



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Williamsburg County First

Steps:



479 children

were directly served in Williamsburg County



289 parents & caregivers

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



72 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 WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY

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

1,969

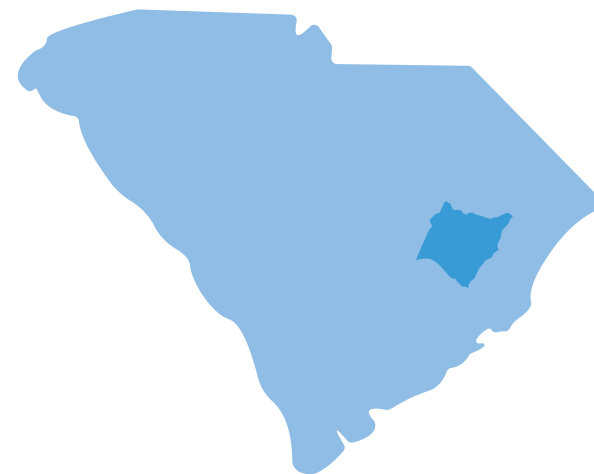
children under age 5

61.5%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

76%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Our Local Supporters

Williamsburg County School District \$66,724.00
 Greenville Technical College/ Cert. Training Incentive Grant \$2,500.00
 Williamsburg County School District Employees
 Dr. Janice Gamble
 Nan Ya Plastics Corporation, America
 Black River United Way
 Haselden Brothers
 Farmers Telephone Cooperative (FTC)
 Cedar Swamp Methodist Church
 Bethel United Methodist Church
 Santee Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 Williamsburg County First Steps Board Members
 Williamsburg County First Steps Staff
 Delta Tau Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
 Connies Bakery
 Lambda Theta Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha
 Felician Center
 Bank of Greeleyville
 Redmond Richardson Funeral Home
 St. John Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ, Inc.
 Young Funeral Home, LLC.
 DSM Nutritional Products
 Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church
 Jeremiah United Methodist Church
 Sheriff Stephen R. Gardner
 Williamsburg County Sheriff Office and Detention Center
 Joe Ann Calvy, LLC

Board of Directors

Tara Bradshaw	Jennifer McKnight
Amy Cooper	Jeff Singleton
Verney Cumbee	Shawn Swinton
Ruby Faison	Pernerva Thomas
Jackie George	Suanetta Tisdale
Benjamin Hall	April Williams
Elizabeth McCray	

CONTACT US

500 N. Academy Street, Kingstree SC 29556 | 843-355 1031 | williamsburgcountfirststeps.org



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Collaborating with other entities, Williamsburg County First Steps helps families and caregivers in our county prepare children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.



Felicia Patrick

Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our Board of Directors, staff members, parent educators, and AmeriCorps service members, for devoting their time, talent, energy, and resources to the development of our most important assets, the children of Williamsburg County. Our team works with the loving, caring parents of this community, the highly qualified members of the childcare community, the members of the S.C. First Steps State Office, partnering agencies, along with the Williamsburg County School System to “achieve uncommon results” for the families we serve.

Since the inception of the program, our mission has been to ensure every child in Williamsburg County is ready for success throughout his/her educational endeavors beginning in kindergarten. Therefore, we are reaching out to the community to increase the number of families we can assist and partnering with other entities to provide programs and continued support our families need.

Serving Williamsburg County’s children birth through age five.

“I began PAT as a parent with so many expectations, exciting ideas and wanted to learn more, especially the timeline my children should reach each milestone. Now, I am a Parent Educator providing supportive resources to other families, Charlena Mouzon.”

Williamsburg County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

Offers research-based curricula that help families raise children to be healthy, safe, learning, and ready for school.

79 children served, 15 group meetings and events, 1,607 home visits

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

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

295 children served, 295 families served, 2,597 books distributed

HIPPY

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home visiting program that supports parents in their role as a child’s first and most important teacher.

11 children served, 15 group meetings and events, 300 home visits

Family Café

Parent discussion groups that promote social connections with other parents, support in times of need, learning about parenting and child development, and emotional awareness.

14 children served, 14 families served, 14 group meetings and events

Supporting Care Providers Through Visits

Site visits for home child care providers to encourage developmentally appropriate practices.

28 children served, 5 providers served, 106 provider visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

21 children served, 31 providers served, 20.5 certified training hours

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.

21 children served, 2 schools served, 126 home 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.

31 children served, 4 schools served, 187 home visits

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

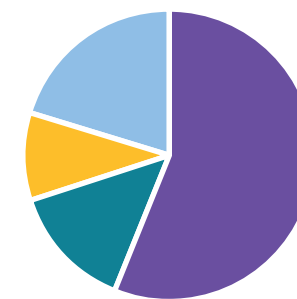


\$1 = \$1.92

Williamsburg County First Steps leveraged \$184,692.84 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.92 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

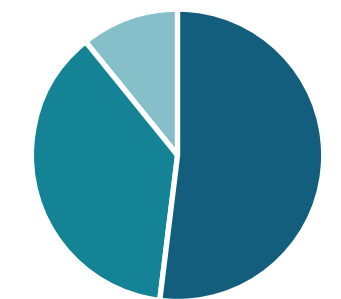
Total: \$399,399.53



- Parenting - \$224,949.88
- Early Care & Education - \$55,141.36
- School Transition - \$38,977.42
- Administrative - \$80,330.87

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$384,692.84



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$144,037.53
- Private Funding - \$40,655.31

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

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

**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