



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Williamsburg County First

Steps:



540 children

were directly served in Williamsburg County



619 parents & caregivers

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



32 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.

1,748

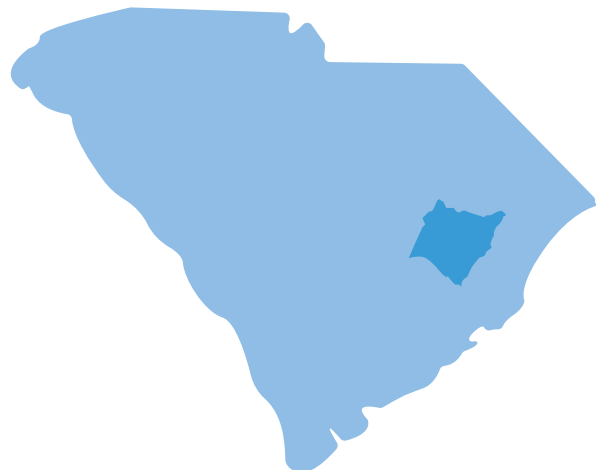
children under 6

60%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

73%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



OUR MISSION

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 C. Patrick

Executive Director

WCFS Partnership is proud of the numerous successes of its county-wide programs and is sincerely appreciative of the resources provided through its collaborative partnerships. The positive impacts on the children and families within Williamsburg County can be measured through the collaborative efforts reflected in our programs to include: Parent as Teachers, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Countdown to Kindergarten, Countdown to 4K, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, Supporting Care Providers Through Visits, Family Café and Child Care Training & Professional Development.

A child's development incorporates physical growth as well as intellectual, language, emotional and social development, all critical in a child's growth and development for school readiness. Therefore, WCFS will continue to provide support, resources and learning tools needed to assist parents as their child's first and most important teacher. It is through this advocacy that WCFS has dedicated time, resources and educational experiences to ensuring children ages birth to five years old and their families are ready for school.

Williamsburg County First Steps is proud of the many successes we have attained and collaborative partnerships established to serve children and their families more efficiently and effectively in Williamsburg County. Williamsburg County First Steps will continue its efforts to provide high quality services to children and their families so that all children will reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

Serving Williamsburg County's children birth through age five.

"As an AmeriCorps Member of WCFS, I have had the opportunity to witness the outpouring love, support and educational experiences proved by the numerous programs they offer to the Williamsburg County community. My granddaughter Kori and I have enjoyed being a part of the Parents as Teachers Program. Thank you WCFS for your support of Kori. Her socialization skills have improved because of the many experiences of field trips, books and educational materials received, along with the assistance of additional programs. Kori really enjoyed her first trip to Riverbank Zoo, the Amtrak Train Ride, The Winter Wonderland Bizarre, the Stepping into Character Sneaker Ball, and the CTK Back to School Community Event."

Cassandra P.
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.

100

children served

14

group meetings
and events

2,072

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.

24

children served

24

families served

14

group meetings
and events

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

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

379

children served

379

families served

3,421

books distributed

Supporting Care Providers Through Visits

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

30

children served

5

providers served

120

provider visits

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.

16

children served

24

group meetings
and events

373

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.

27

children served

2

schools served

162

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

262

children served

15

providers served

20.5

certified training
hours

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.

22

children served

4

schools served

132

home visits

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

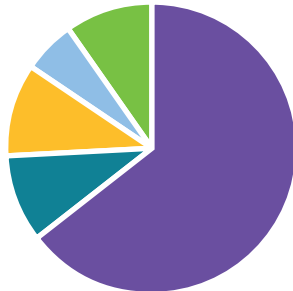


\$1 = \$1.95

Williamsburg County First Steps leveraged \$243,950.34 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.95 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

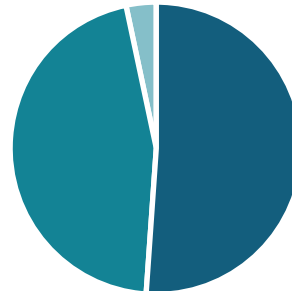
Total: \$496,717.71



- Parenting - \$321,436.39
- Early Care & Education - \$47,144.01
- School Transition - \$51,456.90
- Administrative - \$28,689.10
- Core Functions - \$47,991.31

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$500,950.34



- State Funding - \$257,000
- Federal Funding - \$227,806.40
- Private Funding - \$16,143.94

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
State READY Funding*
Federal AmeriCorps Service Site
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
Federal AmeriCorps funding awarded to SC First Steps from the SC Service Commission at the United Way Association of SC

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.

Our Local Supporters

Wallace & Ann Bartelle \$50.00
Nan Ya Plastic Corporation \$200.00
Santee Electric Cooperative \$500.00
Angela Beauty Salon \$20.00
Redmond- Richardson Funeral Home \$100.00
DBA Sonic Drive-In \$240.00
Williamsburg County First Steps Board Members \$580.00
Williamsburg County School District Employees \$84.06
Greenville Technical College (Cert. Training Incentive Grant \$2,500.00
Farmers Telephone Cooperative \$250.00
Williamsburg County Treasurer \$125.00
Haselden Brothers \$25.00
Jeremiah United Methodist Church \$50.00
Ernestine Young \$15.00
Kimberly Matthews \$15.00
Good Samaritan Home Care Services \$75.00
Dexter Graham \$300.00
Cassandra Pressley \$100.00
Various \$20.00

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Williamsburg County School District \$53,804.00
South Carolina First Steps/AmeriCorps \$20,449.07
SC Department of Social Services (Child Care Scholarships) \$91,091.00

Board of Directors

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CONTACT US

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