



Preparing South Carolina's young children for school success is a responsibility we all share. This important recognition is reflected no where better than in the composition of the First Steps Board of Trustees, which – thanks to reforms enacted by the General Assembly in Act 287 of 2014 – now includes the director of each of our state's major child-serving agencies. By enacting these changes, lawmakers have created a collaborative venue in which the Palmetto State's public and private leaders assemble regularly for the good of our state's children. We are already seeing the results.



The idea that we all have an important role to play in nurturing school success is also the cornerstone of our new, interagency public awareness campaign, "I Can."

In recent months, leaders from First Steps, the SC Department of Education, the Education Oversight Committee, and the SC Department of Social Services have joined with public and private stakeholders from across the state to develop a parent-friendly description of school readiness. At the core of this work are the things we might expect our state's rising kindergartners to be able to do. For example:

"I can work cooperatively with others."

"I can follow simple rules."

"I can recognize some upper and lower case letters and their sounds."

But this responsibility doesn't lie solely in the child. There are things we can all do to support school readiness.

As a grandparent, I can read to my grandchild. And as the Chairman of the First Steps Board of Trustees, I can - and will - continue working to ensure South Carolina's early childhood resources are optimized and coordinated to the benefit of our taxpayers, families and children.

As you review the work of First Steps over the pages to come, I invite you to reflect on the things YOU can do to support the school readiness of our state's children. The long term prosperity of our state and its children depends on our efforts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Wingate". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken Wingate
Chairman
SC First Steps Board of Trustees

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Governor's Designee



Ms. Julie Hussey
Parent of a Young Child



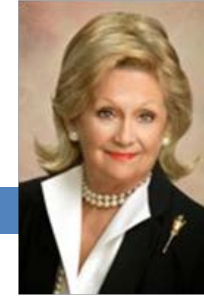
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SC Senate



The Honorable Gerald Malloy
SC Senate



The Honorable Rita Allison
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Ms. Sue Williams
Children's Trust of
South Carolina

ABOUT FIRST STEPS

As the state's comprehensive school readiness initiative, SC First Steps helps parents prepare their young children for school and life success.

Why We Need to Start Early

Investing in strong early learning experiences for kids makes good sense. We know from brain research that 90% of the brain's full potential is formed by age four. We have a great opportunity to help families and caregivers during this critical window. Studies show that positive early experiences for young children help shape their long-term success, while also saving taxpayer dollars in long-term education and social impact costs.

How First Steps Can Help

In each of South Carolina's 46 counties, First Steps expands early learning services available for young children, their families, and caregivers. These services fall in six important areas:



How You Can Find Us

Each county is served by a local First Steps Partnership, whose local board of directors and staff are in place to meet the school readiness needs of the community. First Steps provides funding and technical assistance to the state's network of independent, non-profit First Steps Local Partnerships so that services are provided to children and families who need them by a convening resource that knows each community intimately.

According to a recent evaluation by Compass Evaluation & Research, through this network "First Steps often and in many ways reaches beyond a circle of agencies and administrators to engage local community stakeholders such as parents, educators, and the Community of Faith in investing in early childhood, with investments occurring on the family, caregiver, and neighborhood level. It is these investments that often make the difference for at-risk and high-need children, as these children often require attention and support from multiple sources."

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*Compass Evaluation and Research
2014 Evaluation*

"(D)isadvantaged children enter school lagging behind their more advantaged peers in terms of the knowledge and social competencies that are widely recognized as enabling children to perform at even the most basic level. Substantial gaps are evident for disadvantaged children in measures of reading and mathematics proficiency, in prosocial behaviors and behavior problems, and in readiness to learn. For example, although 18 percent of children overall are not familiar with basic conventions of print or writing (e.g., knowing that English is read from left to right and top to bottom, or where a story ends), that fraction is 32 percent for children whose mothers have less than a high school education but only 8 percent for children whose mothers have a college degree or higher. Other risk factors include being in a single-parent family, a family that has received welfare, or a family that does not speak English at home."

*Children at Risk: Consequences for School Readiness and Beyond
Rand Corporation, 2005*

A January 2007 analysis by Dr. Baron Holmes of the SC Budget and Control Board explored the attributes of South Carolina children experiencing school failure by the 3rd grade (those children scoring in the Below-Basic category of the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test or who had been retained at least once).

Dr. Holmes' findings suggest that a handful of predisposing risk factors are associated with articularly high rates of early school failure.

SC Children Most at Risk of Early School Failure

Risk Factor	Percentage Failing by 3rd Grade	SC Children (Birth – 6) Possessing Risk Factor
Abuse, Neglect, Foster Care	53%	10,171 3%
Very Low Birth Weight (<3.3 lbs)	52%	7,170 2.11%
Low Maternal Education (< 12th)	48%	81,852 24.1%
T.A.N.E. (50% Federal Poverty)	45%	28,690 8.4%
Low Birth Weight (3.3-4.4 lbs)	43%	9,390 2.77%
Teen Mother (<18)	43%	15,618 4.6%
Food Stamps (130% Federal Poverty)	42%	67,897 20%
Teenage Mother (18- 20)	37%	29,946 8.83%
Low Birth Weight (4.4-5.5lbs)	36%	18,780 5.53%

Dr. Baron Holmes, 2007

MEASURING OUTCOMES

Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success. With measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas, First Steps is getting results.



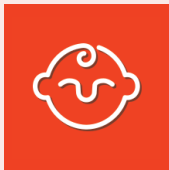
Healthy Start

We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring *Nurse-Family Partnership* to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.



Family Strengthening

Our home visitation strategies, such as *Parents as Teachers*, *Parent-Child Home* and *Early Steps to School Success*, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps' intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at "low" levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.



Early Intervention

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based resources.



Quality Childcare

Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child's development and success in school.



Early Education

Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly-funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar.



School Transition

Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like *Countdown to Kindergarten* and *From Day One to Grade One* are ultimately preparing children for school success.





HEALTHY START

School readiness starts with healthy children. First Steps is the state sponsor of *Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)*, an evidence-based home visitation program matching nurse home visitors with first-time, low-income mothers. A recent birth-outcome analysis conducted by DHEC's Bureau of Maternal Child Health showed low-income mothers receiving this evidence-based nurse home visitation program were:

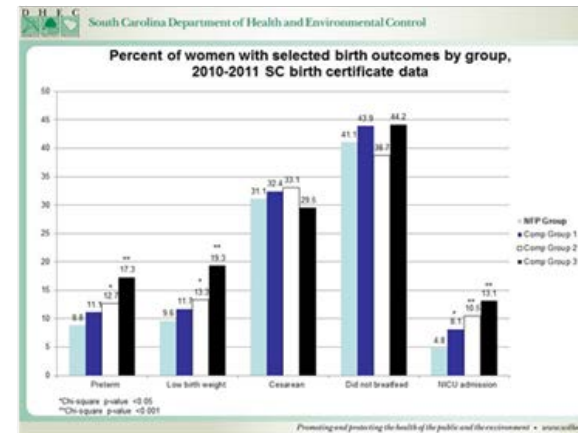
- 63% less likely to require admission to a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
- Half as likely to be born pre-term (less than 37 weeks)
- Half as likely to be born at a low birth weight

Independent research suggests that 52% of SC children born at an extremely low birth weight fall into one or more categories of school failure (retention, achievement) by the third grade, making preventative programs such as NFP critical to improving early school success.

Brought to South Carolina by SC First Steps and The Duke Endowment in 2008, *Nurse Family Partnership* has a large collaborative footprint in 2015, serving South Carolina mothers in more than 20 counties from nine regionally-based hubs.

Since inception, South Carolina NFP has:

- Served more than 3,200 low-income mothers and their babies
- Delivered more than 75,000 nurse home visits
- Grown from an original client capacity of 600 to almost 1,200 slots



Conclusions

- NFP participants differ substantially in terms of risk factors compared to potentially eligible non-participants, even in the same geographic areas.
 - DHEC sites, live births in 2010-2011
- After accounting for these differences, these NFP participants have significantly lower prevalence of LBW, PTB, and NICU admissions.

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF NFP OUTCOMES: Birth Outcomes for SC NFP Clients Delivering Live Births in 2010-2011 (SC DHEC, Maternal Child Health Bureau – February 2013)

- NFP Group
- Comparison Group 1: All Medicaid Births
- Comparison Group 2: Medicaid Births at Hospitals Where NFP Clients Delivered
- Comparison Group 3: Medicaid Births at Hospitals Where NFP Clients Delivered
 - with Clients Matched on Mother's Race, Mother's Education and WIC Status.

Program Model

Nurse-Family Partnership

Nurses paired with first-time mothers beginning during the second trimester of pregnancy and extending to the child's second birthday; training, support and referral.

2014-2015

1183 mothers/babies
9 sites (Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Columbia, Greenwood, Florence, Orangeburg, Conway, and Charleston) serving more than 20 counties: Anderson, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Edgefield, Greenville, Horry, Lexington, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, York

100% of NFP clients are first-time, low-income mothers eligible for Medicaid.



FAMILY STRENGTHENING

Families are a child’s first and best teachers. First Steps supports parents statewide as they prepare their children for school success. As the state sponsor of *Parents as Teachers*, South Carolina’s largest evidence-based parent education program, the state First Steps office serves as the PAT statewide technical assistance structure to all PAT programs at no cost to schools or communities.

In addition, First Steps underwrites additional parenting models including *Parent-Child Home* and *Early Steps to School Success*. Since inception, First Steps has delivered more than half a million parent education home visits to help parents prepare children for school.



First Steps’ *Parents as Teachers Program* has been honored for the second time in three years as a finalist for the *WhatWorksSC Award* by The Riley Institute and SC Future Minds. *SC Parents as Teachers* was awarded \$1,000 at the awards ceremony on October 14, 2015. The *SC Teacher Cadet Program* at CERRA was awarded the top prize, and *Reach Out and Read Carolinas* was also named a finalist.

- In 2007, the SC First Steps Board of Trustees created comprehensive, statewide program fidelity standards that often exceed those of the national, evidence-based models on which they are based.

- Evaluation Notes Significant Improvements in Parenting: In a recent external evaluation, 66% of parents who initially scored at a low level of parenting skill improved their abilities to moderate or high levels after participation in a First Steps parent education program. (HighScope, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale Analysis, 2010)
- Evaluation Notes Significant Improvements in Interactive Literacy: Both parents and children participating in First Steps family strengthening programs demonstrate improvements in early literacy, with parents increasing their use/ demonstration of key early literacy strategies by 32% (pre to post) and children increasing their own demonstration of these behaviors by 33%. (HighScope, Adult-Child Interactive Reading Inventory Analysis, 2010)



“Under First Steps’ leadership, Parents as Teachers in South Carolina has set the national example in fidelity and accountability. We hold you up to other states doing home visitation as an example of how it can be done right.”

*Scott Hippert, CEO,
Parents as Teachers National Office*

Home Visitation Includes:

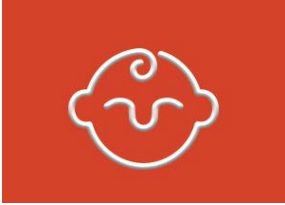
- Personal Visits with Families
- Child Developmental Screening & Assessment
- Community Resource & Referral



Program Model	FY2015
<p>Parents as Teachers (PAT) Parent mentor trained to enhance effective parent-child interaction, developmental parenting skills, and literacy for children 0-5. Developmental screenings, validated curriculum, and assessment.</p>	<p>1,105 families 1,322 children 21,187 visits 30 counties</p> <p>88.7% of First Steps' Parents as Teachers clients possess two or more identified readiness risk factors. 95% of these clients qualify for TANF or SNAP benefits or for free school lunches by virtue of a family income at or below 130% of the federal poverty definition. 37% of these children have been born to mothers with less than a high school diploma, 23% reside with a teenage custodial parent and 10% were born at a low birth weight.</p>
<p>Parent-Child Home (PCH) Parent mentor trained to support effective early literacy behaviors in children ages 0-5</p>	<p>140 families 137 children 6,389 visits 3 counties</p> <p>85.8% of First Steps' Parent-Child Home clients possess two or more identified readiness risk factors. 96% of these clients qualify for TANF or SNAP benefits or for free school lunches by virtue of a family income at or below 130% of the federal poverty definition. 39% of these children have been born to mothers with less than a high school diploma, 11% reside with a teenage custodial parent and 21% were born at a low birth weight school diploma, 11% reside with a teenage custodial parent and 21% were born at a low birth weight.</p>

<p>Save the Children <i>Early Steps to School Success</i> Community and school tied to home visitor and literacy activities; assessment and mentoring, group meetings augment program.</p>	<p>229 families 213 children 3,531 visits 4 counties</p> <p>86% of First Steps' Early Steps to School Success clients possess two or more identified readiness risk factors. 99% of these clients qualify for TANF or SNAP benefits or for free school lunches by virtue of a family income at or below 130% of the federal poverty definition. 24% of these children have been born to mothers with less than a high school diploma, 28% reside with a teenage custodial parent and 13% were born at a low birth weight.</p>
<p>Parent Training Strategies Additional parent education and family literacy strategies.</p>	<p>692 families 705 children 14 counties</p>





EARLY INTERVENTION



Finding and serving our state’s children with developmental delays as early as possible can reduce later remediation and can help children prepare for school success along with their typically developing peers. South Carolina’s BabyNet Early Intervention System – an interagency partnership between First Steps, the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, the SC School for the Deaf and the Blind, the SC Department of Health and Resources, and hundreds of private education, therapy, and service coordination vendors statewide - provides special education services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays. The program’s outcomes consistently meet or exceed national averages on measures of key school readiness skills.



“One of the benefits of [the statewide collaboration] is that you will have multiple state agencies that can touch a child. In many cases, this is not redundant. This is partnering and touching the different pieces of that child’s life, to have the maximum impact in that child’s life, and to maximize the state dollars that are associated with those services so you get the most impact for those dollar spent.”

Dr. Beverly Buscemi, SC DDSN

BABYNET OUTCOME SUMMARY STATEMENTS (FFY13-14)	Outcome 1: Development of positive social emotional and relationship skills.	Outcome 2: Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills.	Outcome 3: Use of appropriate behavior to meet needs.
1. Of those children who entered the program below age expectations in [outcome], the percent that substantially increased their rate of growth in [outcome] by the time they exited.	79.6%	80.5%	82.0%
2. Percent of children who were functioning within age expectations in [outcome], by the time they exited.	59.3%	54.5%	57.7%

BABYNET PARENTS SPEAK:

“Our BabyNet service provider is very friendly. She listens, and seems to care about my family. I enjoy when she comes out. She gives me new ideas of things to try to help my son learn, and she helped us enroll in the ABC Child Care program and speech therapy.”

“Baby Net has played an important role in getting my premie baby caught up.”

“I absolutely love our BabyNet therapist. She has shown that she cares about my son and his future. She has been a great fit for our family and I look forward to the rest of her visits with my son and watching his progress.”

During FY15

- First Steps’ local BabyNet intake offices received and processed 9,457 referrals statewide.
- Of these referrals, 51% (or 4,880) continued to formal eligibility determination.
- Among these, 85% (or 4,151) were found eligible, & 15% (or 729) were found ineligible.





QUALITY CHILDCARE

Two-thirds of SC mothers with young children depend on child care providers to help care for their children during the work day. Since a child's brain is forming rapidly during these early years, child care teachers are significant partners to families in helping children develop to be successful in school.

According to an independent analysis by the HighScope Educational Research Foundation, child care providers participating in First Steps' quality improvement programs made statistically significant gains in each of seven domains quality measured.

During FY15, First Steps:

- Provided quality-enhancement programming in 159 SC child care settings, enrolling 7,788* children. Centers selected for participation in First Steps' quality enhancement programs are identified via competitive application with priority to providers:
 - Participating in the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program and documenting that at least 30% of enrolled students qualify for free meals/ snacks (130% of federal poverty), - OR -
 - Located within the school attendance zone of (and/or enrolling primarily children attending) an individual elementary school rated "Below Average" or "At Risk" (Unsatisfactory) during the preceding three-year period, - OR -
 - In which 10% or more of enrolled students are ABC voucher recipients.
 - Participating in a publicly-funding early care and education program (such as First Steps 4K). *Child-level demographic data is not collected for quality enhancement strategies.
- Made 2,857 on-site, provider visits.
- Provided 1,561 accredited child care training hours to 5,004 child care teachers, directors and staff.
- Provided preschool scholarships to 496 children, in 139 qualified private settings. Of these children, 96.53% possessed two or more identified school readiness risk factors, with 73% qualifying for TANF benefits by virtue of a family income at or below 50% of federal poverty, 33% living with a teenage custodial parent, 26% born to a mother than less than a high school diploma.

To enhance school readiness outcomes, First Steps works with partners in support of QUALITY CHILD CARE at state and local levels.

Table 35. Pre and Post Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) Scores for Child Care Centers Participating in First Steps Child Care Quality Enhancement

ECERS Scale		Length of Participation (Months)							
		Overall		3-5		6-12		+ 12	
		Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N
Overall Score	Pre	3.74	146	3.98	9	3.90	69	3.55	68
	Post	4.55		4.91		4.68		4.38	
		**		**		**		**	
Space and Furnishings	Pre	3.84	125	3.92	9	4.08	61	3.57	55
	Post	4.67		4.68		4.77		4.56	
		**		†		**		**	
Personal Care Routines	Pre	3.50	124	3.31	8	3.37	61	3.66	55
	Post	4.00		4.68		3.95		3.95	
		**		*		**		—	
Language- Reasoning	Pre	3.97	124	4.24	9	4.16	60	3.72	55
	Post	4.77		4.72		4.93		4.62	
		**		—		**		**	
Activities	Pre	3.06	125	3.70	9	3.21	61	2.79	55
	Post	4.21		4.68		4.40		3.93	
		**		**		**		**	
Interaction	Pre	4.64	125	4.96	9	4.69	61	4.54	55
	Post	5.26		5.37		5.22		5.29	
		**		—		*		**	
Program Structure	Pre	3.93	125	4.76	9	4.28	61	3.41	55
	Post	4.70		5.44		4.97		4.27	
		**		—		**		**	
Parents and Staff	Pre	4.67	66	5.0	4	4.71	37	4.57	25
	Post	5.16		5.9		5.07		5.18	
		**		—		*		*	

Table 36 highlights ITERS gains overall and by length of time between pre and post assessments. Overall, pre-test scores were quite low and post-test gain on their overall scores was significant. Participants of 6 months or more saw significant gains in all but one scale (Language-Reasoning greater than 12 months).

- Further Steps to School Readiness
- HighScope Educational Research Foundation, 2010

Intensive Quality Enhancement Strategies

17	Counties
159	Centers Enrolling 7,788 children
2,857	Technical Assistance Visits Completed
5,729	Technical Assistance Visit Hours
13.58%	Average Improvement in Center Quality (Measured Pre -Post using the Environmental Rating Scales)



Quality



QualityCounts
recognizing excellence in early care & education



EARLY EDUCATION



"It takes all of us — those in public agencies, our private partnerships, the faith community, the business community, all of us — working together, because, quite honestly, educators cannot do this all by themselves. And we can't do it in just a regular school day. Once a child turns four, we have to have after school

care and summer learning opportunities for those children who are at-risk. And believe you me, it makes success much easier if those at-risk children have had a strong early childhood development program. "

State Superintendent of Education
Molly Spearman

Quality prekindergarten can improve a child's success in school, particularly for low-income or disadvantaged students.

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness partners with high-quality private, community- and faith-based preschools to offer full-day four-year-old kindergarten for families in eligible counties. Approved programs focus on developmental and learning supports that children must have in order to be ready for school, incorporate research-based curricula, ongoing assessment, and parenting education.

Permanently codified in June 2014 after eight years as a pilot program, the South Carolina Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) utilizes a public-private delivery model to expand access to 4K. Families can choose a public school or a community-based program for their eligible children.

Eligible children must be four on or before September 1, reside in one of 64 specified school districts, and qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch or Medicaid. CERDEP is jointly administered by SC First Steps (private and community-based schools) and the SC Department of Education (public schools).

Since the creation of the public-private 4K pilot in 2006-2007, First Steps has served more than 9,300 four-year-olds in private, community- and faith-based preschool settings.

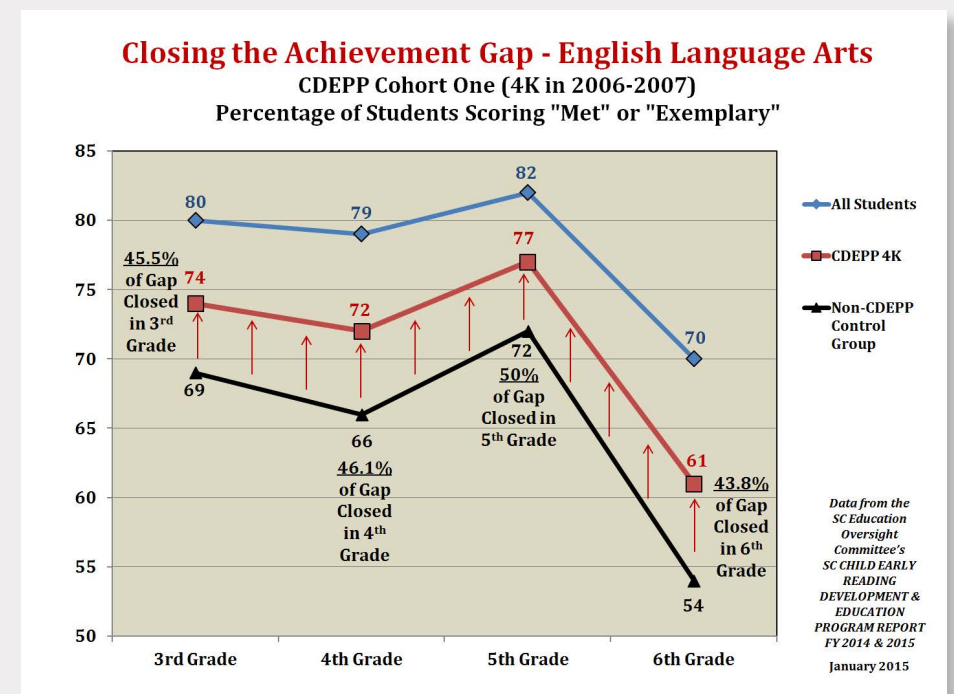
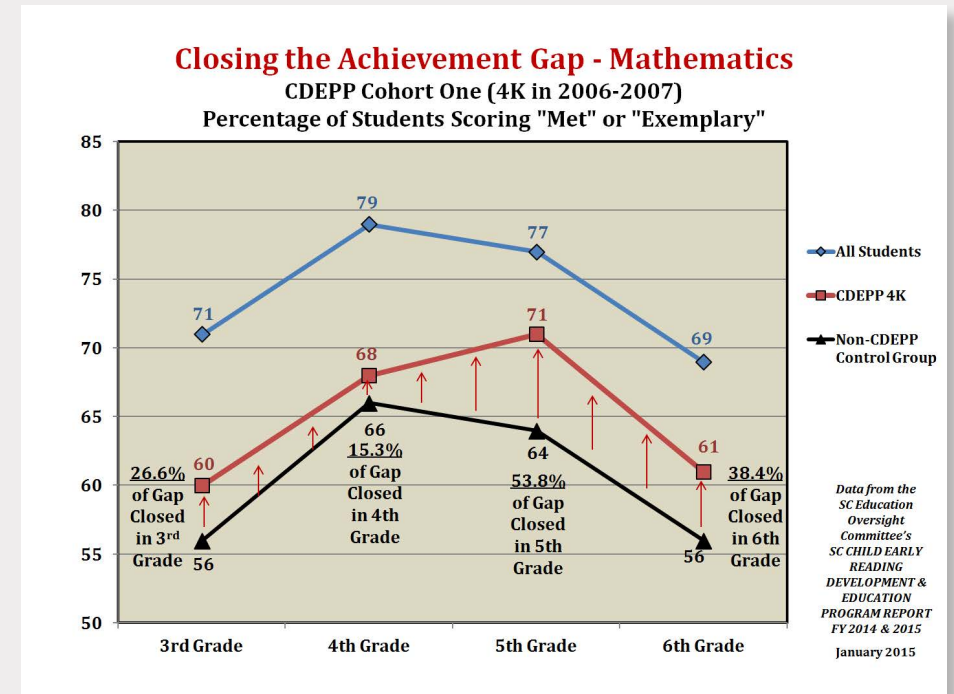


Public-Private 4K Works for South Carolina Families:

A 2015 analysis by the Education Oversight Committee suggests that students participating in the **state's public-private 4K** program outperformed a matched control group in Mathematics and English Language Arts in every year examined. **Enrollment in 4K closed 43.8% of the study's measured 6th grade Language Arts achievement gap**, suggesting significant and lasting benefits of participation.

- During July of 2015, more than 500 public and private preschool teachers, assistants and administrators attended the week-long First Steps 4K Academy in Columbia, receiving in-depth professional development on research-based curriculum, early literacy and social-emotional development.

- First Steps' private 4K students are receiving comparable learning experiences for 20% less cost to taxpayers (\$4,690 vs. \$5,812 per child). Funds provided for private 4K service provision are reinvested in South Carolina's economy, benefiting small, often minority-owned businesses who return a portion of this investment back to the state.
- First Steps ensures quality and accountability by making announced and unannounced monitoring visits approximately twice monthly, with approximately 2,700 individual site visits completed during FY15. Participation in First Steps' 4K program, in combination with other quality supports, has positively influenced overall center quality for all children
- First Steps is leveraging the availability of existing space in private child care centers, with no capital costs to taxpayers.
- 100% of First Steps' 4K students qualify for either free/reduced lunch or Medicaid.
- All First Steps 4K students participate in pre- and post-assessment exceeding the minimum requirements established by the SC Department of Education. Through grant funding from the SC Department of Social Services, all First Steps 4K classrooms are equipped to complete the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment online, documenting student learning throughout the year and accessing specialized instructional supports.



First Steps' 4K Impact:

PROGRAM YEAR	# OF CHILDREN	# OF PROVIDERS
2006-07 (FY 07)	309	40
2007-08 (FY 08)	482	48
2008-09 (FY 09)	459	40
2009-10 (FY 10)	524	39
2010-11 (FY 11)	549	36
2011-12 (FY 12)	577	43
2012-13 (FY 13)	601	42
2013-14 (FY 14)	1,402	93
2014-15 (FY 15)	1,916	151
2015-2016 (FY16*)	2,500*	179
Anticipated		

Total since FY07 Students Served 9,319



SCHOOL TRANSITION

In 2007, First Steps' Count down to Kindergarten program was recognized as a promising state practice by the National Governor's Association in their report, Building the Foundation for Bright Futures.

"Countdown is the greatest thing that's ever happened to children in South Carolina. The relationships built over the summer between the teacher and families created a trust and support that has helped the children blossom in kindergarten. The only way to break the cycle is to model for parents how effectively they can work with their own children through reading and playing and learning with hands on materials."

-Gayle Troutman, Kindergarten Teacher, Burnside Elementary School

In 2003, SC communities reported a lack of school transition services for children. In response, First Steps collaborated with local, state and national partners to create **Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK)**. This home visitation program matches families of high-risk rising kindergartners with their upcoming 5K teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, centered on classroom and curriculum expectations.

- In 2009 the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation completed an external review of Countdown to Kindergarten, noting the strategy's potential to powerfully shape both subsequent interaction and classroom practice. Researchers noted that:
- "Over 75% of home visitors reported making **some or a great deal of change in their instruction, experiences, practices, activities on the first day of school** and the **methods by which they communicate with parents** as a direct result of their CTK experience."
- "All participants, whether home visitor or parents, report the **significant impact this strategy has on professional practice, parent-teacher relationships, and parent participation in and child attitudes toward kindergarten.**" (Further Steps to School Readiness- HighScope Educational Research Foundation, 2010)
- In a 2013 teacher survey, **100% of participating teachers reported that Countdown to Kindergarten parents were as or more involved than non-participating parents.** This included involvement in activities such as parent/teacher conferences, attending school events and activities, maintaining contact with teachers, and volunteering in classroom or school activities.



During the summer of 2015, First Steps served **1,036 children, 1,018 families, and delivered 6,097 Countdown to Kindergarten home visits**. 85.1% of these children possessed two or more identified school readiness risk factors, with 74% of these children qualifying for SNAP or free school lunches by virtue of a family income at or below 130% of federal poverty, 27% living in a single parent household, 17% born to a mother with less than a high school diploma, and 12% with an identified developmental delay.

First Steps' School Transition Impact:
10,352 families served since 2004
61,700 teacher visits since 2004



A Note on KIDS COUNT Data from Sue Williams of Children's Trust of South Carolina

Children's Trust of South Carolina, the statewide organization working to prevent child abuse, neglect and injuries, annually releases local KIDS COUNT data profiles that rank counties on indicators of child well-being in South Carolina. These profiles provide a data-rich snapshot of life for children in each of the Palmetto State's 46 counties and highlight deficits, which if addressed, could significantly improve future opportunities for children in those communities. This data, which helps to determine the grant allocations of local First Steps partnerships as part of First Steps' state funding formula, is also excerpted in the county profiles to follow.

When children meet educational milestones and live in economically stable homes and supportive communities, they are more likely to grow into productive, contributing citizens. Currently, too many of South Carolina's children live in environments that put them at risk for negative outcomes, including child abuse and neglect.

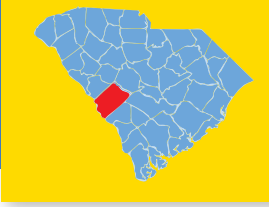
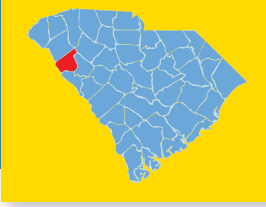
South Carolina's Top 10 KIDS COUNT counties in 2015 (indicating the best conditions for children) were York, Dorchester, Lexington, Greenville, Pickens, Berkeley, Beaufort, Spartanburg, Oconee and Calhoun. Allendale County ranked No. 46, trailing Barnwell, Williamsburg, Lee and Marlboro counties in the bottom five.

The county profiles are produced by Children's Trust in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) and the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. The data sheets are modeled after the AECF's KIDS COUNT state and national profiles using four domains (economic well-being, education, health, and family and community) with four indicators in each domain for a total of 16 indicators.

The complete county data and profile sheets can be found at scChildren.org/KidsCount.



Sue Williams, Chief Executive Officer for Children's Trust of South Carolina, sits on the First Steps Board of Trustees. Sue leads South Carolina's agency working to prevent child abuse, neglect and injury. As an integral part of that mission, Children's Trust is the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT grantee for the state, providing high quality data and reports on South Carolina's children and families. Using these county profiles, communities can make informed decisions to build greater opportunities for children and families.



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Abbeville County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,358
Children In Poverty	27.3%	28.4%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	12.6%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	14.9%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Abbeville County First Steps has leveraged \$1,009,909 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.34 for every state dollar received.**
- Served more than 227 parents in parenting programs during FY15.
- Made connections for 100% of families served to needed supports such as adult education, financial counseling, housing assistance, employment referrals, etc.
- Achieved pre-to-post gains in parenting behaviors and literacy skills among at-risk families.

Abbeville County First Steps
1402C Highway 72 West
Greenwood, SC 29649
Phone: 864-388-4102
Fax: 864-388-4103

Board Chair: Daniel Crawford

apruitt@acsdsc.org
www.acfirststeps.org

First Steps Works for the Children, Parents and Taxpayers of South Carolina **Angela Pruitt** Executive Director



Our County Partnership has had a great year in 2015. Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps continue to share office space, administrative and programmatic resources across county lines, and this joint venture has created a significant cost savings which provides more resources for children and families. We have continued to have great relationships with the Department of Social Services and the Guardian Ad Litem Programs. The Real Fathers Are Dads Fatherhood Initiative continues to grow and gain community support with participants, civic organizations, churches, and businesses. We also have a great relationship with The Social Change Initiative to ensure we have additional parenting services for our families. The father has been the missing component for many years with our programs. The Fatherhood Initiative and Parents as Teachers Program work jointly to include the entire family. By working with the entire family, we are starting to see change happen. Other agencies and partners in our community are starting to see this change and want to be a part of this initiative. We also continue to partner with Lander University and Erskine College's Education Department to provide Early Childhood Conferences each year. We were able to provide quality child care trainings to 32 teachers serving more than 448 children.



Programs Available to Abbeville County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Real Fathers Are Dads Fatherhood Initiative
Childcare Training
BabyNet

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Aiken County
Children Under Five	290,519	9,402
Children In Poverty	27.3%	28.6%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	21.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	17.0%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Aiken County First Steps has leveraged \$2,301,017.10 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.33 for every state dollar received.**
- During FY15 provided 33 high-risk families with intensive home visitation through Parents as Teachers, achieving significant gains in parenting and literacy skills.
- Provided 98 technical assistance visits and 21 group training sessions for local child care centers, achieving gains in classroom environments and teaching practices.
- Provided 32 low-income, at-risk children with child care scholarships so their parents could work or attend school.

Aiken County First Steps
P.O. Box 2091
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: 803-663-5604
Fax: 803-663-0069

Board Chairman: Shirley von Beck
aiken1stepsed@bellsouth.net

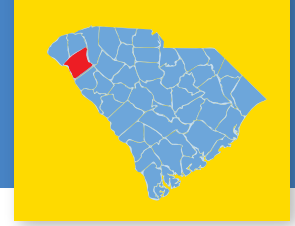
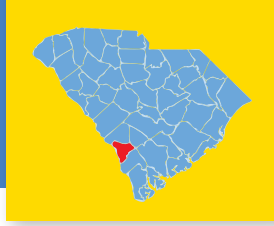
BUILDING THE STARS OF TOMORROW **Marcia L. Nash** Executive Director



I often visit the children at our local child care centers as a way to refresh the spirit of the little girl in me. When I walk through the door, the eyes of one grabs me immediately, the smile of another gives me goose bumps, and the stares of those that I am new to goes deep as they try to figure out who the silly lady is that has made my classmates jump and squirm with excitement. As I wash my hands, their excitement rises because at that moment, they knew I was there to play, laugh, read, sing and dance with them. I, too, get excited because what they don't know is they have made my day too! The connections formed with my little people remind me that while their glass may appear half empty, we must assist them and their families in completing the process of adding to that glass, causing it to overflow with a common language for understanding, loving, and supporting children's development. Our Partnership Board and Staff have witnessed the commitment and passion of parents, collaborating partners, community agencies, and early care and education providers in Aiken County. Because of YOU, from day one to grade one, we are continuing to build the stars of tomorrow.



Programs Available to Aiken County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Childcare Quality Enhancements
Childcare Scholarships
Childcare Training
Countdown to Kindergarten
Health and Education Classes
First Steps 4K
BabyNet



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Allendale County
Children Under Five	290,519	497
Children In Poverty	27.3%	56.1%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	58.9%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	31.1%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Allendale County First Steps has leveraged \$968,097 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.35 for every state dollar received.**
- 20 Children received a total of **120 home visits from their kindergarten teachers** the summer before beginning school building relationships with parents and easing the transition to school during FY15.
- Improved literacy skills by distributing **1,903 books to families**, building libraries in these homes.
- Provided eleven (11) children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school.

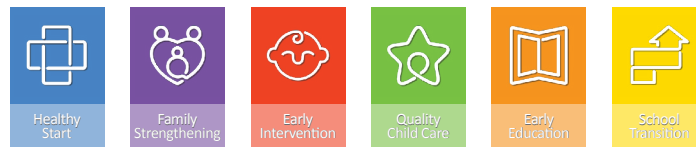
Allendale County First Steps
176 Main Street North
Allendale, SC 29810
Phone: 803-584-6000
Fax: 803-584-7000

Board Chairman: Tom Carter, Jr.
a1steps@yahoo.com

Allendale County First Steps Patricia Hall Executive Director



At Allendale County First Steps, the Board of Directors, Staff and I take pride in providing parents with access to the support they seek to strengthen their families. We do not take lightly our goal to provide quality enhancing services to our partnering centers. We ensure this happens through having qualified staff to provide mentoring, technical assistance, administering parenting programs, implementing research-based curriculum, and best practice training. Allendale County First Steps Programs were successful this fiscal year because of the involvement of community partners in carrying out the initiatives of our organization. From our evidence based home visiting program Parent as Teachers to our school transition program Countdown to Kindergarten, your continuous support in ensuring that our children arrive at school ready to learn is essential. On behalf of Allendale County First Steps Board of Directors, staff and I, thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to having your continued support in the future. You are the lifeline of this organization and the children and families that depend on us.



Programs Available to Allendale County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Anderson County
Children Under Five	290,519	11,492
Children In Poverty	27.3%	24.3%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	13.7%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	18.3%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Anderson County First Steps has leveraged \$4,409,570 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.56 for every state dollar received.**
- **100% of our 40 at-risk 4K students were reading on grade level** and were passed to the next grade during FY15.
- Nurse Family Partnership Program served 124 families, **making over 1700 home visits.**
- Our intensive family literacy services provided adult, child, and parent education to 47 at-risk families. **Ten parents received high school diplomas and two received GEDs.**

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Phone: 864-222-0410
Fax: 864-222-9688

Board Chairman: Jackie Blakely

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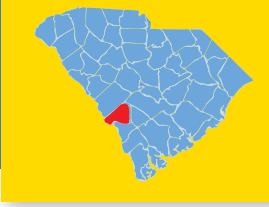
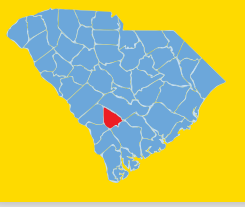
Anderson County First Steps Paige Wall Executive Director



Anderson County First Steps Partnership is proud of the milestones it has achieved during the past sixteen years and its value-add to the Anderson community. Since its inception, Anderson County First Steps Partnership has distributed over \$9.2M to area providers to support parent and family strengthening programs and services, school transition, 4-K classes for at-risk children; and to improve learning environments through the child care quality enhancement and training programs. In addition, Anderson County First Steps Partnership has increased the quality of services available to children and families, using research and data to improve programs and target the most at-risk children and their families. We have strong partnerships with our state and local education and community agencies including United Way of Anderson County, the Stevenson Charitable Trust, SC DHEC Region I, the Children's Trust, and Duke Endowment. Anderson School Districts One, Two, Three, Four, and Five provide over \$100,000 annually in matching/in-kind funds and services for Family Literacy and other early learning programs. Our business partner, The Peoples Bank of Iva, provides office space and administrative services.



Programs Available to Anderson County Families through First Steps
Family Literacy
Nurse-Family Partnership
Child Care Training
Early Education
Countdown to Kindergarten
BabyNet



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Bamberg County
Children Under Five	290,519	776
Children In Poverty	27.3%	43.0%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	33.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	16.9%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Bamberg County First Steps has leveraged \$1,912,949 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.77 for every state dollar received.**
- **Improved parenting practices for 19 families** by increasing parent knowledge of child development and modeling appropriate parenting interaction during FY15.
- **20 hours of certified training** provided to 143 child care staff to meet annual re-certification requirements.
- **Provided 24 hours of training for scholarship recipient parents** in topics such as what parents can do at home to help their child learn.

Bamberg County First Steps
3788 Faust Street
Bamberg, SC 29003
Phone: 803-245-6513
Fax: 803-245-6523

Board Chairman: Ricky A. Kearse
pplowden29042@yahoo.com

Bamberg County First Steps Pauletta Plowden Executive Director



Bamberg County First Steps has worked hard over the last fifteen years to increase the quality of childcare services to children and families in our small rural county. Our home visitation, childcare scholarships and teacher training programs are excellent examples of getting our children ready for school by the first grade. Bamberg County First Steps works because the community believes in our vision and our mission to ensure that all of our children arrive at the first grade healthy and ready to learn and achieve. Each year our community, board, and other volunteers come together to raise funds in support of quality family services. The John E. Bamberg and Dr. Michael Watson Jr. Education Scholarship Luncheon has been established to secure funding to defray the cost of childcare. Bamberg County First Steps works because of the strong and vital partnerships that we have established with Bamberg School District One and other community partners who have provided over \$1,000,000 in the past fifteen years of in-kind support. Bamberg County First Steps works because we love and care for our children, mothers, fathers, grandparents and community. We offer extra curricula programs that provide for the health and wellness of our youngest learners and we will continue to work diligently to EMPOWER our CHILDREN, our community's future workers.



Programs Available to Bamberg County Families through First Steps

Parents as Teachers Child Care Training Child Care Scholarships
MOMMYCISE Health and Wellness Fitness Camp
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Barnwell County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,533
Children In Poverty	27.3%	38.6%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	25.0%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	21.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Barnwell County First Steps has leveraged \$1,756,938 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.50 for every state dollar received.**
- **125 early childhood providers** attended high quality certified training to improve child care quality during FY15.
- Provided 32 children with **scholarship assistance** so their parents could work or attend school.
- 115 families received **1,626 home visits** as part of the Early Steps to School Success Program.

Barnwell County First Steps
5961 Lartigue St.
Blackville, SC 29817
Phone: 803-284-3160
Fax: 803-284-3160 (call ahead)

Board Chair: Catherine Mack
bwellfirststeps@bellsouth.net

BARNWELL COUNTY FIRST STEPS Ethel T. Faust Executive Director

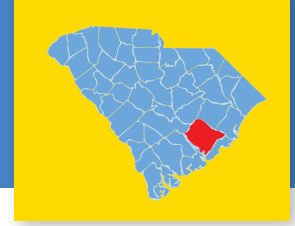
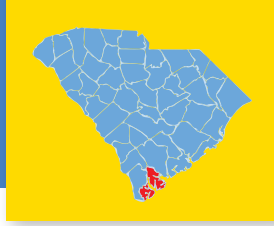


As we continue to offer and provide the families of our youngest learners with the tools they need to better prepare their children for school, we find that collaboration is still the key to the best return on any investment. Our local partnership working in conjunction with our school systems in Barnwell, Blackville and Williston have helped us to maintain services to families this past year. We served 115 children in Early Steps to School Success, a home visitation program of Save the Children supporting parents in developing their children's readiness skills for school. We served 32 children with child care scholarships with support provided by the Darnell Committee, a group of local community advocates focused on increasing early childhood quality. Additionally, we provided child care quality enhancement support to 4 child care centers including over 74 hours of onsite technical assistance. We continued an outreach initiative to engage and educate adults connected to our targeted population by partnering with the Division of Healthy Aging of SC Department of Health and Environmental Control in conjunction with the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging. We are excited about the changes in our organizational structure and anticipate more community impact in the future.



Programs Available to Barnwell County Families through First Steps

Early Steps to School Success (Save the Children)
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
Community Education for Early Childhood Connections
First Steps 4K
BabyNet



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Beaufort County
Children Under Five	290,519	10,133
Children In Poverty	27.3%	23.9%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	22.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	14.7%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Beaufort County First Steps has leveraged \$1,856,040 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.30 for every state dollar received.**
- During FY15 successfully completed the national Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process for Parents as Teachers, achieving "blue ribbon" affiliate status. The 36 families and 45 children in Parents as Teachers achieved significant gains pre-to-post in parenting behaviors and early literacy development.
- Made 368 connections for **high-risk families** to needed services such as early intervention, housing and food assistance, mental health, Head Start, credit counseling, and adult education.
- Supported the child care industry in Beaufort County through 468 hours of technical assistance and \$32,000 in materials grants to 8 participating providers. **Served 467 child care teachers** and directors in Beaufort and surrounding counties through 149 training sessions.

Beaufort County First Steps Betty Washington Executive Director



Beaufort County First Steps Partnership began the year with renewed focus and dedication to continue its advocacy efforts on behalf of Beaufort's neediest children and families. This included continued plans for enhancing the learning environments of child care facilities to promote developmentally appropriate practices. Additionally, we continued strengthening parenting skills through our Parents as Teachers program. In partnership with local child care providers, businesses, various organizations, governmental agencies and individuals, Beaufort County First Steps served 453 children in 7 childcare facilities through the Quality Enhancement Initiative during fiscal year 2015. In an effort to promote literacy, 6,757 age-appropriate books were distributed to children and families for home ownership. Also 37 families and 45 children participated in the Parents as Teachers program, with each family's overall assessment or progress being above average. With the support from our community we will continue to provide early intervention services, strengthen families, improve children's health and well-being and increase the quality of early care and education in Beaufort County. On behalf of our Partnership Board and staff, we thank all of you for sharing your time, resources, and expertise. We applaud all those working to ensure that children in Beaufort County are ready for school success.



Programs Available to Beaufort County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
BabyNet

Beaufort County First Steps
2201 Boundary St.
Suite 111 Beaufort, SC 29903
Phone: 843-379-7837
Fax: 843-379-7840

Board Chairman: Ashley Hutchinson
bjw1steps@hargray.com

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Berkeley County
Children Under Five	290,519	13,468
Children In Poverty	27.3%	24.4%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	19.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	13.1%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Berkeley County First Steps has leveraged \$1,838,543 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.22 for every state dollar received.**
- This year, our child care training program **provided 629 early childhood staff with high quality training.**
- Grant-funded community awareness events brought together over **25 community health and wellness resources.**
- Berkeley and Dorchester County First Steps brought together local legislators and community leaders to celebrate the first **Early Childhood Business Leadership Cohort.**

Berkeley County First Steps
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Hanahan, SC 29410
Phone: 843-863-3030

Board Chairman: Jean Gooch
adriennetroyberkeleyfirststeps@aol.com
www.berkeleyfirststeps.org

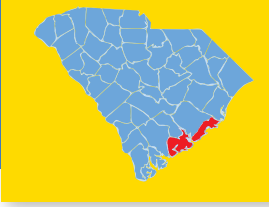
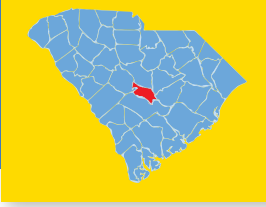
Berkeley County First Steps Adrienne Troy-Frazier Executive Director



Leading an organization through sustainable change that transforms communities and fosters a culture of continuous quality improvement is a complex task. It involves having a sound business strategy rooted in best practices and advocacy. This fiscal year, the Berkeley County First Steps Board of Trustees entered into a strategic planning process. This involves researching and analyzing what is required to build and sustain exemplary programs for young children and families in our county. In addition, our staff and board have been reflecting and thinking critically about the practices and problems that support or thwart quality services for at-risk children and families. We've focused on strengthening our collaborations with the public and private sector in the Low country. We received new corporate and foundation funding in support of early literacy and health. By strengthening business and leadership relationships in the community, we are able to leverage resources that are critical for family friendly communities and high quality early childhood in Berkeley County.



Programs Available to Berkeley County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Imagination Library
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	CALHOUN County
Children Under Five	290,519	780
Children In Poverty	27.3%	30.6%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	20.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	14.3%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Calhoun County First Steps has leveraged \$705,691 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.30 for every state dollar received.**
- Served 42 families through Parents as Teachers, achieving impressive gains in both **parenting behaviors and literacy practices during FY15.**
- Made connections for families to needed services and **addressed several potential developmental delays** among young children.
- Through Countdown to Kindergarten, increased the amount of **time parents spend reading to their children by 90%.**

Calhoun County First Steps
304 Agnes Street
St. Matthews, SC 29135
Phone: 803-655-5126
Fax: 803-655-5695

Board Chairman: Stanley Rivers
calhoun1steps@windstream.net

Working Together to Build Strong Foundations for Our Children **Virginia Newman** Executive Director



Tri-County Electric Trust joins Calhoun First Steps in promoting early literacy. For several years Tri-County Electric, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Target and Calhoun First Steps board members have covered the entire cost of implementing the Imagination Library program. During fiscal year 2015, over 230 children residing in Calhoun County received an age-appropriate book each month selected especially for them. The Calhoun school district identified 30 students from St. Matthews K-8 and Sandy Run K-8 to participate in Countdown to Kindergarten. Mr. Charley, principal at St. Matthews K-8 identified an additional kindergarten teacher to serve as a CTK teacher. Mr. Charley supported the goal of CTK to have students enrolled in their CTK teacher's classroom doing the school year. 76% of students were assigned to their CTK teacher classroom. Ms. Fanning, a kindergarten teacher from Saint Matthews K-8 expressed the value of establishing a working relationship with students and parents prior to the school year. For six weeks during the summer, PAT parent educators collaborate with the library to implement its summer reading program. Parent educators are responsible for the reading, music and movement activities for toddlers. Age-appropriate books are distributed to toddlers participating in the summer reading program. This also affords Calhoun First Steps the opportunity to register families for the Imagination Library and Parents as Teachers programs.



Programs Available to Calhoun County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Imagination Library
Countdown to Kindergarten
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	CHARLESTON County
Children Under Five	290,519	23,299
Children In Poverty	27.3%	25.8%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	19.0%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	11.7%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Charleston County First Steps has leveraged \$6,388,550 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.49 for every state dollar received.**
- **During FY15 awarded a \$6.5M federal grant to launch Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership** within child care centers in Charleston County to serve 119 children. Twenty-two children were served within two months of project startup.
- **Earned the Blue Ribbon Affiliate designation** through the Parents as Teachers Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process. Affiliates with this designation are recognized as being exemplary affiliates delivering high-quality services to children and families.
- Provided intensive assistance to improve quality for **12 child care providers** through technical assistance and center staff training and development.

Charleston County First Steps
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Phone: 843-745-0237 ext.222
Fax: 843-745-0895

Board Chairman: Lorraine Powers
www.charlestonfirststeps.org
jcollins@charlestonfirststeps.org

Good Health, Strong Families, and Positive Early Learning Experiences **James Ella Collins** Executive Director



Good Health, Strong Families, and Positive Early Learning Experiences
Early experiences are what shape the brain's architecture into a strong foundation for learning, health, and success. Experiences that adversely affect us, such as poverty, can weaken the development of a baby's brain and follow them their entire lives.

GOOD HEALTH is the foundation from which young children grow and develop. The need for high-quality medical care and adequate nutrition before birth and during a child's earliest years is more crucial than at most other times in life.

STRONG FAMILIES are those in which young children develop in the context of their families, where supportive relationships nurture their growth. Factors like family stress, difficult economic situations, abuse and neglect can impair the development of infants and toddlers.

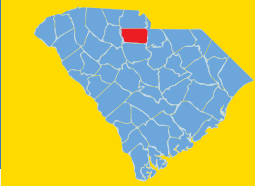
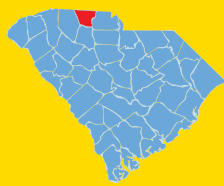
POSITIVE EARLY LEARNING EXPERIENCES for very young children take place through play, the active exploration of their environment, and most importantly, through positive interactions with the significant adults in their lives. These relationships are critical as the brain forms the complex web of visual, language, motor, and social-emotional connections essential for later learning. Learning gaps between children of different income levels appear early and widen long before a child enters school.



Programs Available to Charleston County Families through First Steps

Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership
Early Head Start – Parents As Teachers
Child Care Quality Enhancement

Child Care Center Staff Training & Development
Raising a Reader
Nurse-Family Partnership
BabyNet



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Cherokee County
Children Under Five	290,519	3,529
Children In Poverty	27.3%	36.5%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	30.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	24.4%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Cherokee County First Steps has leveraged \$1,536,132 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.42 for every state dollar received.**
- During FY15 provided 28 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school and 22 hours of training for scholarship parents regarding child development and parenting.
- Provided 253 early childhood staff with high quality training.
- 1,851 children were enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Cherokee County First Steps
P.O. Box 23
Gaffney, SC 29342
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Fax: 864-487-9461

Board Chairman: Dr. Ronald Cope

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www.cherokeeountyfirststeps.org

Cherokee County First Steps Dorothy Priester Executive Director



Cherokee County First Steps is the lead organization for a new early literacy initiative called, Talk to Me. The initiative was born through encouragement and guidance from SCFS. Dr. Dan Wuori shared the results of the assessment of public and private 4K students in South Carolina and Cherokee County at our Annual Meeting in January 2015. The interest and concern from numerous partners present prompted the team to move forward with a plan to improve the plight of early literacy for our county's children. Having formally launched Talk to Me in March, the Partners on the Team have been meeting regularly. The Team includes:

- KNOW(2)
- United Way of the Piedmont
- Cherokee County School District
- Piedmont Community Action's Head Start/Early Head Start
- Spartanburg Community College – Cherokee Campus
- Institute for Child Success
- Gaffney Visitor's Center
- Limestone College
- Cherokee County Library We are preparing to launch the public awareness campaign during the Week of the Young Child in April 2016.



Programs Available to Cherokee County Families through First Steps
Imagination Library
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Chester County
Children Under Five	290,519	2,033
Children In Poverty	27.3%	32.9%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	28.6%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	15.7%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

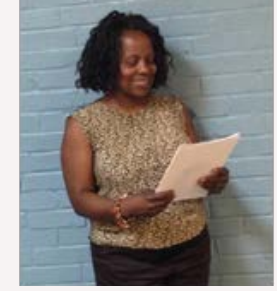
- Since inception, Chester County First Steps has leveraged \$1,249,254 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.47 for every state dollar received.**
- 759 hours of support and guidance were provided to 31 families in our Parents As Teachers Program during FY15.
- Childcare professionals received 30 hours of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through 14 Group Connections Parent Workshops.

Chester County First Steps
109 Ella Street
Chester, SC 29706
Phone: 803-385-6174
Fax: 803-385-6265

Board Chairman: Donna King

firststepscc@truvista.net

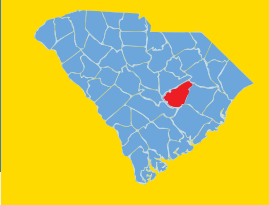
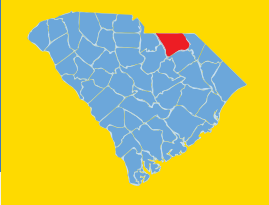
Chester County First Steps Centuria Watson Executive Director



Collaboration has been and remains a vehicle for advocacy and community engagement. It creates networks within and beyond county borders that enable parents, community leaders, and organizations to combine resources to fortify the local infrastructure for promoting school readiness. Research repeatedly tells us the window of opportunity for capitalizing on brain growth and development is before age four. Focusing on children zero to age three by imbedding quality care practices in the home and at child care services will positively impact brain development. The pathway to learning success encompasses child rearing practices in the home. The Parents As Teachers program grooms parents to be their child's most fervent advocate. This is the ground floor where equipping children with tools for learning starts. Guidance and support are provided to families during the earliest period of child rearing. Increasing the skills and knowledge of teachers in early care classrooms is critical. The need for quality child care for teen mothers and working parents is the catalyst for channeling agency resources for improving the child care workforce. The Partnership Board believes each child starting school healthy and ready to succeed requires investing in our youngest learners.



Programs Available to Chester County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Child Care Training
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Chesterfield County
Children Under Five	290,519	2,677
Children In Poverty	27.3%	37.0%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	21.9%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	22.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Chesterfield County First Steps has leveraged \$2,041,391 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.69 for every state dollar received.**
- **Incredible Years served 20 families and 52 children** making marked improvement in parenting skills during FY15.
- **65 children provided with weekend "BackPacks"** showed improvement in school attendance, attentiveness and physical appearance.
- **201 families were served** by the Blessings Resource Center with emergency food and access to a broad array of assistance services and information.

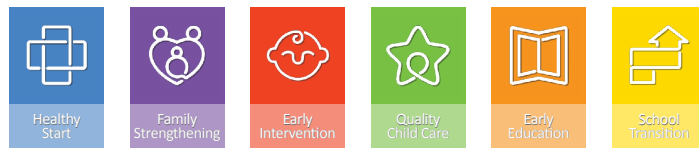
Chesterfield County First Steps
100 W. Main St.
Chesterfield, SC 29709
Phone: 843-623-5904
Fax: 843-623-5905

Board Chairman: Amelia Clontz
kmartini@chesterfieldfirststeps.org
www.chesterfieldfirststeps.org

Chesterfield County First Steps Karen Odom Executive Director



For the past five years Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) has implemented a strategic plan to evolve the Partnership into a true portal for connecting at-risk young children and their families to available health, well-being, early education, financial, employment and other family assistance services. Our vision is that through our work for children and our collaborations with our public schools, public assistance agencies, other nonprofit organizations, civic groups, the faith community and the business community; CCFS will empower a convergence of community building, family strengthening and early childhood services that will engender a new local focus on early childhood needs, resources and solutions. Hundreds of volunteers and donors have given literally hundreds of hours and thousands of private dollars to help CCFS realize this ambitious vision developed over five years. CCFS's Blessings Resource Center (BRC), a community partnership to strengthen families, is a collaboration with the faith and business communities and a multitude of individuals that has begun the convergence foreseen in our vision. BRC is the foundation of CCFS's portal to comprehensive early childhood services. BRC's positive impact is acknowledged by the community and is enabling CCFS to identify, reach and directly serve more at-risk children and their families. Chesterfield County First Steps is ascending toward its goals, uplifted by an engaged community that wants none of its children left behind.



Programs Available to Chesterfield County Families through First Steps

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Blessings in a Back Pack | Blessings Resource Center |
| Incredible Years | BabyNet |
| Imagination Library | First Steps 4K |
| Countdown to Kindergarten | |
| Week of the Young Child Celebrations | |

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	CLARENDON County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,736
Children In Poverty	27.3%	40.6%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	23.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	17.6%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Clarendon County First Steps has leveraged \$1,113,305 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.37 for every state dollar received.**
- **During FY15 impacted 278 children** through direct services, such as Parents as Teachers, Countdown to Kindergarten, and the Imagination Library.
- **93% of parents** among CTK's 46 families served reported feeling more confident in helping their children succeed in school.
- Provided **33 hours of quality training** for the local child care workforce, including several sessions on best practices in early language and literacy development.

Clarendon County First Steps
Post Office Box 426
Manning, SC 29102
Phone: 803-433-2848
Fax: 803-433-2863

Board Chairman: Tonia M. Smith
clarendonfs@ftc-i.net

Clarendon County First Steps Sharon P. Williams Executive Director

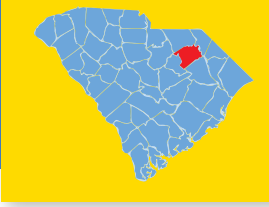
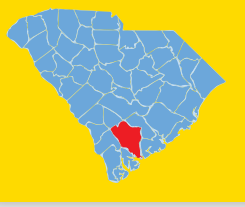


Since 1999, the Clarendon County First Steps Partnership Board has been charged with implementing quality, research-based early childhood education programming to ensure that Clarendon County's children have the best possible chance of arriving at first grade healthy and ready to succeed. We take that mission seriously, and have worked diligently to maximize the resources available to us so that we can make a positive difference in the lives of as many of our preschool children and their families as possible. We do this through partnerships with organizations throughout and outside of Clarendon County. The Partnership Board and I believe that our children are our future, and as such, we owe it to them and ourselves to "teach them well". We seek to teach them well through Parents as Teachers (PAT), the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL), Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK), and Child Care Training and Professional Development (Training). PAT helps parents to build the skills and competencies necessary to be their child's first and best teacher; the DPIL gives participant families with young children access to quality books that cover an array of themes; CTK facilitates a smooth transition for participant children from preschool to kindergarten; and training allows child care staff the opportunity to learn more about best practices in early care and education and how they can successfully implement those best practices into their work with young children and their families.



Programs Available to Clarendon County Families through First Steps

- | |
|--|
| Parents as Teachers |
| Dolly Parton's Imagination Library |
| Child Care Training and Professional Development |
| Countdown to Kindergarten |
| BabyNet |
| First Steps 4K |



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Colleton County
Children Under Five	290,519	2,266
Children In Poverty	27.3%	39.3%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	33.4%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	22.0%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Colleton County First Steps has leveraged \$1,646,171 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.56 for every state dollar received.**
- Our child care training program provided 51 early childhood staff with high quality training and 63 follow-up visits during FY15.
- **We contributed literacy materials to 156 new mothers** at the local hospital when they give birth.
- **We gave over 4000 books** to young children, particularly targeting rural areas of our county.

Colleton County First Steps
609 Colleton Loop
Walterboro, SC 29488
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Fax: 843-542-9513

Board Chairman: Juliette Green
CDickerson@SCFirststeps.org

Colleton County First Steps Cindy Dickerson Executive Director



The most significant achievements of Colleton County First Steps in the past fiscal were implementing additional home visitation programs for our at-risk children and families. These programs include Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, and Countdown to Kindergarten. We do not think it is a coincidence that since the implementation of these programs there has been reductions in both low-birth weight babies and child deaths (ages 1-4) in our county. Also, children that participated in Countdown to Kindergarten had a 90% rate of passing to first grade. We have also seen measurable improvements in the quality of child care centers. We believe this is related to the child care provider training we were able to provide from funding leveraged from outside sources. Our programs require a successful collaboration with community partners. We ask all parents and partners to join us as we launch new programs and continue programs that have proven successful outcomes. Parents enjoy the programs and materials we supply to enhance their role as their child's first teacher.



Programs Available to Colleton County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Family Strengthening/Parent Training
Countdown to Kindergarten
Nurse Family Partnership
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Darlington County
Children Under Five	290,519	3,955
Children In Poverty	27.3%	39.2%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	21.9%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	18.4%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Darlington County First Steps has leveraged \$1,891,595 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$0.44 for every state dollar received.**
- **100% of Countdown to Kindergarten parents volunteered** in their child's school and increased the amount of time they read to their children during FY15.
- Impacted nearly **700 families** through a variety of parent engagement and family literacy programs, in partnership with several organizations including Head Start, Children's Trust and the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
- Launched an innovative Parents Are First strategy, engaging **dozens of fathers** in their children's development and education.

Darlington County First Steps
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Hartsville, SC 29551
Phone: 843-857-3148
Mobile: 843-861-8866
Fax: 843-339-5928

Board Chairman: Dr. Alvin T. Heatley
www.darlingtoncountyfirststeps.org
dmcphers@scfirststeps.org

A Holistic Approach to Improving Outcomes for Children and their Families in Darlington County Darnell Byrd McPherson Executive Director

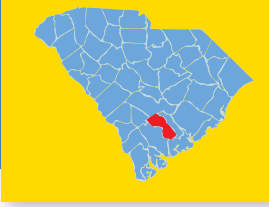
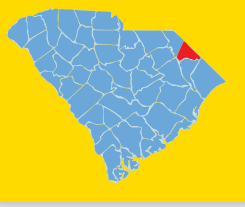


"Great events may stem from works of no importance; however, nothing great will happen if we do not make all work important."

Our partnership board believes in the importance of the two generation approach to achieving school readiness. Since its inception in 1999, Darlington County First Steps has served thousands of young children through a wide range of programs designed to prepare them for school. During this time, it has become increasingly obvious that far too many of the children served were facing almost insurmountable odds before they ever walked through the school house gate. And the stories were the same over and over again: low-income families; single parent families; young parents under the age of 25; absent fathers and sometimes absent mothers; families without a home, living with parents and grandparents; under-educated parents and high school drop-outs; and unemployment to name a few. Under the current leadership, it was decided that in order to make a real difference in the lives of these young children, Darlington County First Steps must start with the parents.



Programs Available to Darlington County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Motherread
Parent Training
Countdown to Kindergarten
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Dillon County
Children Under Five	290,519	2,207
Children In Poverty	27.3%	42.9%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	29.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	29.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Dillon County First Steps has leveraged \$882,027 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.21 for every state dollar received.**
- **During FY15 Served 37 children and their families with intensive parenting home visitation services**, averaging nearly 3 home visits per family per month in Parents as Teachers.
- **Distributed nearly 2,000 books** and 132 educational toys to children.
- Provided the evidence-based Cradling Literacy training series for child care teachers and directors, impacting teaching practices in **22 child care settings that serve more than 300 children 0-5.**

Dillon County First Steps
P.O. Box 295
Dillon, SC 29536
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Fax: 843-774-0480

Board Chairman:
Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson

dcfsteps@bellsouth.net

Dillon County First Steps Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr. Executive Director



First Steps Works for Children and Families
Dillon County First Steps (DCFS) is proud to have the opportunity to motivate, inspire, and stimulate developmental skills among our youngest citizens. DCFS will continue to build a solid foundation of knowledge in order to ensure Dillon County's children will be ready for school.

In 2014-2015, DCFS continued the Parents as Teachers (PAT) Program that serves families with prenatal through kindergarten children. DCFS's PAT program received support from a national Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) project, promoting early literacy for young children. Child Care Training and Professional Development hours continue to be offered to Dillon County Child Care Providers and surrounding counties to allow providers to fulfill their yearly DSS training hours. Providers attending at least one training session are awarded supplies for their child care. Dillon School District Four continues to support and provide office space, meeting space, utilities, and copying service for DCFS. A grant from the Dillon County United Way supports DCFS programs. A grant from SC Center for Child Care Career Development supports child care trainings. Since 2008, DCFS continues its annual community fundraiser to encourage community support and awareness. DCFS will continue to serve high quality programs and encourage community support to ensure that our children have the best possible education. By DCFS and the community working together as a team, we will build a dependable, reliable, and educated workforce.



Programs Available to Dillon County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Child Care Training
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Dorchester County
Children Under Five	290,519	9,602
Children In Poverty	27.3%	18.6%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	14.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	9.3%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Dorchester County First Steps has leveraged \$1,359,158 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.30 for every state dollar received.**
- Through the Nurse Family Partnership, we collaborated with key philanthropic and service agencies in the region to serve over 20 Dorchester County mothers, **reducing premature births and Medicaid cost during FY15.**
- **Total training attendance for our quality childcare program was over 560!**
- We created a smooth transition to kindergarten for **39 of our most at-risk "rising kindergarteners."**

Dorchester County First Steps
810 Travelers Blvd., Suite D-1
Summerville, SC 29485
Phone: 843-873-3507
Fax: 843-873-3414

Board Chairman: Jacquelyn Hill

www.dorchesterfirststeps.org
dorchesterfirststeps@gmail.com

Dorchester County First Steps Karen Hill Executive Director



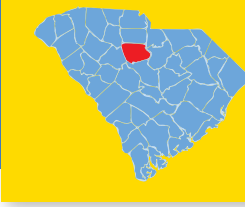
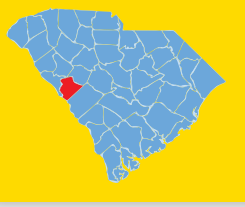
In this the 15th year of carrying out the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness mission of "Getting Children Ready for School" I am pleased, on behalf of the Dorchester County First Steps to School Readiness Board, to share some highlights of how Dorchester County First Steps has invested in the core services areas: **Early Intervention:** Acting in the role of local portal, this past year Dorchester County First Steps provided in-home screenings and connection to community-based services to over 30 families of children with suspected developmental delays in support of early identification and school readiness. **Family Strengthening:** Through public/private partnerships, this past year over 100 Dorchester County families received support to strengthen their role in preparing their children to be lifelong learners through home visits. **Quality Child Care:** Four Centers in Dorchester County have entered into the second year of Dorchester County First Steps' pilot of Quality Counts, a continuous quality improvement initiative. Through this initiative we are dedicated to improving and communicating quality in early childhood programs in Dorchester County. **School Transition:** One of the four Countdown to Kindergarten teachers believes so strongly in the program and the difference it makes that she has provided home visits each summer since the program's inception, a total of 11 years.



Programs Available to Dorchester County Families through First Steps

Nurse Family Partnership
Early Identification & Referral
Parents as Teachers
Parent-Child Home
Early Literacy
Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Edgefield County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,175
Children In Poverty	27.3%	27.1%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	17.7%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	20.1%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

• Since inception, Edgefield County First Steps has leveraged \$1,473,013 from sources outside of state government. That's \$.61 for every state dollar received.

• During FY15 served **30 first-time, low-income mothers** in our Nurse-Family Partnership program.

• The 14 adults served in our Family Literacy program gained on average 2.75 grade levels in reading and/or math, and **91% demonstrated growth** in supporting their children's learning.

• Provided 40 hours of quality training in partnership with Saluda County First Steps, **impacting 82 early childhood staff.**

Edgefield County First Steps
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Edgefield, SC 29824
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Fax: 803-275-0800

Board Chairman: Bridget Clark
edgefieldcountyf@bellsouth.net

Edgefield County – A Strong Community Working Together for the Education of Young Children and Their Families

Candi Lalonde
Executive Director



A successful program is only as strong as its weakest link. Fortunately for Edgefield County First Steps, there are no weak links. The strong partnerships and collaborations that have been built and nurtured in the past 14 years have allowed Edgefield County First Steps to maximize resources we would not have otherwise. The Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce so graciously provides our office space and training room. The Edgefield County School District provides space and utilities for the Family Literacy program, as well as in kind supervision of this program. Carolina Health Centers, Inc. provides in kind support for our Nurse Family Partnership program in the forms of training, travel, and supervisory costs. There are more than 50 generous businesses, organizations, and individual citizens of Edgefield County who give cash donations so children can receive books in our Imagination Library program. I want to personally thank the program staff members who work with these children and families daily, as they are truly assisting these families with changing their lives for the better. Many thanks also go to our legislators, agencies, businesses, and community advocates, both on and off our Board, who show their commitment to Edgefield County First Steps every day. Our successes are yours to celebrate as well.



Programs Available to Edgefield County Families through First Steps

- Family Literacy
- Imagination Library
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Training
- Child Care Scholarships
- BabyNet
- First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Fairfield County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,132
Children In Poverty	27.3%	34.8%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	27.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	16.4%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Since inception, Fairfield County First Steps has leveraged \$1,054,696 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.42 for every state dollar received.**

• Among the 11 families participating in Parents as Teachers, **parents made significant gains in their parenting skills**, particularly the use of descriptive talking, improved literacy skills, and increased parent/child interaction during FY15.

• Re-established the partnership's Quality Enhancement program to assist the county's two new child care centers develop quality early care and education practices. **Provided \$2500 in materials grants, 55 hours of technical assistance, and tuition support for 11 children.**

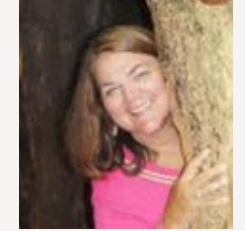
• Among the 42 children that participated in Countdown to Kindergarten, kindergarten **teachers reported better academic performance, behavior and parent involvement** among CTK children as compared to other children in their classrooms.

Fairfield County First Steps
P.O. Box 215
Winnsboro, SC 29180
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Fax: 803-635-6873

Board Chairman: Connie Pete
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Our Children Are Our Community

Patti Wilkes
Executive Director

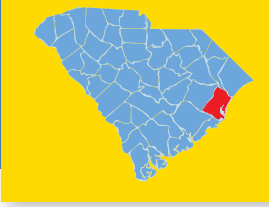
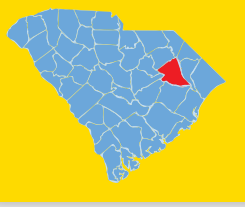


As I reflect on the 2014-2015 year of Fairfield County First Steps, I am pleased with the changes I see. Growth can be found in our office, in our families, and in our community. As we started 2014-15, Fairfield County was without any child care centers. At the time of this writing, we now have one center that has already obtained their Level B rating, while another new facility is working towards that level. Reliable, quality child care is vital in order to have a reliable workforce in our community. This year, we decided to try the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program with our local child development classes. We were very pleased to start this program with seven classes, representing four different elementary schools. As a United Way designated agency, we were able to use United Way funds to purchase books for the classrooms. Our continuing programs - Countdown to Kindergarten, Imagination Library, Parents as Teachers, and Child Care Tuition Assistance - continue to be successful. We also continue to assess children who may have delays through our Early Identification & Referral program. We can see that our community is becoming a community of learners. Whether it is learning to work better with others, learning to read, or simply learning to put one foot in front of the other, we are making positive progress.



Programs Available to Fairfield County Families through First Steps

- Parents as Teachers
- Imagination Library
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Child Care Scholarships
- Early Identification and Referral
- Car Seats
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- BabyNet



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Florence County
Children Under Five	290,519	9,027
Children In Poverty	27.3%	28.7%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	24.8%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	14.4%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Florence County First Steps has leveraged \$2,073,475 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.24 for every state dollar received.**
- During FY15 provided 48 children with scholarships for child care so their parents could work or attend school.
- Offered 32.5 hours of certified training for our child care providers with over 250 in attendance.
- Served 42 families who received a total of 2,087 home visits in our 'Parent Child Home' program.
- SCDSS also awarded FCFS a \$100,346 grant to enhance family & group childcare facilities and create the Florence/Marion Childcare Network Association.

Horry County First Steps
415 S. Coit Street
Florence, SC 29501
Phone: 843-629-0202
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Board Chairman: Ivey N. Staley
scott2omega@hotmail.com

Florence County First Steps Spencer Scott Executive Director



When we think of the future of our communities' children, we are aware of the essential need to continuously promote healthy child development through child care scholarship opportunities, quality child care, and home visitation programs for at-risk families.

In the past fiscal year, we continued to aspire to nurture and promote the future of as many children as possible. Through our partnership with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), we awarded child care scholarships to at-risk children. SCDSS also awarded Florence county First Steps a \$100,346 grant to enhance family and group childcare facilities and create the Florence/Marion Childcare Network Association. In addition, we maintained our successful partnerships with Florence County School Districts #1, #4, and #5 by expanding our home visitation program. Florence County First Steps remains committed to quality child care, and we supported child care training and enhancement for returning and newly enrolled child care centers.

By implementing these initiatives, we're helping our young children to succeed and our community to flourish.



Programs Available to Florence County Families through First Steps
Parent Child Home
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Georgetown County
Children Under Five	290,519	2,979
Children In Poverty	27.3%	37.9%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	20.9%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	14.9%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Georgetown County First Steps has leveraged \$3,177,812 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.68 for every state dollar received.**
- Reached 511 children with our Early Literacy Program during FY15.
- Screened 55 children for developmental delays and referred to services as needed.
- Trained 70 child care providers

Georgetown County First Steps
P.O. Box 531
Georgetown, SC 29442
Phone: 843-520-1830
Fax: 843-520-1851

Board Chairman: Patricia Canada
cdaly4581@yahoo.com

www.georgetowncountfirststeps.weebly.com

Georgetown First Steps Carol Daly Executive Director

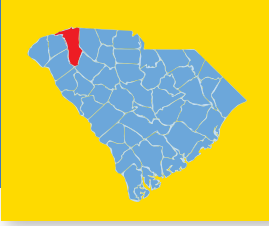


A good teacher can make or break a child's day and ultimately impact their future. Educators are expected to deal with all of the baggage children bring from their homes into learning settings. I continue to be impressed with our outstanding public and private pre-school teachers. They have overloaded plates and are minimally recognized for their efforts. As administrators, it is our responsibility to provide positive experiences to promote teachers and their efforts toward getting children ready for school.

We are on a winning track for our babies, toddlers, and preschoolers and making a difference.



Programs Available to Georgetown County Families through First Steps
Early Identification Resource & Referral Program
(Includes group parenting & Hispanic Outreach)
Early Identification Scholarship Program
Early Literacy (Storyteller and Training Program)
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Greenville County
Children Under Five	290,519	31,059
Children In Poverty	27.3%	24.5%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	16.7%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	16.1%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

•Since inception, Greenville County First Steps has leveraged \$10,102,599 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.54 for every state dollar received.**

•Over 250 vulnerable first-time moms and their babies received evidence-based services through the Nurse Family Partnership during FY15.

•Read Greenville, our community literacy project, helped to convene 20 community partners including schools, churches, and community organizations to engage over 20,000 households about the importance of reading daily. (www.ReadGreenville.com)

•Greenville First Steps Operations Director, **Leslie Latimer, was honored** with the Time for Children Award at the annual Greenville County Childcare Association Conference.

Greenville County First Steps
24 Cleveland St.
Greenville, SC 29601
Phone: 864-239-3720
Fax: 864-282-8509

Board Chairman: Keith Frazier

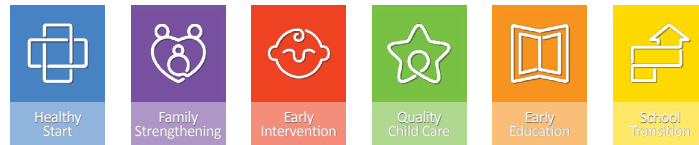
derek@greenvillefirststeps.org
www.greenvillefirststeps.org
www.readgreenville.com

I Love Story Time! Derek Lewis Executive Director



My four-year old son William and I have been reading Shel Silverstein's Where the Sidewalk Ends a lot recently. Sometimes I think though that he doesn't get it. He laughs when I laugh, or when he sees a funny picture. But sometimes he surprises me. Last week, out of the blue he asked, How big of a rock do you think Joey needed? I was confused until I remembered the poem: Joey/Joey/Took a stone/and knocked down the sun. William explained, The sun is pretty far, so I bet he needed to be extra strong or the stone had to be easy to throw. I bet he's right. There is a lot of emphasis on reading these days. I know parents who are skeptical. Do kids really need to be read to EVERY night? The answer is EVERYONE should read EVERY DAY. Not just to learn more words or master a skill, but because reading helps us imagine. It would never have occurred to William to think about the sun or the physics of rock throwing without Shel Silverstein's suggestion.

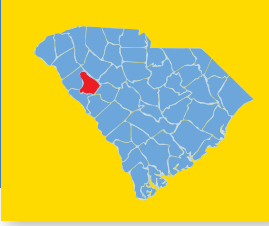
Nothing is more measurably linked to early achievement than exposure to books. So I challenge parents to pick one of their favorite books and READ. It is a superpower everyone can possess.



Programs Available to Greenville County

Families through First Steps

- Family Literacy
- Imagination Library
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Training
- Child Care Scholarships
- BabyNet
- First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Greenwood County
Children Under Five	290,519	4,413
Children In Poverty	27.3%	34.7%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	25.4%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	20.9%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

•Since inception, Greenwood County First Steps has leveraged \$1,407,431 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.37 for every state dollar received.**

•During FY15 served more than 254 families through Parents as Teachers and Fatherhood programs.

•Made connections for all 184 Fatherhood families to services such as adult education, employment, housing and utility assistance, and budgeting/financial management assistance.

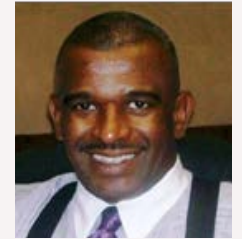
•Parents as Teachers home visitors identified 10 potential developmental delays among children served, through 678 home visits serving 45 children.

Greenwood County First Steps
1402C Highway 72 West
Greenwood, SC 29649
Phone: 864-388-4102
Fax: 864-388-4103

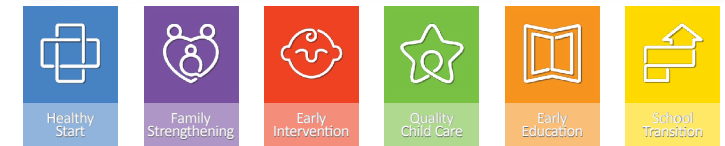
Board Chairman: Lillian Thomas

gnwdfirststeps@embarqmail.com
www.gcfirststeps.org

First Steps Works for the Children, Parents and Taxpayers of South Carolina Michael K. Gaskin Executive Director

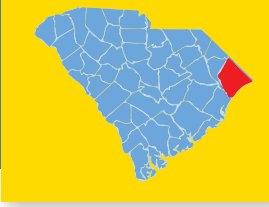
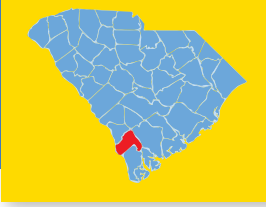


Greenwood County First Steps uses an innovative and creative approach to ensure every dollar received by the County Partnership is used to its maximum potential. Getting children ready to learn is an engagement that requires every agency within this County to understand the importance of being not just stakeholders, but passionate, dedicated, and committed stakeholders. The Greenwood County First Steps Partnership Board makes "high quality" the key word to determine why a program should continue to receive First Steps' funding. The service quality of Greenwood County First Steps' programs grew tremendously with the addition of great local and state partnerships. The Department of Social Services, Guardian Ad Litem Programs, and the local court systems are also great partners, to reach the most at risk children in the community and assist with preventing child abuse and neglect. Lander University's Education Department is another great partner. Greenwood and Abbeville County First Steps offer two Early Childhood Conferences a year at Lander University. Professors in the Education Department teach the classes as a part of their community outreach, and students assist as room monitors and with registration. We were able to provide 49 certified child care trainings to 59 facilities with 243 staff members, serving more than 3,200 children. Through these successful partnerships, Greenwood County First Steps offers children and families comprehensive services for school success.



Programs Available to Greenwood County Families through First Steps

- Parents as Teachers
- Child Care Training
- Fatherhood Initiative "Real Fathers are Dads"
- BabyNet
- First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Hampton County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,172
Children In Poverty	27.3%	36.9%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	24.9%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	17.7%

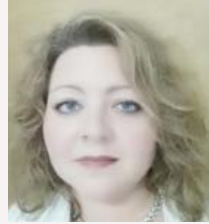
KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Hampton County First Steps has leveraged \$741,923 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.24 for every state dollar received.**
- During FY15 27 developmental screenings and 30 hearing screenings were conducted to identify possible learning problems. Follow up included linking families with appropriate services.
- Our scholarship program provided 20 child care scholarships so parents could work or attend school.
- Our home visitor completed over 300 home visits to at-risk families for parenting education and support.

Hampton County First Steps
301 First Street East
Hampton, SC 29924
Phone: 803-943-7127
Fax: 888-632-4955

Board Chairman: Shellie Ackerman
hampton1steps@gmail.com

Hampton County First Steps Leslie Terry Executive Director



Hampton County First Steps helps young children prepare for school through programs that provide early intervention, strengthen families, improve children's health and well-being, and increase the quality of early care and education. Since its inception, Hampton County First Steps has had many proud moments. Our work with Early Identification and Referral has resulted in children obtaining developmental screenings and then being connected to appropriate community resources. This program has filled a service gap in increasing the number of young children who are prepared for school success. In addition, we have been able to provide home visitation programs and child care scholarship opportunities to the most at-risk children in our community. Hampton County First Steps has also been a part of a successful collaboration to enhance child care providers' knowledge about the importance of the relationship parents have with child care providers. This curriculum presents knowledge, understanding, and skills relating to the prevention of child abuse in families with very young children. We continue to strive to do all we can to have a positive impact on the healthy development of our most at-risk young children and their families.



Programs Available to Hampton County Families through First Steps

Parents as Teachers
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
Early Identification and Referral
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Horry County
Children Under Five	290,519	15,531
Children In Poverty	27.3%	31.3%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	16.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	16.9%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Horry County First Steps has leveraged \$4,670,187 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.58 for every state dollar received.**
- Parents as Teachers home visitors identified 35 potential developmental delays among 66 children served, **through 579 home visits during FY15.**
- Served 10 child care providers with **519 hours of on-site technical assistance** and up to \$5,000 per facility in materials funding.
- Provided tuition assistance for 32 children to attend quality child care.

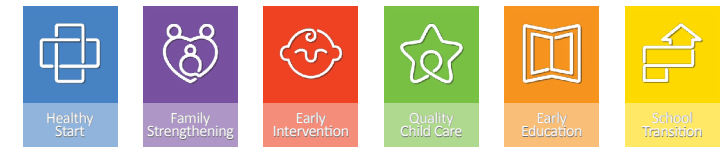
Horry County First Steps
900-C Main Street
Conway, SC 29526
Phone: 843-488-3336
Fax: 843-236-5518

Board Chairman: Bradley Todd
abreault@sccoast.net

Exciting Changes on Behalf of Children and Families! Amy Breault Executive Director

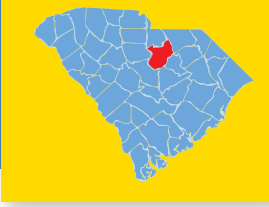
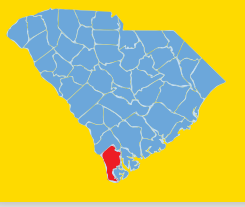


At the beginning of July 2014, HCFS moved into our new offices in Conway. What a great way to start off this fiscal year – new space, new energy, new legislation, and renewed focus on supporting our families and providers in Horry County. With our funding from the Office of First Steps and the help of community partners, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of SC and the Bunnelle Foundation, during fiscal year 2014-2015 Horry County First Steps was able to serve a record number of children and families. As exciting as this is, there are still more children being added to programs' waiting lists daily. Currently, Horry County First Steps operates with less than an 8% administrative cost. As we move forward into the next fiscal year, we will continue to look for ways to streamline these costs, thus allowing us to bring as many children as possible into quality early care and educational programs which help Horry County children become strong and successful in learning and in life. Horry County First Steps has continued to be a valuable resource to our partner First Steps agencies across the state, sharing our knowledge in technology, as well as serving as School Readiness and Family Strengthening program subject matter experts. These are exciting times at Horry County First Steps!



Programs Available to Horry County Families through First Steps

Parents as Teachers
Nurse-Family Partnership
Facility Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Jasper County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,623
Children In Poverty	27.3%	40.3%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	49.0%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	24.8%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Jasper County First Steps has leveraged \$990,151 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.37 for every state dollar received.**
- **Home visitors completed close to 200 home visits** to at-risk families for parenting education and support during FY15.
- Close to **400 young children received over 3000 books** from Jasper County First Steps.
- We created a smooth transition to kindergarten for **30 of our most at-risk "rising kindergarteners."**

Jasper County First Steps
PO Box 776
Ridgeland, SC 29936
Phone: 843-726-5100
Fax: 843-726-520

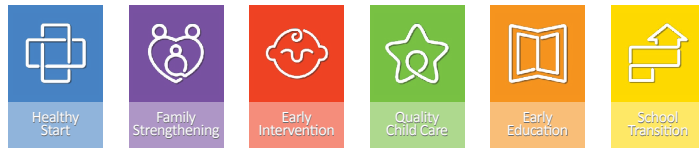
Board Chairman: Deloris Dunham

dpolite@scfirststeps.org
www.jaspercountyfirststeps.org

Jasper County First Steps Duchett Polite Executive Director



"Getting children ready for school" is more than a slogan. It's a mission, a call to action, a charge to do our part to equip students entering kindergarten with the skills and experiences needed to succeed in school. Readiness matters for our children—The ready child is one who enters kindergarten with the social, emotional, cognitive and motor skills needed to succeed. Jasper County First Steps knows that, when a child has a strong start, he/she can finish strong. Readiness matters for our parents—A child's first and most important learning experiences take place in the home. Jasper County First Steps supports, encourages, and educates parents to be their child's first teacher. Readiness matters for our schools—When our children enter public schools, they are now administered a readiness assessment that gives educators a starting glimpse of a child's prior knowledge, both hard and soft skills. Jasper County First Steps works closely with our child care providers to ensure early educational experiences complement the expectations of the school district for a ready student and a ready graduate. Readiness matters for our community—Today's children will be tomorrow's adults. Our efforts today will be reflected in a ready workforce tomorrow. Our mission is clear: to prepare young learners to become future leaders.



Programs Available to Jasper County Families through First Steps

- Parents as Teachers
- Imagination Library
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Training
- Early Identification & Referral
- BabyNet
- First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Kershaw County
Children Under Five	290,519	3,739
Children In Poverty	27.3%	25.8%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	21.0%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	15.0%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Kershaw County First Steps has leveraged \$1,438,980 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.45 for every state dollar received.**
- **During FY15 provided 114.5 hours of technical assistance** to 6 child care centers impacting 186 children.
- **Served 21 children in home visiting program (PAT)** including making 26 connections to additional services.
- Conducted developmental and hearing screenings, **referring 7 children to services** after need was indicated.

Kershaw County First Steps
110 E. DeKalb St.
Camden, SC 29021
Phone: 803-432-7756
Fax: 803-432-7756

Board Chairman: Charlene Hayward

kjfirststeps@att.net
www.kershawfirststeps.org

Kershaw County First Steps Kimberley Jordan Executive Director

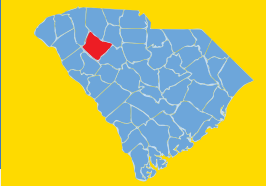
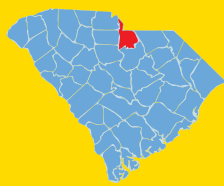


Helping children develop a greater sense of self, respect for others and a lifelong love of learning are the guiding principles of our work with preschoolers. Throughout its 15 years, Kershaw County First Steps has responded to the changing needs of our most vulnerable children by working towards developing and implementing effective strategies and programs that prepare them to achieve academic excellence, emotional health and well-being, and the ability to become productive members of society. Through our programs, we have worked to ensure that young children, birth through five years, have support to learn social and cognitive skills to achieve and maintain a high level of success. Since the inception of Kershaw County First Steps, our commitment to the youngest children remains unwavering and our resolve to prepare them to become successful in life by giving them a strong foundation remains firm. Looking toward the future, we will continue to support parents as they assume an active role in the educational wellbeing of their children, provide teachers and educators with necessary tools to impart knowledge and receive professional development to better address the issues of both child and family; and nurture each child with the time, attention, resources, and dedication that will prepare them for success—in school, in a career, and in life.



Programs Available to Kershaw County Families through First Steps

- Parents as Teachers
- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Early Identification and Referral
- BabyNet
- First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Lancaster County
Children Under Five	290,519	5,018
Children In Poverty	27.3%	29.2%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	20.8%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	17.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

• Since inception, Lancaster County First Steps has leveraged \$4,344,678 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$1.07 for every state dollar received.**

• In April 2015, we were **awarded approximately \$6M to implement an Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership**, federally -funded community-based program for low-income families with infants and toddlers.

• The Springs Close Foundation **provided funds to serve 210 children** with the Weekend Backpack Program at Clinton Elementary School during FY15.

• Our collaborative efforts with the Springs Close Foundation and United Way resulted in our ability to serve 101 Countdown to Kindergarten children. **100% of teachers that participated reported stronger relationships** with the children and families they served

Lancaster County First Steps
121 South Wylie Street
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: 803-286-8000
Fax: 803-286-8061

Board Chairman: Brian Bass
lc1ststeps@comporium.net
www.lancastercountyfirststeps.org

Lancaster County First Steps

Lora P. Bryson Executive Director



From the day they are born, children are learning. Their early experiences are critical to their long-term development. Yet studies show that children living in poverty can be a full academic year behind their peers when they enter kindergarten—a gap that grows wider as school progresses.

Excellent early education can change that, making the earliest and longest-lasting impact on a child's life. At Lancaster County First Steps, we provide excellent early education opportunities that offer a continuum of comprehensive programs, services and initiatives so that children and families thrive.

Lancaster County First Steps serves as a local portal, connecting families of preschool children to community-based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children. We act as a community convener serving the needs of preschool children and their families; a county-wide needs assessment is conducted every 3 years to assure that our goals are meeting the needs of the most at-risk families in Lancaster County.



Programs Available to Lancaster County Families through First Steps

Child Care Training
Countdown to Kindergarten
Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Program
Early Identification & Referral
Full Day 4-K
Imagination Library

Incredible Years Parenting
Step By Step Resource Center
Weekend Backpack Feeding Program
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Laurens County
Children Under Five	290,519	3911
Children In Poverty	27.3%	35.1%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	28.7%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	23.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

• Since inception, Laurens County First Steps has leveraged \$2,318,518 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.52 for every state dollar received.**

• Our home visitation staff made over **400 home visits** to some of our most vulnerable families during FY15.

• Total training attendance for our quality childcare training program was over 300!

• We served 18 children and their families with **Child Care Scholarships** at 3 centers.

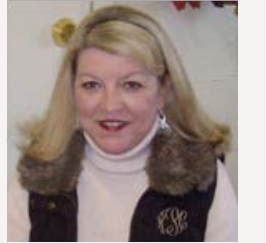
Laurens County First Steps
1029 W. Main St.
Laurens, SC 29360
Phone: 864-984-8130
Fax: 864-984-8131

Board Chairman: Linda S. Wessel

rpatterson@laurens55.org

Sometimes Change is Desired

Rosemary Patterson Executive Director

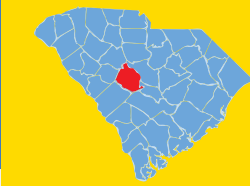
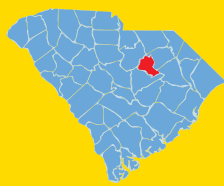


Sometimes change is desired; sometimes change is required. It can be a means to move forward and improve programs. It can be a means to eliminate strategies that are not working to the full potential. In FY15, Laurens County First Steps experienced some major changes. In June 2014, we learned that one of our experienced Parent Educators had decided to return to teaching in the public schools. This was a great loss for our county partnership but a great addition for the school district. In September 2014, one of our partners decided to discontinue a family literacy program. The following month, we were forced to suspend our quality enhancement program for child care providers because of the sudden and unexpected retirement of the director. These changes occurred swiftly and suddenly, but thanks to the remaining Laurens County First Steps staff, a supportive local Board of Directors, a supportive state office staff, and our continued partnership and collaboration with the local school district, we have been able to move forward and make improvements. These changes have not altered our mission to serve the most at risk families of Laurens County; these changes have strengthened our resolve to serve.



Programs Available to Laurens County Families through First Steps

Parents as Teachers
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
Family Literacy
Baby Net
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Lee County
Children Under Five	290,519	903
Children In Poverty	27.3%	44.2%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	48.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	19.4%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Lee County First Steps has leveraged \$2,437,683 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.62 for every state dollar received.**
- **30 hours of training provided** for child care staff to meet annual re-certification requirements during FY15.
- **58 children served in home visiting programs** to improve parenting skills. (PAT, Early Steps, CTK)
- **Provided 16 children with scholarships** so their parents could work or attend school and 182 hours of training for these parents in child development and parenting skills.

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Bishopville, SC 29010
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Fax: 803-483-0142

Board Chairman: Andrew Moses
alexis.pipkins@aol.com

Lee County First Steps Program Elder Alexis D. Pipkins, Sr. Executive Director



FY 15 proved to be a rewarding year for Lee County First Steps (LCFS) with the continuation of existing partnership opportunities. LCFS has continued to provide support for child care scholarships and training and professional development for both early care professionals and parents. Also, Lee County continues to implement home visiting parenting programs (Parents as Teachers and Early Steps to School Success). Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is the summer transition program the partnership has implemented to provide transitional services for students who have been referred by local partners. Lee County First Steps also continued receiving funding from the SC Children's Trust to implement the Strengthening Families Program serving 50 families. The value-add which LCFS continues to have is that we serve as a visible advocate for our children and parents. Although local resources are limited, LCFS is passionate about its commitment to help children and their families by strengthening collaboration efforts with the Lee County School District, Head Start, private child care, and other partners in the local and regional community. We have maintained a focus on parenting, home visiting, child care quality with limited scholarships, child care training, and school readiness.



Programs Available to Lee County Families through First Steps
Early Steps to School Success (Save The Children)
Parents as Teachers
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
Strengthening Families Program
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Lexington County
Children Under Five	290,519	17,025
Children In Poverty	27.3%	18.8%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	18.4%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	14.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Lexington County First Steps has leveraged \$6,646,406 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.64 for every state dollar received.**
- During FY15 implemented the largest Countdown to Kindergarten program in the state, with **213 children served from 21 schools with 43 teachers.** According to Lexington County 5K teachers, 82% felt CTK children outperformed their fellow students and 87.5% had greater parent involvement.
- **Served 134 children** in Parents as Teachers, making gains in parenting skills and interactive literacy skills. Averaged nearly 20 home visits per family in 2014-15.
- **Supported 146 early childhood staff** with 11 sessions of quality training.

Lexington County First Steps
101 West Columbia Avenue
Batesburg, SC 29006
Phone: 803-532-6861
Fax: 803-532-6497

Board Chairman: Jennifer Felkel
jriddle@lex3.k12.sc.us
www.lexingtoncountyfirststeps.org

Lexington County First Steps Program James H. Riddle, Jr. Executive Director

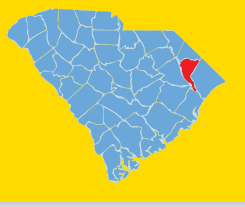


Since 2001, Lexington County First Steps has been defined as filling gaps, enhancing and enlarging services and serving the most at-risk children through the collective wisdom of collaborations and partnerships across Lexington County. Parents as Teachers (PAT), is an evidenced-based home visitation model used by Lexington County since inception of First Steps. It is the flagship of our county services and is the largest PAT program in South Carolina partnering with each of the five school districts' Parent Centers. Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), also an evidenced based home visitation model, is offered through collaboration with Richland County. DHEC is the implementing agency serving 100 first-time low-income mothers in the two-county area, with 34 clients from Lexington County. Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK), an in-home summer visitation program serves as transition for children entering 5K who often have had little, if any, prior preschool experience. Lexington County has the largest CTK program in South Carolina. New Moms Hospital Bags are distributed at Lexington Medical Center and reflect a community effort of 100% of all materials and labor from partnering agencies. Child Care Quality Enhancement Grants were awarded to two Centers in Lexington County with monitoring provided by a credentialed Technical Assistant and grants for equipment and supplies. Child Care Provider Training continues to be a hallmark service coordinating with Midlands TEC (MTC), Childcare Resource & Referral (CCR&R) and the Center for Child Care Career Development (CCCCD). With minimal hourly rates, this service continues to be financially self-supporting.



Programs Available to Lexington County Families through First Steps

Parents as Teachers
Nurse Family Partnership
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
New Moms Hospital Bags
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Marion County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,963
Children In Poverty	27.3%	53.5%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	37.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	19.1%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Marion County First Steps has leveraged \$660,317 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.17 for every state dollar received.**
- **We provided almost 100 visits** to participating child care centers to provide technical assistance during FY15.
- Our scholarship program **provided over 30 child care scholarships** so parents could work or attend school.
- Total training attendance for our quality childcare training program was **over 150.**

Marion County First Steps
415 South Coit St.
Florence, SC 29501
Phone: 843-250-0234
Fax: 843-629-0054

Board Chairman: Victoria Belin
scott2omega@hotmail.com

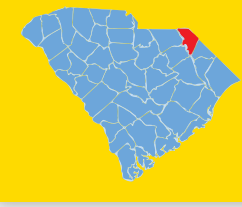
Marion County First Steps Spencer Scott Executive Director



During FY 15, Marion County First Steps, under the direction of Spencer R. Scott and the advisement of its Board of Directors, implemented programs deemed the most beneficial to young at-risk children, their families, and the childcare providers that serve the Marion County community. Toward that end, child care facility quality enhancement, child care training and child care scholarships were the programs implemented this year. Maintaining vital partnerships with our community collaborators remained key to the success of Marion County First Steps, and we are proud and appreciative of their support. We are particularly grateful for our collaborations with child care providers, knowledgeable instructors, the Department of Social Services, and local churches and businesses. FY15 was the first year Marion County First Steps recognized a childcare provider who goes the extra mile to educate young children. We congratulate Ms. Diane Raeford, childcare provider at Troy Johnson Learning Korner! Her good work, along with that of other great teachers in Marion County, will have a positive impact on shaping the future of Marion County's greatest and most precious resource—our children.



Programs Available to Marion County Families through First Steps
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Marlboro County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,498
Children In Poverty	27.3%	40.8%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	36.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	29.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Marlboro County First Steps has leveraged \$782,332 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.28 for every state dollar received.**
- Home visitors completed close to **400 home visits** to at-risk families for parenting education and support during FY15.
- **Total training attendance for our child care training programs was 35.** This included some follow-up sessions to reinforce and apply learning.
- We identified and addressed suspected developmental delays for young children enrolled in our child care scholarship program.

Marlboro County First Steps
P.O. Box 249
Bennettsville, SC 29521
Phone: 843-479-4200
Fax: 843-479-4227

Board Chairman: Margaret Quick
randalljohnson1970@gmail.com

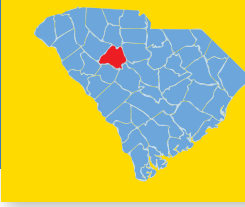
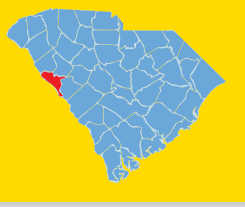


Programs Available to Marlboro County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

Marlboro County First Steps Randall Johnson Executive Director



The Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to be a quality contributor to the Marlboro community, particularly with childcare and parenting for our most at-risk young children and their families. We continue to be the lead county agency that works to improve the quality of childcare facilities throughout the community. Marlboro County First Steps improves the quality of services for children 0-5 and their families through home visitation programs and with child care scholarships. Through our collaborative efforts, we have been able to leverage resources for children and families through public-private partnerships. We are especially proud of our long term collaboration with the Marlboro County School District. Besides housing the Marlboro County First Steps office, the school district works with us on a family literacy program for our families enrolled in our home visitation program. In addition, we have productive relationships with the Marian Wright Edelman Public Library, Marlboro County Adult Education and the Magic Johnson Empowerment Center.



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	McCormick County
Children Under Five	290,519	312
Children In Poverty	27.3%	37.8%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	16.7%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	12.6%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, McCormick County First Steps has leveraged \$2,045,130 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.82 for every state dollar received.**
- Despite having the lowest population of any county in South Carolina, low income, **first-time mothers in McCormick have access to the evidence-based Nurse Family Partnership program through McCormick First Steps**, Carolina Health Centers and MIEC-HV funding from the Children's Trust during FY15.
- A unique partnership with the school district **provided 33 at-risk infants and toddlers with quality early care and education**, as evidenced by high performance on the Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS).
- Programs such as Parents as Teachers, Reach Out and Read and Library Based Literacy **increased literacy skills of more than 100 young children** as measured by the Adult-Child Interactive Reading Inventory, Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test and others. More than 2,400 books were distributed to children, Head Start, and child care centers in 2014-15.

Total Children Served in FY15: 258

McCormick County First Steps
615-C Clayton Street
McCormick, SC 29835
Phone: 864-852-9018 Fax: 864-852-9019

Board Chairman: Pamela Turman

firststepsmc@wctel.net

We Focus on Early Literacy in McCormick County

Ruth Detrick
Executive Director



We have a strong focus on early literacy in our programs and in our community. One program that is helping us prepare our children for school success is 1000 Books before Kindergarten. Partnering with McCormick School District, Head Start and the Public Library our children are getting hundreds of books read to them in the classroom, the child care center, the library and at home. At our Roll & Read event parents and children walking, on bikes and in strollers participated in a 1 mile walk with 3 reading stops along the way. In addition, this past summer we held a First Steps Summer Camp for toddlers ages 1 to 3. The children enjoyed stories, activities and songs. At these events all children received books. We convened a group of Early Childhood Agencies/Organizations and individuals interested in the well-being and success of McCormick's preschool children. We discussed the need to improve literacy and to mobilize the community to provide solutions and services for McCormick's youngest children. Participants at the meeting generated wonderful ideas, many of which are being implemented this coming year.



Programs Available to McCormick County Families through First Steps

- Parents as Teachers
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Child Care Scholarships
- Library Literacy
- Other Family Literacy—Reach Out and Read
- Early Education for Children Under 4
- BabyNet

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Newberry County
Children Under Five	290,519	2,200
Children In Poverty	27.3%	28.4%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	30.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	20.6%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Newberry County First Steps has leveraged \$976,504 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.36 for every state dollar received.**
- Through our **intensive home visitation program for at-risk families**, we exposed as many as four generations to spending quality time together through family sessions/screening during FY15.
- We served over 600 children in our library-based literacy program, giving **children close to 5000 books.**
- Total training attendance for our quality childcare training program was over 700!

Newberry County First Steps
540 Brantley Street
Newberry, SC 29108
Phone: 803-321-1073
Fax: 803-321-1069

Board Chairman: Elizabeth Bozard

pcaldwell@newberry.k12.sc.us
www.newberryfirststeps.com

Newberry County First Steps

Pat Caldwell
Executive Director

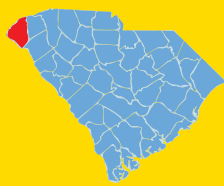


Newberry County First Steps continues to make a significant impact on the lives of children and their families in the county. Families have always been the most important influence in a child's life. Children depend on their families for material needs, stimulation, and guidance. However, low income makes it difficult for many families to provide the material and environmental enrichment necessary for healthy child development. In 2014-15, Newberry County First Steps leveraged over 42% from our sources outside of state government. In addition, there is evidence of improvement in all of our strategies: 1) our nationally recognized home visitation program, Parents as Teachers, 2) our Library-based Program, 3) Countdown to Kindergarten, and 4) Child Care Quality Enhancement/Training for our local child care centers. We are excited to partner with other county partnerships to maximize our resources and are proud of our First Steps 4K programs in support of families. Newberry County First Steps will continue to work with our community-- volunteers, the school district, Head Start, retired teachers, child care providers, and city and county officials--as we focus on assuring that all children are healthy and ready to succeed in school.



Programs Available to Newberry County Families through First Steps

- Parents as Teachers
- Library-Based Program
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Child Care Training
- BabyNet
- First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Oconee County
Children Under Five	290,519	4,051
Children In Poverty	27.3%	27.7%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	19.6%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	16.0%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Oconee County First Steps has leveraged \$3,451,436 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$1.11 for every state dollar received.**
- During FY15 our intensive home visitation program resulted in significant improvements in parent skills related to positive interactions with their children.
- Total attendance for our child care training programs was over 400. This included follow-up sessions to reinforce and apply learning.
- We identified and addressed suspected developmental delays for young children enrolled in our programs.

Oconee County First Steps
409 East North First Street, St. C
Seneca, SC 29678
Phone: 864-985-4357
Fax: 864-882-3236

Board Chairman: Sandra W. Pruitt
dunnamsmith@nctv.com

OCFS Works for Our Children, Parents and Taxpayers

Marie M. Dunnam
Executive Director



Oconee County First Steps and its partners continue to work diligently toward fulfilling our Vision Statement: All children in Oconee County will have the care they need to grow and develop to their full potential. We have an energetic and engaged board that completes a countywide needs assessment every three years and then reaches out to partners to assist in addressing the identified needs. Through this process, we take stock of assets and gaps in services and then come together to decide on best practice strategies that meet our needs. For FY 14-15, we chose the following strategies, all provided through various collaborative partnerships: 1) Principles of Parenting Successfully, a long-term holistic in-home parenting education program, 2) Free high-quality early education training for staff working in child care centers and group and family care homes, 3) Child Care Scholarship Program provided through contracts with licensed quality childcare centers, 4) Countdown to Kindergarten, a school transition program for at risk children, and 5) Nurse-Family Partnership, an evidence-based, home visitation program for first time pregnant women. These programs were not implemented in silos but instead capitalized on relationships and resources with our partners: Department of Social Services, Resource and Referral Network, Heath's Haven, United Way of Oconee County, Greenville County First Steps, and Greenville County Health Care System.



Programs Available to Oconee County Families through First Steps

Parenting Education
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
Countdown to Kindergarten
Nurse-Family Partnership
Collaboration
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Orangeburg County
Children Under Five	290,519	5,670
Children In Poverty	27.3%	38.3%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	38.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	19.0%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Orangeburg County First Steps has leveraged \$1,470,350 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.26 for every state dollar received.**
- Our home visitation staff made close to 1000 home visits to some of our most vulnerable families during FY15.
- We gave over 2000 books to young children, particularly targeting our most at-risk families.
- Our intensive child care quality enhancement program resulted in improved staff interactions with children for the participating centers.

Orangeburg County First Steps
350 Thomas Eklund Circle
Orangeburg, SC
29115
Phone: 803-533-6444
Fax: 803-533-6471

Board Chairman: Matthew Henderson

lsanders@scfirststeps.org
www.orangeburgfirststeps.org

Orangeburg County First Steps

LaMyra Sanders
Executive Director



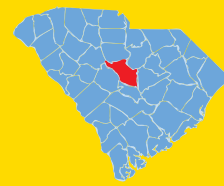
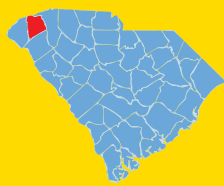
Orangeburg County First Steps is very proud of the impact we have made throughout Orangeburg County for program year 2014-15. We are very proud of our relationships with community partners that have resulted in providing quality services to the most at-risk young children and families of Orangeburg County. As we continue to convene and collaborate, several new initiatives have emerged because of our desire to reach as many children as possible. In addition to ongoing efforts that impact our families (with home visitation, literacy, school transition, and quality childcare), Orangeburg County First Steps facilitated additional events that promote literacy, health, and nutrition.

Our year has been one of ongoing growth and development as we continue to prepare our children for school. We are happy to share that many children have been impacted by our work but we are looking forward to preparing more children throughout Orangeburg County. This office looks forward to reaching more of the rural areas that are not favored with very many opportunities. We are prepared for the journey of this great challenge; the journey of our hard work is rewarded with changing lives one child and one family at a time.



Programs Available to Orangeburg County Families through First Steps

Early Steps to School Success
Imagination Library
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Pickens County
Children Under Five	290,519	5,951
Children In Poverty	27.3%	21.7%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	20.2%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	18.4%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Pickens County First Steps has leveraged \$1,760,153 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.33 for every state dollar received.**
- We are proud of our flagship program for Early Identification and Referral. Because of our established relationships with child care centers, **we served over 500 children this year**, identifying potential delays and providing follow-up interventions as needed during FY15.
- **Over 600 children** were a part of our **Book Flood**, borrowing a different book each school night to read with a family member.
- Home visitors conducted **748 home visits** to at-risk families for parenting education and support.

Pickens County First Steps
P.O. Box 1113
Central, SC 29631
Phone: 864-654-3000

Board Chairman: Lyle Jacks

abuckner@scfirststeps.org
www.pickenscountyfirststeps.org

Pickens County First Steps Amity Buckner Executive Director



Over the last sixteen years, Pickens County First Steps has seen many changes: Changes in funding, changes in programs and changes in personnel. One thing has remained the same, at the heart of our work, the reason that each of us gets up in the morning—the children of Pickens County! Our committed focus remains on those of early experiences that affect the brain for decades to come. This year we adopted the theme be a super hero for our youngest learners. We launched our first ever website, began making weekly child-focused blog posts and intentionally sharing stories about the good work going in our county for our youngest citizens. Stories on Facebook and twitter focus on the everyday super heroes in our community—teachers, child care providers, librarians, parents, and health care providers. We have found that this increased social media presence has served as a powerful vehicle to disseminate information. I invite you to join Pickens County First Steps in being a super hero for those whose voice is not always heard, those who don't get the opportunity to choose their family—our youngest learners, our future. Read a book, ask questions, listen, speak the truth, volunteer...show a child that they are valued. Early Experiences Matter!



Programs Available to Pickens County Families through First Steps

Nurse Family Partnership
Early Identification and Referral
Parents as Teachers with Family Literacy
Book Flood

Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
BabyNet

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Richland County
Children Under Five	290,519	23,842
Children In Poverty	27.3%	24.6%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	22.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	11.3%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

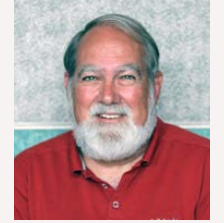
- Since inception, Richland County First Steps has leveraged \$12,970,083 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.94 for every state dollar received.**
- Early Head Start provided 156 infants and toddlers and their families with comprehensive services to **promote their healthy development during FY15.**
- The ExCEL (Excellence in Care and Early Learning) program **supported 14 child care providers with 1,476 hours of on-site technical assistance**, quality training for teachers and directors, mentoring by model centers, and materials funding. Showed significant quality improvement (avg. +1.2) on Environmental Rating Scale assessments.
- **56 children and their families served through Parents as Teachers**, averaging 20 home visits per family and significant pre-to-post gains in parenting practices and literacy skills.

Richland County First Steps
2008 Marion St., Suite B
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: 803-256-7237
Fax: 803-212-4205

Board Chairman: Marsha H. Moseley

rnable@rcfirststeps.org
www.rcfirststeps.org

Richland County First Steps Rick Noble Executive Director



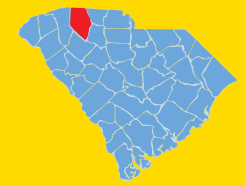
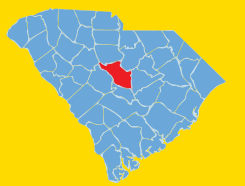
Richland County is blessed with resources. Our Legislative Delegation is very supportive of RC First Steps. Our Board of Directors is very knowledgeable and actively committed. Our staff is very skilled and talented. Our partners are very supportive and participatory. Our child care providers and parents show up. We have been able to secure additional resources to support our efforts. We have monitored and adjusted our services over our 15 years in existence. Still, Richland County has more children under the age of 5, than the total population in each of 16 SC counties.

Still, over 20% of our children live in poverty and are reading below level. Still there is so much work to be done. We've only just begun. We have most of the ingredients we need to make a significant impact. More financial resources would make the biggest difference.



Programs Available to Richland County Families through First Steps

Parents as Teachers
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Early Head Start
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Saluda County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,257
Children In Poverty	27.3%	33.0%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	26.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	33.0%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Saluda County First Steps has leveraged \$1,394,762 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.49 for every state dollar received.**
- During FY15 results showed improved parenting practices for the parents that participated in our **Positive Parenting Program.**
- Our intensive family literacy services **provided adult, child, and parent education to fourteen at-risk families.**
- We created a smooth transition to kindergarten for **26 of our most "at-risk rising kindergarteners."**

Saluda County First Steps
103 S. Rudolph Street
Saluda, SC 29138
Phone: 864-993-0610

Board Chairman: David Mathis
deborah_pdgtt@yahoo.com

Saluda County First Steps Deb Padgett Executive Director



Saluda County First Steps is more than just numbers and data. It is touching lives, meeting needs, helping families feel empowered and helping them develop a sense of efficacy. First Steps services are targeted for families with limited opportunities for success. Some of our clients are the most creative, quick-witted people I have ever met. With a little intervention and support, I believe these families can achieve great potential in positively contributing to society. Our greatest resource is our citizens – the intervention and support families receive to help their children succeed in school and life are immeasurable.

First Steps strategies are essential in accomplishing this task. Through strategies such as Positive Parenting Program, Family Literacy, Countdown to Kindergarten, and Child Care Training, Saluda County First Steps is poised to help families achieve their goals as positive contributors to society. As Larry Brendtro, dean of the Starr Global Learning Network, stated at the Children's Trust of South Carolina Prevention Conference 2015, focus on strategies that truly make a difference. I firmly believe that First Steps is doing just that.



Programs Available to Saluda County Families through First Steps
Countdown to Kindergarten
Parent Training
Family Literacy
Child Care Training
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Spartanburg County
Children Under Five	290,519	18,398
Children In Poverty	27.3%	26.9%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	20.4%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	18.6%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

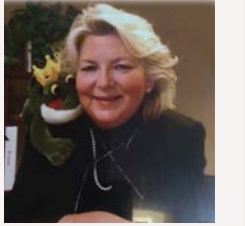
- Since inception, Spartanburg County First Steps has leveraged \$27,756,265 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$2.27 for every state dollar received.**
- Spartanburg County First Steps Quality Counts Program works with **44% of the child care centers in the county** to improve the quality of early education for young children during FY15.
- **On March 1, 2015 our program was awarded a \$1,474,814 federal grant.** The intent of the grant is for Early Head Start to partner with community childcare centers to serve low-income, working families. The grant targets zip codes that have high concentrations of poverty.
- Since 2009, almost **500 Spartanburg County vulnerable first-time mothers** and their babies have received services from our Nurse Family Partnership.

Spartanburg County First Steps
900 South Pine Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302
Phone: 864-327-4900
Fax: 864-327-4910

Board Chairman: Wanda Fowler

cbrooks@1steps.org
www.1steps.org

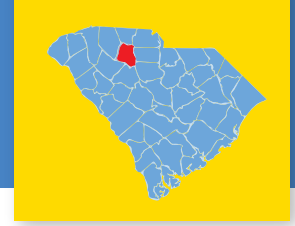
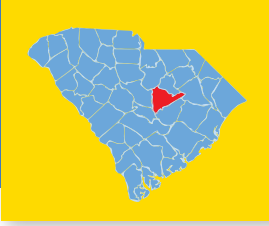
Spartanburg County First Steps Carolyn Brooks Executive Director



Vision: Every child in Spartanburg County will enter school ready to succeed. Mission: Spartanburg County First Steps will be the engine to drive collaboration, partnership, effective resource utilization and funding to prepare children to be ready for school. In 1779, as a Founding Father, Thomas Jefferson proposed a two-track educational system, with different tracks, in his words, for "the laboring and the learned." Scholarships would allow a very few of the laboring class to advance, Jefferson said, by "raking a few geniuses from the rubbish." In 2015...236 years later, Barack Obama, President of the United States, stated, We know what a difference early childhood programs make in the lives of our kids. He called upon Congress to expand access to high-quality preschool for every child in America, and Congress passed funding for the National Childcare Partnership Grants. Spartanburg County First Steps Early Head Start (EHS) was awarded one of the EHS Childcare Partnership Grants, and the President of the United States called our name on national television as one of the recipients. How privileged are we to be living in an age where all are considered geniuses at birth and no one is considered rubbish. At Spartanburg County First Steps, we are fortunate to have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our kids.



Programs Available to Spartanburg County Families through First Steps
Early Head Start
Quality Counts
Nurse Family Partnership
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Sumter County
Children Under Five	290,519	7,612
Children In Poverty	27.3%	33.6%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	28.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	13.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Sumter County First Steps has leveraged \$1,774,897 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.30 for every state dollar received.**
- **During FY15 served 61 children and their families through Parents as Teachers**, spending 3,181 hours in the homes of at-risk families to improve parenting practices and literacy skills and connect families to needed support services.
- Provided quality training by master trainers to **105 early childhood teachers and directors.**
- **Supported 20 Parents as Teachers families** with scholarships to quality child care so parents could work or pursue educational goals.

Sumter County First Steps
220 Hasel Street
Sumter, SC 29151
Phone: 803-774-5500, Extension 131
Fax: 803-774-3501
Mobile: 803.464.1224

Board Chairman: Walter Newman
juliadeltalady@yahoo.com

Sumter County First Steps Julia A. Nelson Executive Director



School Readiness by increasing the skills of Children, Their Parents and Childcare Providers...Since the inception of South Carolina First Steps in 1999, the importance and awareness of school readiness has increased in our state. Early educators with varying terminology define school readiness as children ready for school. Regardless of the terminology, it entails setting measurable goals with evidence-based strategies; planning and implementation; and assessment and evaluation. Sumter County First Steps (SCFS) has concentrated on strategies that will increase the likeliness of children being prepared to successfully enter school ready to learn. SCFS is providing a home visitation program to help train parents on how to be their child's first and best teacher. We have chosen Parent As Teachers (PAT), an evidence-based early childhood home visitation program. PAT increases a parent's knowledge of child development and improves parenting practices. SCFS is also providing child care training to child care providers and scholarships for quality childcare. Quality child care is a research-based determinant of school readiness. When you think about the number of hours children are with child care providers, you can understand the importance of quality. We also support our families with Dolly Parton Imagination Library to develop an environment, which has a love for reading. An age appropriate book is mailed to the child each month up until their 5th birthday. SCFS is appreciative for all of its community partners and other agencies involved in school readiness. Together, we are making a difference.



Programs Available to Sumter County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Childcare Training
Childcare ABC/Scholarship
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Union County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,500
Children In Poverty	27.3%	30.0%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	19.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	19.1%

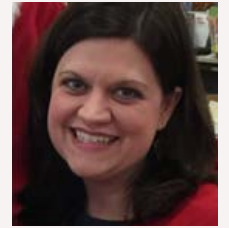
KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Union County First Steps has leveraged \$1,016,760 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.40 for every state dollar received.**
- **During FY15 served 54 children and their families through the Early Steps program**, spending 684 hours in home visits and increasing parent knowledge of how to support their child's language development.
- **Provided 702 children with one book a month** through Imagination Library.
- **Provided eight certified training sessions** to child care teachers and directors.

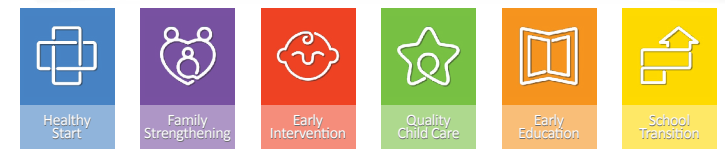
Union County First Steps
130 W. Main Street
Union, SC 29379
Phone: 864-429-1740 x134
Fax: 864-429-2838

Board Chairman: Connie Springs
cmchilders@union.k12.sc.us

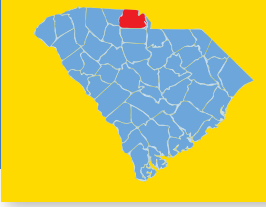
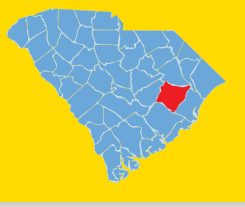
Union County First Steps Catherine Childers Executive Director



First Steps Works for the Children, Parents and Taxpayers of Union County. What does it mean when something works? I propose that when something is working, it means that the intended result is being realized. In our case, it means that children and families are receiving services and support that help prepare children to enter school and be successful. Since its inception, First Steps has been working toward this goal, and what we have been doing works. I am excited to share with you how it has been working in our community. The Early Steps to School Success home visitation program continues to provide a valuable resource to parents of young children in our community. This past year alone, the program served 54 children and their families through home visits and served an additional 116 children with a book bag exchange program. Child care workers were able to complete training courses to help Union's youngest citizens be better prepared for school. Countdown to Kindergarten provided quality early learning experiences for 15 children and their families this year. As we continue our partnership with United Way of the Piedmont, many children in our community received age appropriate books delivered to their homes again this year through Imagination Library. Our programs and resources are working because of the support of the community and our many partners that help us all work towards meeting the goal of preparing children for school success.



Programs Available to Union County Families through First Steps
Early Steps to School Success
Imagination Library
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training
BabyNet
First Steps 4K



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Williamsburg County
Children Under Five	290,519	1,740
Children In Poverty	27.3%	49.3%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	39.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	15.2%

KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, Williamsburg County First Steps has leveraged \$1,994,002 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.43 for every state dollar received.**
- **157 early childhood staff attended high quality training** with a total of 40 training hours being offered during FY15.
- 21 rising kindergarteners and their parent/s **received a total of 126 home visits** to assist with their transition to school as part of the Countdown to Kindergarten Program.
- **Distributed 5,327 books** to children through the Imagination Library.

Williamsburg County First Steps Carletta Scott Isreal Executive Director



Williamsburg County First Steps (WCFS) Partnership Board is proud of the many successes and collaborative partnerships that have been established to serve children and their families more efficiently and effectively in Williamsburg County. These collaborative efforts can be seen through our programs which include Parent-Child Home, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, Countdown to Kindergarten, and Child Care Training. These programs provide services to children and assist parents in getting their children ready for school. In addition, Williamsburg County First Steps has increased the quality of services available to children and families using research and data.

Through the SC Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistics, programs and results are tracked longitudinally. Independent reviews show that First Steps programs work- with 66% of parents showing significant improvement in skills after participation in a First Steps parent education program, and child care providers participating in First Steps' quality enhancement efforts showing significant improvement in all measured domains of quality. Williamsburg County First Steps will continue its efforts in providing quality services to children and their families for all children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.



Programs Available to Williamsburg County Families through First Steps
Parent-Child Home Program
Imagination Library
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	York County
Children Under Five	290,519	15,344
Children In Poverty	27.3%	17.2%
3rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	17.9%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	12.2%

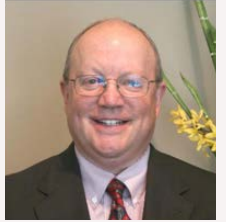
KIDS COUNT data provided by Children's Trust OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Since inception, York County First Steps has leveraged \$4,547,487 from sources outside of state government. **That's \$.74 for every state dollar received.**
- **We provided 823 home visits** to 51 at-risk families through our intensive home visitation program during FY15.
- **We provided child care vouchers to 15 teen mothers** as they stayed in school working to complete their high school degree.
- Through hard work and collaborative efforts of several partners, the groundwork is in place to **begin implementing Nurse Family Partnerships to vulnerable first-time pregnant women in York County.**

York County First Steps
410 E. Black Street
Rock Hill, SC 29731
Phone: 803-981-5780
Fax: 803-981-5784

Board Chairman: Cindy Hunt
dlink@scfirststeps.org
www.ycfirststeps.com

York County First Steps David Lisk Executive Director



At York County First Steps, we continue to implement interventions focused on serving children's needs in the most effective way. Our efforts have a broad appeal within the community and garner interest in how well we are serving the at-risk families that need our attention. As a public/private partnership responsible for coordinating programs and interventions for at-risk preschool children, we have a diverse audience interested in how we "performed" last year.

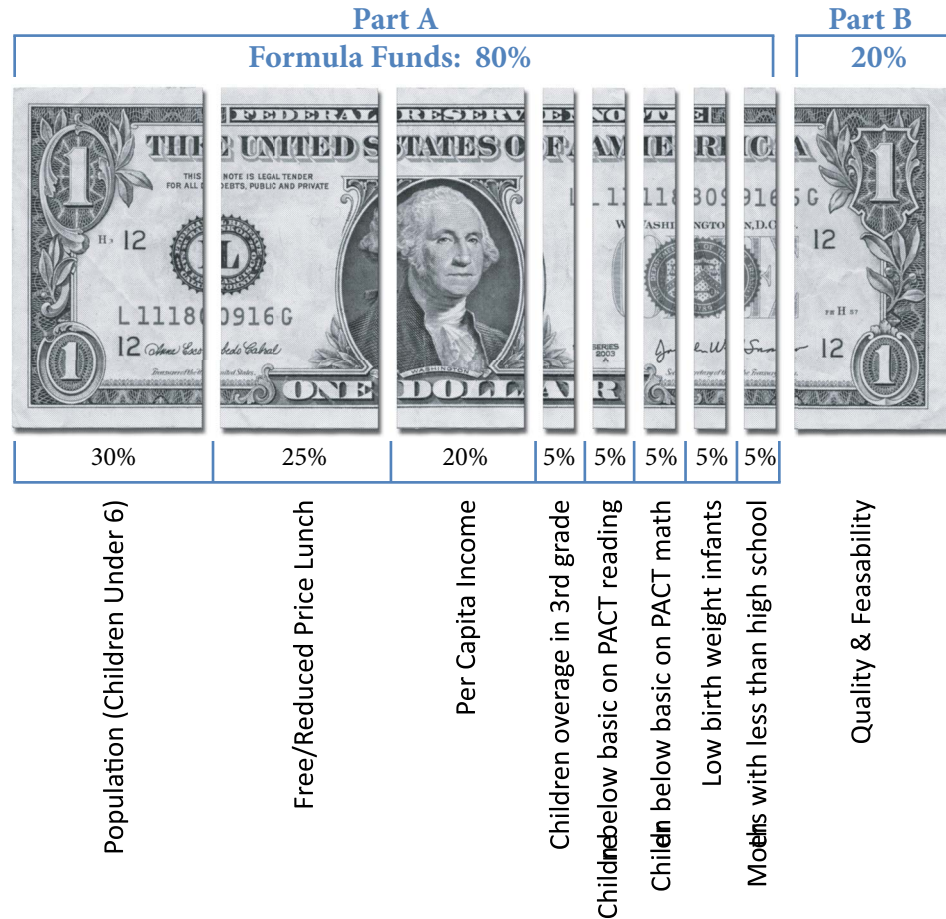
- Below are separate messages for our stakeholders from the most important shareholder we have in common—our children!
- To our State Legislators - The most effective help that you can provide in the upcoming session is to continue the priority discussion of early childhood interventions.
- To our Civic and Business Leaders –We have great potential and with your support of our families and guidance for our future, your investment will pay huge dividends.
- To the State Agencies and Organizations –We ask that you continue to be patient and guide our families in a path that helps us thrive.
- To our Parents –Read with us, talk with us, be encouraging to us as we prepare to enter school. You have the most important role in our lives and we want you to be actively involved as we work to realize our dreams.



Programs Available to York County Families through First Steps
Parents as Teachers
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Quality Enhancement
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
Nurse Family Partnership (2016)
BabyNet
First Steps 4K

Allocation of Resources

The First Steps Board of Trustees funds the operations of local First Steps Partnerships through an annual grant process. The amount of funding provided to each county is determined via the funding formula, which takes a variety of demographic and economic risk factors into account.



FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

FY 2015

Program Revenue

Federal Grants	\$6,249,741
Medicaid Reimbursements	\$422,690
Local and Private Grants	\$327,061
Total Program Revenues	\$6,999,492

General Revenue

State Appropriations	\$33,942,265
Interest Income	\$129,302
Total General Revenues	\$34,071,567

Expenditures

Allocations To Other Entities	\$25,290,481
Contractual Services	\$3,636,099
Salaries	\$3,331,550
Employer Fringe Benefits	\$1,155,531
Materials	\$415,011
Rent and Leases	\$328,393
Travel	\$207,028
Equipment	\$160,220
Total General Revenues	\$34,524,313

Increase In Net Position \$6,546,746

*FY 14 Ending Balance (Restated) \$14,856

Net Position Ending Balance \$6,561,602

* SC First Steps implemented the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions -- An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27 and GASB Statement No. 71, Pension Transition for Contributions made Subsequent to the Measurement Date -- An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68 in the year ended June 30, 2015. Net Position as of July 1, 2014 has been restated in accordance with these provisions.

South Carolina continues to set the pace for the nation as a state advancing the cause of children. With the reauthorization of First Steps and the passage of Read to Succeed in 2014, state leaders continue to recognize the importance of early childhood experiences as a key determinant of later life success.

In 2015, stakeholders joined forces to pass the Profile of the Ready Learner - placing focus on the early learning milestones most likely to predict academic achievement. The SC First Steps Board of Trustees and staff visited community partners in all 46 counties to assess the state of children in South Carolina. These important dialogues formed the basis of the board's updated strategic plan, Vision 2020.

As we look ahead, our state is well-positioned to leverage the best assets of the public and private sectors on behalf of our most vulnerable children. At First Steps, we salute your commitment to our youngest learners and pledge our continued dedication to this most important work.



Susan DeVenny
Director



THANKS TO THE FIRST STEPS FAMILY

These are the men and women who make it their life's work to serve the earliest learners in our state. This great work could not be done without them.

Jennifer Abercrombie	Kiki Bennett	Harrison Brown	Mary Chapman	Jackie Curry
Shellie Ackerman	Billy Bennett	Jeanie Brown-Burrows	Kim Chariker	Elder Alexis D. Pipkins, Sr.
Betty Addison	Pennie Bevis	Sherry Brownlee	Rev. Ross Chellis	Alyssa D'Angelo
David Addison	Mari Birchman	Sharon Bruton	Eileen Chepenik	Melissa Dahle
Jill Aderholdt	Sarah Biurgess	Takiyah Bryant	Jacqueline Childers	Joel Dale
Jane Agan	Jan Blackwell	Elaine Bryant	Susan Childers	Carol Daly
Vivian Agurs	Rosalin Blair	Elaine Bryant	Towanda Childer-Williams	Cassandra Daniels
Marian Aiken	Ora Blair	Hope Bryant	Catherine Childres	Sharon Daniels
Deborah Akos	Howard Blakeney	Joe Bryson	Harriett Clamp	Candice Darnell
Janice Albert	Jackie Blakley	Lora P. Bryson	Bridget Clark	Crystal David
Kristin Allan	Joan Blalock	Anne Lee Buck	Phoebe Clark	Fred Davidson
Karen Allen	Tanya Blanco	Amity Buckner	Shirley Clark	Sandra Davie
Jeanna Allen	Dr. Daniel Blue Jr.	Evan Burgess	Erica Clark	Mahalie Davies
James Amaker	Machelle Bolden	Genevieve F. Burgess	Pamela Clavon-Brunson	Nann Davis
Dawn Amick	Cynthia Bolin	Julia Burnes	Sandra Ray Clay	Dena Davis
Dr. Carolyn Anderson	Maime Bostic	Annette Burney	Khaliyah Cleveland	Dawn Davis
Helen Anderson	Bettye Bostick	Myrtis Burr	John Clinton	Thomsena M. Davis
Donna Anderson	Frances Bouknight	Stacy Burr	Amelia Clontz	Cindy Davis
Keller Anne	Larry Bowe	Jimmy Burroughs	Sabrina Coan	Kathleen Davis
Joyce Argo	Joy Bower	Shirley Burroughs	Audrey Cobb	Kimberlei Davis
Janet Argrow	Mandy Bowling	Meredith Burton	Cliffetta Cochran	Christina Davis
Patricia Armstrong	Rev. William Bowser Jr.	LaSheena Burton-Moss	John Cochran	Michelle Davis-Parker
Joni Arrowood	La Tonya Boyd	Nancy Busbee	Carl Coffin	Rebecca "Beth" Deaton
Mary Lee Arthur	Candace Bush	Candace Bush	Estella Cohen	Katina Degler
Faith Arthur	Kimberley Bush	Cherell Butler	Christy Coker	Nancy Deloach
Rev. Dr. Arthur Lee Holmes	Cherell Butler	Cherell Butler	Allyssa Cokley	John Dendy
Kim Ashby	Belinda Butler	Denise Butler	Laura Colclough	Dr. Connie Dennis
Beverly Ashley	Sandy Butler	Sandy Butler	Lark Coleman	Rebecca Denny
Linda Ashley	Shawna Bynum	Shawna Bynum	Lula Coleman	Deborah DePaoli
Jerlene Atkinson	Lois Byrd	Lois Byrd	Maria Collier	Ruth Detrick
Edwina Austin	Nina Bradley	Ryan Cagle	Susan Collier	Cindy Dickerson
Teia Avery	Pam Bradley	Dr. Lillie Caldwell	James Ella Collins	Rev. Cecil Diggs
Brenda Ayers	Willard Branch	Lorie Caldwell	Tammy Compton	Penny Dininny
Marcia Bacon	Valencia Brand	Willie Mae Caldwell	Tamara Cook	Heather Dionisio
Sally Baggett	Amy Breault	James Caldwell	Doretha Cooper	Amy Ditola
Patricia Bailey	Linda Brees	Patricia H. Caldwell	Beth Cooper	Dawana Doctor
Diana Bailey	LaVilla Brevard	Charlene Caldwell	Dr. Ron Cope	Susan Dodd
Allison Baker	Toni Brew	Marek Calhoun	Krisstin Corley	Deborah Donahue
Lena Baker	Jeanette Brewington	Kim Camp	Lisa Corning	Jane Doolittle
Kerri Baker	Rev. James Brewton	Crystal Campbell	Charles Costner	Natasha Doster
Caroline Baker	Michelle Brewton	Crystal Campbell	Desiree B. Council	Rebecca Douglas
Dr. Tom Balliet	Linda Bright	Karen Campbell	Monique Covington	Rebecca Douglas
John Bamberg	Edith Bright-Washington	Beth Campbell	Angela Coward	Richelynn Douglas
Elizabeth Bankert	Lauren Briles	Crystal Campbell	Kena Cox	Annette Drake-Smith
Terrill Banks	Alisa Britt	Crystal Campbell	Sonya Crank	Allison Drayton
Shirley Bannister	Geraldine Broadus	Crystal Campbell	Daniel Crawford	Libby Dubose
Stephanie Barber	Karen Brock	Patricia Canada	Chris Crawford	Julie Ducworth
Thiland Barlowe	Christinia Brock	Rev. Carol Cannon	Jimmy Crawford	Jennifer A. Dukes
Connie Barnes	Beth Brooks	Joyce Carter	Jamie Creasy	Deborah Dukes
Dale Barnett	Carolyn Brooks	Aquanis Carthens	Brenda Crook	Deloris Dunham
Ernestine Barnwell	Jamie Browder	Dean Casey	Arlene Sease Crosby	Martha Dunlap
Lee Davis Barrett	Tracy Brown	Christie Casey	Lottie Crosby	Marie M. Dunnam
Allyson Bartley	Tammy Brown	Lynn Catoe	Luella Crosby	Paula Durham
Brian Bass	Lucette Brown	Tracey Caughman	Janice Crossland	Janie Eargle
Shirley von Beck	Shawn Brown	Katie Chadwick	Rita Crump-Saddler	Natasha Earls
Markey Bee	Paul Brown	Mary Chamberlain	Maria Cruz	Margaret Echols
Victoria Belin	Diane Brown	Anita Chambers	Jane Culp	Nicole Echols
Angela Bell	Artrell Brown	Brittany Champion	Katherine Cummings	Mary Lou Edens
Lucretia Bellamy		Jeffrey Chandler	Angela Cunningham	Melodie Edwards

Tammy Elliott	Kathleen Gibson	Brenda Hannah	Deborah Hughes	Alexander Pope Jr	Rachelle Lighty	Victoria McCray	Yolanda Montgomery	Nikki Payne	Debra Robinson
Janet Ellis	Kathleen Gibson	Janae Hansen	Sally Huguley	Tom Carter Jr.	Sandra Linder	Janice McCrea	Edwina Moody	Dr. Myra Pearson	Rhonda Robinson
Carolyn Ellis	Clarisa Giles	Patricia Harley	Cindy Hunt	Joe Castle Jr.	Chalma Lindler	Diane McDonald	Erin Moon	Jonita Pearson	Carolyn Robinson
Janet Ellis	Leroy Gillard	Lynette Harley	Sandra Hunter	Nathaniel Myers Jr.	Cindy Lindler	Joseph McDonald	Yolanda Moore	Stacey Peek	Kakela Robinson
Michelle Ellis	Wendy Gillespie	Lynette Harley	Dawn Huntley	Merit Justice	Faith Line	Charlotte McDonald	Charlene Moore-Patterson	Wendy Pelfrey	Tonya M. Robinson
DaShon Ellis-Campbell	Katie Gilmore	Lee Harley-Fitts	Dawn Huntley	Susan Kastner	Keisha L. McDonald	Keisha L. McDonald	Earnestine Morris	Michelle Penland	Cashel Robinson
Nitra Ellison	Janette Glen	Diane Harrell	Cynthia Hurst	Susan Kear	Shelia Lineberry	Becky McDowell	Kim Morris	Kelvin Peoples	Patricia Robinson
Jimmie Epling	Amy Glover	Winfred Harrington	Tammy Hutchinson	Ricky A. Kears	David Lisk	Teresa V McDuffie	Marsha H. Moseley Ph. D.	Carol Perkins	Susan Robinson
Dewayne Eubanks	York Glover	Marilyn Harris	Ashley Hutchinson	Ricky Kears	Ashyla Livingston	Tamela McGill	Andrew Moses	Carol Perkins	Ana Rodriguez
Renee Eubanks	Tuisha Glover	Alma Harris	Dr. Linda Hutchinson	Patrick Keating	Javon Locke	Virginia McGraw	Sheila Moses	Connie Pete	Maddy Rogers
Abby Evans	Tuisha Glover	Alma Harris	Debra Hutto	Cassandra Keller	Ben Loftis	Charlene McGriff	Sabina Mosso-Taylor	Jan Petterson	Page Rogers
Suzanne Evans	Tracy Golden	Michael Harris	Pearline Hutto	Brenda Kelley	Lee Logan	Josa E. McIntosh	Nakisha Moton	Denise Pettit	Sherri Rookard
Ashley Faltermeier	Renee Goldfinch	Betty Harrison	Jeanette Isaac	Shelia Kelley	Cheryl Long	Darlene McIntyre	Iona Murdaugh	Justine Phelan	Melissa Roper
Jane Farrell	Narcizo Alvarez Gonzalez	Cathy Harrison	Carletta Israel	Tammy Kelley	Marina Lopez	Dwight McInvaill	Sharon Murdock	Barbara Phillips	Pamela Rose
Jane Farrell	Hamilton Jean Gooch	Nikita Harrison	Dr. Lorraine J Peeples	Novella Kelly	Tiffany Lotherapy	Diane McIver	Erica Murphy	Kay Phillips	Darlene Rowland
Glenn Farrow	Harrison Goodwin	Laure Hart	Lyle Jacks	Jennifer Kelly	Mark Lott	Cheryl McKeown	Beauty Murphy	LaKeisha Pinckney	Margie Ruff
Sharon Fashion	Candy Gore	Julie Hartman	Helen Jackson	Marion Kelly	Phyllis Lott	Teresa McKinney	Jean Murray	Melissa Pityk	Catherine Russell
Ethel T. Faust	Heather Goss	Renee Hauser	Gail Jackson	Frances Kennedy	Doris Louden	Pamela McKnight	Lakisha Myers	Rusty Platts	Mac Russell
Andrea Favor	Amy Goulding	Erika Hays	Brandy James	Rosaland Kenner	Leon Love	Cezar E. McKnight	Dr. Paul N. McKenzie	Pauletta Plowden	Emily Saddler
Nina Feemster	Tamecia Graham	Charlene Hayward	Tonya James	Emily Ketchum	Sarah Love	Sarah McMaster	Mrs. Ivey N. Staley	Nancy Plyer	Tanille Salliewhite
Gloria Felder	Kenitta Graham	Crystal Hayward	Joni James-Jackson	Shelia King	Linda Lucas	Terrance McMillan	Stacy Nance	Kathryn Plyler	Pamela Samuel
Jennifer Felkel	Vastine S. Graham	Eleanor Hazel	Valerie James-Lawrence	Melody King	Johnnie Luehrs	Shina McMillan	Marcia L. Nash	Duchette Polite	Tina Sanderline
Kenyatta Finklin	Wanda Grant	Linda Hearon	Beth Jamieson	Donna King	LaToya Lynah	Vanessa McNalley	Ja-Novice Greene-	Sharman Poplava	Barbara Sanders
Dr. Gail Fleming	Lennis Grant	Alvin J. Heatley	Junita Jamison	Donna King	Cynthia M	Jacqueline McNeil	Richardson NayNarium	Linda Poplin	Deborah Sanders
Delores Fleming	Sharon Grant	Lucille Hefka	Jacqueline Jamison	Reo King	Dr Janice M	Gwen McNeil	S. Alls	Elizabeth Posey	Jerri Sanders
Jon Flowers	Sharon Grant	Dale Helms	Ernest J. Jarrett	Mary Kinney	Joyce MacDonald	Charlotte McNichols	Wanda Nelson	Tracy Powell	Marilyn Sanders
Jessica Flowers	Sandi Gratic	Kerri Hembree	Jennifer Jean	Tina Kirby	Catherine Mack	Darnell McPherson	Julia A. Nelson	Stacie Powell	LaMyra Sanders
Anita Floyd	Julie Graves	Louise Ann Hemingway	Vanessa Jefferies	Mollie Kirkland	Jesica Mackey	Donna McQueen	Regina Nesmith	Tenisha Powell	LaMyra Sanders
Austin Floyd	Bridget Gray-Peebles	Karen Henderson	Crystal Jefferson	Mollie Kirkland	Mollie Mackey	Jeanette Regina McRae	Lorraine Newman	Lorraine Powers	Penny Sanders
Stanley Foggie	Henry Green	Matthew Henderson	Tonya Allen Jenkins	Cedric Kirkman	Debra Madden	Wayne McRae	Virginia Newman	Jennifer Powers	Dr J.W. Sanders Jr
Gwendolyn Folk	Renne Green	Terrez Henderson	Marilyn Jenkins	Stephanie Knobel	Stephanie Mahuron	Brenda McRae	Mike Newman	Nancy Powers	Celia Sargent
Linda Fontaine	Christopher Green	Patricia M. Henegan	Rodney Jenkins	Rosa Knox	Georgia Mance	Kimberly McSpadden	Walter Newman	Jacabee Pratt	Timena Sarratt
Delores Footman	Madie Orage Green	Maggie Hennigan	Tiffany Jenkins	Gloria Kohler	Anita Maness	Jane McSweeny-Wishart	Sheryl Newton	Dr. Bruce Price	Gail Sartain
Margaret Ford	Melissa Green	Kay Hensley	Rodney Jenkins	Wade Kolb	Carol Mann	Kathleen M McTeer	Jim Nichols	Devona Price	Dineen Schile
Betty Ford	Priscilla Green	Stephany Hewitt	Sandy Jenkins	Twila Koss	Barbara Manoski	Shantel McTeer-McRae	Nichelle Nichols	Cheryl Prickett	Amy Schofield
Monika Forster	Juliette Green	Kandi Hewlett	Kathy Jenkins	Elizabeth Krauss	Ronald Manyin	Kathryn Meadows	Rick Noble	Dorothy Priestster	Reggie Scott
Ekky Foss	Karen Green	Martha Heyward	Kathy Jenkins	Nan Krueger	Carmon Marlowe	Linda Mease	Catherine Nolan	Marlon Prince	Spencer R. Scott
Monica Foster	David Green	Debra Heyward	Rodney Jenkins	Babara Kulisek	Christina Marshall	Barbara Meivin	Jazmin Noriega	Sandra W. Pruitt	Bertha Scott
Danielle Foster	Kenyata Greene	Hannah Hickman	Barbara Jeter	Candhi Lalonde	Sanquinita Martin	Wonza Mercer	Connie Normand	Angela Pruitt	Spencer R. Scott
Wanda Fowler	Ann Greene	George Hicks	Debra Joe	Minnie Lambert	Whitney Martin	Judy Metcalf	Katina O'Neal	Terry Pruitt	Harold Seabrook
Mae Frances	Sandra Greene-Tucker	Natalie Hill	Rev. Johnny	Jennie Lamm	Jodie Martin	Dr. Lindi Metcalf	Linda O'Neill	Elaine Purvis	Patricia Sease
Elizabeth Franklin	Julie Greer	Karen Hill	Randall Johnosn	Mary Elizabeth Land	Constance Martin-Witter	Larry Michalec	Karen Odom	Larryn Pyatt	Andrea Seigler
Pamela Frazier	Crystal Grimes	Jacquelyn Hill	Gail Johnson	Dorothy Lassiter	Christian Marvin	Shirley Middleton	Lana Odom	Rosella Quarles	Robbie Seigler
Corey Frazier	Bobbi Jo Grooms	Kristi Hill	Yakida Johnson	Christy Latham	Rachel Mason	Cynthia Middleton	Sharon Oglesby	Debbie Quesada	Ada Jane Setzler
Keith Frazier	Nadine Groves	Clyde E. Hill	Samone Johnson	Leslie Latimer	Blair Massey	Cynthia Middleton	Dianne Oliver	Margaret Quick	Kim Shiflet
Sherreka Frederick	Deborah Gunter	Tyla Hill	Rev. Michelle Johnson	Catherine Laufer	Cindy Massey	Jennifer Miles	Cheryl Osborne	Faye Ragin	Santasha Shipman
Nadine Freeman	Valerie Hacker	Genista Hill-Lomax	Gloria Johnson	Dr. LaVerne	Jasmyne Massey	Carole Miller	Sandra Owens	Cynthia Ransom	Mamie Shippy
Paulette Freeman	Quantina Haggwood	Tanya Hodge	Sherry Johnson	Margaret Lawhorn	Dorothy Mathis	Virginia Miller	Patti Owings	Elmire Raven	Motek Simmons
Ernest Frierson	Susan Hagood	Ashley Holman	Julia Johnson	Dr. David Mathis	Dr. David Mathis	Stefanie Miller	Sandra Padgett	Mary Redfearn	Pamela Simmons
Angela Fulton	Edna Hailey	Kendra Holmes	Daisy Johnson	Brian Lawson	Lee Matthews	Linnie Miller	Deborah Padgett	Tracy Redfern	Kecia Simmons
Shakira Fulton	Ed Halbig	Judy Holmes	Patricia Johnson-Moses	Judy Layman	Kathy Matthews	Debby Miller	Daniel Page	Laينه Reed	Corine Simpkins
Lauren Furman-Boggs	Shadie Hall	Sandra Holmes	Kelli Johnston	Robin Layton	Kimberly Matthews	Jenny Mims	Doretha Page	Retana Reed	Tiffany Simpson
Dr. Charles Gailliard	Patricia Hall	Rev. John Holston	Cierra Johnson	Nancy Leach	Christian Marvin	Dee Mattox	Bob Page	Erica Renteral	Beth Singletary
Rita Gamble	Shadie Hall	Sheryl Holston	Michael Jonas	Brianna Leamon	Rachel Mason	Cari Mayer	Eleanor Paige	Kristin Rentz	Chiquita Singletary
Jannice P. Gamble	Lillie Hall	Lana Hopkins	Gloria Jones	Johnny Ledford	Blair Massey	Kim McAbee	Reese Palmer	Heather Reyes	Beth Singletary
La-Dine' Gamble	Demetria Hall	LaToya Hopkins	Ressie Jones	Dominique Mullen Lee	Rev. Michelle Johnson	JonDeen McAllister	Lynette Pannell	Lydia Rice	Aisha Singletary
Rochelle Gamble	Ellen Hamilton	Sheryl Hopkins	Duane Jones	Patricia "Darla" Lee	Carmon Marlowe	Kenneth McBride	Karen Parham	Sam Richardson	Richardine Singleton-Brown
Regina Gambrell	Marla Hamilton	Laura Houck	Susan Jones	Christine Lee	Christina Marshall	Karen McBryde	Loretta Parker	JB Green Richardson	Susan Skislak
Freda Gantt	Betty Hamilton	Jasmine Houston	Shirley Jones	Misty Lee	Yolanda McCall	Rev. Dave Mitchell, III	Connetta Parker	Tanya Richbourg	Deborah Skoland
Rev. Anitonette Gardner	Anitra Hammett	Cynthia Howard	Pam Jones	Deloris LeGrant	Keisha McClain	Sylvia Mitchum	Cathey Parker	Millie Ricketts	Eryl Smalls
Crystal Gardner	Kanya Hammond	Bertie Howard	Lorena Jordan	Karyn Lemon	Darren McClam	Dianne Mizzell	Shirley Parks	James H. Riddle Jr.	Eryl Smalls
Wendy Gary	Jennifer Hammond	Lisa Howard	Shannon Jordan	JaVonna Lewis	Audrey McClary	Bernice Mobley	Barbara Parrott	Stanley Rivers	Michael Smalls
Michael K. Gaskin	Deborah Hamrick	Marty Hucks	Amy Jordan	Derek Lewis	Gwen McClellan	John Moncure	Diane Patelunas	Katherine Rivers	Stephanie Smart-Gittings
Susan Gaston	Diane Hamrick	Linda Hudson	Kimberley Jordan-Edmond	Veronica Lewis	Meredith McClure	Ann Moncure	Christine Patrick	Robin Robertson	Jean Smith
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Annette Gerald	Cindy Hanks	Brenda Hughes	Saundra Meadows Jowers	Patricia Lewis	Larice McCord	Lisa Monteith	Rosemary Patterson	Donella Robinson	Nicole Smith
Bernard Gerald	Jeanne Hanna	Ava Hughes	Kecia Jowers	Edith Ley	Audrey McCrary-Quarles	Jason Montgomery	Lillie Patterson	Debra Robinson	Erica Smith

Kate Smith	Lillian Thomas	Centuria Watson	Harry Wooding
Renee Smith	La'Toya Thomas-Dixon	Susanna Watson	Paige Wright
Kristen Smith	Barbara Thompson	Mary Watson	Meghan Wright
Renee Smith	Donna Thompson	Maria Weaver	Glenda Wright
Tonia M. Smith	Mary Thompson	Nicole Weeks	Frances Wright
Crystal Smith	Marion Thompson	Teresa Weinmueller	Judy Wright
Ayesha Smith	Kelley Thrasher	Dave Weissman	Mary WRIGHTen
Vallery Smith	Julia Tice	Linda Wessel	Jane Wyatt
Denise Smith	Christine Tiller	Linda West	Lynda Yoder
Taylor Smith	Shurrie Timmons	Ron West	Brie Yohi
Alan Smith	Beth Tindall	Kim West	Edna Youmans
Marion Smith	Bradley Todd	Nikki West	Arriel Burns Young
Lori Snipes	Sadhana Tolani	Pat West	Janice Young
Wendy Snipes	Janet Toler	Bill West West	Roslyn Young
Daby Snipes	Patricia Toney	Pegie White	Julia Young
Cynthia Sosebee	Sandy Townsend	Reginald White	Greta Young
Karen Sparkman	Mary Jane Trainor	Gloria White	Eugenia Young
Nikiyah Spearman	Adrienne Troy	Sheila White	Ernestine Young
Yvonda Speight	Nicole Trull	Carrie White	T. Sam Ziady
Rosalyn Splawn	Sammie Tucker	Pam Whitehead	Sam Ziady
Mary Jo Springs	Latrisha Tucker	J. Daniel Whitehurst, Jr.	
Connie Springs	Ferlondo Tullock	Wilhelmina Whitfield	
Gabriel Salmon Sr.	Pamela Turman	Reggie Wicker	
Mary Stackhouse	James Turner	Dray Wideman	
Lou Stackhouse	Carrie Turner	Javad Wigfall	
Latetia Staggers	Alicia Turner	Javad Wigfall	
Luanne Stallings	Betty Turner	Harriet Wilder	
Madora Stansfield	Patricia Turner	Rhonda Wiley	
Melissa Starker	Ashley Turner	Carol Wiley	
Ophelia McClary Starks	Linda Turpin	Amy Wilhelm	
Cheryl Steadham	Leticia Urroz	Patti Wilkes	
Crissie Stephens	Robin Usher	Patti Wilkes	
Spring Stephens	Janet Vandiver	Ericka Williams	
Barbara Stephenson	Anthony Vandross	Lelia Williams	
Marie Stewart	Danny Varat	Helen Williams	
Kim Stokes	Tammy Vaughn	Ethel Milhouse Williams	
Alice Stradford	Felicia Veasey	Tawanna Williams	
Jeff Stribble	Margaret Victor	Emmanuel Williams	
Allison Strickland	Ivette Villarreal	Maggie Williams	
Everett Stubbs	Kendra Vincent	Sharon Williams	
Renata Stubbs	Marian Vischer	Sharon Williams	
Micky Styslinger	Melissa Vlasaty	Jessica Williams	
Martha Suber	Laura Wade	Jennifer Williams	
Patricia Sullivan	Jill Wagers	Renee Williams	
Deana Sullivan	David Walker	Renee Williams	
Robert Summer	Charity Walker	Margaret Williams	
Donny Supplee	Dr. Paulette Walker	Leslie Williams	
Tricia Surles	Tarsha Walker	Shelia Williams	
Tameka Swinton	Lee Walker	Diana Williams	
Ann Szypulski	Dr. Earline Walker Kelly	Louvenia Williams	
Moronda Talley	Dr. Earlene Walker-Kelly	Antron Williams	
Morgan Talley	Paige Wall	Luvenia Williams	
Molly Tannery	Kyna Wallace	Reginald Williams	
Janet Tapp	Missy Wall-Mitchell	Eric Williams	
Ruth Taylor	Asia Walters	Eric Williams	
Ruth Taylor	Bridget Ward	Diane Williams	
Jeffrey Taylor	Nicole Wardlaw	Lisa Willis	
Deborah Teer	Tamiko Warney	Sue Ellen Wilson	
Debbie Teer	Karen Warren	Lisa Wilson	
Archie Temoney	Linda Washington	Maverick Wilson	
Meg Temple	Marzella Washington	Darron Wilson	
Ashley Terry	Betty Washington	Bernard Winans	
Leslie Terry	Violet Washington	Rev Ernest Winburn	
Leslie Tetreault	George Washington	Berta Winns	
Amanda Theriot	Lindsay Watkins-Knapp	Fred Witherspoon	
Cynthia Thomas	Dr. Michael Watson	Eloise Witherspoon	
LaGwenda Thomas	Okereta Watson	Susan Witkowski	
		Rich Wofford	

2014 Legislative Goals

1. Provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
2. Increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
3. Promote high quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
4. Provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
5. Mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

