



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Annual Report

2014-15



OUR VISION:

**Every South Carolina child
will arrive at kindergarten
ready to succeed.**

First Steps WORKS for the children of Chester County.

Annual Report

2014-15



Who We Serve

First Steps serves children pre-birth to 5 years old and their families who are at risk of not being ready for school.

Number of Chester County children under 5:

2,033

Per cent of Chester County children living in single parent household:

59.6%

Babies born each year in Chester County to a mother without a high school diploma:

1 in 5

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers



Child Care Training & Professional Development

Our Results

- ✓ Parenting program families received and average of *two home visits* each month.
- ✓ 759 hours of support and guidance were provided to families.
- ✓ Childcare professionals received 30 hours of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- ✓ 30 early care professionals received training in early childhood topics.

Investing in Our Future

Donna King, Board Chair

Collaboration has been and remains a vehicle for advocacy and community engagement. It creates networks within and beyond county borders of resources that enable parents, community leaders, groups, organizations and others that 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 is a window of tremendous opportunity for imbedding practices in the home and at child care services for impacting brain development. Paramount to the First Steps mission that “each child will begin school healthy and ready to succeed”, is to empower components of local resources to advance the cultivation of evolving literacy behaviors for lifelong learning.

The pathway to learning success encompasses practices required at the basic level of 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 for recognizing potential barriers to attain developmental outcomes is critical. The need for arranged care for teen mothers and working parents is the catalyst for channeling agency resources for advancing skills for the child care workforce.

More than adequate abilities of this emerging generation for a competitive unknown world that lies ahead are an imperative for each child. The Partnership Board believes each child starting school healthy and ready to succeed requires investing in our youngest learners that will lead us tomorrow.



A special time to shine. Young minds eager to learn, our promise for tomorrow.

Board Chair
Donna King

Executive Director
Centuria S. Watson

109 Ella Street

Chester, SC 29706

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What We Do

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.



Hea7lthy 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.



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.



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 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.



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.



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.

Based on the needs of our community Chester County First focuses its investments in... Family Strengthening and Childcare Quality.

Parents as Teachers

Parents play a critical role in their child's development.

Program Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

Chester County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

46.9%	Mothers with less than adequate prenatal care
32.9%	Live in poverty
20.1%	Low maternal education



PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	31	
Children Served	31	
Total Home Visits	751	
Hours Spent Serving Families	759	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS 1.38	ACIRI .89

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2 home visits per family
- ✓ Provided monthly home visits to 31 families
- ✓ Improved parenting practices through 14 Group Connections Parent Workshops
- ✓ Improved literacy skills, parents used 111 books from the lending library

Thank you to our partners!

- Chester County Government
- Chester County Community Coalition
- City of Chester
- Springs Close Foundation

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 Chester, SC 29706
 803-385-6174 – firststepsc@truvista.net



Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

**Child Care Training Sponsored by
Chester County First Steps, 2014-15**

Topic:
 SC Infant/Toddler Guidelines
 The Powerful Role of Stories
 Marketing for Impact
 Early Language and Literacy Development
 Teacher Interactions

I come to the training sponsored by First Steps when I have met all of my required continuing education hours because new information helps me grow.

Sandra Dorsey



We never get tired from listening to stories, especially our favorite ones.

Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	67
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	18
Value of Educational Materials Distributed	\$1,100

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 67 early childhood staff with high quality training (Matrix C65)
- ✓ 8 hours of certified training (Matrix F65) and XX hours of registered training (Matrix G65) for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 8 follow-up visits (Matrix H65) with training participants to help put training into practice

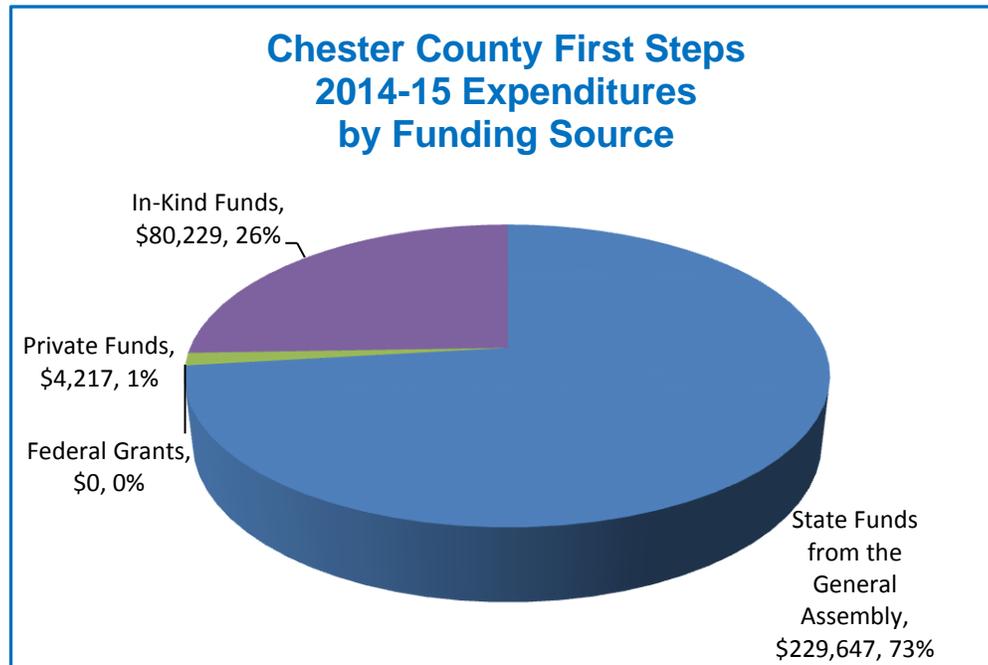
Thank you to our partners!

- Chester County Government
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Clemson Extension Services
- Springs Close Foundation

Chester County First Steps

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Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$229,649

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 58%

*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

2014-15 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2014-15 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$86,250	\$0	\$2,017	\$30,784	\$119,051	52%
Child Care Training	\$4,824	\$0	\$1,208	\$25,369	\$31,401	14%
Program Support	\$35,053	\$0	\$232	\$18,057	\$53,342	23%
Administrative Support	\$19,074	\$0	\$760	\$6,019	\$25,853	11%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$145,201	\$0	\$4,217	\$80,229	\$229,647	

Since inception, Chester County First Steps has leveraged \$1,249,254 from sources outside of state government. That's 47 cents for every state dollar.



From Teen Mom to Lead Head Start Lead Teacher

Larissa Thompson became a participant in the Chester County First Steps Parents As Teachers Program when she became pregnant as a senior in high school. Larissa gave birth to a handsome baby boy, Tyon, in December of 2010. She completed high school, and secured a job at McDonald's. She quickly realized this job would not be sufficient to provide for her-self and her child.



Larissa Thompson and her son, Tyon.

Encouraged by Parent Educator, Candy Gore, Larissa enrolled at York Technical College to continue growing educationally in order to pursue a career.

Larissa followed the advice of her parent educator and signed up to go to college. Candy assisted her with completing the FAFSA forms and enrollment packet. In the spring of 2011, Larissa walked onto the campus of York Tech as a student.

She continued to work and go to school, taking both online courses as well as attending classes on campus. Larissa worked hard and diligently to complete her degree. In 2014, she graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Education. In the fall of the same year, she became a lead teacher at North Chester Head Start. Larissa now participates not only in the Parents As Teachers program, she also attends trainings for professional development offered by Chester County First Steps, as well. Larissa has defied the odds by achieving her goals. She is a model for what happens with determination and a good support system.

First Steps Partnership Board



Investing in Families, A Community As One

Working with local agencies has been pivotal for coordinating community assets, and identifying gaps across all facets of community services. This broad approach to collaboration has yielded increased knowledge and value to the roles of agencies for strengthening the fabric of community life across all sectors in Chester County. Engagement with these agencies, local organizations, Winthrop University and the University of South Carolina increased the understanding of strengths and challenges that aided the coordination of planning for remedies for targeted needs. Providing input and observing the launch of initiatives that benefits all families in Chester County brought far reaching rewards to everyone. Working with the Chester County Community Coalition, Organic Helpers, the local farmers’ market and other groups were opportunities to advocate on behalf of our youngest citizens and their families. These advocacy muscles were exercised to affect decisions to improve access to affordable fresh vegetables and fruits, safe routes to school, literacy help, and other supportive services families may need. Our path is defined clearly, we will continually move forward to promote best practices, increased awareness, and collaborative ventures that bolster the importance of support for the families of our youngest learners.

Chester County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Position	Board Category
Joni Arrowood	Child Care, Director/Owner	Child Care Provider
Stephanie Barber	Reading Coach	Early Education
Lottie Crosby	After School Program Coordinator	Early Education
Katherine Cummings	Librarian	Library Representative
Sandra Davie	Head Start Director	Head Start Representative
Janet Ellis	Community Health Coordinator	DHEC Representative
Tamecia Graham	Principal	School District Representative
Crystal Jefferson	Student	Grandparent of FS Child
Donna King	Second Grade Teacher	Early Education
Stetavia Mackey	Certified Nursing Assistant	Parent of FS Preschooler
Erica Murphy	Family Services	DSS Representative
Stetavia Mackey	Certified Nursing Assistant	Parent of FS Preschooler
Daniel Page	Early Care Special Needs Teacher	Child Care Provider
Everett Stubbs	Attorney	Business

The Goals of First Steps

(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.

-- Section 59-152-30



Interested parents can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



BabyNet

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet in ChesterCounty:
LOCAL SPOE PHONE # 803.222.5360

<http://scfirststeps.org/babynet/>