

ABBEVILLE COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission: The Abbeville County First Steps Mission is to help prepare children from birth to six years old for school and to work together to achieve this goal.

Vision: To strengthen parents and teachers with appropriate practices that develop social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills of Abbeville County's young children.

Values

- The years of early childhood are a critical window of development during which much of human potential is shaped.
- Families are the single most important influence on the development of their young children.
- The work of supporting families and caregivers is a collaborative effort between state and local stakeholders within the public, private and faith sectors.
- School readiness is the result of a child's development in many areas, with each contributing to the child's success.
- Services must be individualized and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.
- 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. First Steps operates within a culture of accountability.

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

The **2020-2025** Abbeville County First Steps **Strategic** Plan includes 5 overarching measures of success, which are high level benchmarks that will be achieved if the plan is implemented fully.

These benchmarks are moving targets as their success are somewhat dependent on funding. These will be continuously monitored throughout the five-year period.

1. INCREASE THE REACH OF ABBEVILLE COUNTY FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By FY23, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Abbeville County First Steps will increase from **25%** to **50%**.

2. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HIGH INTENSITY PROGRAMS FUNDED BY FIRST STEPS

By **2025**, the percentage of children directly served by Abbeville County First Steps enrolled in high intensity programs will increase from **75% to 100%**

3. INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY FIRST STEPS

By **2025**, the percentage of children under age 6 who benefit from Abbeville County First Steps training efforts will increase from 25% to 40%.

Overarching Measures of Success

4. MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN READY FOR SUCCESS

By 2025, the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 15% each year to 25%.

5. REDUCE THE RACIAL/ETHNIC GAP IN KINDERGARTEN READINESS

By 2025, the gap in the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment between White Kindergartners and Black/Hispanic Kindergartners will reduce by 5% each year to 10%.

Objectives

- 1. Provide high-quality comprehensive parenting programs: Nurturing Parenting home visitation, Nurturing Parenting groups**
- 2. Provide high quality comprehensive parenting programs that are inclusive of Fathers: Nurturing Fathers**
- 3. Provide high quality trainings for childcare providers and early childhood educators: Trainings are in partnership with Abbeville First Steps**
- 4. Serve as a local community portal for families to receive high quality services: Providing Benefits Banks Services to families**
- 5. Serve as a community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote comprehensive services to families: Partnering with the Department of Social Services, the Solicitor's Office, and Local Court System**

Strategies. Objectives (Identify which is objective is attached to each Strategy.)

STRATEGY 1

Nurturing Parenting Home Visitation Program

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, (**suggested DB**) **all clients with identified developmental delays will be referred to Baby Net. we will increase the 100% of clients will be referred by any developmental delays to Baby net. (Remove)**
- By the end of FY23, our clients' Adult Child Adolescent pre and post test score will increase by 25%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Abbeville Department of Social Services and doctor offices for referrals.

STRATEGY 2

1. Nurturing Parenting Groups

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, our clients' Nurturing Parenting Competency scores will increase by 25%.
- By the end of FY23, our clients' Adult Child Adolescent pre-and post-test score will increase by 25%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will partner with the Abbeville Department of Social Services, the Solicitor's Office.

Objectives (Identify which objective is attached to each Strategy.)

STRATEGY 3

1. Nurturing Fathers

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, Nurturing Parenting Competency scores (suggested DB) for enrolled fathers will increase by 25%.
- By the end of FY23, our (suggested DB) fathers' Adult Child Adolescent pre- and post-test score will increase by 25%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will partner with the Abbeville Department of Social Services, the Solicitor's Office.

STRATEGY 4

1. Childcare Trainings

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, (suggested DB) childcare providers will (suggested) receive at least 12 hours of training.
- By the end of FY23, (suggested DB) childcare providers will (suggested) receive at least 20 hours of training.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will partner with Greenwood County First Steps, the South Carolina Center for Child Care Career Development, and Lander University.

Objectives (Identify which is objective is attached to each Strategy.)

STRATEGY 5

Abbeville County First Steps will connect families of preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development. Abbeville County First Steps will increase access to community services as a local portal.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, 50% of clients (suggested DB) will be offered Benefits Bank Services.
- By the end of FY23, 75% of clients (suggested DB) will be offered Benefits Bank Services.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- SC Thrive, The Social Change Initiative

STRATEGY 6

Abbeville County First Steps will increase understanding in the community of school readiness domains and assessment, and “what works” to help young children succeed and will make information easily accessible in all communities and for all families. Abbeville County First Steps will build capacity through community partnerships through community education and outreach.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, 75% of clients (suggested DB) will be referred to local agencies for community services.

Objectives (Identify which is objective is attached to each Strategy.)

- By the end of FY23, 100% of clients (suggested DB) will be referred to local agencies for community services.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Abbeville County School District, Abbeville Housing Authority, Abbeville County Department of Social Services.

STRATEGY 6

Abbeville County First Steps will increase understanding in the community of school readiness domains and assessment, and “what works” to help young children succeed and will make information easily accessible in all communities and for all families. Abbeville County First Steps will build capacity through community partnerships through community education and outreach.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, 75% of clients (suggested DB) will receive information about community resources offered through local agencies.
- By the end of FY23, 100% of clients (suggested DB) will receive information about community resources offered through local agencies.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Abbeville County School District, Abbeville Housing Authority, Abbeville County Department of Social Services

Objectives (Identify which objective is attached to each Strategy.)

STRATEGY 7

Mobilizing Communities on Providing Enhanced Services to Support Families and their Young Children Abbeville County First Steps will serve as a community convener to address the needs of preschool children in the community, in support of state readiness priorities.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, the Executive Director will partner with 25% of boards in the community.
- By the end of FY23, Executive Director will partner with 40% of boards in the community.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- The Department of Social Services, Foster Care Review Board, DSS Partners Meeting.