



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

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

Vision

Every child in Calhoun County will enter school healthy and ready for success.

Values

Families are the single most important influence on the development of their young children. Services must be individualized and adaptable to meet the unique needs of families and their children.

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. Calhoun First Steps operates within a culture of accountability.

Message from the Executive Director



Virginia L. Newman
Executive Director
Calhoun County First Steps

Children are eager to learn starting at birth. Early in life, children show joy and excitement in hearing a lullaby, stacking blocks, turning the pages of a book during story time, clapping of hands during a rhyming, cooing when communicating with dad and the widening of eyes when they see bright colors. All of these actions and reactions contribute to the development of the child's brain.

Let us support our children's eagerness to learn. Parents, caregivers and local stakeholders within the public, private and faith sectors must work collaboratively to provide our children an array of early childhood learning experiences that will result in optimal development and school readiness.

Virginia L. Newman

Message from the Board Chair



Sam W. Richardson

Board Chair

Calhoun County First Steps

As Board Chair of Calhoun First Steps, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with our Board members, the Executive Director and staff, the community leaders and parents in the planning process for school readiness. It has been a rewarding experience to serve in Calhoun County. With much effort demonstrated through the use of strategic planning, it is my hope that our children, ages 0 through 5 years, will continue to be successfully prepared to enter kindergarten in the years to come.

Much thanks to our Board members, Executive Director, staff, parents and the Calhoun County Community for all your continued support in these endeavors.

Rev. Sam W. Richardson

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

1. INCREASE THE REACH OF CALHOUN FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By 2025, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Calhoun First Steps will increase from 72% to 80%.

2. MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN READY FOR SUCCESS

By 2025, the percentage of children who score at the highest level of the Kindergarten Readiness Assess will increase from 43.2% each year to 52%.

1. Expand Services to Families Zoned to Sandy Run K-8 School

STRATEGY 1.1

Parents as Teachers

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of **FY21**, we will increase services from two to four families zoned to Sandy Run K-8 School.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Calhoun School District/Sandy Run K-8 Principal
- Parents served through PAT
- PAT Advisory Committee
- Calhoun County Library

STRATEGY 1.2

Countdown to Kindergarten

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of **FY 21**, we will increase the number of Sandy Run K-8 rising kindergarteners participation from 10% to 15%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Sandy Run K-8 School Principal
- Calhoun School District
- Calhoun County Library

1. Objective *continued*

STRATEGY 1.3

Community Education

SMART GOAL(S)

1. Disseminate materials and market services through our website and Facebook page. **Measurement? Timeline? DB**

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Calhoun County Library
- Calhoun Department of Social Services
- The Calhoun Times
- Piggly Wiggly Store

2. Decrease Number Neglected Children

STRATEGY 2.1

Parents as Teachers

SMART GOAL(S)

1. Train the Family Preservation Kinship Care staff on the Parents as Teachers Program in order that make referrals. **Timeline? DB**
2. Enroll families served through Calhoun DSS-Family Preservation Kinship Care Initiative. **How many? Timeline? DB**

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Calhoun County Department of Social Services

STRATEGY 2.2

Imagination Library

SMART GOAL(S)

1. Enroll children birth to five years served through Calhoun DSS-Family Preservation Kinship Care Initiative. **Timeline? DB**

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Calhoun County Department of Social Services

3. Expand Resource Development

STRATEGY 3.1

Increase resources through fundraisers

SMART GOAL(S)

- Increase private donations to MidlandsGives. Measurement? Timeline? DB
- Have a community leader to serve as promotional host for annual golf tournament. Measurement? Timeline? DB

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Board Members
- Local small businesses
- Large corporations
- Community leader(s)

STRATEGY 3.2

Board members to increase personal donations

SMART GOAL(S)

- Board members increase their annual donation from \$27 to \$50 by the end of 2021.

3. Objective *continued*

STRATEGY 3.3

Increase number of grants written and submitted

SMART GOAL(S)

1. Create a template to use for all grants. **Measurement?**
Timeline? DB
2. Increase the number of grants submitted from four to six by the end of **FY21**.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- SC First Steps
- Your Foundation
- United Way of the Midlands