

ALLENDALE COUNTY



Parents
as
Teachers

Countdown
to
Kindergarten

Child Care
Training

Child Care
Scholarships

Annual Report

2014-15



OUR VISION:

Every South Carolina child
arrives at kindergarten
ready to learn.

First Steps WORKS for the children of Allendale 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.

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Number of Allendale County children under 5:

497

Allendale County children living in poverty:

1,084

Babies born in Allendale County to mothers without a high school diploma:

29%

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Our Results

- ✓ 100% of PAT families possessed two (2) or more BOT priority risk factors.
- ✓ PAT families showed a 1.33 positive growth in KIPS assessment.
- ✓ Thirty-Eight (18) child care providers received DSS required training hours from a certified trainer.
- ✓ Twenty (20) Countdown to Kindergartens students received all home visits.

Partners, Parents, Teachers and the Community Working Collaboratively

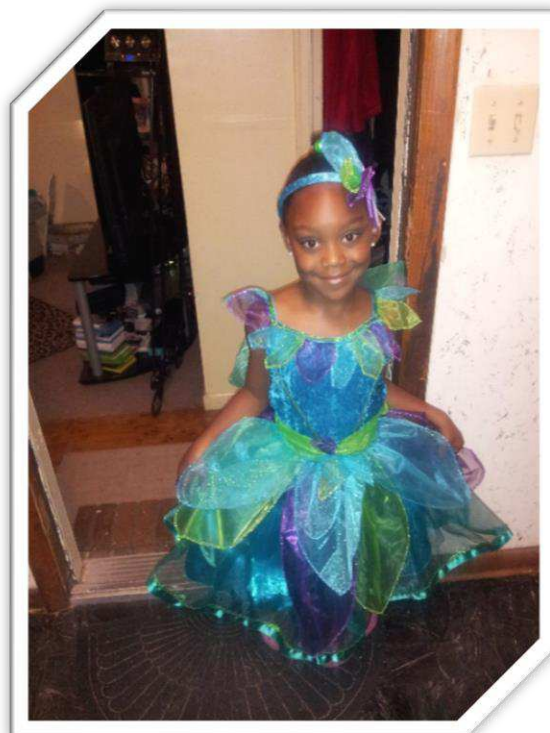
Patricia Hall, Executive Director

At Allendale County First Steps, the Board of Directors, Staff and I take pride in providing parents with access to the support they want and might 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 was very successful this fiscal year because of your involvement in ensuring that our programs were successful in carrying out the initiatives of the organization. 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 we thank you.

Sincerely,



Board Chair
Tom Carter, Jr.

Executive Director
Patricia Hall

176 Main Street N
Allendale, SC 29810

(803)584-6000

a1steps@yahoo.com

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.



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.



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.

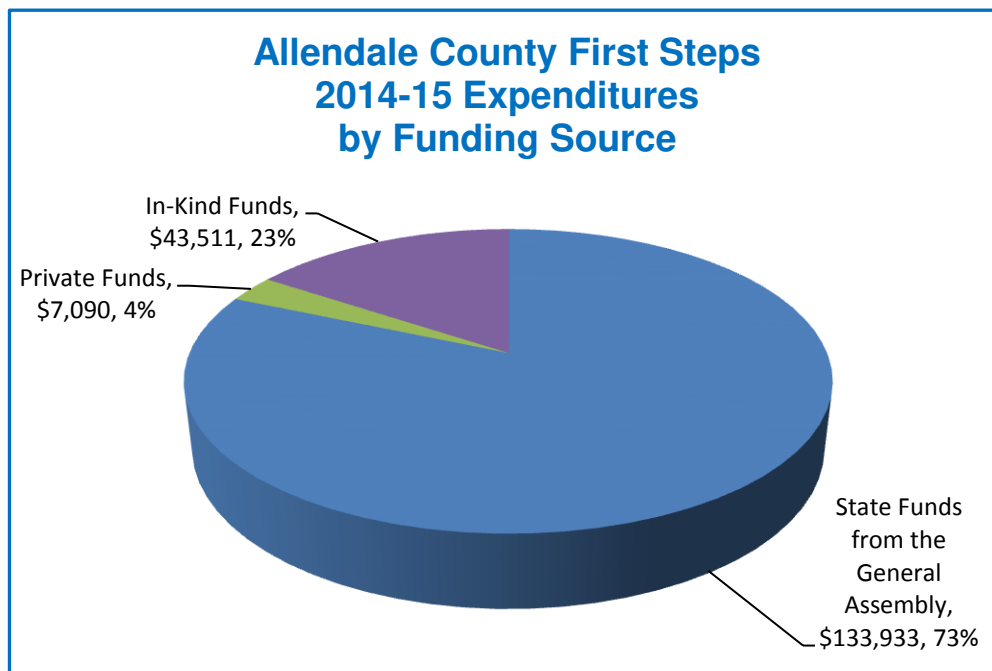


School Transition

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, Allendale County First focuses its investments in Quality Childcare, Family Strengthening, Early Education, Early Intervention and School Transition.

Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$184,534

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 38%

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

2013-14 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2013-14 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$57,813	\$0	\$3,043	\$30,087	\$90,943	49%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$1,687	\$0	\$2,990	\$0	\$4,677	3%
Child Care Training	\$4,044	\$0	\$345	\$3,804	\$8,193	4%
Child Care Scholarships	\$24,500	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$28,000	15%
Program Support	\$32,974	\$0	\$319	\$4,590	\$37,883	21%
Administrative Support	\$12,915	\$0	\$393	\$1,530	\$14,838	8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$133,933	\$0	\$7,090	\$43,511	\$184,534	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Since inception, Allendale County First Steps has leveraged \$3,762,204 from sources outside of state government. That's 0.35 cents for every state dollar!

Allendale County First Steps, What a Blessing!!!

Parents as Teachers/Child Care

There's no place like Allendale County First Steps. Being a single parent with two children, working a part-time job and going to school was very hard for me. There were times when I felt like I wouldn't make it. I was in the grocery store complaining about my situation to the cashier, who happens to be a parent that participate in the First Steps Program. She told me to go to Allendale County First steps and ask for Mrs. Hall. The cashier told me I wouldn't be sorry because Mrs. Hall would help me if she could. I waited a couple of days before going to visit Mrs. Hall. I didn't want another door slammed in my face.

I finally went to see Mrs. Hall. We discussed my situation and some options that would could help me accomplish my goals. That was the best meeting I ever I had. I walked away very happy and satisfied. I was qualified for a child care voucher and the parenting program. My children were in a child care center, safe and learning new things, while I worked and attended school during the day.

It feels good to know there's a place (Allendale County First Steps) you can go to get the help you need for you and your children. A place where people care about and your well-being.

PS, I love the group meetings. I get to spend time with my children and ds have fun while we are learning. My library is growing so big. Yes, Allendale County First Steps has been a blessing to me and my children. I thank God for Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Robinson. I'll see you ladies at my graduation next year.

Thank you for all you have done.
Jakariah



Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$133,933
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Allendale County School District: \$3,026

Winthrop Family \$4,026

United Way of Allendale: \$1,000

In-Kind Support

Allendale County School District

Town of Allendale

County of Allendale

South Carolina Department
of Social Services

Little New Steps Child Care Center

Support Allendale First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!

My life saver, Allendale County First Steps

Parents as Teacher/Child Care

First Steps, my life savior! My name is Ashley and have a one-year daughter, who happens to be my First Steps baby. I meet the ladies from Allendale County First Steps at community event, the "Back to School Bash". They were registering children for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and talking about First Steps and the programs they offered. All I could say was, "this where I need to be".

Earlier that week, I went to DSS to apply for child care. I was told I didn't qualify and to check with First Steps. Maybe I'd qualify for their program. I didn't go. While visiting the vendors at the "Back to School Bash", I came to First Steps table and remembered DSS mentioned them to me.

I registered my daughter for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and scheduled an appointment for that next week. This appointment I kept., and I'm so glad I did. I now have a library at home because I enrolled into the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. I also enrolled into First Steps parenting program, where I receive additional books at my home visit and group meetings. I was also eligible for a child care voucher, which I was in desperate need of.

With First Steps help, my parenting skills have improved. They showed me how to work with my child at home, getting her ready for kindergarten. Because of First Steps I'm my child's first teacher. I look forward to my home visits and group meeting every month. Also, my daughter loves going to the post office to get books.

First Steps, you guys are the best. Thanks so much for caring.
Ashley



Support Allendale First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!



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

Program Description

The Parents as Teachers (PAT) model is an evidence-based early childhood home visiting framework for families with children prenatal through kindergarten entry that builds strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to learn. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** minimum twice monthly in the client's home
2. **Group Connections** with other PAT families at least monthly
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify issues early
4. **Resource and Referral Network** connecting families to needed resources

Our PAT program:

- ✓ Increases parent knowledge of child development and improves parenting practices
- ✓ Provides early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- ✓ Prevents child abuse and neglect
- ✓ Increases children's school readiness and school success

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

90% ... live in poverty
20% ... didn't graduate high school
10% ... were teen parents

*Allendale County First Steps help
make dreams come through!*

Ashley

PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	21	
Children Served	21	
Total Home Visits	393	
Hours Spent Serving Families	392	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	KIPS Pre: 2.96	KIPS Post: 3.05



This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged two (2) home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed four (4) potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices as evidence by a positive growth of 0.09 in KIPS and 0.42 in ACIRI
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by distributing 1903 books (1056 DPIL) books to families, building libraries in homes
- ✓ Made fourteen (21) connections for families to services such Department of Social Service, Scholarships, Housing Authority, and Adult Education GED program

Thank you to our partners!

Allendale County School District
County of Allendale
Town of Allendale

Allendale County First Steps

176 Main Street N, Allendale, SC 29810
(803) 584-6000
Email: a1steps@yahoo.com

Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a First Steps program based on other successful school transition models from around the country. Its goals are:

- ✓ to increase the successful transition of South Carolina's most at-risk children into the K-12 school system;
- ✓ to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children's learning is foundational for life success; and
- ✓ to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children's early school success.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a "field trip" to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

Partner school districts place as many CTK children as possible in their home visitor's classroom for kindergarten, thereby building upon the teacher-child and parent-teacher relationships built over the summer.

I wish CTK was a longer Program, it's the BEST!
Priscilla

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2014

Children Served	20
Families Served	20
Home/School Visits	120

*CTK program data is for June-August 2014, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 90%
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 70% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in academics (reading and math)
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 80% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education in the areas of home activities relating to literacy and more involved with the teachers.

Thank you to our partners!

Allendale County School District
Kaplan Early Learning Company
EdVenture Children's Museum
WACH Fox 5
United Way of Allendale

Allendale County First Steps

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Child Care Training

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

Program Description

Efforts to improve the quality of child care must include providing affordable, high quality training 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, but also follow-up with supported practice in the classroom.

Child Care Training Sponsored by Allendale First Steps, 2014-15

Topic:

Sessions:

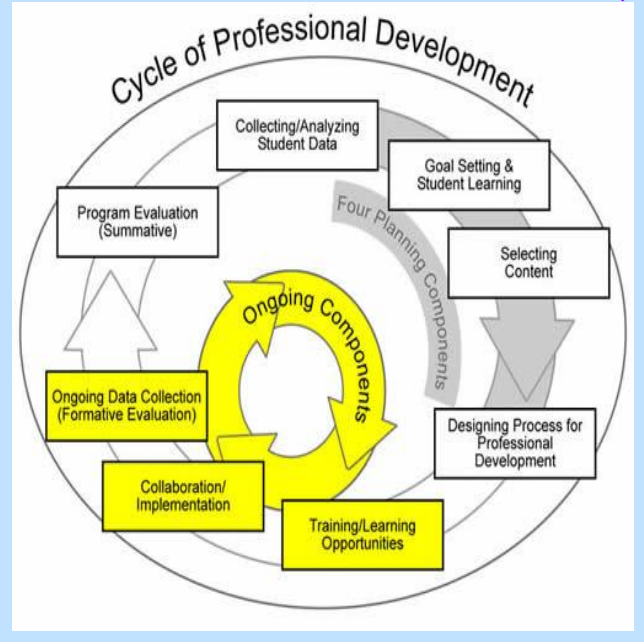
Cradling Literacy Series Provided by

Allendale, Hampton & Jasper County

The Powerful Role of Stories in Supporting	1
Cultural influence on Language & Literacy	2
Brain Development & Early Learning	1
Meeting Learning Challenges	1
Phys Act-Promoting Physical Activity	1
Nutr-Thinking Outside the Cake Box	1
Bloodborne Pathogens	1

*Allendale First Steps provided what I
needed to continue to do what I love!*

Ruby



Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	29
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	29
Number of Training Sessions Offered	7

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ Thirty-Eight (29) early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ Twelve (12) hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ Four (2) follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

U.S. Department of Education
Allendale County School District
County of Allendale

Allendale County First Steps

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Email: a1steps@yahoo.com

Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Allendale County cannot afford quality care for their children.

Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children to experience safe, nurturing, and stimulating interactions while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families working or going to school who are income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no - affordable care options.

Allendale First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

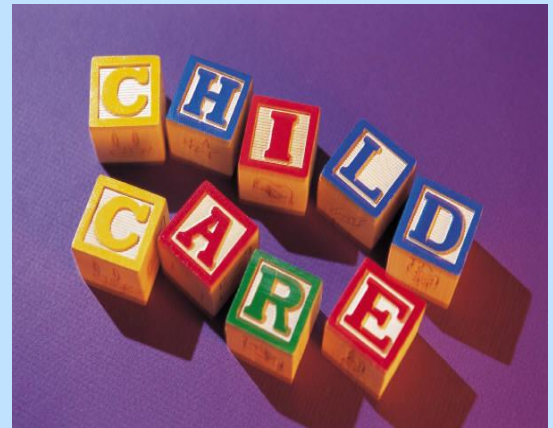
- 100% ... live in poverty
- 36% ... didn't graduate high school
- 18% ... were teen parents
- 36% ... had developmental delays

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

Scholarship recipients also participate in the Parent as Teachers (PAT) program.

Allendale First Steps paved the way to smooth sailing!

Shavita



Scholarships by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	11
Providers Served	2

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided eleven (11) children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed two (4) potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made twelve (12) connections for families to services such as PAT, Department of Social Services, Housing Authority, and Child Care Centers

Thank you to our partners!

U.S. Department of Education
ABC Child Care
South Carolina Department of Social Services

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Community Leadership in Early Childhood

Always Caring, Always Sharing, Allendale County First Steps

Parents as Teachers/Countdown to Kindergarten

Allendale County First Steps Board of Directors and their community partners sponsored a “Secret Santa Angel Tree” which provided Christmas gifts for twenty-one (21) children participating in our Parents as Teachers program and (8) other needy families. These twenty-nine (29) families were blessed with a happy holiday because of our collaboration with our partners.

Our partnership with Allendale County School District twenty (20) children were able to participate in our summer program, Countdown to Kindergarten. These children completed all six visits, which better prepared them to enter into kindergarten. They also received a back pack loaded with school supplies and attended the EdVenture Children’s Museum Annual Countdown to Kindergarten Celebration in Columbia.

At the “Back to School Expo”, Allendale County First Steps Board of Directors provided back packs and school supplies to Pre-K students attending Little New Steps Child care Center, Allendale-Fairfax Elementary School, and OCAB. At the Expo, along with Palmetto Project, we registered children 0-4 years old for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library(DPIL).

Allendale County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Position	Board Category
Tom Carter, Jr., Chair	Sheriff, Allendale County	Legislative Appointee
Lee Harley- Fitts, Vice Chair	Council Member, Town of Allendale	Legislative Appointee
Willard Branch	Judge, County Magistrate	Legislative Appointee
Reverend James Brewton	Pastor	Faith Community
Estella Cohen	Supervisor, Low Country Healthy Start	Family Ed/Training/ Support Provider
Mark Lott	Entrepreneur	Business Community
Ms. Lelia Williams	Superintendent, Allendale County School	County School District
Lainey Reed	Librarian, County Library	County Library
Donella Robinson	Director, Department of Social Services	Department of Social Services
Catherine L. Russell	Victim’s Advocate, Allendale County Sheriff Department	Family Ed/Training/ Support Provider
Pamela Simmons	Jailer, Allendale Detention Center	Parent
Nicole Smith	Supervisor, DHEC	DHEC
Yvonda Speight	Director, Head Start	Head Start
Marzella Washington	PreK- Teacher’s Aid	Early Education
Edna Youmans	Director, Little New Steps Child Care Center	Child Care/Early Childhood Development

Support Allendale First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!

Getting children ready for school.

The Goal 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 Allendale County:
803.533.7390

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

Support Allendale First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!