

# STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 – 2026





## Mission

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

## Vision

Every Kershaw County child will be prepared for success in school.

## Values

Services must be individualized and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.

We value, and demonstrate in our collaborative work and advocacy, diverse perspectives in the development of public policy and programs.

To achieve desired results, services must be high-quality and grounded in strong evidence.

We operate with a culture of accountability.

# Message from the Executive Director



**Kimberley Edmond- Jordan**

Executive Director

Kershaw County First Steps

Helping children develop a greater sense of self, a respect for others and a lifelong love of learning are the guiding principles of our work with preschoolers. Kershaw County First Steps has responded to the changing needs of Kershaw County's most vulnerable children by working towards developing and implementing effective strategies and programs that prepare them to achieve academic excellence, emotional health well-being, and the ability to become productive members of society.

I have worked to ensure that young children, birth through five years have support to learn social and cognitive skills to achieve and maintain a high level of success. I will use the data from this needs assessment to map the road to success.

*Kimberley Jordan*

# Strategic Plan Process

## CONVENE

Held community convenings to develop a vision for young children and their families

October 2022 – January 2023



## UNDERSTAND

Reviewed local data and map assets to understand the state of young children, their families, and the early childhood system

October 2022 – March 2023



## PRIORITIZE

Organized the insight gathered from the convenings and data to prioritize the concerns, needs, and gaps the partnership wants to address and formalized Needs Assessment

January 2023 – March 2023



## PLAN

Wrote the partnership's three-year Strategic Plan using the Needs Assessment

March 2023 – May 2023



## APPLY

Utilize the Strategic Plan to inform the partnership's Annual Formula Funding Grant Application

May 2023, May 2024, May 2025



## IMPLEMENT

Execute the programs and services outlined in the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



## MONITOR

Track the partnership's progress on implementing programs to fidelity and on achieving the Strategic Plan

July 2023 – June 2026



# Priority Needs: Summary

Through a series of community convenings, a needs assessment and asset mapping process, the following needs were prioritized for Kershaw County. See our full needs assessment here:

<https://www.scfirststeps.org/media/ii5f0ru3/kershaw-county-fy24-26-needs-assessment.pdf>

**1. Adequate prenatal care**

**2. Child Care deserts**

**3. Community Awareness**

# Objectives

- 1. Build on First Steps' presence in every county to serve as a hub for early childhood services and local system building.**
- 2. Children are healthy and safe.**
- 3. Children and families can access and afford high quality programs and services regardless of zip code.**

# Objective One:

Build on First Steps' presence in every county to serve as a hub for early childhood services and local system building.

## STRATEGY 1.1

Create A Coordinated And Family Centered Early Childhood System

### SMART GOAL(S)

1. Work with community partners at all levels to convene, align, collaborate on, support, and strengthen countywide efforts and initiatives to facilitate the creation of a seamless system of integrated and comprehensive programs and serves to improve outcomes for children, prenatal through age 5 and their families.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- United Way of KC
- Kershaw County School District
- Babynet
- Local Pediatric Services
- Kershaw County Health Department & DHEC
- Kershaw County Disabilities and Special Needs
- Kershaw County Department of Social Services
- Kershaw County Council
- Kershaw County Library
- Central Carolina Technical College
- Centene

# Objective Two:

## Children are healthy and safe.

### STRATEGY 2.1

Children arrive at Kindergarten with the physical well-being, motor skills, social-emotional development, language and literacy, mathematical thinking and cognitive skills necessary to ensure early school success.

### SMART GOAL(S)

1. Increase access to developmental screenings and assessments and follow-up, and, when appropriate, provide referrals to early intervention services for children birth through five so that children with identified delays receive services as early as possible.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Kershaw County School District
- Babynet
- Local Pediatric Services
- Kershaw County Health Department
- Kershaw County Disabilities and Special Needs
- Kershaw County Department of Social Services



# Objective Three:

Children and families can access and afford high quality programs and services regardless of zip code.

## STRATEGY 3.1

Close Gaps Through Equity: A Fair Chance for Every Child

### SMART GOAL(S)

1. Provide families with easy-to-find, accessible information about available early childhood program options in their community.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

Department of Social Services Daycare Licensing

SC Endeavors

SC Child Care & Early Care Education ( ABC Voucher)

SC CCR&R

SCPITC

Head Start

Early Head Start

Central Carolina Technical College

# Overarching Measure(s) of Success

## INCREASE THE REACH OF FIRST STEPS SERVICES

**By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Kershaw County First Steps will increase from 17% to 20%.**

# Acknowledgments

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