



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023



Nurture and Invest in Our Future

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The strategies contained in this Comprehensive Plan for achieving specific goals by 2023 are aspirational and worth all the resources and endeavors of the Chester County First Steps' Board and citizens of Chester County. Each of us has a role for providing personal time and attention to developmental factors that influence learning outcomes for our children. Each child represents our desires for stronger communities, ingenuity that advances the next level of technology or medical discovery. These gems of blooming neurons deserve no less than the best we have to offer to ensure we as a nation will continue to thrive. It is our imperative to invest and nurture foundations paramount to early and life-long learning.

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Mission

Collaborating with other entities, First Steps helps South Carolina 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 South Carolina child will be prepared for success in school.

Values

Collaboration

Inclusion

Family

Support

Readiness

OVERARCHING MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Increase the reach of First Steps services.

By FY23, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Chester County First Steps will increase from 11% to 14%.

We'll do this by achieving the following objectives:

- 1. Expanding parent engagement.**
Expand parenting services and activities.
- 2. Increasing community education.**
Provide virtual platform promoting services and resources for families of preschool children.
- 3. Fostering faith-based connection and outreach.**
Partner with faith-based organizations and churches to support school readiness.

Objective # 1: Expand Parent Engagement

STRATEGY 1.1

NURTURING PARENTING

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY'21, we will increase the families participating in parenting workshops by 20%.
- By the end of FY'21, we will meet with Chester County Department of Social Services two times to enhance referrals for expectant parents, and parents of preschool children enrolled in First Steps programs.
- By the end of FY'23, the AAPI scores of clients will increase by 5%.

COMMUNIUTY COLLABORATORS

- Chester County School District-High School Guidance Counselors
- Chester County Department of Social Services
- Catawba Area on Aging



Objective # 2: INCREASE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

STRATEGY 2.1

Provide virtual platforms promoting services and resources for families of preschool children.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Conduct 4 Facebook Live forums featuring agencies serving families in Chester County by the end of FY'21.
- By the end of FY '23 we will have implemented 8 parent-child activities based on a topic presented during a Facebook Live presentation.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- BabyNet
- DHEC/WIC
- Chester County Library



Objective # 3: FAITH-BASED CONNECTION AND OUTREACH

STRATEGY 3.1

Partner with faith-based organizations and churches to support school readiness.

SMART GOAL(S)

- Each year we will host 2 meetings with Faith Based leaders to share school readiness information.
- By the end of FY '21, age-appropriate books and brochures will have been disseminated to 10 churches in Chester County.
- By the end of FY'23, 5 churches will have posted or promoted a school readiness reminder to read to or engage a preschool child in a literacy science or math activity.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Chester Ministerial Association
- Sandy Hill Association of Ministers

