

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2024 – 2026

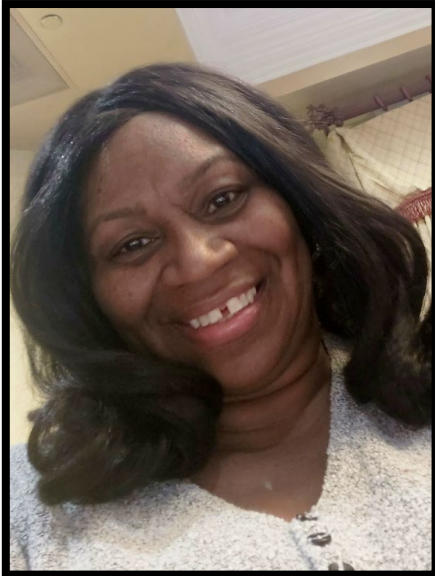


Acknowledgments

Allendale County First Steps would like to acknowledge the families, partnering agencies, the communities that utilize our resources and for time and input implemented to the Needs Assessment process. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their continuous support and participation. A special thank to our program manager, who was instrumental in ensuring a successful process.

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Message from the Executive Director



Patricia Hall
Executive Director
Allendale County First Steps

Completing the surveys to determine out the needs of Allendale County has been interesting. Surveys were distributed in meetings and face-to-face; which opened the door for new partnerships.

The results were not too surprising. Allendale County has needed a child care for the past five years, maybe longer. I knew it would it be the top priority. I only wish we had the funding and/or resources to fulfill this priority.

Allendale County First Steps is very valuable to our communities. The Needs Assessment process has made us aware of the county needs and given us the opportunity to move forward in working to and bridge the gaps that exist along with our partnering agencies.

Thanks to everyone involved for their time and input.

Patricia Hall

Needs Assessment Process

CONVENE

Held three community convenings with 32 participants and developed a vision for young children and their families

January 2023



UNDERSTAND

Reviewed local data and map assets to understand the state of young children, their families, and the early childhood system

October 2022 – February 2023

PRIORITIZE

Organized the insight gathered from the convenings and data to prioritize the concerns, needs, and gaps the partnership wants to address and formalized Needs Assessment

January 2023 – February 2023

“We are in dire need of a quality childcare center”

Kimerly

“It’s hard for me to get back and forth to work. I really need help with transportation”

Terry

Allendale County Asset Map



Priorities: Summary

1. Quality and Affordable Childcare

The results from the surveys (55 parents: 51%) show there is a need for childcare centers. This priority is placed first. Allendale County is a childcare desert.

2. Lack of Transportation

The results from the surveys (55 parents: 37%) show there is a need for transportation.

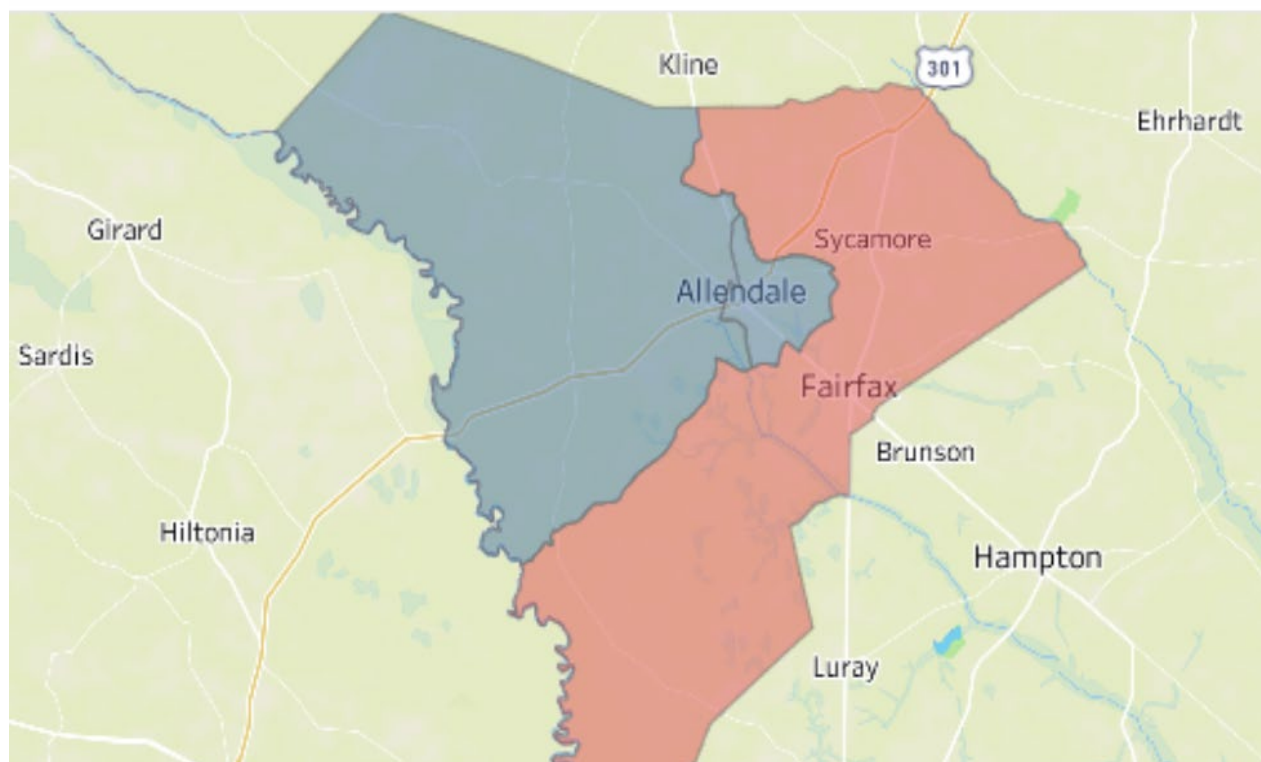
3. Parenting Skills and Help for Single Parents

The results from the surveys (55 parents: 42%) show there is a need for parenting skills/help for single parents.

Priority One: Quality & Affordable Childcare

33% of census tracts are considered child care deserts in Allendale County.

Provider location and center capacity obtained from scchildcare.org on October 16, 2022. Definition of a child care desert obtained from the Center for American Progress, “A child care desert is any census tract with more than 50 children under age 5 that contains either no child care providers or so few options that there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots” (<https://www.childcaredeserts.org/>). Population under age 5 by census tract obtained from the American Community Survey 2016-2020 Five Year Estimates (Table B01001). US Census Bureau. Calculations done by Chelsea Richard of South Carolina First Steps (October 16, 2022).



Allendale County is a child care desert. There is only one child care center in the county. After surveying 55 parents, 51% of them expressed the need for another child care center that offers better quality and is affordable.

“I am unable to work because I have no child care or any family member to take care of my child.” (Comment made by parent during assessment meeting)

Priority Two: Lack of Transportation

According to the results of the surveys, 37% of the 55 parents stated that transportation is a huge issue. No public transportation is available and very few families have access to a car; or receive support from someone who has one.

Needs Assessment survey 2023

Most of the parents/families in the county has little to no access to transportation. It is difficult for them to get back and forth to work, grocery stores, school meetings, doctor's appointments, etc. This has been a growing problem in Allendale County. Those who have access to transportation can't afford the increasing gas prices.

"It is so hard to for me to provide for my children. I don't have a car or reliable transportation to and from work. This has been a big issue for me." (Comment made by parent during assessment meeting)

"Once I found a job that I liked, I couldn't keep it because I didn't have transportation." (Comment made by parent during assessment meeting)



Priority Three: Parenting Skills & Help for Single Parents

42% of the parents surveyed said there is a need for parenting skills and help for single parents.

Needs Assessment Survey 2023

Allendale County First Steps addresses the need for parenting skills and help for single parents through the Nurturing Parenting Program. To meet this priority, our parenting program will need to expand to meet the parents needs. Additional funding for staff and materials may be needed to implement intensive family engagement activities/workshops and positive reinforcement for parents and their children.

“The parenting program has helped me in so many ways. My self esteem has increase and I’ve learned how spend more quality with my son, by letting him help me with chores around the house.” (Comment made by parent during assessment meeting)



Next Steps

