hours

Serving Greenwood County's children birth through age five.

"First steps programs provide a lot of insight on more ways to bond with my daughter. My parent educator has taught me how to recognize my child's milestones in her growth and development. I enjoy the home visits and I feel very accomplished as a first-time mother."

Greenwood County First Steps parent



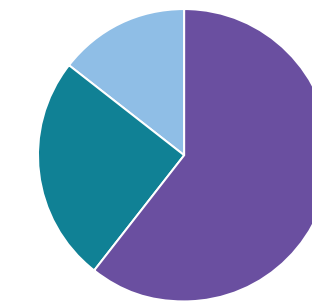
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$1 = \$1.32

Greenwood County First Steps leveraged \$72,664.99 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.32 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

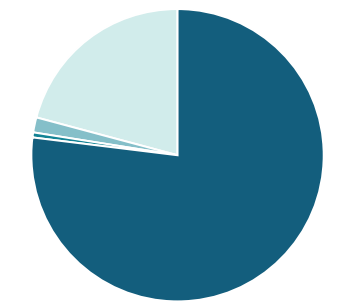
Total: \$317,627.08



- Parenting - \$192,920.41
- Early Care & Education - \$79,455.50
- Administrative - \$45,251.17

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$317,968.22



- State Funding - \$245,303.23
- Federal Funding - \$1,500
- Private Funding - \$5,154.24
- In-kind Contributions - \$66,010.75

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

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

*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