



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

OUR MISSION

To collaborate with other entities, First Steps helps Allendale County 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.

OUR VALUES

We believe all children can learn and have potential for academic, social, emotional and physical greatness.

We believe family engagement is the glue to helping families grow and achieve.

We believe collaboration with agencies and other non-profits helps us deliver sustaining care to families and children at-risk for not being successful in school

OUR APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education



We rely on a community of partners, donors, and volunteers – **people like you** – who believe in a brighter future for children and families in our community.

OUR OVERARCHING MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Hosted a community education event along with Allendale School District to enroll new families and educate the community about our services.

Provided PreK-Kindergarten School Readiness Toolkits to children aged 2-5 to take home to promote literacy and increase parent/child interaction time at home.

Through our partnership with OCAB, we provided enhanced early education to 19 students.

OUR OBJECTIVES

We will reach more eligible children in Allendale county.

We will increase the number of children receiving high-quality childcare.

We will increase funds to support the availability of early care and early education opportunities .

JOIN US



Gain valuable experience and give back to your community through service with First Steps AmeriCorps. Our AmeriCorps members **engage directly with families and communities**, helping to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential. Apply at scfirststeps.org/AmeriCorps.



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Allendale County First Steps:



288 children
directly served



520 parents & caregivers
received direct services and support to be their child's first and most important teacher



900+ books
delivered to families with young children



\$1 = \$1.43

Allendale County First Steps leveraged \$85,935 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.43 for every state dollar invested

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

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Patricia Hall
Executive Director
Allendale County First Steps

Allendale County First Steps have continued to move forward; despite the challenges we continued to face during the pandemic; which continues to affect our community's wellbeing. We have served as a lifeline to our community by remaining open through the pandemic, providing much needed services during these challenging times. We are known as the "go to agency" for information, service, support, etc.

Our programs continue to be supported by the school district and community agencies. Without a team effort, we would not have been able to provide the services needed most. One service was providing School Readiness Toolkits to families of children aged 2-5 to use at home to promote literacy, increase access to reading materials and parent-child interaction time together. We are also building libraries in family's homes. With our combined resources, we have done the best job possible to help families during these critical times.

Our annual report summarizes our programmatic and fiscal achievements for 2022, We will remain committed to our mission as we continue to live in this new norm since COVID-19.

Patricia Hall

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Evelyn Smith-Smart
Chair
Allendale County First Steps Board of Trustees

Greetings,

I would like to thank each of you for your continuing support of Allendale County First Steps. Research informs us that literacy is the key to unlocking learning and educational success. One of the ways we advance this effort is by give books to children in the community to promote parent/child reading together and bonding in a safe place without judgment. We are proud of the connections we have accomplished with our parents and children.

We have also made positive changes in programmatic opportunities offered, the attitude of parents, staff, community, and children regarding our established vision and goals for the organization. In our community we are known as the place to go for early learning assistance. We love what we do, and we are determined to demonstrate success in future endeavors. Keep an eye out for what's to come!

We hope we have inspired and supportive of those currently onboard, as well as touched others to join us in our efforts as we prepare children for school to reach their highest potential.

Evelyn Smith-Smart

GETTING CHILDREN READY FOR SCHOOL

All children are ready to benefit from a quality kindergarten experience when they are five years old by September 1 of that school year. But kindergarten readiness—the critical stage at which children are prepared for learning and success—is more than a matter of age. For a strong start in school, children need positive relationships and supportive learning environments beginning at birth. At First Steps, we partner with families, caregivers, and communities to ensure that all children are prepared for success.

South Carolina's Profile of the Ready Kindergartner

Developed by SC First Steps and the SC Department of Education, the state's description of school readiness includes 60 developmental milestones across 5 categories:



Approaches to learning & inquiry



Emotional & social development



Physical development, self-help & motor skills



Mathematical thinking



Language & literacy development



OUR VISION

Every child in Allendale County will have the resources they need to be prepared for school success.



ENHANCED EARLY EDUCATION



an evidence-based program

The Enhanced Early Education programs provided one-on-one or small group sessions (3-4 times/week) for students identified by certified 3K-5K teachers as requiring assistance (scored low on standardized assessments, behavioral issues, etc.) to master grade-level skills'

ENHANCED EARLY EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS 2021-2022

1

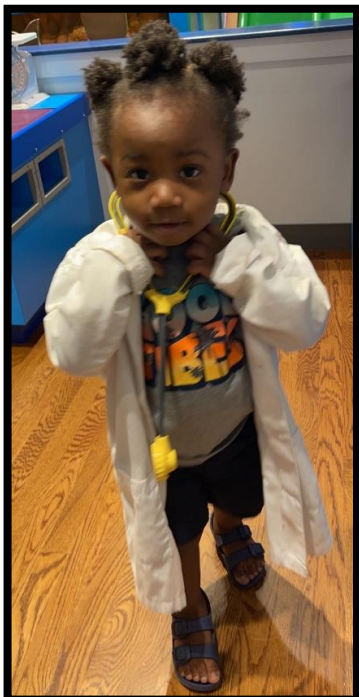
child care providers
served

83

number of hours
provided

19

number of children 0-5
enrolled in provider
classrooms



This is what support from Allendale County First Steps looks like; our future doctor!



Dorothy, Program Manager



EARLY IDENTIFICATION & REFERRAL



an evidence-based program

First Steps' Early Identification and Referral (EI&R) programs serve families with young children with suspected delays in development, acting as a local portal to connect families to community-based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children. EI&R services include:



Screenings for children ages 0-5 with suspected delays in development



Referrals, based on screening results, to appropriate resources and support services



Patient information including strategies to monitor growth and development

EI&R BY THE NUMBERS 2021-2022

19

children served

7

referrals to BabyNet or other local services



Early assessments makes a world of difference with our children. Allendale County First Steps, thanks for providing this service to the community.



NURTURING PARENTING



an evidence-based program

The Nurturing Parenting Programs are a family-centered trauma-informed initiative designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices. Families can attend group-based programs, home-based programs, or a combination of group and home-based sessions.

NURTURING PARENTING BY THE NUMBERS 2021-2022

13

families served

10

total group meetings



Being a part of Allendale County First Steps parenting program has shown me how important it is to spend quality time with my child. Hats off to First Steps!

Felicia , Parent



In every moment there is a special treasure.
Give your best to them all.

Ralph Marston





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, ABC County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Allendale County begin school ready to succeed. We serve as a:

LOCAL PORTAL

connecting preschool children and their families to services

CONVENER

of community stakeholders to develop an effective and comprehensive early childhood system

CHAMPION

of the importance of school readiness to our children's future

OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2021-2022

90

Community
Convenor's events

479

Attendance at
community event



Volunteers like you are priceless! Always caring, always sharing, you represent our county at its best! Whether taking action in the community or involved in a national effort, your contribution of time, talent and compassion makes a valuable difference.



Annie, Save the Children Organization



OUR SUPPORTERS

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Allendale County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Save The Children: \$10,000.00

United Way

IN-KIND SUPPORT

County of Allendale

Save The Children

United Way

Allendale County School District

OCAB/Head Start

JOIN US

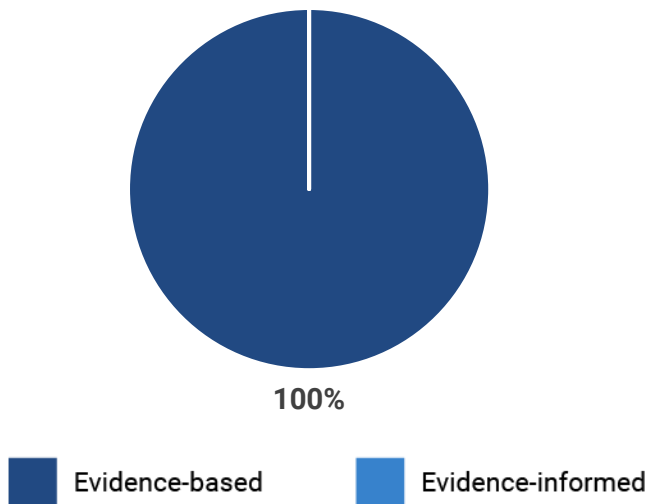
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit us at
649 Railroad Avenue E, Allendale, SC 29827 or scfirststeps.org/Allendale or Facebook



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Allendale County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,534,740**, from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.37** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Nurturing Parenting (Home Visit)	\$80,205.00	\$	\$691.00	\$36,965.00	\$117,861.00
Enhanced Early Education	\$74,851.00	\$	\$10,000.00	\$17,789.00	\$102,640.00
Early Identification & Referrals	\$25,855.00	\$	\$	\$11,603.00	\$37,458.00
Partnerships & Community Education	\$9,864.00	\$1,260.00	\$	\$2,894.00	\$14,018.00
Administrative Support	\$16,689.00	\$	\$463.00	\$1,935.00	\$19,087.00
Total Expenses	\$207,464.00	\$1,260.00	\$11,154.00	\$71,186.00	\$291,064.00



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Patricia Hall, Executive Director
Torri Davis, Parent Educator
Tiffany Bates, Teacher Assistant

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