

Annual Report

2014-2015

HAMPTON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



**Parents as
Teachers**

**Child Care
Training**

**Child Care
Scholarships**

**Early Identification
and Referral**

OUR VISION:

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



Getting children ready for school.

Who We Serve

First Steps serves South Carolina's young children and their families, with the goal of ensuring each is prepared for school success.

Number of Hampton children under 5:
1172

Number of Hampton children living in poverty:
1677

Babies born each year in Hampton County to a mother less than a high school diploma:
21.8%

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Early Identification and Referral

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

First Steps WORKS for the children of Hampton County

Board Chair
Lynette Harley

Executive Director
Leslie Terry

301 First Street East
Hampton, SC 29924
(803)943-7127

hampton1steps@gmail.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, Hampton County focuses its investments in Family Strengthening, Early Intervention and Early Education.

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

PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

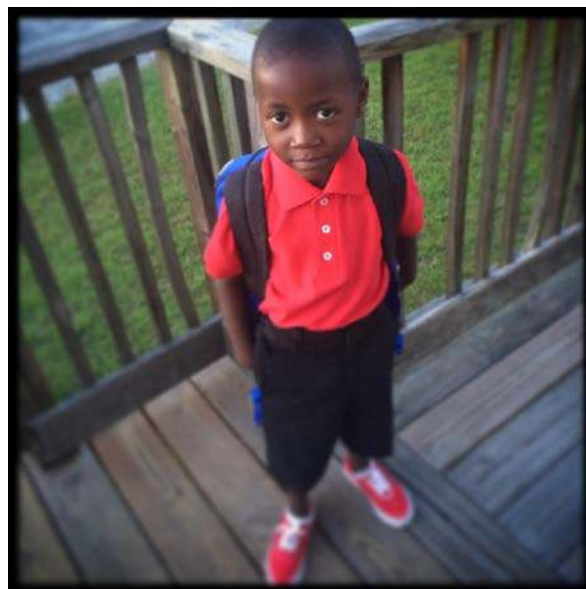
Families Served	14	
Children Served	14	
Total Home Visits	308	
Hours Spent Serving Families	313	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.30	3.38

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

100% ... have one or more risk factors

28% ... low birth rate

35% ... were teen parents



This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.01 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 7 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Provided hearing screenings to all 14 families
- ✓ Made 7 connections for families to services such as child care scholarships

Thank you to our partners!

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Child Care Training

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.

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

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

Topic:

Sessions:

Cradling Literacy 1-11
Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	48
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	48
Number of Training Sessions Offered	27



This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ **48 early childhood staff with high quality training**
- ✓ **15 hours of certified training and 10 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements**
- ✓ **2 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice**

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

Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families 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.

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

100% ... Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 11% ... didn't graduate from high school
 11% ... were teen parents
 41% ... low birth rate



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.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	20
Providers Served	5

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ **Provided 20 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school**
- ✓ **Identified and addressed 6 potential developmental delays among scholarship children**
- ✓ **Made 7 connections for families to services such as Parents As Teachers program**
- ✓ **Supported 5 small businesses in Hampton County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care**

Thank you to our partners!

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Early Identification and Referral

Program Description

First Steps' early identification and referral (EI&R) strategy is intended to produce measurable improvements in the number of infants and toddlers children screened for delays in development, as measured by 1) an increase in the number of children whose Initial IFSPs are developed within 45 days; 2) an increase in the number of screened referrals to the BabyNet Early Intervention System; and 3) an increase in the number of follow-up referrals to local early learning partners for children found ineligible for BabyNet services.

The EI&R initiative serves as a community liaison between Hampton County First Steps (HCFS), local families and various community resources. All parents are encouraged to utilize this service. The EI&R Strategy uses two screening tools to identify potential developmental delays and determine the need for a follow up evaluation/referral:

- The Ages and Stages 3 (ASQ3)
- The Ages and Stages Social Emotional (ASQ-SE)

Once a child has been observed and screened, support services will be identified (if needed) and referred to community resource partners. If there is no indication of a delay with the child, additional resources are still available to families. This may include referrals to the Parent as Teachers program and other resources.

Screenings by the Numbers, 2013-14

Children Served	27
Total Materials Distributed	250
Hearing Screenings Offered	30

Hampton First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our 31 families:

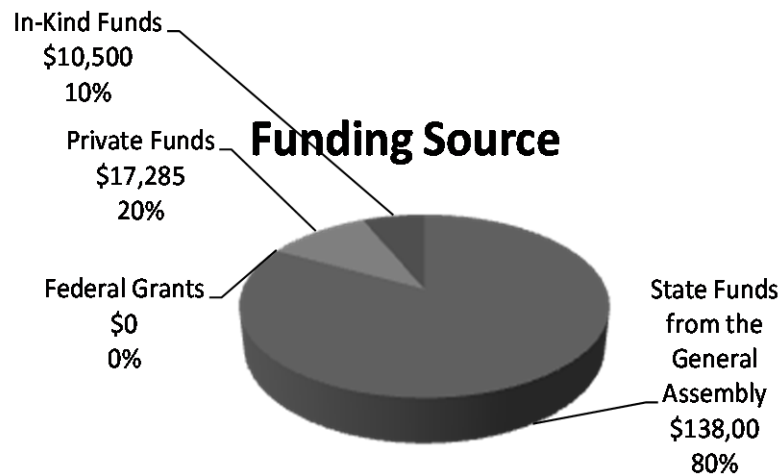
44% ... have one or more risk factors
11% ... were referred to BabyNet
25% ... had developmental delays



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Hampton County First Steps 2014-15 Expenditures



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$161,537

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 20%

*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	\$45,546	\$0	\$2,835	\$0	\$48,381	30%
Scholarship Initiatives	\$9,040	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,040	6%
Child Care Training	\$9,040	\$0	\$754	\$0	\$9,794	6%
Child Care Scholarships	\$34,567	\$0	\$13,263	\$10,500	\$58,330	36%
Early Identification & Referrals	\$15,594	\$0	\$229	\$0	\$15,823	10%
Program Support	\$7,485	\$0	\$67	\$0	\$7,552	5%
Administrative Support	\$12,480	\$0	\$137	\$0	\$12,617	8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$133,752	\$0	\$17,285	\$10,500	\$161,537	

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

Since inception, Hampton First Steps has leveraged \$741,923 from sources outside of state government. That's 24 cents for every state dollar.



Partners

Hampton County First Steps collaborates with agencies and organizations that are, or may be, potential referral sources in the county for connecting children 0-5, and their families, to early childhood programs.

Hampton School District One	Hampton School District Two
Hampton DSS	COSY
Lowcountry HealthyStart	Childcare Centers in Hampton County
Local Churches	Harrison Peebles Health Care Center
Hampton County Interagency Coalition	Hampton County Child Abuse and Neglect Coalition
Child Care Resource and Referral	BabyNet
Access Network	Hampton County Library
The Hampton County Guardian	Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services
CODA	CAPA
Hope Haven	Local Police Departments and Sherriff Office
Jasper County First Steps	Beaufort County First Steps
TEAM Lowcountry	Allendale County First Steps



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 in Hampton County:
803-943-4818 ext.14 or 843-379-7882

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

Thank you to our partners!

Hampton County First Steps served approximately 300 children and their families, either directly and/or indirectly during the 2014-2015 year.

This year, over 3000 books have been distributed to pre-school children in Hampton County.



Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$138,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Greenville Technical College: \$2,000

Coastal Community Foundation: \$10,000

In-Kind Support

AHJ Regional Library

Center for Child Care Career and
Development

Hampton County Guardian

Hampton County School District One

South Carolina DSS

Palmetto Project

Support Hampton First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.



Success Stories

First Steps has benefited my family greatly. It allowed my teenage daughter to place her child in child care while she attended high school. The First Steps parenting program taught her parenting skills. The monthly meetings were beneficial for my shy daughter, me and my granddaughter. I greatly appreciate Hampton County First Steps and their support for my family. I will refer others to participate in Hampton County First Steps programs.

Parent/Grandparent
Tarshekia Bennett

My experience with Hampton County First Steps under the leadership of Dwana Doctor has been awesome. She adores my daughter and my daughter adores her. Every time she shows up for a home visit my daughter knows a book is in that white bag. My daughter is excited about books and can read one of the Llama Llama books on her own at age 2. I am grateful for the skills and direction I have received from Ms. Dwana at Hampton County First Steps.

Parent
Shayla Campbell

As a parent of Hampton County First Steps, I have gained so much knowledge and helpful skills when it comes to parenting my children. One of the greatest techniques that I was able to apply to my children's life was handling sibling rivalry. I have 3 children ages 2, 4, and 7, who all have their own personalities and are at different developmental stages. It has been difficult for me at times dealing with the fighting and disagreements among them. I would find myself yelling and fussing as well, which is not healthy for me or my children. First Steps has helped me in so many ways when it comes to providing a better and safe life for my children. I have gained skills in so many areas that range from eating healthy, developing motor skills, speech, sharing, creativity and the list goes on. I am so thankful for First Steps and the positive impact they have on my life. Thank you for all that each and every one of you does in helping children and families.

Parent
Sara Johnson



First Steps Partnership Board

Name – FY'14-FY'15	Position on Board	Place of Employment
Shellie Ackerman	Early Childhood Education	Hampton School District One
Linda Ashley	Appointed Hampton County Health Department	Hampton County Health Department -DHEC
Angela Bell	Family Education, Training, and Support Provider	SC Workforce Center
Bettye Bostick	Appointed Low Country Head Start	LCAA Head Start
Hope Bryant	Healthcare Provider	Speech Therapy Services
Lois Byrd	Appointed by Hampton County Library	Hampton County Library
Cynthia Deloach		Estill Library
Rev. Ross Chellis	Faith Community	Hampton Methodist Church
Nancy Deloach	Non-Profit Organization that Serves Families and Children	Adult Literacy
Stephanie Smart-Gittings	Parent of Preschooler	Hampton School District Two
Lennis Grant	Childcare/Childhood Development Provider	Children's Place
Lynette Harley	House of Representatives Appointee	Career Corner Employment Services
Bridget Gray-Peebles	Appointed Hampton DSS	Hampton DSS
Katherine Rivers		
Kandi Hewlett	Childcare Provider	The Mellon Patch Childcare
Debra Heyward	Parent of a Preschooler	Children's Keepers Childcare
Kristen Rentz	Pre-K Education	Varnville Elementary School
Kakela Robinson	Appointed Hampton School Dist #1	Hampton School District One
Harry Wooding	Appointed Hampton School Dist #2	Hampton School District Two
Tonya Robinson	Early Childcare Education	Hampton School District Two