



## FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Kershaw County First Steps:



**252 children**

were directly served in Kershaw County



**398 parents & caregivers**

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



**27 educators**

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



## Jennifer Kelley

Board Chair

Since the inception of our Kershaw County First Steps, our commitment to the youngest of our children remains unwavering and our resolve to prepare them to become successful in life by giving them a strong foundation on which to stand remains firm. In looking toward the future, we will continue to support parents as they assume an active role in the educational wellbeing of their children, provide teachers and educators with the necessary tools to impart knowledge and receive information and professional development to better address the issues of both child and family; and nurture each child with the time, attention, resources, and dedication that will prepare them for success--in school, in a career, and in life.

### Board of Directors

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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

### THE NEED PERSISTS IN KERSHAW COUNTY

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

**4,166**

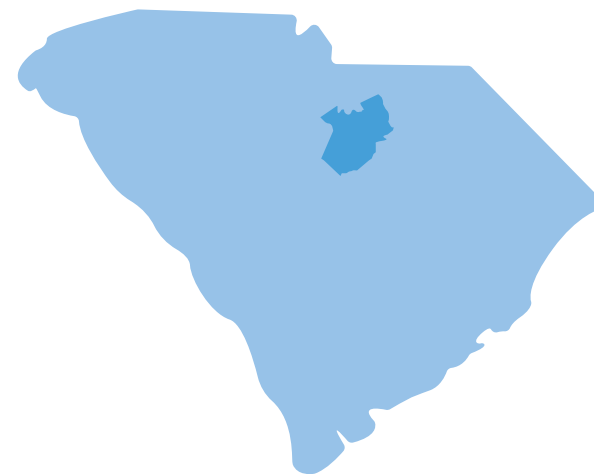
children under age 5

**38.7%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**66%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



### CONTACT US

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# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## OUR MISSION

Through community collaboration, KCFS will provide access to resources and support for families, enabling children to enter school ready to learn.



**Kimberly Jordan**  
Executive Director

The whole world seems to be catching on to the idea that learning starts at birth, and that it takes place, not just in the home, but in the early learning centers that we call “child care.” The science of brain development, coupled with long-term studies that compare children who have received high quality preschool experiences with those who have not, point to the need for public policies that support families in being able to find and afford high quality child care and out-of-school-time programs. Children do better in school and in life if they receive this positive early start. At Kershaw County First Steps, we feel a strong responsibility to educate parents, providers, public policy makers and other members of the community on why school readiness is so important.

**Serving Kershaw County’s children birth through age five.**

## PROGRAMS

### PARENTING

#### Parents as Teachers

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

**32** children served  
**12** group meetings and events  
**530** home visits

#### Raising a Reader - Enhanced

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

**65** children served  
**62** families served  
**5** books distributed

### EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

#### Quality Enhancement

Promotes quality in child care by providing early educators with one-on-one coaching and support.

**198** children served  
**4** providers served  
**103** technical assistance 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.

**13** children served  
**2** schools served  
**75** 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.

**19** children served  
**3** schools served  
**111** home visits

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

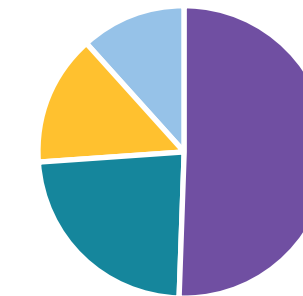


**\$1 = \$1.27**

Kershaw County First Steps leveraged \$53,648.61 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.27 for every state dollar invested.

### EXPENDITURES

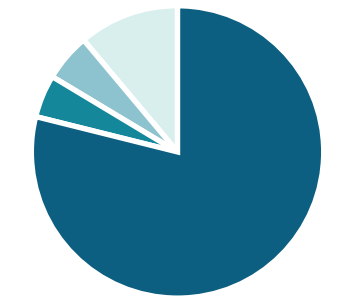
Total: \$250,843.14



- Parenting - \$127,123.68
- Early Care & Education - \$58,715.85
- School Transition - \$36,055.95
- Administrative - \$28,947.66

### FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$255,148.61



- State Funding - \$201,500
- Federal Funding - \$12,186.56
- Private Funding - \$13,462.05
- In-kind Contributions - \$28,000

### 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