



2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Abbeville County First Steps:



47 children

were directly served in Abbeville County



171 parents & caregivers

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



346 educators

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

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 Abbeville COUNTY

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

1,354

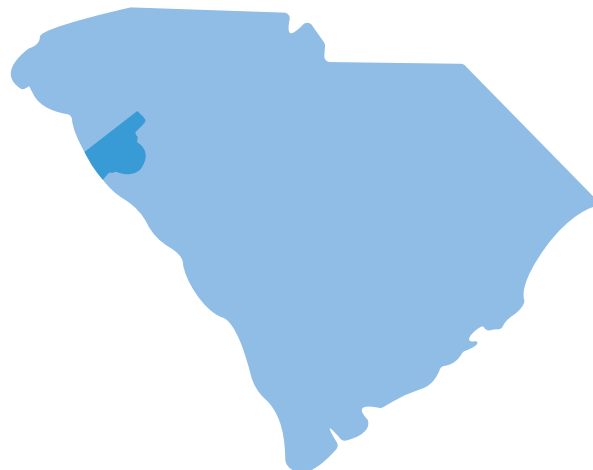
children under 6

47%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

59%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



OUR MISSION

To continue working with parents and children to help them achieve their goals for future success in all areas of their lives.



Rebecca Lyman

Executive Director

It is a great honor and privilege to be the Executive Director of Abbeville County First Steps. Each year I look forward to being a part of the impact this organization and its partnerships make in Abbeville County. I believe creating strong ties within the community will only further Abbeville County First Steps mission in reaching as many parents and children as possible. Being able to help propel these families in all aspects of their lives is our main goal. I would like to reassure that the children and families in this community feel valued and ready to reach their highest potential. Family and community are the greatest assets in a person's life and a great foundation in which to build from. I will continue to ensure the parents and children of this community are positively impacted in more ways than one and continue to strive to meet their highest potential.



Lou Paradis

Board Chair

As the Board Chair of Abbeville County First Steps, it is with great pride and a deep sense of gratitude that I present to you our Annual Report for 2023-2024. This report reflects not only our achievements and progress over the past year but also the unwavering commitment of our community, partners, and supporters in advancing early childhood education and development in our county. Abbeville County First Steps has remained steadfast in our mission to ensure that every child in our community has a strong foundation for lifelong success. We have navigated both challenges and triumphs, driven by our shared vision of providing equitable access to quality early childhood education and resources for all families. Although this will be my last year as Board Chair, I know Abbeville County First Steps will continue to serve our community with the upmost care and compassion. In closing, I am inspired by the progress we have made and optimistic about the future. Together, we are building a brighter tomorrow for our children, one where every child has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

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

22

children served

295

group meetings
and events

203

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

5,997

children served

318

providers served

20

certified training
hours

Serving Abbeville County's children birth through age five.

My children have been with Abbeville First Steps since birth. It has been amazing to see them grow with the program. Our family loves the support First Steps has offered us.

Abbeville County First Steps parent



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

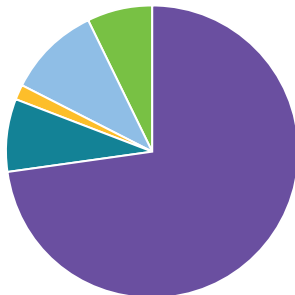


\$1 = \$1.23

Abbeville County First Steps leveraged \$45,161.89 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.23 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

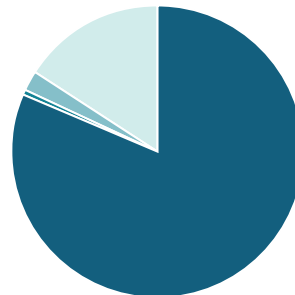
Total: \$315,007.55



- Parenting - \$230,039.46
- Early Care & Education - \$25,244.52
- School Transition - \$5,026.76
- Administrative- \$32,097.42
- Core Functions - \$22,599.39

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$245,161.89



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$1,080.96
- Private Funding - \$5,315.93
- In-kind Contributions - \$38,765.00

FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

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.

Board of Directors

Lou Paradis
Lee Logan
Mary Lou Edens
Adrienne Padner
Corrina Gambrell
Amy Glover
Dione Ashley
Shannon Winn
Bailey Johnson
Marquita Donaldson
Jeanne Bell
Melaine Dixon
Henry Green
Veronia Patterson
Faith Line

Abbeville Area Medical Center
Due West Lion's Club
First Citizens Bank
This Girl R.O.C.
Abbeville Housing Authority
Abbeville Civic Center
Abbeville Library
Angel Tree
Abbeville County
Abbeville Rotary Club
Freshwater Coast Community Foundation

CONTACT US

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