



# 2023-2024

## ANNUAL REPORT



# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Greenville County First Steps:



**9,912 children**

were directly served in Greenville County



**9,303 parents & caregivers**

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



**16,181 community members**

participated in 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 GREENVILLE COUNTY

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

**37,616**

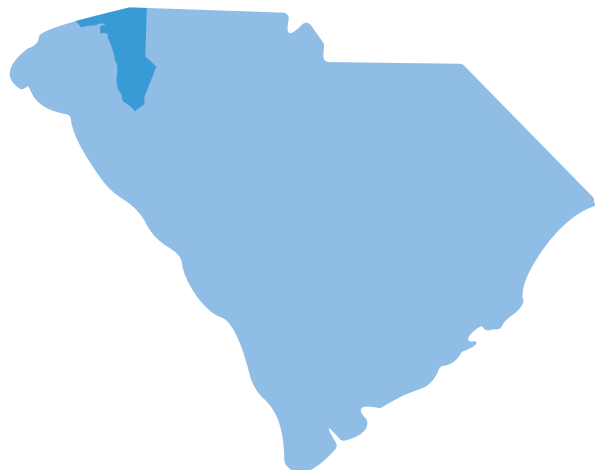
children aged 0-5

**37%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**56%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



# OUR MISSION

To serve as a convener of early childhood champions to coordinate services to measurably improve the early childhood development of all children in Greenville County.



## Derek Lewis

### Executive Director

In the immortal word of John, Paul George and Ringo: "I get by with a little help from my friends/I'm gonna try with a little help from my friends."

Greenville First Steps has enjoyed more than 25 years of friendships with a number of collaborative partners- including funders like the Community Foundation, the Duke Endowment, the Jolley and Graham Foundations, the Hollingsworth Funds, and the United Way, but also with dozens of community partners doing incredible work throughout the state.

It is truly a privilege to work alongside partners from mom and pop, in-home childcare providers to the Greenville County School District. Through these collaborative partnerships, we can ensure children and families have the resources and supports to ensure students enter school on track and ready to succeed.

One reminder of this collaborative spirit has been the launch, expansion and continuation of Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) and Family Connects. Family Connects recently received a \$150,000 grant from Pickens County First Steps to help expand these services to Pickens County, and Triple P was recognized by the Riley Institute at Furman University with the What Works SC award for the 2023-2024 school year. These two parenting programs- and our community partners who run them- are helping to equip parents of newborns, young children, and teens with the resources to ensure their homes are safe, nurturing and enriching environments.

Read on to learn more about Triple P and Family Connects- but for now, thank you to each volunteer, donor, board member, stakeholder, and community partner who has stood beside us over the past 25 years. Here's to our friends!

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## Serving Greenville County's children birth through age five.

"Thanks again to the instructor, your teaching through Triple P has helped me tremendously. I have a 2-year-old and his tantrums have reduced significantly and I feel like I'm able to effectively communicate with him even without words with the tips you've given me over the course of these classes. I can't thank you enough."

Greenville County First Steps parent



# PROGRAMS

## PARENTING

### Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Free, high-quality books mailed to the home of children from birth until age five.

1,664

children served

11,883

books distributed

### Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) Levels 2 and 3

A parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioral and emotional problems in children.

1,202

children served

800

families served

43

group meetings and events

### Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) Level 4

A parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioral and emotional problems in children.

51

children served

50

families served

64

group meetings and events

### Nurturing Parenting

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

62

children served

49

group meetings

## HEALTH

### Reach Out and Read

Free, high-quality books provided by a child's pediatric provider during doctor's visits.

4,286

children served

8,572

book distributed

### Family Connects

Strengthening bonds within families of newborns and linking them directly to supportive community resources.

1,467

children served

2

clinics served

### Nurse-Family Partnership

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

206

children served

2,046

home visits

## 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.

23

children served

2

schools served

135

home/school 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.

57

children served

3

schools served

342

home/school visits

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

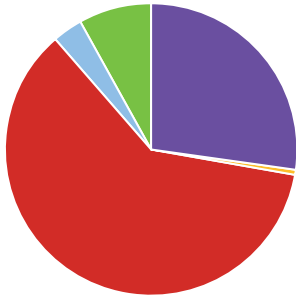


**\$1 = \$2.37**

Greenville County First Steps leveraged \$1,163,328 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.37 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

Total: \$2,635,251.41



- Parenting - \$721,220.36
- School Transition - \$15,886
- Health - \$1,601,413.31
- Administrative - \$85,863.23
- Core Functions - \$210,868.51

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$2,756,929.58



- State Funding - \$1,163,328
- Federal Funding - \$215,506.05
- Private Funding - \$778,095.53
- In-kind Contributions - \$600,000

## 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

\*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105  
 \*\*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 Chair

Congrats Triple P Greenville: What Works SC 2023-2024 award winner!

This year, Greenville First Steps, and our partners, were celebrated for the successful launch of Triple P Greenville (Positive Parenting Program). Triple P Greenville includes a host of parenting partners including Greenville First Steps, Greenville County Schools, the Parenting Place, and nearly 3 dozen counselors and parenting coaches.

Greenville First Steps received the 2023-2024 What Works SC award from the Riley Institute at Furman University. We were presented the award by former US Secretary of Education Dick Riley, who remarked: "Greenville First Steps continues to strengthen innovative and collaborative partnerships throughout the state, and we are so proud of their leadership".

We at Greenville First Steps Board of Directors are so thankful for our community partners and co-funders in our important work- and we are encouraged by the leadership, and collaborative spirit found within our community.

## Our Local Supporters

The Duke Endowment: \$400,000

The Greenville Health Authority: \$200,000

The United Way of Greenville County: \$10,000

Greenville First Steps Board member contributions: \$15,000

Individual donations: \$12,000

We are also pleased to announce that the Greenville First Steps endowed fund has grown to \$577,000- thanks to all the individual and corporate donors who made this endowment a success.

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## Board of Directors

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## CONTACT US

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