



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Orangeburg County First Steps:



219 children

were directly served in Orangeburg County



732 parents & caregivers

received services and support to be their child's first and most important teacher



127 educators

participated in First Steps training and professional development, benefitting 500+ children

PROVEN RESULTS

A 2019 study found that children who received First Steps local partnership services were:



74% more likely

to score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment



34% less likely

to be chronically absent in kindergarten

THE NEED PERSISTS IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY

First Steps works but we need to expand our reach to ensure that all children are ready.

5,256

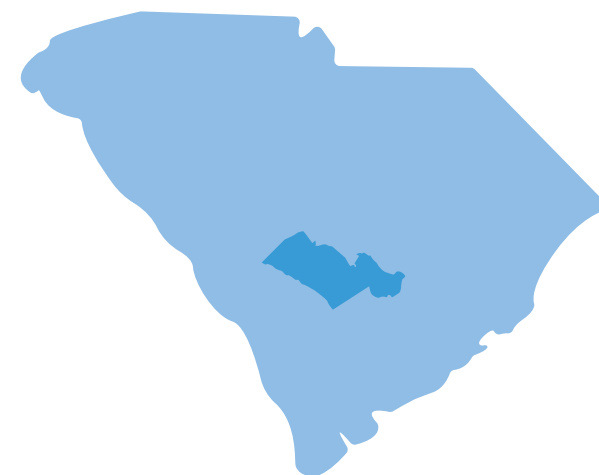
children under age 5

65.3%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

62%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



James Rickenbacker

Board Chair

Greetings,

It is my distinct honor to serve as the Board Chair for Orangeburg County First Steps and celebrate the local partnership's abundant growth. With the help of community partners such as a local, federally qualified health center, the Healthy Steps Program will provide pediatric clients with early childhood development support. This is a prime example of our mission being put into action..."To invest in our community, to support families and caregivers of children birth to age 5". We know, that children who experience health care deficiencies also experience educational deficiencies. Being able to address these issues from a board standpoint, makes serving in this role matter. With continued support, Orangeburg County First Steps will make sure children are ready for school! Contact the local partnership and inquire how you can help us continue providing school readiness opportunities for children and families.

Our Local Supporters

Bulk Bookstore
Designz by KDG, LLC
Delta Sigma Theta Alumnae Chapter
The Office People
JennAffairs
National Supreme Court DOI
Clafin University - Rural Accelerator Initiative
United Way of the Midlands
Amazon
Paths to Wholeness
We Ride Organization, Orangeburg SC
Kaplan Early Learning Company

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CONTACT US

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2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To help 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.



Kathy Jenkins
Executive Director

Orangeburg County First Steps is here to ensure children realize their full potential! By investing in our community, supporting families and caregivers of children birth to age 5, we will improve school readiness outcomes. Several new partnerships were formed in FY23 resulting in additional resources to 133 children ages 0-5 with over 1,200 one-on-one client visits and more than 3,400 books and other curriculum materials being distributed to encourage parent-child interactions and a love of learning. With the support of staff and volunteers, our partnership has connected families to early intervention, medical, as well as housing and financial resources. These efforts have helped families struggling with developmental delays or a disability, secure the support they need and find security in knowing they are their child's most important teacher.

Support the mission!

Visit www.orangeburgfirststeps.org to donate and get the latest updates.

Serving Orangeburg County's children birth through age five.

"It feels great having an outlet to discuss child development, my family's well-being, and my personal and professional goals. My family and friends don't ask these types of questions. My child's school doesn't ask the type of questions that my Parent Educator asks."

Orangeburg County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

Offers research-based curricula that help families raise children to be healthy, safe, learning, and ready for school.

63 children served
22 group meetings and events
1,048 home visits

HIPPY

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home visiting program that supports parents in their role as a child's first and most important teacher.

10 children served
15 group meetings and events
300 home visits

Raising a Reader - Enhanced

Helps families develop, practice, and maintain home literacy habits.

59 children served
59 families served
3 group meetings and events

Family Café

Parent discussion groups that promote social connections with other parents, support in times of need, learning about parenting and child development, and emotional awareness.

20 children served
20 families served
14 group meetings and events

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Quality Enhancement

Promotes quality in child care by providing early educators with one-on-one coaching and support.

55 children served
3 providers served
90 technical assistance hours

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

736 children served
43 providers served
20 certified training hours

SCHOOL TRANSITION

Countdown to Kindergarten

Supports transitions into kindergarten by connecting incoming students, their families, and their teachers in a series of one-on-one sessions during the summer.

40 children served
3 schools served
237 home visits

Countdown to 4K

Supports transitions into pre-kindergarten by connecting incoming students, their families, and their teachers in a series of one-on-one sessions during the summer.

27 children served
3 schools served
152 home visits

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

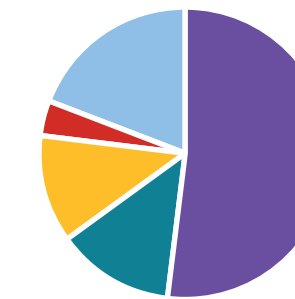


\$1 = \$1.41

Orangeburg County First Steps leveraged \$123,266.39 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.41 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

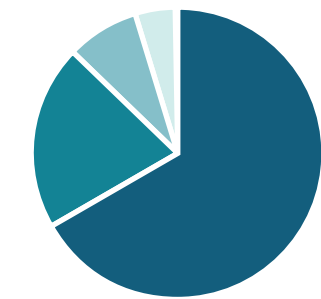
Total: \$421,571



- Parenting - \$234,258
- Early Care & Education - \$56,858
- School Transition - \$50,051
- Health - \$17,393
- Administrative and Core Functions - \$63,011

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$421,571



- State Funding - \$307,261
- Federal Funding - \$81,099
- Private Funding - \$13,417
- In-kind Contributions - \$19,794

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding**
- Federal ESSER Funding***
- State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps
- SC First Steps AmeriCorps Service Site**

*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105

**Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0080-01-00 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Division of Early Care and Education

Federal AmeriCorps funding awarded to SC First Steps from the SC Service Commission at the United Way Association of SC

***American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Education