

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

Working in partnership with parents, families, caregivers, educators, and our community, Newberry County First Steps fosters nurturing experiences so that children will reach their highest potential.

Vision

Newberry County children will be prepared to reach their highest potential.

Values

- Early childhood development is critical in shaping human potential.
- 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 public, private and faith sectors.
- School readiness is the result of a child's development in the areas of social interaction, play, language, emotional development, physical skills, literacy, and fine motor skills, with each contributing to the child's success in school.
- 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.

Message from the Executive Director



Sarah Eargle
Executive Director
Newberry County First Steps

Newberry County First Steps (NCFS) champions the vital roles that families, individuals, and organizations play in growing strong, resilient children that are “ready” for school. Working together with our community and partners, we will strive to overcome challenges, producing solutions, creating new and enhanced programs and resources, and continue to provide comprehensive early childhood programs focusing on the whole child. Newberry County children will be prepared to reach their highest potential in school and in life.

Sarah Eargle

Message from the Board Chair



Clyde E. Hill

Board Chair

Newberry County First Steps

Early Childhood Development and a readiness for success upon entering school is a major focus for us. Our support of children's families, their community and early childhood educators is essential to accomplishing this goal. We will continue to provide essential training and professional development to our partners in child care and early education. With the help of our local partners, we hope to be the spearhead in the development of young minds. Our goal is to prepare all children for success in school and in life.

Clyde E. Hill

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN READY FOR SUCCESS

By FY23, the percentage of children who will score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase from 33% to 36% in Newberry County.

INCREASE THE REACH OF FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By FY23, the percentage of children 0-5 who are directly served by Newberry County First Steps programs will increase from 43% to 48%.

Objectives

- 1. CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY AND SAFE.**
- 2. NEWBERRY COUNTY FIRST STEPS WILL ENHANCE AND EXPAND QUALITY PROGRAMS.**
- 3. NEWBERRY COUNTY FIRST STEPS WILL PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE AND EQUITABLE SERVICES.**

1. CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY AND SAFE.

STRATEGY 1.1

Parents as Teachers (PAT)

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY23, the number of moms receiving Welcome Baby bags will increase by 25%.
- By the end of FY23, we will increase the proportion of our clients getting on time well-child visits by 3%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Newberry County Hospital and pediatricians to identify newborns in Newberry County.
- We will partner with local pediatric doctors and family doctors to connect clients to a medical home.

STRATEGY 1.2

Community Education

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, a Family Resource Guide will be developed for Newberry County.(Print version and on-line version)

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will partner with the Newberry County Chamber of Commerce, organizations and other agencies that serve families and children.
- We will partner with Newberry College for design of the publication.

2. NEWBERRY FIRST STEPS WILL ENHANCE AND EXPAND QUALITY PROGRAMS.

STRATEGY 2.1

Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY)

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, we will implement (for the first time) the HIPPY parenting program, recruiting up to ten (10) families from First Steps 4K programs in Newberry County.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with centers providing First Steps 4K and the State First Steps 4K office to recruit families.
- We will partner with AmeriCorps to provide staff for program.

STRATEGY 2.2

Parents as Teachers

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, parent educators will build online and video parenting skill lessons that can be used as part of the PAT program and our family connections online portal. We will begin with five (5) lessons and increase by five (5) each year.
- By the end of FY22, we will increase the number of families enrolled in PAT by 40% (25 to 35 families).

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the School District of Newberry County, First Steps 4K, Newberry County Hospital and local agencies to recruit younger siblings and new parents.

2. NEWBERRY FIRST STEPS WILL ENHANCE AND EXPAND QUALITY PROGRAMS

STRATEGY 2.3

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK)

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY23, Newberry First Steps will increase the number of children participating in CTK from an average of 55 to an average of 65 participants.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the School District of Newberry County, First Steps 4K, and community agencies and organizations to recruit students.
- We will partner with the United Way and possibly WIRE Women to increase funding for CTK program.

STRATEGY 2.4

Literacy Programs

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, Newberry County First Steps Library Based Program will add a virtual story time component to the current face to face program.
- By the end of FY22, Newberry County First Steps will increase the number of books given out in the community by 20% (approximately 500 more books).

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the Newberry County Library and organizations and businesses in the community.

2. NEWBERRY FIRST STEPS WILL ENHANCE AND EXPAND QUALITY PROGRAMS

STRATEGY 2.5

Community Outreach

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, Newberry First Steps, working with community partners, will establish a Little Free Library at the Kendall Road Complex in the City of Newberry.
- By the end of FY22, a family connection online portal will be developed for parents of children 0-5 in Newberry County. Family connections will provide online content on parenting skills, development of young children, activities, and resources. The portal will be accessed through Newberry County First Steps website.
- By the end of FY23, Newberry First Steps will create three (3) StoryWalks (an interactive way for readers of all ages to enjoy a story and the outdoors at the same time) in Newberry County.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the Newberry County Library, Newberry Family Literacy Program, Newberry Adult Education, City of Newberry, Newberry Parks and Recreation, AmeriCorps, Newberry Museum, Westview Behavioral Center, and other organizations and agencies in Newberry County.

3. NEWBERRY FIRST STEPS WILL PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE AND EQUITABLE SERVICES

STRATEGY 3.1

Parents as Teachers

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, Newberry First Steps Parents as Teachers program will hire at least one bi-lingual parent educator.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the School District of Newberry County's Family Literacy Program, the current vendor for the Parents as Teachers Program.

STRATEGY 3.2

Community Education

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY22, Newberry First Steps will add a family online connection portal for parents of children 0-5 years old. Access will be through Newberry First Steps website.
- By the end of FY23, we will make at least 30% of our materials, which includes but is not limited to: website, printed materials and books, available in Spanish.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the School District of Newberry County, DSS, Babynet, pediatricians, the Newberry County Hospital, Newberry College, and other organizations in the community to share information about the portal, recruit clients, and/or help translate materials into Spanish.