



COLLETON COUNTY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

Collaborating with other entities, Colleton County First Steps helps 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 Colleton County will be prepared for success in school.

Values

1. Families are the single most important influence on the development of their young children.
2. The work of supporting families and caregivers is a collaborative effort between state and local stakeholders within the public, private and faith sectors.
3. School readiness is the result of a child's development in many areas, with each contributing to the child's success.
4. Services must be individualized and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.
5. We value, and demonstrate in our collaborative work and advocacy, diverse perspectives in the development of public policy and programs.
6. To achieve desired results, services must be high-quality and grounded in strong evidence. First Steps operates within a culture of accountability.

Message from the Executive Director



Cindy S. Riley
Executive Director
Colleton County First Steps

Colleton County First Steps' staff and entire partnership board work throughout our county with non-profits, faith-based organizations, businesses, and government organizations to implement programs for children pre-natal to 5 years old. As a small rural community, our families do not always have the resources available to them that larger metropolitan areas may offer, but our board and staff work diligently to streamline services with other agencies to meet the needs of all our families.

Our Parents as Teachers program is a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon Affiliate. We passed a rigorous evaluation of our home visitation program to achieve this recognition. Our efforts with our families would not be possible without our community partners! The Colleton County School District, SC Department of Social Services, Walterboro Rotary Club, and local individuals make our work easier by their generous gifts and support!

Cindy S. Riley

Overarching Measure of Success

FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By FY23, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Colleton County First Steps will increase from 12% to 15%.

Objectives

- 1. Children will be prepared for school**
- 2. Services for children and their families will be high quality**
- 3. Partnerships with other agencies will be strengthened to support children and families**

1. Children will be prepared for school

STRATEGY 1.1

Countdown to Kindergarten

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of 2023, we will increase the number of children served to 55 each summer.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the Colleton County School District and the State Office of First Steps to recruit the children and secure the necessary funds for CTK.

STRATEGY 1.2

Community Education

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of 2023, we will participate in at least 4 community events yearly, such as baby showers, back to school bash, summer reading kick-off, new teacher orientation, etc. and distribute at least 2000 books.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the Colleton County School District, the Colleton County Memorial Library, Department of Social Services and healthcare organizations to reach parents and children in our community.

2. Services for children and their families will be high quality.

STRATEGY 2.1

Parents as Teachers

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY 2023, we will increase the percentage of PAT families who meet 9 months or more of continuous service from 81.25% to 85%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the Department of Social Services, East Coast Migrant Head Start, Lowcountry Head Start, local childcare centers, BabyNet, Board of Disabilities and the Early Childhood Center to recruit families for the PAT program.

3. Partnerships with other agencies will be strengthened to support children and their families.

STRATEGY 3.1

Scholarships

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY 2023, we will increase the number of qualified childcare providers from 7 to 9 to serve our families with childcare scholarships.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the Department of Social Services, SC Endeavors, 4K coach, and the local centers to improve the center's ABC quality ratings.

STRATEGY 3.2

Childcare Trainings

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of 2023, we will increase the number of staff trained each year to 100 participants.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with SC Endeavors, local trainers, and other First Steps partnerships to offer high quality trainings for childcare staff and preschool teachers.