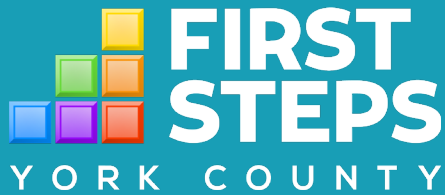


COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

The mission of York County First Steps Partnership Board is to assist children, birth to six, and their families by supporting collaborative efforts that ensure all children are prepared to succeed in school.

Vision

Every South Carolina child will be prepared for success in school.

Values

The years of early childhood are a critical window of development during which much of human potential is shaped.

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 the public, private and faith sectors.

School readiness is the result of a child's development in many areas, with each contributing to the child's success.

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



Right Sized?

Have you ever started to do something and somewhere along the line you realize that you might be “undersized” for the task at hand? As my little friend demonstrates, that doesn’t stop many of us from just jumping in and tackling the job with gusto and confidence.

This Comprehensive Plan comes from multiple conversations, meetings, research, and even one or two “debates”. We welcome the opportunity to share our plan with you. The “oversized” task represented by this plan, stretches us to do better, serve more, and make a difference in the communities and families we hold so dearly. It will take a collective effort to achieve the objectives we have set. Many of you that will read this are already partners, and we thank you for your continued support and collaboration. If you are new to our community and wish to help us with the plans we have developed, we welcome you. No successful journey began without an initial step, and we are taking ours today, join us!

David W. Lisk, Sr.

Executive Director

York County First Steps

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

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

By FY23, the percentage of children directly served by York County First Steps will increase from 31% to 36%.

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

By FY 23, the percentage of children under age 6 who benefit from York County First Steps Quality Enhancement and Training efforts will increase from 13% to 18%.

MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN READY FOR SUCCESS

By FY23, the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase from 45.6% to 50%.

Objectives

1. EXPAND THE NFP PROGRAM TO SERVE MORE AT RISK FAMILIES IN OUR REGION

- We are currently serving approximately 80 first time mothers and we would like to double this to 160 by FY23

2. EXPAND THE COUNTY PAT CAPACITY TO SERVE MORE HISPANIC/LATINO FAMILIES

- Utilizing the Preschool Development Grant we will serve at least another 20 Hispanic/Latino families with PAT services

3. EXPAND AVAILABLE CHILDCARE VOUCHERS IN SUPPORT OF OUR PARENTING INTERVENTIONS

- Primarily to support families enrolled in NFP and PAT Programs

4. EXPAND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT AND TRAINING EFFORTS TO REACH MORE AT RISK CHILDREN

- Hire an additional Early Learning Specialist to serve more centers

5. ELEVATE OUR COMMUNITY ROLE AS EARLY INTERVENTION EXPERT IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Leverage our current role into more of a community leadership role to be more proactive in our efforts to address early education issues

1. Expand NFP to serve more families

STRATEGY 1.1

York Regional Nurse-Family Partnership Families Served

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of 2021, we will be serving over 105 families with NFP services.
2. By the end of 2022, we will be serving over 130 families with NFP services.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Current referral partners and efforts will be made to add North Central Medical Clinic to our partner list.

STRATEGY 1.2

Transition funding streams to include Medicaid funding for NFP

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of 2021, the systems and processing to allow for Medicaid reimbursements has been completed.
2. Current and future funding sources have been engaged to fill the program funding needs beyond what Medicaid pays.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Local foundations and funders and SC State DHHS

1. Expand NFP continued

STRATEGY 1.3

As funding and capacity needs allow, hire additional Home Visitation Nurses for NFP

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY 21, hire a bilingual HVN for the NFP Program
2. By the end of FY 23, have added at least one more HVN of a diverse background to our program.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Reach out to PASOS, local Hispanic/Latino agencies, Charlotte NFP and Medical Agencies to increase our search for bilingual nurses.

2. Expand PAT Capacity to serve Hispanic/Latino Families

STRATEGY 2.1

Adding Parents as Teachers capacity for Hispanic/Latino Families

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of 2020, hire a bilingual Parent Educator to implement the PDG PAT Expansion grant
2. By the end of FY 2021, Parent Educator's case load is at least 15 families being served.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will work very closely with the current PAT Parent Educators in School Districts to identify and engage our families.
- This Parent Educator will be collaborating closely with current Parent Educators and other organizations serving our Hispanic/Latino community.

STRATEGY 2.2

Added PAT capacity funding sustained

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY 23, permanent funding sources have been established to sustain this initiative.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Initially we will work closely with our Schools and School Districts to facilitate our outreach.
- Foundations and partners will be engaged to sustain

3. Expand Childcare Vouchers

STRATEGY 3.1

Increase childcare funding to support more teenage mothers working to complete their high school degree currently enrolled in our PAT Programs

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY 22, secure enough funding to serve at least 10 teenage mothers, currently 5, in the county.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Engage School Districts and other local funders to create a sustain funding plan.

STRATEGY 3.2

Create childcare funding to provide NFP clients with childcare support.

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY 22, secure initial funds to pilot a program with NFP clients.
2. By the end of FY 23, refine the program to support childcare needs for at least 10% of our NFP clients

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Sustaining partners will need to be engaged and established to provide a steady stream of funds to meet this need as mothers transition into the work force after child birth.

4. Expand Childcare QE and Training

STRATEGY 4.1

Increase capacity to serve more childcare centers and provide more training.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY 23, hire an additional Early Learning Specialist to serve at least another 6 centers with QE and provide more tailored training opportunities in York.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Our childcare center network provides a tremendous opportunity to partner and serve more children.

STRATEGY 4.2

Facilitate the discussions with York and Clover School Districts to consider adding high quality childcare options in their communities.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY 21, facilitate visits/discussions with the Franklin School and SCFS in Spartanburg as a possible model.
- By the end of FY 23, facilitate broader discussions with County, State, and Federal planners and funders on how to add high quality childcare in the western portion of the county.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- This will include a broad array of current and potential partners.

5. Elevate our Current Role in Early Interventions

STRATEGY 5.1

County Level Role

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY 23, leverage our current role as resident expert in early interventions to leading needed conversations for community priorities.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Local School Districts, City and County Government, the United Way, Civic Organizations and businesses will all play a key role.

STRATEGY 5.2

Beyond the County lines

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY 23, host at least 2 events that highlight what is working well in Early Interventions in York and what is remaining.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Include local and State Legislators to be a part of this dialog and plan for follow up discussions at the State level.