

# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023



## Mission

Oconee County First Steps works collaboratively to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential with engaged support from their parents, caregivers, and communities.

## Vision

All children in Oconee County will have the care they need to grow & develop to their highest potential.

## Values

**CHILDREN** From prenatal development through age five, our focus and priority are young children, their families and caregivers.

**RELATIONSHIPS** The work of supporting families and caregivers is a collaborative effort between all stakeholders within the public, private and faith sectors. Our collaborative work and advocacy respects diverse perspectives that build community and fosters the unique value of our community.

**HIGH QUALITY** Our programs and services must be individualized and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.

**RESULTS** We produce meaningful and measurable impact and outcomes.

# Message from the Executive Director



## Daby Snipes

Executive Director  
Oconee County First Steps

Greetings from Oconee County First Steps,

Our Vision, *All children in Oconee County will have the care they need to grow & develop to their highest potential* is what drives our partnership as we work in and with our community. We look forward to building upon our foundation and look to strengthening our program through new and exciting adventures.

*We thank all our stakeholders, community members, parents, Child Care Providers, Board Members and our most precious resource, our children for the opportunity to share in this very important work together.*

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Daby Snipes".

# Overarching Measure of Success

## **MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN READY FOR SUCCESS**

By 2023, the percentage of children in Oconee County who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 2% each year to 33%.

# OBJECTIVES

## 1. Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.

**Increase** and support the number of families participating in evidence-based parenting and home visiting programs.

**Enhance** home literacy environments by providing books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

**Provide** access to parenting programs, offered at no charge, to parents and caregivers in Oconee County.

**Engage** in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate parents and caregivers

## 2. Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families.

**Engage** early care and education programs and providers in training equipping them with the skills and resources to promote positive child development.

**Increase** public awareness about the importance of access, availability, affordability, and quality in early care and education, as well as implications for workforce participation

**Proactively** work to **decrease** the percentage of children in Oconee County affected by child care deserts by supporting child care centers and directing funding and resources toward efforts that sustain, expand and create child care slots in ABC Quality B and above centers.

## 3. Children and families can access and afford high quality programs and services regardless of race or ethnicity.

**Expand** our reach by designing a service delivery system that includes programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that have a broader reach

**Intentionally strengthen** our materials and information sources to provide translation for effective outreach.

# **Objective #1: Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.**

## **STRATEGY 1.1**

Increase and support the number of families participating in evidence-based parenting and home visiting programs.

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

- By the end of FY23, we will increase the number of children served through Healthy Families America from 9 to 15.

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

- OCFS will work with local Pediatric services, the School District of Oconee County, Ripple of One and Heath's Haven to recruit eligible families.

## **STRATEGY 1.2**

Enhance home literacy environments by providing books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

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

- By the end of FY23, we will register 50% of Oconee County Children Birth to 5.

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

- Work collaboratively with The Oconee County Public Library System, School District of Oconee County, Baby Read, Child Care Providers and Local Industries i.e., Borg Warner

# Objective #1: Families are supported as their child's first and most important teachers.

*continued*

## STRATEGY 1.3

Provide access to parenting programs, offered at no charge, to parents and caregivers in Oconee County.

### SMART GOAL(S)

- By FY23 increase the number of families participating in the Triple P Parenting Program in Oconee County by from 39 to 45.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Heath's Haven, Ripple of One, United Way, Empower Oconee, The Parenting Place, Healthy Families America, School District of Oconee County

## STRATEGY 1.4

Engage in public information campaigns and parent outreach efforts to promote and educate parents and caregivers.

### SMART GOAL(S)

- By FY23 enhance our Social Media presence through our web-site and Facebook accounts including (4) quarterly interactive survey's and (12) original posts.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Kindel Thomas – OCFS social media consultant, Local agencies: Empower Oconee, United Way, Healthy Oconee, SC First Steps, School District of Oconee County, Oconee County Public Library, Faith Community, Health Community

## **Objective #2: Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families.**

### **STRATEGY 2.1**

Engage early care and education programs and providers in training, equipping them with the skills and resources to promote positive child development.

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

- By FY23 add 2 new ABC Quality B or above centers for Oconee County Children.
- By FY23 increase the number of Child Care Training Hours from 12 to 16.

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

- Palmetto Shared Services, local trainers. School District of Oconee County, Home Care Providers, Faith Based Centers and Child Care Providers in Oconee County.

### **STRATEGY 2.2**

Increase public awareness about the importance of access, availability, affordability, and quality in early care and education, as well as implications for workforce participation

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

- Promote High Quality Child Care Services by offering 4 free parent/caregiver Information sessions by FY23.

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

- Oconee County Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Oconee County, Child Care Providers in Oconee County,



## Objective #2: Families can access and afford high quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of their children and families. *continued*

### STRATEGY 2.3

Proactively work to decrease the percentage of children in Oconee County affected by childcare deserts by supporting childcare centers and directing funding and resources toward efforts that sustain, expand and create childcare slots in ABC Quality B and above centers.

### SMART GOAL(S)

- By FY23, the percentage of children under age 4 who benefit from Oconee County First Steps training efforts in centers B and above will increase from 10% to 20%.
- Child Care Scholarships awarded by Oconee County First Steps will increase the amount of scholarships for children birth to 3 from 10% to 20%.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Foothills Early Learning Center, Kinderville Early Learning Center, Pennsylvania Children's Center, Our Club House, School District of Oconee County, Heath's Haven (Triple P), Healthy Families America (The Parenting Place), Ripple of One

# **Objective #3: Children and families can access and afford high quality programs and services regardless of race or ethnicity.**

## **STRATEGY 3.1**

Expand reach by designing a service delivery system that includes programs that are intensive and targeted plus those that have a broader reach.

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

- By FY23 place 2 FREE LEARNING LIBRARIES in Oconee County will be established.
- BY FY23 50% of the books in the FREE LEARNING LIBRARIES will be bi-lingual and culturally diverse.

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

- School District of Oconee County, Oconee County DSS, Baby Read, Oconee County Public Library System, PASO's, United Way, Empower Oconee

## **STRATEGY 3.2**

Intentionally strengthen our materials and information sources to provide translation for effective outreach.

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

- By FY23 50% of created materials, brochures, post(s), articles will be available for our Hispanic Community. Example: Parent Information, Meetings, Trainings, Prevent Child Abuse Yard Signs

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

- School District of Oconee County, Oconee Public Library System, Kindel Thomas OCFS media consultant