



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Georgetown County First Steps:



144 children

were directly served in Georgetown County



487 parents & caregivers

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



118 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 GEORGETOWN COUNTY

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

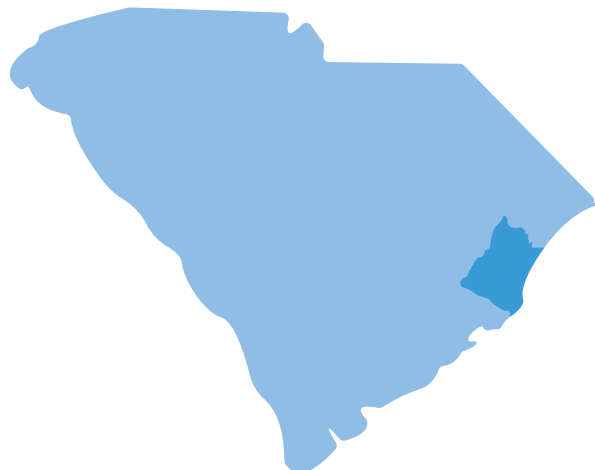
3,164

children under 6

53%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

49%



OUR MISSION

Collaborating with other entities, Georgetown County First Steps helps families prepare their children for school and school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance, and expand high-quality early childhood services.



Ayesha Smith

Executive Director

I am writing this letter with immense gratitude and a heart full of appreciation for the collective efforts that have made a lasting impact on the children of our community.

As the Executive Director of Georgetown County First Steps, I am thrilled to acknowledge the remarkable collaboration and support we have received from our community members, partners, and the local school district.

Preparing children for school is a shared responsibility, and I am genuinely touched by the dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by each of you. Whether you are a parent, community volunteer, partner organization, or an educator within our local school district, your commitment to the well-being and education of our children has not gone unnoticed.

Serving Georgetown County's children birth through age five.

“Georgetown County First Steps has been a true blessing for our family. The support and resources they provide have made such a difference, helping our child grow and learn in ways we couldn't have imagined. We feel more confident as parents, knowing we have a team behind us every step of the way.”

The Myers family



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

ParentChild+

Home visitation for families with 2- and 3-year olds to promote early literacy skills.

27

children served

1,001

home visits

HIPPY

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home visiting program that supports parents in their role as a child's first and most important teacher.

13

children served

23

group meetings
and events

254

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

68

children served

56

providers served

2

certified training
hours

Child Care Scholarships

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

40

children served

Enhanced Early Education Under 4

Provides important support to students and their families through supplemental materials and book distributions to classrooms

24

children served

12

parent and caregiver
workshops

Enhanced Early Education

Provides important support to students and their families through supplemental materials and book distributions to classrooms

49

children served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

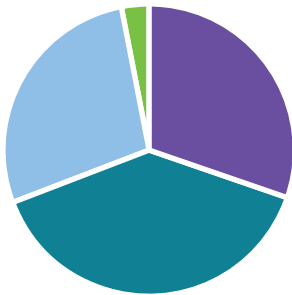


\$1 = \$1.91

Georgetown County First Steps leveraged \$181,015.78 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.91 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

Total: \$421,175.97



- Parenting - \$128,110.75
- Early Care & Education - 163,902.02
- Administrative - \$117,040.82
- Core Functions - \$12,122.38

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$381,015.78



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$72,345.52
- Private Funding - \$6,648.74
- In-Kind Funding - \$102,021.52

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.

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Our Local Supporters

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CONTACT US

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