

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

Jasper County First Steps works collaboratively to ensure all Jasper County children will start school ready to reach their highest potential through engaged support from parents, caregivers and our communities.

Vision

We will be successful when all Jasper County children reach their highest potential.

Values

Children

To focus on and prioritize young children, from prenatal development to kindergarten entry, and their families and caregivers.

Community

To cultivate positive, supportive and respectful interactions between stakeholders that shape development, build community, increase success and productivity, foster learning and growth and affirm the intrinsic value of all individuals.

Equity

To actively work towards a community where all people have the opportunity and resources to be successful. To ensure all voices are solicited and heard.

High Quality

To ensure our programs are inclusive and developmentally-appropriate and are delivered with fidelity to the program model. To ensure our programs, services and operations are marked by excellence.

Results

To produce meaningful and measurable impact and outcomes.

Message from the Executive Director



Duchett Polite Hylton
Executive Director
Jasper County First Steps

2020 has provided a unique backdrop of both challenges and opportunities for many service organizations. Jasper County First Steps is no exception. However, our early work in preparing for this strategic plan also gave us needed insight into available resources in order to quickly adjust and continue to provide excellence in times of crisis. The lessons learned have been valuable in shaping our vision of what we aspire to in this next phase for our children, our communities, and our state.

Duchett Polite Hylton

Message from the Board Chair



Eleanor P. Hazel
Board Chair
Jasper County First Steps

As the newly elected board chair, I look forward to navigating and developing relationships with Executive Director Mrs. Polite Hylton, board officers and members, committees, and the community at large. My personal goal is to stay well-informed about First Steps work and serve as an ambassador for the organization. Our three-year Comprehensive Plan has been strategically developed with input and guidance from our dedicated board. It will be enthusiastically implemented to close the gap on students' readiness for success in school, work, and life.

Eleanor P. Hazel

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

INCREASE THE REACH OF FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By FY23, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Jasper County First Steps will increase from 59% to 60%.

INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN HIGH INTENSITY PROGRAMS

By FY23, the percentage of children enrolled in direct, high intensity programs will increase from 9% to 11%.

MORE KINDERGARTENERS WILL ARRIVE TO SCHOOL PREPARED FOR SUCCESS

By FY23, the percentage of incoming kindergarteners who score “demonstrating readiness” on the KRA will increase from 14% to 16%.

Objectives

1. PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN.

2. CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE AND CELEBRATES THE VALUE OF DIVERSE VOICES.

3. SERVE AS A COMMUNITY CONVENER AND PORTAL TO BUILD A CARING COMMUNITY AROUND THE INTEREST OF YOUNG CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.

4. INCREASE FUNDING FOR INVESTMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.

1. PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN.

STRATEGY 1.1

Family Strengthening - Increase participation in evidence-based and evidence-informed parenting programs.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Increase the number of families served in the Parents As Teachers program from 25 to 30 families by FY23, measured by a minimum of nine months retention.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Jasper County School District
- Jasper County Department of Social Services
- Jasper County Health Department
- Beaufort Jasper EOC
- Hardeeville Community Library
- Pratt Memorial Library
- PASOs of the Lowcountry
- Local Early Childhood Education Providers

1. PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN.

STRATEGY 1.2

Health – Increase the number of children screened and referred for services to address barriers to academic success because of developmental delays prior to kindergarten entry.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Increase the number of children screened in the Early Identification and Referral program from 19 to 25 children annually by FY23.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Jasper County School District
- Baby Net
- Jasper County Department of Social Services
- Jasper County Health Department
- Beaufort Jasper Comprehensive Health
- PASOs of the Lowcountry
- Help Me Grow
- SC Inclusion Collaborative
- Local Early Childhood Education Providers

1. PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN.

STRATEGY 1.3

School Transition - Enhance strong student-teacher relationships that facilitate the home-school transition and enhance classroom learning for incoming kindergarteners.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Expand Countdown To Kindergarten to serve additional students in Hardeeville Elementary School by Summer 2021, increasing participation from 30 to 35 students.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- South Carolina First Steps Countdown to Kindergarten
- Jasper County School District
- Local Early Childhood Education Providers

1. PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN.

STRATEGY 1.4

Early Education - Support First Steps 4K and its network of private, community and faith-based centers' commitment to provide healthy and safe learning environments and to prepare children for school success.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Partner with two SCFS 4K providers to offer Raising A Reader to families of enrolled children to engage, develop, practice and maintain a daily routine of book reading with children, by January 2021.
- Increase the number of transitional Summer scholarships provided to rising Kindergartners previously served in SCFS 4K from 5 to 7 children, June 2022.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- South Carolina First Steps 4K
- Raising A Reader
- Ridgeland Baptist Church Child Care Ministry
- Beacon of Hope Child Development Center

2. CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE AND CELEBRATES THE VALUE OF DIVERSE VOICES.

STRATEGY 2.1

Think and act strategically to ensure diversity and equitable representation of communities served.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Use the recommended Board Member Matrix to evaluate the composition of Board Member participation to ensure intentionality in recruitment in preparation of annual board elections, each February.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Jasper County Council
- Jasper County School District
- Jasper Department of Social Services
- Jasper County Health Dept
- Allendale Hampton Jasper Regional Library
- Ridgeland & Hardeeville municipalities
- Jasper County Human Services Alliance

2. CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE AND CELEBRATES THE VALUE OF DIVERSE VOICES.

STRATEGY 2.2

Ensure the voices of stakeholders, including families, early childhood educators, and community partners, are solicited, heard and considered in decision-making – based on a continuous cycle of feedback and quality improvement.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Convene a minimum of one community forum comprised of community collaborators, parents, ECE providers, etc. for ongoing community needs and resources assessments, each April.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Jasper County Council, School District, DSS, DHEC, BDSN
- Ridgeland & Hardeeville municipalities, law enforcement
- Allendale Hampton Jasper Regional Library
- Jasper County Human Services Alliance
- Jasper County Arts Council
- Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage
- PASOs of the Lowcountry
- Antioch Education Center
- Hope Haven
- Hunger Free Zone
- Families In Transition
- Molina Health
- Bundles of Joy
- Wright Directions

3. SERVE AS A COMMUNITY CONVENER AND PORTAL TO BUILD A CARING COMMUNITY AROUND THE INTEREST OF YOUNG CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.

STRATEGY 3.1

Serve as a hub for early childhood services and local system building.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Implement Strive Hub – provide services to enrolled clients February 2021 & general public September 2021.
- Convene one community forum comprised of community collaborators, parents, ECE providers for ongoing community needs and resources assessments, each April.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- SC Thrive Hub
- Jasper County Human Services Alliances
- Hardeeville Community Library
- Pratt Memorial Library
- Jasper County Arts Council
- Antioch Education Center
- PASOs of the Lowcountry

3. SERVE AS A COMMUNITY CONVENER AND PORTAL TO BUILD A CARING COMMUNITY AROUND THE INTEREST OF YOUNG CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.

STRATEGY 3.2

Build on efforts to communicate with stakeholders and the public about Partnership's mission, activities and decision-making through inclusive and transparent community education and engagement.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Convenor – Sponsor a minimum of one annual community engagement event to highlight Partnership program strategies and to connect families, providers and others organization.
- Portal – Participate in a minimum of four community events sponsored by community partners annually to expand reach of Partnership services through meaning referrals, education and general outreach.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Local Government Agencies
- Jasper County Arts Council
- Wagon Branch Community Coalition
- Hunger Free Zone
- Powerhouse Entertainment
- Jasper County Parks & Recreation
- Point South Day Committee

4. INCREASE FUNDING FOR INVESTMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.

STRATEGY 4.1

Diversify partnership's sources of funds to expand both innovative and established programs.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By FY22, make a direct request to all local municipalities to invest in early childhood through financial and in-kind supports to build capacity to serve families within the county.
- By FY23, increase individual, foundation and corporate giving by 25%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Jasper County Government
- Community Foundation of the Lowcountry
- Coastal Carolina Foundation
- City of Hardeeville
- Town of Ridgeland
- South Carolina Ports Authority
- Jasper County Rotary Club
- Private, Individual Donors

4. INCREASE FUNDING FOR INVESTMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.

STRATEGY 4.2

Develop and implement the mechanisms to raise private funds through communications and back-office support that engage staff, board members, and volunteers.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Update organization's website and social media platforms to enable online giving, January 2021.
- By FY22, create or purchase a donor management system that drives private, philanthropic outreach and engagement.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- JCFS Board Members
- Lowcountry Websites, LLC
- Network for Good