



# 2023-2024

## ANNUAL REPORT



# FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Marlboro County First Steps:



**513 children**

were directly served in Marlboro County



**525 parents & caregivers**

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



**43 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 MARLBORO COUNTY

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

**1,597**

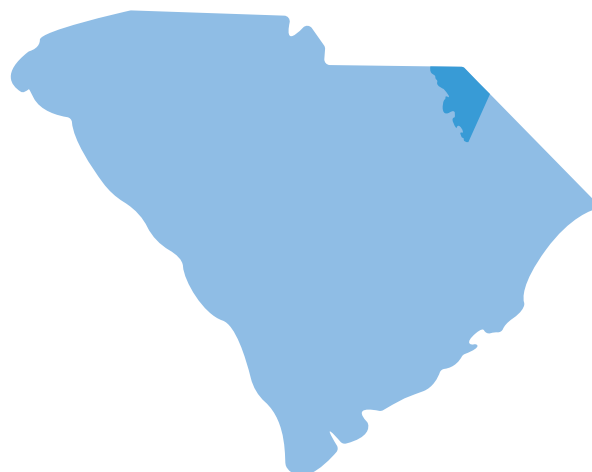
children under 6

**70%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**78%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



# OUR MISSION

Collaborating with other community stakeholders that help the families of Marlboro County in the areas of parenting, early childhood and well being by maximizing resources to expand services to our parents and children.



## Randall Johnson

Executive Director

The Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to be a quality contributor to the well-being for families with young children in the Marlboro community. This can especially be noticed via parenting and childcare. This past fiscal year we worked with 25 families who may not receive other quality services. MCFS also continued to be the lead county agency that works with childcare facilities throughout the community. We stress quality and efficient learning.

MCFS works, in collaboration with other state and local partners to focus on advancing Marlboro County towards these strategic goals in support of school readiness:

- \*Marlboro County First Steps will work to ensure that families understand the importance of their child's well-being as it relates to early development & preschool.
- \*MCFS will ensure that Early Intervention is the key tool in determining what's needed for the families.
- \*MCFS will support early childhood education in the county through the various programs that we provide.

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

"Marlboro County First Steps has been a tremendous help to my family and me. Not only did they provide help with childcare, but they also provided resources that I can use throughout my child's development. If I have any questions or concerns, I can count on them to provide the answers. They go above and beyond to make any process less stressful."

Marlboro 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

10

group meetings  
and events

402

home visits

### Nurturing Parenting

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

1

children served

1

families served

## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

### Child Care Scholarships

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

30

children served

30

families served

### Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

159

children served

10

providers served

10

certified training  
hours

## HEALTH

### Reach Out and Read

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

349

children served

698

book distributed

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

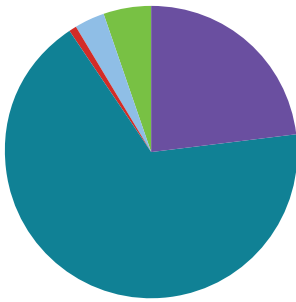


**\$1 = \$2.43**

Marlboro County First Steps leveraged \$250,356.83 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.43 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

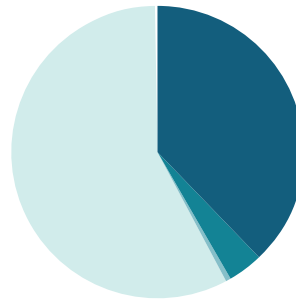
Total: \$507,581.38



- Parenting - \$117,338.59
- Early Care & Education - \$343,611.56
- Health - \$3,339
- Administrative - \$17,365.64
- Core Functions - \$25,926.59

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$425,384.84



- State Funding - \$175,028.01
- Federal Funding - \$17,591.68
- Private Funding - \$1,924.51
- In-kind Contributions - \$266,024

## FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding  
 Federal AmeriCorps Service Site  
 Federal ESSER Funding\*  
 State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*\*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.



## Shasta Loyd

Board Chair

Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to take pride in servicing the families of Marlboro County. Our Success is seen through the passion and involvement of the parents that we work with each and every day. During the FY 24 fiscal year watching the growth of the families in our program was evident to the hard work of our staff and the willingness of the parents to grow. I am proud to be the Chair of the Marlboro County First Steps Partnership Board.

## Our Local Supporters

Parker's Used Cars (Tommy Parker)

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## Board of Directors

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