

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023



Mission: The Abbeville County First Steps Mission is to help prepare children from birth to six years old for school and to work together to achieve this goal.

Vision: To strengthen parents and teachers with appropriate practices that develop social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills of Abbeville County's young children.

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.

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

The 2021-2023 Abbeville County First Steps Comprehensive, Plan includes 5 overarching measures of success, which are high level benchmarks that will be achieved if the plan is implemented fully.

These benchmarks are moving targets as their success are somewhat dependent on funding. These will be continuously monitored throughout the five-year period.

1. INCREASE THE REACH OF ABBEVILLE COUNTY FIRST STEPS SERVICES

By FY23, the percentage of children in need who are directly served by Abbeville County First Steps will increase from 12% to 15%.

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

By 2023, the percentage of children directly served by Abbeville County First Steps enrolled in high intensity programs will increase from 83% to 85%

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

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

By 2023 the percentage of children under age 6 who benefit from Abbeville County First Steps training efforts will increase from 25% to 30%.

4. MORE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN READY FOR SUCCESS

By 2023 the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will increase by 34.6% to 36%.

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 White Kindergartners and Black/Hispanic Kindergartners will reduce by 20% to 15%.

Objectives

- 1. Provide high-quality comprehensive parenting programs: Nurturing Parenting home visitation, Nurturing Parenting groups**
- 2. Provide high quality comprehensive parenting programs that are inclusive of Fathers: Nurturing Fathers**
- 3. Provide high quality trainings for childcare providers and early childhood educators: Trainings are in partnership with Abbeville First Steps**
- 4. Serve as a local community portal for families to receive high quality services: Providing Benefits Banks Services to families**
- 5. Serve as a community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote comprehensive services to families: Partnering with the Department of Social Services, the Solicitor's Office, and Local Court System**

Objective 1: Provide high-quality comprehensive parenting programs.

STRATEGY 1.1

Nurturing Parenting Home Visitation Program

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, 100% of clients with identified developmental delays will be referred to Baby Net.
- By the end of FY23, our clients' Adult Child Adolescent pre- and post-test score will increase by 25%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Abbeville Department of Social Services and doctor offices for referrals.

STRATEGY 1.2

Nurturing Parenting Groups

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, our client Nurturing Parenting Competency scores will increase by 25%.
- By the end of FY23, our clients' Adult Child Adolescent pre- and post-test score will increase by 25%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the Abbeville Department of Social Services, the Solicitor's Office.

Objective 2: Provide high quality comprehensive parenting programs that are inclusive of Fathers.

STRATEGY 2.1

Nurturing Fathers

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, our client Nurturing Parenting Competency scores for enrolled fathers will increase by 25%.
- By the end of FY23, our fathers' Adult Child Adolescent pre- and post-test score will increase by 25%.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with the Abbeville Department of Social Services, the Solicitor's Office.

Objective 3: Provide high quality trainings for childcare providers and early childhood educators.

STRATEGY 3.1

Childcare Trainings

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, our childcare providers will receive at least 12 hours of training.
- By the end of FY23, our childcare providers will receive at least 20 hours of training.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with Greenwood County First Steps, the South Carolina Center for Child Care Career Development, and Lander University.

Objective 4: Serve as a local community portal for families to receive high quality services.

STRATEGY 4.1

Abbeville County First Steps will connect families of preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development. Abbeville County First Steps will increase access to community services as a local portal.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, 50% of clients will be offered Benefits Bank Services.
- By the end of FY23, 75% of clients will be offered Benefits Bank Services.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- SC Thrive, The Social Change Initiative

Objective 5: Serve as a community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote comprehensive services to families.

STRATEGY 5.1

Mobilizing Communities on Providing Enhanced Services to Support Families and their Young Children Abbeville County First Steps will serve as a community convener to address the needs of preschool children in the community, in support of state readiness priorities.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, the Executive Director will partner with 25% of boards in the community.
- By the end of FY23, Executive Director will partner with 40% of boards in the community.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- The Department of Social Services, Foster Care Review Board, DSS Partners Meeting.