



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Saluda County First Steps:



978 children

were directly served in Saluda County



851 parents & caregivers

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



21 educators

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



Hugh Gray

Board Chair

Saluda First Steps strives for a time when every child will be prepared to succeed in school. As an active, dynamic group of change agents, the staff and board of Saluda First Steps work diligently on this mission and toward this vision.

This dynamic group has lived the mission of First Steps by creating our StoryWalk and our Born Learning Trails in our Saluda Park.

Over the next few years, our efforts will focus on objectives that will increase the number of children impacted by high-quality services, improve the safety and well-being of children, and increase community awareness and support of Saluda County First Steps. These ambitious goals demand dedication and commitment.

While we are working toward our mission, we know it will only happen through the long-term, dedicated effort of the Saluda First Steps team - the board, the staff, and community partners.

We truly are #OneSaluda

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 SALUDA COUNTY

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

1,232

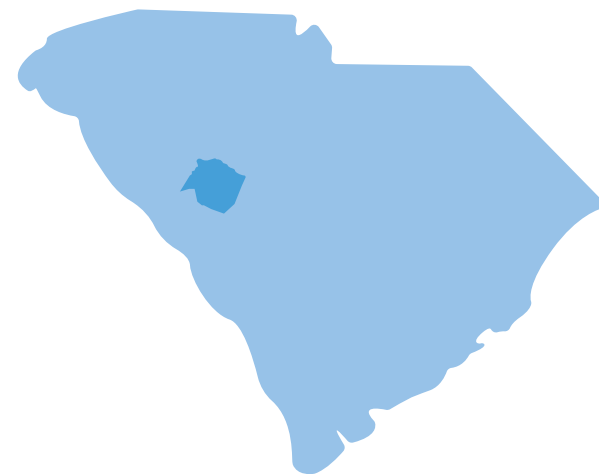
children under age 5

40.1%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

73%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Our Local Supporters

Save The Children Grant \$15,000.00

Midlands Give Campaign \$3,076.00

Private Donations \$2,772.00

South Carolina Endeavors \$2,500.00

The Potter's House Saluda

Saluda County First Steps Board

Saluda County Council

Saluda School District One

Saluda County Library

Saluda County Department of Social Services

Saluda Learning Center (GLEAMNS)

First Book

Carolina Health Centers, Inc

Board of Directors

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Elizabeth Guevara-McCartney

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Heath Ward



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CONTACT US

S. Rudolph Street, Saluda SC 29138 | 864-321-1441 | saludafirststeps.org

OUR MISSION

To help families and caregivers prepare children to succeed in school by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver enhanced and expanded high-quality diverse early childhood services.



Kim Chariker
Executive Director

What an exciting year for Saluda County First Steps. Through a Save the Children Grant, we were able to place our StoryWalk and Born Learning Trails at the Saluda Town Park. This initiative enabled us to provide language, literacy, social-emotional, physical activities, and family fun in a safe environment for free. Early education is key to promoting our mission of preparing children to succeed in school by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver enhanced and expanded high-quality diverse early childhood services.

Our collaboration efforts with our Saluda community have allowed us to share the mission, vision, and comprehensive plan for Saluda First Steps to ensure that the future of our young children and their families is supported through the programs we offer.

Our goal is to ensure that the programs we offer continue to reach our youngest children and their families to bring about more early educational successes.

Serving Saluda County's children birth through age five.

"Family is the most important thing in my life. I am grateful for the Nurturing Parenting classes through Saluda First Steps. I have learned positive ways to help my children. Thank you, Saluda County First Steps!"

Saluda County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Nurturing Parenting

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

32 children served **26** families served **33** home visits

Library-Based Programs

Connect librarians with child care programs and preschool classrooms, providing books, storytelling, and staff training.

873 children served **8** families served **108** parent and caregiver workshops

Nurse-Family Partnership

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

9 children served **9** families served **122** home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

230 children served **15** providers served **20** certified training hours

Enhanced Early Education

Provides important support to students and their families through supplemental materials and book distributions to classrooms

58 children served **58** families served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

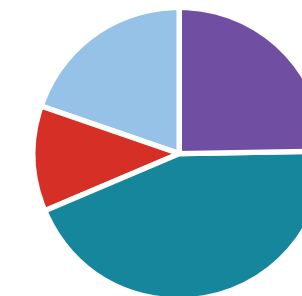


\$1 = \$1.55

Saluda County First Steps leveraged \$109,952.83 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.55 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

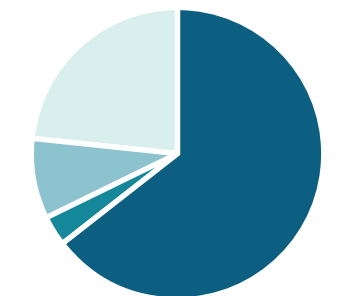
Total: \$304,817.6



- Parenting - \$75,857.9
- Early Care & Education - \$134,070.25
- Health - \$35,410.56
- Administrative - \$59,478.89

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$309,952.83



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$10,730
- Private Funding - \$27,313.95
- In-kind Contributions - \$71,908.88

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- 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