



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

**Child Care
Scholarships**

Annual Report

2014-15

OUR VISION:

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

First Steps WORKS for the children of Marlboro 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 children under 5:

1,519

Number of Marlboro County children living in poverty:

2,097

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

1 in 5

Our Programs

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Our Results

- ✓ MCFS served over 120 clients during the FY 15 fiscal year
- ✓ MCFS provided 15 Childcare Scholarships
- ✓ MCFS collaborated with S.C. Child Care Resource & Referral Network to provide quality trainings for our Early Education providers

Marlboro County First Steps still working after 14 years

Randall Johnson, Executive Director

The Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to be a quality contributor to the Marlboro community. This can especially be noticed in terms of childcare and parenting. This past year we worked with 20 families who may not receive other parenting services. MCFS continues to be the lead county agency that works with childcare facilities throughout the community. We stress quality and efficient learning centers as opposed to babysitting.

Marlboro County First Steps increases the quality of services for children 0-5 and their families

Through our Parents As Teachers parenting program as well as through our childcare scholarship program we have been able to assure that some of the families with the greatest needs in Marlboro County receive help that they may otherwise not get. Also parents are required to be actively involved with their children.

Marlboro County First Steps leverages resources for children and families through public-private partnerships

Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to mesh with community partners. We have collaborated with a few public and private partnerships. One collaboration that has been great for over 11 years is with the Marlboro County School District. The MCFS office is located at Bennettsville Primary School. Such collaborations include the school district family literacy program for PAT group meetings. At the end of the program we jointly sponsor a PAT family celebration. We also maintain a great collaboration with the Marian Wright Edelman Public Library, Marlboro County Adult Education and the Magic Johnson Empowerment Center. In June in conjunction with the MWE Library we helped host a family appreciation day.

Board Chair

Margaret E. Quick

Executive Director

Randall S. Johnson

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Room 105

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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.



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, Marlboro County First focuses its investments in Family Strengthening, Quality Childcare & Early Intervention

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

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

91% ... live in poverty
 1% ... were teen parents



"This is my second child that has been involved in the MCFS PAT & Scholarship Programs, as a parent I have truly enjoyed the services that they have provided for families."

Tanesha Clark, Parent

PAT by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	20	
Children Served	24	
Total Home Visits	388	
Hours Spent Serving Families	593.34	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.28/2.23	3.45/2.45

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 3 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices via Keys to Interactive Parenting by .23 from pre to post
- ✓ Improved literacy skills through ACIRI assessments pre to post by .22. #281 books distributed to participating families
- ✓ Made 2 connections for families to services such as BabyNet & Adult Ed

Thank you to our partners!

Marlboro County DSS
 State ABC Child Care
 Marian Wright Edelman Library
 Marlboro County School District Family Literacy

Marlboro County First Steps

301 Jefferson Street, Room 105
 Bennettsville, SC 29512

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.

“My name is Elaine Purvis owner & operator of Write At Home Learning Center family daycare. MCFS local child care trainings are very helpful because of low cost, no travel & still full of quality.”

Elaine Purvis

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

Topic:	Sessions:
First Aid/CPR	One Session
Dinosaur Romp: Activities for Young Children	One Session
Blood-Borne Pathogens	One Session
Adventures in Learning Center Play	One Session
You, Me and Interaction	One Session



March Child Care Training

Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	35
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	17
Number of Training Sessions Offered	5

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 17 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 13.5 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ Five (5) follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- Marlboro County School District
- SC-CCCCD
- Marian Wright Edelman Library

Marlboro County First Steps
 301 Jefferson Street, Room 105
 Bennettsville, SC 29512

Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Marlboro 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.

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

- 95% ... live in poverty
- 1% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 1% ... were teen parents
- 2% ... 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.

1. Each one of the participants in our program who receive a scholarship must also participate in the parenting program.
2. Every child who receives a scholarship also receives books

"This is my first time receiving an ABC Voucher & I'm happy that I enrolled in the program."
XuXu Davis, Parent



Scholarships by the Numbers, 2014-15

Children Served	15
Providers Served	6

This year, our Scholarship program:

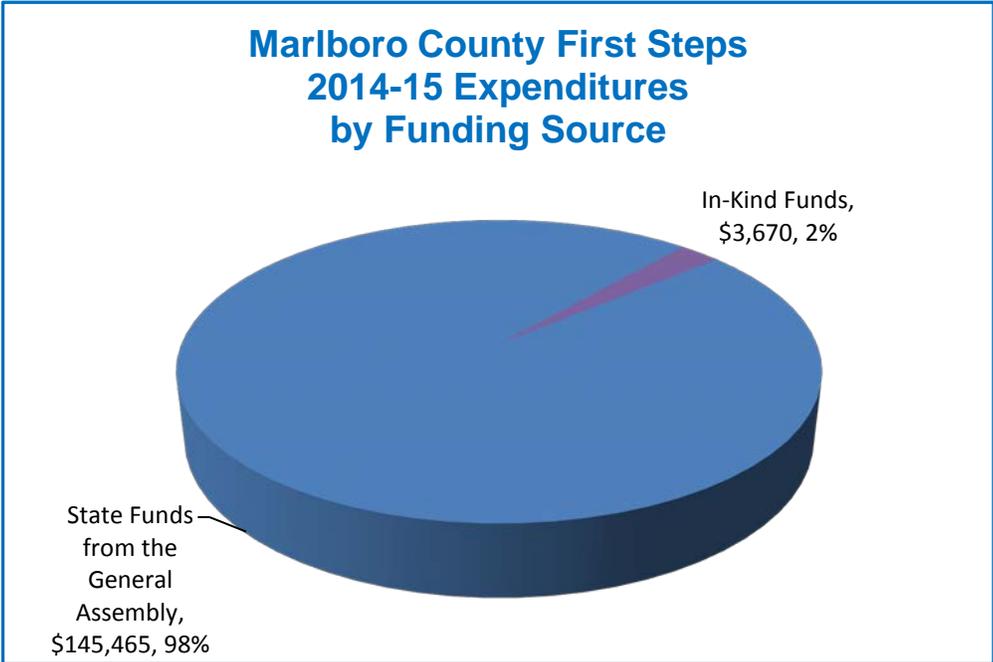
- ✓ Provided 15 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 2 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 2 connections for families to services such as BabyNet & Adult Education
- ✓ Provided 3 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as health & Safety

Thank you to our partners!

- State ABC Child Care
- Marian Wright Edelman Library

Marlboro County First Steps
 301 Jefferson Street, Room 105
 Bennettsville, SC 29512

Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$149,134

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 3%

**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	\$40,632	\$0	\$0	\$170	\$40,802	27%
Child Care Training	\$20,874	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,874	14%
Child Care Scholarships	\$17,500	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$21,000	14%
Program Support	\$44,399	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,399	30%
Administrative Support	\$22,059	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,059	15%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$145,464	\$0	\$0	\$3,670	\$149,134	

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

Since inception, Marlboro County First Steps has leveraged \$782,332 from sources outside of state government. That's 28.343% Leveraged for every state dollar.

MCFS READINESS SUCCESS

Marlboro County First Steps has long lasting impact on students.

Marlboro County First Steps has enjoyed great success in affecting the lives of families in Marlboro County. *MCFS back in the summer of 2003 had a Summer Readiness Program. This program was designed to help Kindergartens transition to the 1st grade. We had 48 students that summer and this past 2015 graduation class had 85% of those students that graduated and of the 85%, 90% of them entered college in the Fall of 2015. Below is one of those students Artemus Woods, Jr. who accepted a full ride to Newberry College. The summer readiness program really helped Artemus and he never looked back.*



Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$145,464
(through South Carolina First Steps)

In-Kind Support

Marlboro County School District
ABC Child Care
Parker's Used Cars

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

Week of the Young Child a Success once Again

Other community adventures

Daycare centers are enjoyable



Children enjoying each other in the centers



First Steps Partnership Board

Marlboro County Family Day

MWE Library, MCSD, MCFS & others

Held an event on Saturday in June to celebrate families and young children. A lot of fun, games & reading. Looking for it to be a much bigger event next year.

Name	Position	Board Category
Margaret Quick, Chair	Family Literacy Coordinator, Marlboro County School District	Family, Education, Training & Support
Shirley Jones, Vice Chair	Bennettsville/Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries	Faith Community
Nidra Ellison	Student FDTC	Parent of a Young Child
Tammy Elliott	Southeastern Community & Family Services	Non Profit
Kennita Graham	Teacher/Blenheim Head Start	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Bobbi Jo Grooms	Director, Marian Wright Edelman Library	Library Representative
Brenda McRae	Assistant Pastor, Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	Faith Community
Nichelle Nichols	Musician, Trinity United Methodist Church	Family, Education, Training & Support
Marlon Prince	Truancy, Marlboro County School District	School District Representative
Elaine Purvis	Director, Write At Home Daycare	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Robin Robertson	The Peterkin Group	Business Community
Marion Smith	Marlboro County HS	Transportation
Renata Stubbs	CareSouth Carolina	Health Provider
Margaret Victor		
Virginia McGraw (Retired)	Library Director	Agency Designee
Patricia Henegan (July-December)	Retired Superintendent	Legislative Appointee



Getting children ready for school.

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 in Marlboro County:
843-634-6676

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

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