

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

Collaborating with other entities, Allendale County First Steps 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 Allendale County will have the resources they need to be prepared for school success.

Values

We believe all children can learn and have potential for academic, social, emotional and physical greatness.

We believe family engagement is the glue to helping families grow and achieve.

We believe collaboration with agencies and other non-profits helps us deliver sustaining care to families and children at-risk for not being successful in school.

We believe maintaining compliance with state standards and guidelines will enable us to obtain funding to provide strategies for children's school success.

Message from the Executive Director



Patricia Hall

Executive Director

Allendale County First Steps

Allendale County First Step Board of Directors and staff strive for excellence. With help from our collaborating partners and support of the community, we have successfully completed Allendale County First Steps' Comprehensive Plan for FY21-FY23; a Comprehensive Plan developed for early education and designed to ensure children in Allendale County receive the foundational skills needed to be successful learners.

In order to meet the strategic result of ensuring all preschool children in Allendale County receive the foundational skills to be successful learners, a significant commitment and expanded investments are required. We look forward to working with our partners as we make gains towards this comprehensive plan's strategic goals.

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

INCREASE THE REACH OF FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By FY23, the percentage of children in need directly served by Allendale County First Steps will increase by 10 families.

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

By FY23, the percentage of children directly served by First Steps enrolled in high intensity program will increase by 15%.

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

By FY23, Allendale County First Steps will increase the availability of high-quality early care and education opportunities by 10% through fundraisers, grants and donations.

Objectives

1. Allendale County First Steps will reach more eligible children in Allendale County.

Our Needs and Resources Assessment identified 585 children under age 6 and 392 children living below 185% of poverty, Allendale County First Steps had an impact on only 78 families. We want to ensure that we are expanding our reach to children and families currently not being served.

2. Allendale County First Steps will increase the number of children receiving high-quality childcare

Allendale County First Steps has a partnership with Little New Steps Child Care Center (center under the school district umbrella) and OCAB Head Start program, where the enrollment has decreased tremendously. In the next three years, we will implement strategies to increase enrollment

3. Allendale County First Steps will increase funds to support the availability of early care and education opportunities

There is a need to serve more children, which requires additional funding. In order to achieve this objective we must reach out to private donors for grants and to sponsor fundraisers.

Allendale County First Steps will reach more eligible children in Allendale County.

STRATEGY 1.1

Nurturing Parenting

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, we will hire a parent educator for Nurturing Parenting.
- By July FY22, new parent educator will serve 10 families.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will continue our partnership with county agencies/businesses and community at large for referrals and recruitment to assist with identifying new families and advertisement for the parent educator position.

STRATEGY 1.2

Parent Satisfaction Surveys

SMART GOAL(S)

- To determine the effectiveness of the program, and enhance model fidelity, we will administer parent engagement pre-and post-surveys twice per year through FY 2023.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Little New Steps Child Care Center and Allendale County school district will assist with administering surveys.

Allendale County First Steps will reach more eligible children in Allendale County.

STRATEGY 1.3

Community Education

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY2023, we will host at least one community events to enroll new families and educate the community about services provided by Allendale County First Steps each year with our partnering agencies.
- Each year, the staff will participate in one community events along with families and to identify new families through FY2023.
- There will be a “Celebration of Completion” for enrolled and unrolled families and , each year, to celebrate families participating in group connections and attract new families to the program (recruitment strategy).

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will collaborate with our partnering agencies: DSS, DHEC, Allendale School District, OCAB, and community groups
- DSS, DHEC, Allendale County School District

Allendale County First Steps will increase the number of children receiving high-quality childcare.

STRATEGY 2.1

Child Care Training

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY2023, we will continue to provide the 15 – 20 required certified training hours for directors and teachers each year.
- Each year, we will increase monthly visits to centers participating in First Steps programs from one to two.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will continue to partner with SC Endeavors, CCRR and Allendale County School district

STRATEGY 2.2

Child Care Scholarships

SMART GOAL(S)

- We will increase the number of scholarships awarded to families by 7% by FY23.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will recruit and refer families to our partners; Allendale County School District and OCAB Head Start Program

Allendale County First Steps will increase the availability of early care and education opportunities.

STRATEGY 3.1

Secure Funds to provide literacy Kits for partnering childcare centers

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY2023, staff and board members will continue to identify 5 potential donors to support this strategy each year.
- Each year, \$10 will be raise to refurbish literacy kits through FY2023.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Allendale County School District, Allendale County Library, county community leaders and agencies.