

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2021 – 2023





Mission

The **mission** of Horry County First Steps is to ensure that children start school ready to learn by supporting the caring adults who touch their lives. We establish partnerships and secure resources to provide programs that focus on quality early care and education, family support, health, and early literacy.

Vision

The **vision** of Horry County First Steps is that every child will enter school healthy and ready to learn.

Values

- Readiness to learn includes physical, mental, social, emotional and developmental well-being
- We are committed to the success of all children in our community
- We support the role of parents as the child's first and best teachers
- Our community's participation is essential to our success
- The Partnership and the community are mutually accountable to children.
- We will continue to work toward racial equity in all programs and partnerships

Message from the Executive Director



Amy Breault
Executive Director
ABC County First Steps

Although we are living in unprecedented times the work of Horry County First Steps continues to impact the lives of young children.

As we look to the future, and all it's possibilities, it is my pleasure to present the HCFS Comprehensive Plan. This plan will assist us in charting a course of action that encourages the HCFS Partnership Board, staff, and community partners to work together to achieve great things on behalf of our youngest citizens.

Overarching Measure(s) of Success

Increase the reach of First Steps services

By FY23, HCFS will double the percentage from 6 to 12 of enrolled children residing within the 29568, 29569, 29545, and 29526 zip codes..

REDUCE THE RACIAL/ETHNIC GAP IN KINDERGARTEN READINESS

By 2023, the percentage of children who score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment between White Kindergartners and Black/Hispanic Kindergartners will be less than 10%.

Objectives

- 1. Increase the support for and use of First Steps programs**
- 2. Strengthen interagency partnerships and public-private collaboration**
- 3. Obtain the funding we need to support excellence, promote innovation, and to sustain core programs despite fluctuating funds**

Increase Use of First Steps Programs

STRATEGY 1.1

Parents as Teachers

SMART GOALS

- By end of FY21, all Full-Time Parent Educators will reflect a caseload of 18-20 families. Once at capacity each Full-Time Parent Educator will maintain a caseload of 16-18 families.
- By the end of FY23, the PAT Program staff will reflect 4 Full-Time Parent Educators to include 1 Full-Time Bilingual Parent Educator.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- We will partner with home visitation programs to create a point of entry/exit among all programs.

STRATEGY 1.2

Childcare Training

SMART GOALS

- By the end of each year, we will provide 20 hours of Professional Development to Child Care Directors and Staff. Participants will earn Certified training hours. There will be a maximum of 40 participants per training session.
- Every year we will offer virtual and in-person trainings.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- We will partner with other Early Care and Education agencies to ensure childcare staff/providers get information related to all training offerings.

Increase Use of First Steps Programs

STRATEGY 1.3

Facility Quality Enhancement

SMART GOALS

- Increase the number of participating childcare facilities by two to reach a maximum of 11 facilities by the end of FY23.
- By the end of FY23 the FQE Program will reflect 2 Full-Time Technical Assistants

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Work with agencies to encourage childcare facilities to participate in the FQE program.

STRATEGY 1.4

Raising A Reader

SMART GOALS

- By the end of FY23, the Raising A Reader program will engage with 10 Implementation sites.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Implementation sites to include Head Start, Horry County Schools, Childcare facilities, and Little River Medical

Strengthen interagency partnerships and public-private collaborations

STRATEGY 2.1

Increase the coordination of services across agencies to improve program reach and success

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, the Home Visitation and Early Care and Educations Sub-committees will be established.
- By the end of FY23 all subcommittees will meet quarterly.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Home visitation sub-committee to include PAT affiliates, Nurse Family Partnership, Parent Child Plus, Family Outreach, and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
- Early Care and Education Sub-committee to include CCR&R, PITC, SC Inclusion, ABC, and DSS

STRATEGY 2.2

Develop an Early Learning Nation Collaborative to ensure the development of a comprehensive, high quality, early childhood system.

SMART GOAL(S)

- By the end of FY21, the ELN Collaborative will develop an action plan encompassing each building block or area
- By the end of FY23, the ELN Collaborative will be established as a separate 501c3

COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR(S)

- Agencies, community leaders, municipalities, and organizations that influence children 0-4 and their families

Obtain the funding we need to support excellence, promote innovation, and to sustain core programs despite fluctuating funds

STRATEGY 4.1

Develop a comprehensive resource development plan to include in-kind contributions

SMART GOAL(S)

1. A resource development plan will be created by the end of FY21. The plan will include submission of grant applications, special events, and donor engagement.
2. Throughout FY22 and FY23 the overall budget will reflect no more than 30% of programmatic funding from a single source.

STRATEGY 4.2

Organize two community wide fund-raising events to include one virtual and one in-person.

SMART GOAL(S)

1. By the end of FY21 HCFS will host an inaugural virtual event to raise funds for the work of the agency.
2. Throughout FY22 and FY23 the agency will host its annual virtual event during Week Of the Young Child and in person Derby Day fundraiser.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

- Foundations, private donors, and, local sponsors