

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2024 – 2026



Acknowledgments

Colleton County First Steps would like to thank our staff, board members, parents, and community members who helped us during this process. Without all of you, we would not have been able to undertake this process of our needs assessment!

The project described was supported through South Carolina First Steps by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0080-02-01 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Message from the Executive Director



Cindy Riley
Executive Director
Colleton County First
Steps

Colleton County First Steps' staff and our entire partnership board work throughout the community with other non-profits, faith-based organizations, businesses and government entities to implement programs for children and their families. We partner with other agencies such as SC Department of Social Services, the Board of Disabilities, Baby Net, DHEC, the Colleton County School District and Colleton Adult Learning Center. We wouldn't be successful if it wasn't for our great partners!

Cindy Riley

Needs Assessment Process

CONVENE

Held two community convenings with twenty eight participants and developed a vision for young children and their families

October 2022 – January 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



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



Asset Map



Priorities: Summary

1. Child Care Deserts

63% of children in Colleton County live in or near a child care desert in our community

2. Parenting Programs

59.6% of children in Colleton County have experienced at least one adverse childhood consequence

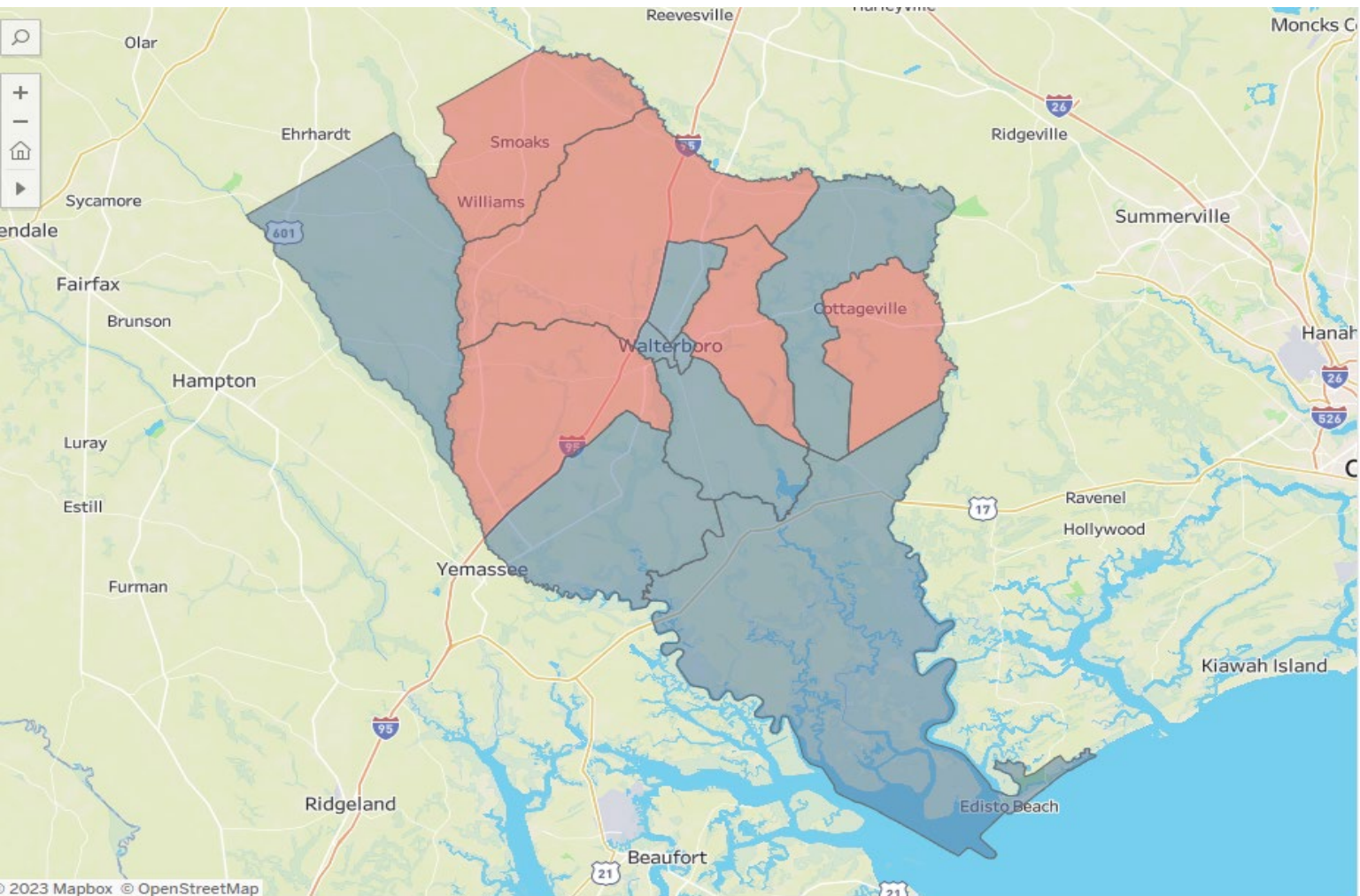
3. Transportation

There is little to no data about transportation in Colleton County

Priority One: Child Care Deserts

63% of children in Colleton County live in or near a child care desert in our community

Provider location and center capacity obtained from schildcare.org on October 16, 2022. Definition of a child care desert obtained from the Center for American Progress, "A child care desert is any census tract with more than 50 children under age 5 that contains either no child care providers or so few options that there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots" (<https://www.childcaredeserts.org/>). Population under age 5 by census tract obtained from the American Community Survey 2016-2020 Five Year Estimates (Table B01001). US Census Bureau. Calculations done by Chelsea Richard of South Carolina First Steps (October 16, 2022).

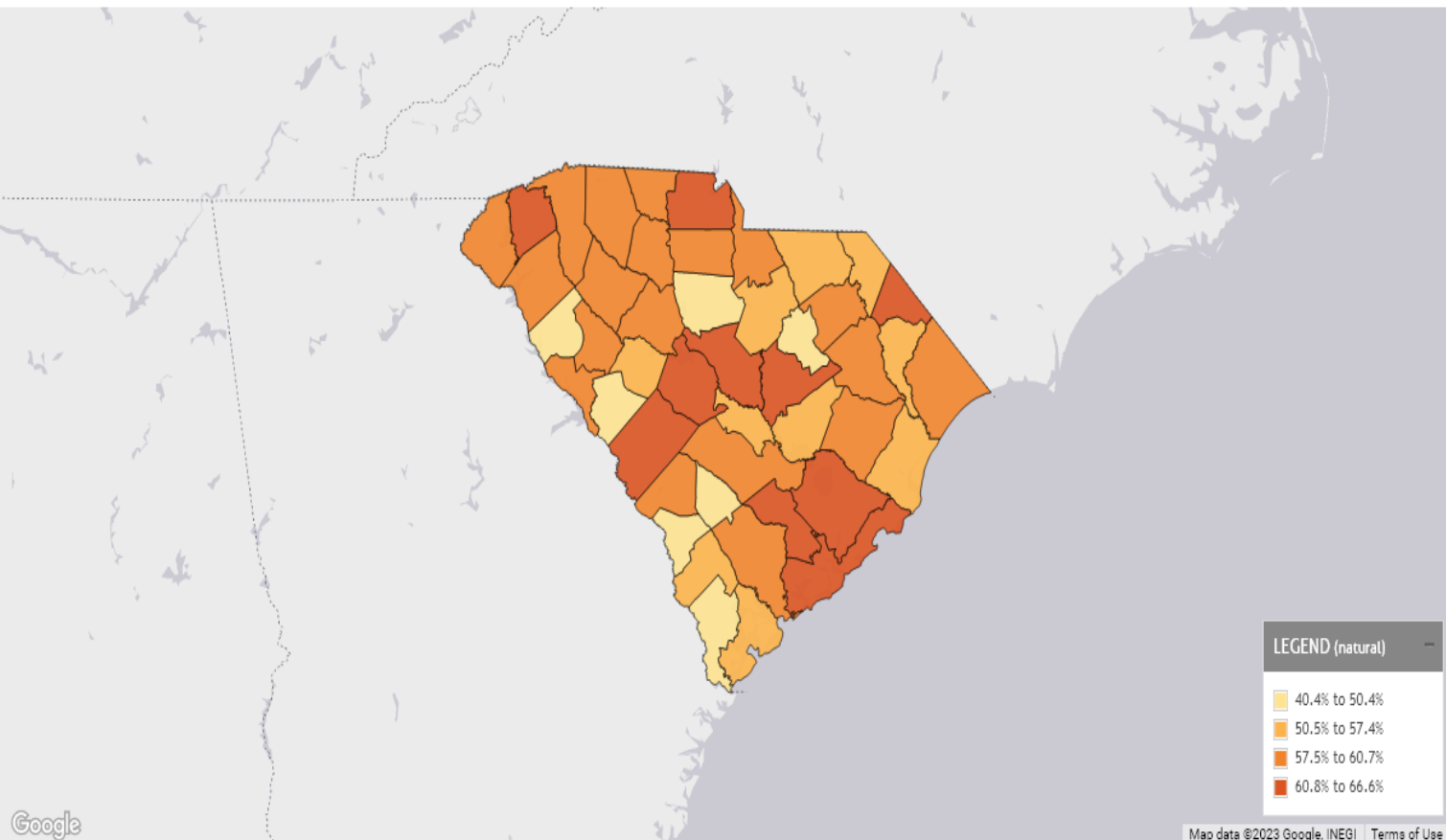


Priority Two: Parenting Programs

59.6% of children in Colleton County have experienced at least one adverse childhood consequence

According to the Kids Count Data Center, research indicates that adverse childhood consequences are more common in low income families and among certain racial/ethnic minority groups in the United States (Slopen et al., 2016) Enduring barriers to social and economic opportunity on the basis of race may drive these disparities by increasing the likelihood of family circumstances that produce adverse childhood consequences.

ACE: CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE ADVERSE CHILDHOOD CONSEQUENCE: AT LEAST ONE ACE (PERCENT) - 2014-2016



Google

Children's Trust of South Carolina from datacenter.kidscount.org

Priority Three: Transportation

The Colleton County Economic Alliance states that Colleton County's strategic position to the prime business and commerce capitals of the Southeastern United States provides advantages to businesses and our citizens' way of life. (Colleton County Economic Alliance, 2022)

Palmetto Breeze Transit is the only form of public transportation for Colleton County residents. For those who are eligible, the transit provides services within 3/4-mile radius from a Walterboro Works fixed routes. The stops on this route are Apartment complexes, Walmart, Adult Education Learning Center, Colleton Career Skills Center, etc... Young children are not allowed to be transported on this transit system. In order to use this transit, adults must meet certain qualifications. Colleton County has limited taxi service as well as Uber and Lyft.

There is very little data on transportation in Colleton County since the options are so limited.



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Next Steps



PLAN

Write 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

