



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Chester County First Steps:



168 children

were directly served in Chester County



555 parents & caregivers

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



408 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 CHESTER COUNTY

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

2,245

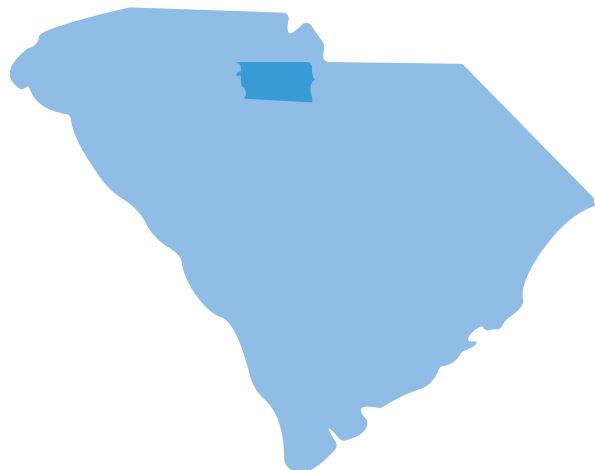
children under 6

60%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

73%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



OUR MISSION

To collaborate for ensuring that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.



David Lisk

Executive Director

This past year has been a very emotional year for Chester County First Steps. A long-time anchor for Chester County First Steps, LaTonya Boyd, unexpectedly passed away in November 2023, leaving a very large void in our hearts as well as our organization. LaTonya had been an integral part of Chester and early childhood for many years, and she will be missed. In working with the CCFS Board of Directors, one of the first resources we consulted was the Strategic Plan that had been developed to help guide our next steps. The vision that was articulated in this plan helped build on the foundation that CCFS had established to direct our efforts toward the needed growth in achieving our Mission.

We have engaged with York County First Steps to source our Executive Director and Administrative services. This helped fill the immediate need for daily operational services and it has offered a path to accelerate the expansion of services and programs. We felt that we were able to re-connect with a number of community partners including our network of Childcare Providers, local business leaders, and the educational partners serving our community.

We invite you to review our progress this year, but we also invite you to stay tuned to see how we can further expand our reach to help more families in the coming months and years. We hope you will join us, there is no better community investment than our young children.

Thank you for your support in our endeavors!

Serving Chester 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.

17

children served

13

group meetings
and events

404

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

4,682

children served

22

providers served

25

certified training
hours

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

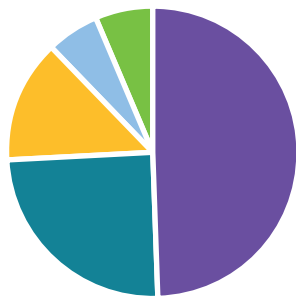


\$1 = \$1.25

Chester County First Steps leveraged \$45,891.54 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.25 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

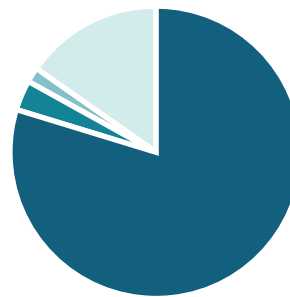
Total: \$268,228.42



- Parenting - \$133,321.77
- Early Care & Education - \$65,859.10
- School Transition - \$36,883.20
- Administrative - \$15,301.96
- Core Functions - \$16,862.39

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$226,859.33



- State Funding - \$180,967.79
- Federal Funding - \$7,485.00
- Private Funding - \$4,206.54
- In-kind Contributions - \$34,200.00

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

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

State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*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

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.

Board of Directors

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Our Local Supporter

Springs Close Foundation - \$1000

CONTACT US

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