

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023



Mission

Collaborating with other entities, Georgetown County First Steps helps the 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

To get every child in Georgetown County ready for school and school success.

Values

Services must be individualized and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.

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

We value, and demonstrate in our collaborative work and advocacy, diverse perspectives in the development of public policy and programs.

Message from the Executive Director



Ayesha A. Smith
Executive Director
Georgetown County First Steps

As the Executive Director of Georgetown County First Steps, the organization continues to provide comprehensive programs and educational services while addressing the child's holistic needs. In addition to enlightening and equipping parents with skills to support their children. Furthermore, acknowledging the importance of individualize instructional support to help prepare children and families for school and school readiness.

Overarching Measures of Success

INCREASE THE REACH OF FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By 2023, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Georgetown County First Steps will increase from 10% to 15%.

INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY FIRST STEPS

By 2023, the percentage of children under 6 who benefits from Georgetown First Steps quality enhancement and training efforts will increase from 1% to 5%.

REDUCE THE RACIAL/ETHNIC GAP IN KINDERGARTEN READINESS

By 2023, the gap in the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment between Kindergartners and Black/Hispanic Kindergartners will reduce by 1% each year to 9%.

Objectives

1. Increase Scholarship funding from public donations to address the needs of Georgetown County.
2. Increase the level of quality early childhood programs and services in Georgetown County for children and families.
3. Increase comprehensive services in the county by partnering with other community agencies to prepare our children for school in Georgetown county.

Increase Scholarship funding from public donations to address the needs of Georgetown County.

STRATEGY 1.1

Community Education & Awareness (Core Function)

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY '23, we will partner with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to host at least two informational sessions focus on DSS eligibility requirements for families to receive vouchers.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- DSS, The Francis P. Bunnelle Foundation, Georgetown County School District

STRATEGY 1.2

Fundraising (Campaign)

SMART GOAL(S)

- In FY '22, and '23, we will host the Palmetto Giving Day and the GCFS Community Fundraising events to increase scholarships donations by 10%.
- By 2023, Georgetown County First Steps will increase the amount of childcare scholarships by 10% based on funding received through campaign donations.)

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Georgetown County School district, Helping Hands of Georgetown, The Salvation Army, The Francis P. Bunnelle Foundation

Increase the level of quality early childhood programs and services in Georgetown County for children and families.

STRATEGY 2.1

Parents As Teachers(PAT)

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, we will increase the proportion of our clients getting an on time well-child and all required screenings visit by 10%.
- By the end of FY23, our clients' KIPS score will increase by at least 10%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Georgetown County School District, Helping Hands of Georgetown County, DSS, Georgetown County Library System, the Salvation Army

STRATEGY 2.2

Child Care Training

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY23, we will implement a voucher program to retain 30% of childcare providers who attend all training sessions offered by Georgetown County First Steps.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Georgetown County School District, Helping Hands of Georgetown County, Georgetown County Library System

Increase comprehensive services in the county by partnering with other community agencies to prepare our children for school in Georgetown county.

STRATEGY 3.1

Community Convener

SMART GOAL(S)

- In FY '21, '22 and '23, GCFS will continue to partner with the Early Learning Council to provide consulting services to 5 child care facilities and 100% of the school district 4K classes to improve the KRA math scores by 10%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

- Early Learning Council, Georgetown County School District, Helping Hands of Georgetown and Georgetown County Library

STRATEGY 3.2

Community Education and Awareness or Local Portal (Core Functions)

SMART GOAL(S)

- In fiscal years 21, 22, and 23, we will host at least two community health fairs, which will include the mobile WIC van.
- By the end of FY23, we will implement a taxicab voucher program to eliminate access challenges for our PAT families visiting their local pediatrician's office.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will partner with the local WIC/DHEC office in planning our community health fairs.