



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Colleton County First Steps:



694 children

were directly served in Colleton County



697 parents & caregivers

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



97 educators

participated in First Steps training and professional development, benefitting 500+ children



Tengela Green

Board Chair

Colleton County First Steps Board works in our community to meet the needs of our children and their families. Our board's top priority last year was to increase our reach in the community and to serve as many children and families as possible.

Our board realizes that the success of the local partnership wouldn't be possible without our dedicated staff and the willingness of our board members to volunteer their time and help when needed. Our board members take on a large community project each year and provide toys for needy children for the holidays since this is a great need in our community.

Our partnership wouldn't be as successful as it is without our community partners. We are fortunate that we live in a small community where individuals, community organizations, and businesses come together to help small non-profits such as Colleton County First Steps!

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 COLLETON COUNTY

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

2,287

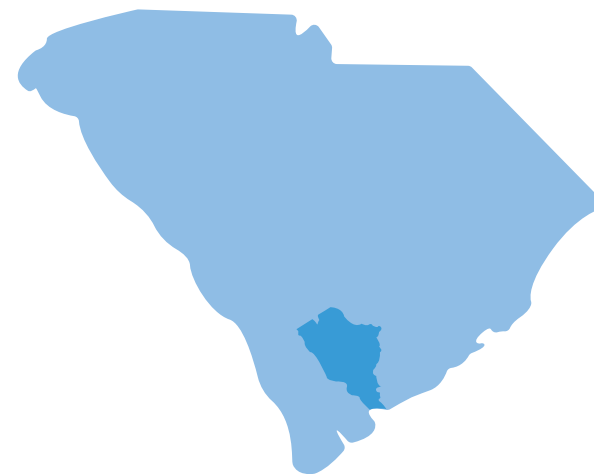
children under age 5

66.9%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

76%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Our Local Supporters

Coastal Community Foundation \$15,250

Kumar Family Foundation \$5,500

Cherokee Platanation Charities \$5,000

Walterboro Rotary Club \$3,000

SC Endeavors \$2,500

South State Bank \$1,000

Starbucks Foundation \$1,000

Colleton County School District - In Kind \$21,446

SC Department of Social Services \$103,888

Board of Directors

Susan Dodd

Catherine Fanchette

Barbara Grant

Tangela Green

Janis Headden

Julie Hiott

Martha Johnson

Latoya Lynah

David Martin

Nicole Moultrie

Redelma Saxby

Jessica Williams

Juliette Williams

Janice Young

CONTACT US

500 Forest Circle, Walterboro, SC 29488 | 843-782-3634 | colletonfirststeps.com



2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To collaborate with other entities to help families and caregivers prepare our children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance, and expand high quality for early childhood services.



Cindy Riley
Executive Director

Colleton County First Steps' staff and partnership board work throughout the community with other non-profits, faith based organizations, businesses and government entities to implement programs for children and their families. We collaborate with other agencies such as SC Department of Social Services, the Board of Disabilities, Baby Net, DHEC, and Colleton Adult Learning Center.

During the 2022-2023 year, our families set goals for themselves and worked diligently to meet these goals. Our staff and board worked hard to ensure that all of our children and their families' needs were met.

Our work with our families wouldn't be possible without our tremendous community partners! The Colleton County School District, the Walterboro Rotary Club, the Cherokee Plantation Charities Foundation, the Kumar Family foundation, and local individuals make our work possible by their very generous gifts and support!

Serving Colleton County's children birth through age five.

Our parent educator, Mrs. Bailey, has helped to strengthen our knowledge with planning developmentally appropriate activities for our children. I would advise other family childcare providers to participate in this program to gain knowledge and increase the educational quality of their program.

Colleton 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.

31 children served 26 group meetings and events 504 home visits

Nurturing Parenting

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

30 children served 17 families served 104 home visits

Connected Families

Prevents the unnecessary removal of young children from their homes by providing parents and caregivers with voluntary, coordinated services.

15 children served 11 families served 182 home visits

Supporting Care Providers Through Visits

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

14 children served 2 providers served 48 provider visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

1,757 children served 24 providers served 40 certified training hours

Child Care Scholarships

Eligible children receive tuition-free enrollment at quality child care centers.

8 children served 8 families served

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.

29 children served 4 schools served 174 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.

30 children served 4 schools served 180 home visits

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

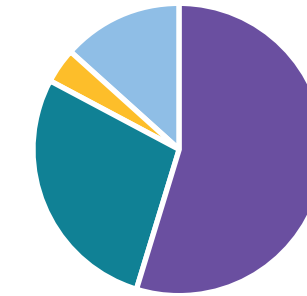


\$1 = \$2.43

Colleton County First Steps leveraged \$285,917.39 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.43 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

Total: \$445,843.29



- Parenting - \$244,122.92
- Early Care & Education - \$125,869.22
- School Transition - \$17,640.26
- Administrative - \$58,210.89

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$485,917.39



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$49,988.3
- Private Funding - \$110,595.09
- In-kind Contributions - \$125,334

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding**
- Federal ESSER Funding***
- The Duke Endowment & Doris Duke Foundation
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation ROAD Forward Grant
- 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