

# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**2021 – 2023**





## Mission

We will continue to serve as a convener of early childhood champions to coordinate services to measurably improve the early childhood development of all children in Pickens County.

## Vision

Families and early childhood educators are equipped with tools and resources needed to ensure children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

## Values

Pickens County First Steps Board of Directors and staff recognize the importance of the following values in helping us to achieve our goals:

- Operational and Fiscal Transparency
- Delivering Research Based Initiative
- Convening Collaborative Partners
- Engaging the Community
- Supporting Parents as their Child's First Teacher

# Message from the Executive Director



**Amity Buckner**  
Executive Director  
Pickens County First Steps

Pickens County First Steps continues to be an organization rooted in collaboration and partnership. With Pickens County being a very relational county, awareness of this unique culture informs everything that we do. We have never been more grateful for the generous and steadfast support of our collaborating partners than in the events of 2020. The Covid-19 crisis has only highlighted our county's economic and opportunity disparities. Existing strong relationships with community partners has allowed us to link arms and work toward solutions for young children and families.

We are grateful for our board's forward-thinking commitment to the young children in Pickens County, and for an efficient and experienced staff that has enhanced the services, communication, and community involvement of Pickens County First Steps.

Most importantly, we are grateful for the children and families who allow us to step into their lives and offer our support. Each family has a unique story and we want to always seek to honor the experiences of others in our language, attitudes, actions, and services. Our hope is that our efforts always reflect the real and present needs of Pickens County families.

# Overarching Measure(s) of Success

## **INCREASE THE REACH OF FIRST STEPS SERVICES**

By FY25, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Pickens County First Steps will increase from 37% to 40%.

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

By FY25, the percentage of children directly served by in high intensity programs funded by Pickens County First Steps will increase from 4% to 6%.

# Objectives

- 1. FAMILIES WILL LEARN TO MAXIMIZE LOVE, MANAGE STRESSES.**
- 2. CHILDREN WILL TALK, SING AND POINT.**
- 3. CHILDREN WILL COUNT, GROUP AND COMPARE.**
- 4. CHILDREN CAN EXPLORE THROUGH MOVEMENT AND PLAY.**
- 5. FAMILIES WILL READ AND DISCUSS STORIES.**

# 1. Families will *Maximize Love, Manage Stress*

## **STRATEGY 1.1**

### Community Education

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- By of FY25, we will have provided Adverse Childhood Experiences(ACEs) and Resilience education to 200 people.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- We will continue to partner with community agencies to host screenings of the documentary, *Resilience*.

## **STRATEGY 1.2**

### Do Basics Texting

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- Each year, we will send at least 8 text messaging tips focused on helping families *Maximize love, Manage stress* to at least 400 subscribers.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- We will partner with high intensity programs, such as PAT and NFP to increase Do Basics subscribers.

## 2. Children will *Talk, Sing and Point*.

### **STRATEGY 2.1**

Home Visitation Programs (CCS, PAT, NFP)

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- Each year, at least 4 home visits will provide specific activities to families that support *Talk, Sing and Point*.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- PAT parent educators, NFP nurses and CCS staff will partner to incorporate *Talk, Sing and Point* into family trainings.

### **STRATEGY 2.2**

Do Basics Texting

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- Each year, we will send at least 8 text messaging tips focused on *Talk, Sing and Point* to at least 400 families.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- We will partner with all programs that serve children and families to increase Do Basics subscriptions in all populations.

## 3. Children will *Count, Group and Compare*.

### STRATEGY 3.1

Week of the Young Child

#### SMART GOAL(S)

- Each year, during WOYC, we will provide at least 1 activity, as well as resources that focus on *Count, Group and Compare*.

#### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the library system to provide a sensory activity that focuses on *Count, Group and Compare*.

### STRATEGY 3.2

Do Basics Texting

#### SMART GOAL(S)

- Each year, we will send at least 8 text messaging tips focused on *Count, Group and Compare* to at least 400 families.

#### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with all programs that serve children and families to increase Do Basics text subscriptions in all populations.



## 4. Children will *Explore Through Movement and Play*.

### **STRATEGY 4.1**

#### Born Learning Trail

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- By FY23, we will have at least 1 more Born Learning Trail in the county where children can *Explore Through Movement and Play*.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- We will partner with United Way and another community organization to build a Born Learning Trail.

### **STRATEGY 4.2**

#### Do Basics Texting

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- Each year, we will send at least 8 text messaging tips focused on *Explore Through Movement and Play*. to at least 400 families.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- We will partner with all programs that serve children and families to increase Do Basics text subscriptions in all populations.

## 5. Families will *Read and Discuss Stories*

### **STRATEGY 5.1**

Raising A Reader

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- By FY23, all childcare centers in the county will have at least 1 classroom participating in RAR.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- We will partner with childcare centers in the community to provide RAR.

### **STRATEGY 5.2**

Do Basics Texting

#### **SMART GOAL(S)**

- Each year, we will send at least 8 text messaging tips focused on *Read and Discuss Stories* to at least 400 families.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)**

- We will partner with all programs that serve children and families to increase Do Basics text subscriptions in all populations.