

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

Laurens County First Steps works with community partners, local families, and caregivers to prepare their children for school success by providing high-quality early childhood resources.

Vision

Every Laurens County child will enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

Values

Laurens County First Steps will:

- *Deliver high quality services & strategies*
- *Engage collaborative community partners*
- *Support parents as their child's first teacher*
- *Support diversity, equity, and inclusion*
- *Serve as a community portal and convener for services available to families*
- *Support all state school readiness priorities*

Message from the Executive Director



Rosemary Patterson

Executive Director
Laurens County First Steps

Laurens County First Steps is dedicated to maintaining high intensity, evidenced-based program strategies. We monitor program/model fidelity regularly. We support families in their role as their child's first and most important teacher.

We have a dedicated staff and Board of Trustees who make it possible to deliver our high- quality programs for children and their families.

Rosemary C. Patterson

Message from the Board Chair



Carol Anne Barnes

Board Chair

Laurens County First Steps

It is an honor to serve as LCFS Board Chair. I believe that the earlier we reach students the more successful they will be. All children in Laurens County deserve access to the very best resources for health, social-emotional well-being, and academics. LCFS provides a well-established network of community collaborators to families in Laurens County.

Carol Anne Barnes, Ed. S.

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

INCREASE THE REACH OF LAURENS COUNTY FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By 2023, Laurens County First Steps will maintain the percentage of children and families served at 4% each year.

Objectives

- 1. CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY LITERACY MATERIALS.**
- 2. PARENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO RESOURCES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN.**
- 3. FAMILIES ARE SUPPORTED AS THEIR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHER.**

CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY LITERACY MATERIALS.

STRATEGY 1.1

LCFS will collaborate with The Laurens County Public Library system to provide books for library programs for pre-school children.

SMART GOAL

- LCFS will provide at least 250 books each year, 2021- 2023, for county-wide library programs for pre-school children.
- By 2023, the book distribution program will serve at least 100 children, birth to age 4.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Laurens County Public library
- Local childcare centers

STRATEGY 1.2

LCFS will secure funding for a book distribution program for eligible pre-school children in Laurens County.

SMART GOAL

- LCFS will secure at least 1-2 funding partners each year, 2021- 2023, to sustain the book distribution program.
- By 2023, LCFS will collaborate with at least 3-4 community partners to secure funding for a book distribution program

CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY LITERACY MATERIALS.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Laurens County Library
- Laurens County School Districts 55 & 56
- Local childcare centers
- Family Promise

PARENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO RESOURCES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR FAMILIES.

STRATEGY 2.1

LCFS, functioning as a portal for families, will provide resources through their promotional literature, Facebook page and website. The information will include contact information, eligibility, and enrollment requirements for the appropriate program(s).

SMART GOAL

- LCFS will edit/update all promotional information quarterly and monitor its face book page and website weekly.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Laurens County Interagency Council
- United Way of Laurens County
- Local School Districts 55 & 56

FAMILIES ARE SUPPORTED AS THEIR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHER.

STRATEGY 3.1

Continue to connect the Child Care Assistance Scholarship program with our Parent as Teachers strategy to provide families with support and resources in best practices for early childhood development.

SMART GOAL(S)

- LCFS will retain 75% of families enrolled in childcare scholarships and Parent as Teachers for at least 9 months each year, 2021-2023.
- LCFS will maintain its Blue Ribbon Status with Parents as Teachers National through continued model fidelity, each year.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Child Care Centers
- Local School Districts 55 & 56

STRATEGY 3.2

LCFS will implement the Palmetto Basics into all programs and provide information to local partners on how they can assist in supporting families as their child's first teacher.

FAMILIES ARE SUPPORTED AS THEIR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHER.

SMART GOAL(S)

- LCFS will distribute tri-fold pamphlets about Palmetto Basics to all families currently enrolled in First Steps Programs, parents of newborns at Laurens County Memorial Hospital, Laurens County Interagency Council, and all local childcare centers, each year.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Laurens Interagency Council
- Local School Districts 55 & 56
- United Way of Laurens County
- Laurens County Memorial Hospital