

# STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 – 2026



## Mission

Fueling and inspiring children emotionally, socially and physically in order to achieve their personal best in school (through collaboration with parents, caregivers and communities).

## Vision

Empowering families and children to pursue school readiness at their highest potential.

## Values

### RESPECT

Every individual will be respected on a basis of trust and morality regardless of cultural or diversified differences.

### HIGH EXPECTATIONS

We will work responsibly together as a team to consistently deliver quality services and programs that will produce achievable outcomes.

### FAMILIES

We aim to empower and foster a healthy environment for families to thrive, engage and promote safety as a unit.

### COMMITMENT

Committed to collaborate with families and our community to deliver services that will provide optimal results.

# Message from the Executive Director



**DWANA DOCTOR**  
Executive Director  
Hampton County First Steps

On behalf of Hampton County First Steps, we are delighted to present the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan highlighting our goals and objectives for the next three years. Although this year has truly been one of challenges and transformations, we will continue to serve our children and families by improving and continuing to provide high-quality service. Our collaborative efforts with local libraries, school districts and other community partners will aid and guide us to continue to make young children and families our number one priority.

*Dwana Doctor*

# Strategic Plan Process

## CONVENE

Held community convenings to develop a vision for young children and their families

October 2022 – January 2023



## UNDERSTAND

Reviewed local data and map assets to understand the state of young children, their families, and the early childhood system

October 2022 – March 2023



## PRIORITIZE

Organized the insight gathered from the convenings and data to prioritize the concerns, needs, and gaps the partnership wants to address and formalized Needs Assessment

January 2023 – March 2023



## PLAN

Wrote the partnership's three-year Strategic Plan using the Needs Assessment

March 2023 – May 2023



## APPLY

Utilize the Strategic Plan to inform the partnership's Annual Formula Funding Grant Application

May 2023, May 2024, May 2025



## IMPLEMENT

Execute the programs and services outlined in the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



## MONITOR

Track the partnership's progress on implementing programs to fidelity and on achieving the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



# Priority Needs: Summary

Through a series of community convenings, a needs assessment and asset mapping process, the following needs were prioritized for Hampton County. See our full needs assessment here: <link>.

## **1. Counseling for Families and Children**

After reviewing the surveys submitted by parents, approximately 60% agreed that more counseling services was a primary need in Hampton County. Currently, there is one mental health provider to every 1061 people.

## **2. Affordable Quality Childcare/Child Care Deserts**

Surveys show that more quality child care centers are needed throughout Hampton County. In addition, they expressed the need for increased hours to serve families that do not work locally.

## **3. Help for Single Parent Families**

After surveying parents, 50% of completed surveys indicated there is a need for helping single parent families.

# Objectives

## 1. CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY AND SAFE

Strategy 1.1 Engage and educate families of young children and staff with mechanisms to improve physical health.

Strategy 1.2 Educate and provide access to mental health resources for children and families.

Strategy 1.3 Work closely with local agencies to Increase father engagement.

## 2. INCREASE LITERACY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Strategy 2.1 Work closely with community partners to increase literacy programs and workshops.

## 3. FAMILIES ARE SUPPORTED AS THEIR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS.

**Strategy 3.1** Ensure greater access to parenting programs for all parents in Hampton County. These programs will be of no charge to all participants.

# Children are healthy and safe.

## STRATEGY 1.1

Parents as Teachers

### SMART GOAL(S)

1. HCFS will increase the number of families enrolled and served by 5% .
2. HCFS will cultivate a community of champions and supporters for improved health for children and families in Hampton County.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Hampton County DSS
- Youth Generation Matters
- Save the Children

## STRATEGY 1.2

Parents as Teachers

### SMART GOAL(S)

1. HCFS will engage and educate families of young children and staff with more resources to improve mental health.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- SC Thrive
- Coastal Empire Mental Health
- Inner Peace Counseling Services

# Children are healthy and safe.

## **STRATEGY 1.3**

### Community Education

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- Each year, we will host at least one community health fairs, which will include the mobile WIC van and mobile health.
- By the end of FY25, we will implement four community events including a baby shower providing resources geared toward prenatal and parents of children ages 3 and under.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS**

- We will partner with WIC, Healthy Learners, ReDiscover Hampton and other local community partners in planning our community health fairs.



# Increase literacy opportunities for children and families.

## STRATEGY 2.1

Community Education

### SMART GOAL(S)

1. Each fiscal year, HCFS will work closely with the local school district, adult education, and public library to explore programs for adult and child literacy.
2. By the end of FY24, HCFS will host at least two literacy related workshops and disseminate information.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Hampton County School District
- Jasper Hampton Allendale Adult Education
- Hampton County Library
- Save the Children
- Hampton County DSS
- Hampton County Library

### **3. Families are supported as their child's first and most important teacher.**

#### **STRATEGY 3.1**

##### Parents as Teachers

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

By the end of FY24 HCFS will coordinate and implement parent engagement at least (4) workshops specifically geared toward fathers of young children.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- Hampton County DSS
- Local churches
- Dads Matter
- LCAA Head Start

# Overarching Measure(s) of Success

## INCREASE THE REACH OF FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By FY26, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Hampton County First Steps will increase from 4% to 6%.

## SECOND MEASURE OF SUCCESS

By the end of fiscal year 2026, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Hampton County First Steps high intensity programs will increase from 4% to 5%.

# Acknowledgments

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