



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Greenwood County First Steps:



192 children

were directly served in Greenwood County



680 parents & caregivers

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



738 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 GREENWOOD COUNTY

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

5,088

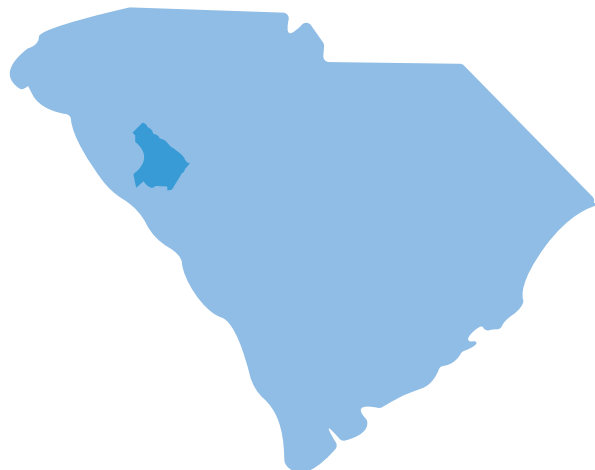
children under 6

65%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

57%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



OUR MISSION

To provide quality services and support for Greenwood County families with children newborn through five years of old.



Santasha Highley

Executive Director

Greenwood County First Steps uses an innovative and creative approach to ensure every dollar received by Greenwood County First Steps is used to its maximum potential. Getting children ready for kindergarten is an engagement that requires every agency within Greenwood County to understand the importance of being not just stakeholders, but passionate, dedicated, and committed stakeholders. The Greenwood County First Steps Full Partnership Board makes "high-quality" the keywords to determine why a program should continue to receive First Steps funding. The service quality of Greenwood County First Steps' programs grew tremendously with the addition of great local and state partnerships. Greenwood School Districts, Lander University's' Early Childhood Education Department, and Nursing Department, along with many other great community partners, have been and continue to be great partners to assist in reaching the most at-risk children in the community. Through these successful partnerships, Greenwood County First Steps offers children and families comprehensive services for school success.

Serving Greenwood County's children birth through age five.

"We would not have been able to do it without the assistance and support from Greenwood County First Steps. Shout out to our Teen Parent Educator, My'Kia for encouraging us to be better and giving us hope in achieving our goals."

Shamya & Aniya
Greenwood County First Steps parents



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

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

55

children served

14

group meetings
and events

579

home visits

Family Café

Parent discussion groups that promote social connections with other parents, support in times of need, learning about parenting and child development, and emotional awareness.

28

children served

23

families served

15

group meetings
and events

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

7,008

children served

85

providers served

28

certified training
hours

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

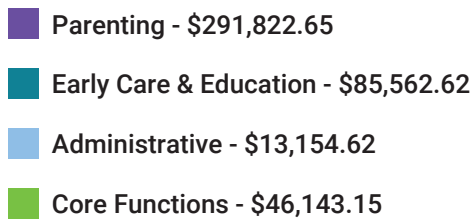
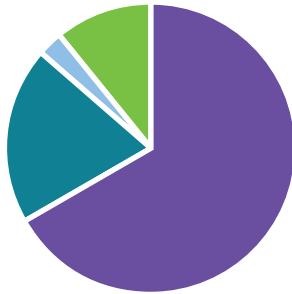


\$1 = \$1.27

Greenwood County First Steps leveraged \$88,973.42 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.27 for every state dollar invested.

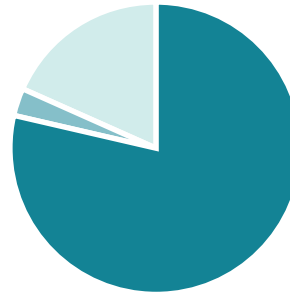
EXPENDITURES

Total: \$436,683.04



FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$416,629.42



FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
 State READY Funding*
 Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding**

*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

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.

Our Local Supporters

Save the Children

Good 360

Hope Helpers

Sammie Robinson

Lander University

Greenwood County Department of Social Services

Greenwood School District #50

Tabernacle Baptist Church

Piedmont Technical College

Black Cats Bike Club

CCR&R

Wal-Mart

Ross Stores

Target

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