



# 2023-2024

## ANNUAL REPORT



# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Anderson County First Steps:



**989 children**

were directly served in Anderson County



**874 parents & caregivers**

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



**251 educators**

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 ANDERSON COUNTY

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

**13,663**

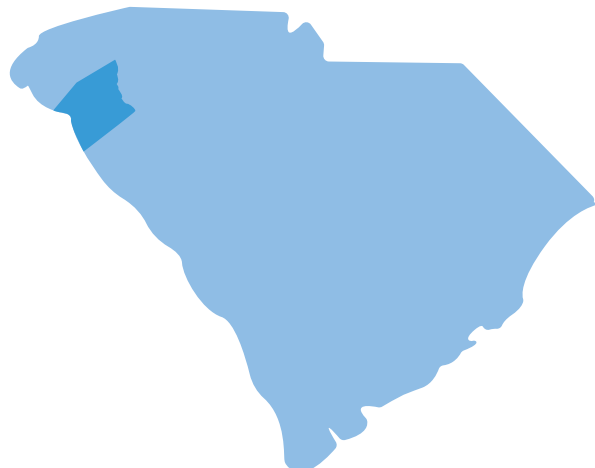
children under 6

**42%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**60%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school





# OUR MISSION

To work collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.



## Paige Wall

Executive Director

On behalf of the board of directors, I want to express our sincerest gratitude for our partners from Anderson County School Districts, community leaders, staff, and South Carolina First Steps, as we celebrate 24 years of providing school readiness support and resources to children ages 0-5 and their families. During the past 24 years, the Anderson County First Steps Partnership has distributed \$14,997,805. to area education, medical and other local community agencies for parenting, and school transition programs as well as services and early education classes for at-risk children.

Anderson County First Steps Partnership is proud of the accomplishments of this last year of each of our initiatives that help families and providers prepare children for their first day of school. Our objectives could not have been achieved without the support of our community partners. We look forward to continuing our efforts to ensure the children of Anderson County are healthy and ready for school.

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

"We are so grateful for the First Steps program! Because of this program, we saw so much growth in our son. He learned to recognize his letters and numbers, and I feel better prepared him for K5. From looking forward to getting new books to read every week to the amazing social skills it provided him. We are forever grateful for this program."

Anderson County First Steps parent



# PROGRAMS

## PARENTING

### Positive Parenting Program (TripleP)

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

18

children served

18

families served

106

group meetings  
and events

### Raising a Reader - Enhanced

Helps families develop, practice, and maintain home literacy habits.

61

children served

61

families served

54

group meetings  
and events

## HEALTH

### HealthySteps

A pediatric primary care program that supports early childhood development and effective parenting.

684

children served

1

clinics 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

9

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.

17

children served

7

schools served

102

home visits

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

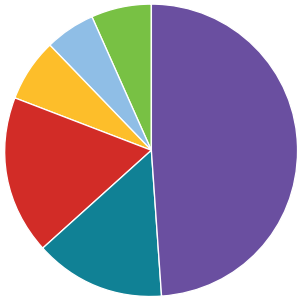


**\$1 = \$1.54**

Anderson County First Steps leveraged \$248,286.20 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.54 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

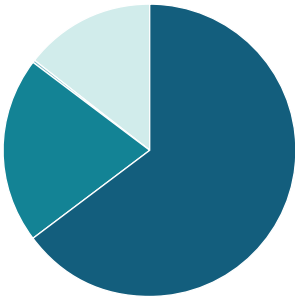
Total: \$694,697.39



- Parenting - \$341,230.20
- Early Care & Education - \$99,845.54
- Health - \$121,948.50
- School Transition - \$47,587.32
- Administrative - \$38,803.77
- Core Functions - \$45,282.06

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$564,880.23



- State Funding - \$460,055.36
- Federal Funding - \$145,301.27
- Private Funding - \$2,248.02
- In-kind Contributions - \$100,736.91

## SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS FUNDING SUPPORT

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



# Sheryl McCollum

## Board Chair

Anderson County First Steps is driven to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life. We are a community that fosters growth, creativity, and innovation. Education is the key to unlocking human potential. We strive to create an inclusive, collaborative, and supportive learning environment. While recognizing that children have unique talents and strengths, we aim to help our students discover and develop their full potential. Since our inception in June of 1999, we have helped thousands of children prepare for school through programs that provide early intervention, strengthen families, improve children's health and well-being, and increase the quality of early care and education. We are proud to report that in 2023-2024, we served 989 children, fourteen area schools and child-care centers, and distributed over 8000 books and materials. We are very proud to be a part of the community we serve.

## Board of Directors

Sherry Adger	Audrey Shaw
Jackie Blakley	Greta Young
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Sheryl McCollum	Ashlea Hatcher
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## CONTACT US

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