



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

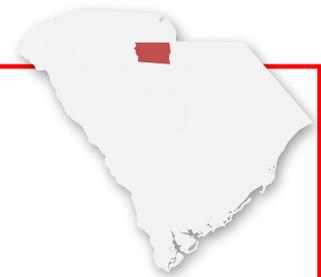
Annual Report

2015-16



OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Chester County
Children Under Five	289,990	1,982
Children In Poverty	26.4%	33.5%
3 rd 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 state government. **That's \$.47 for every dollar received.**
- **838 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 33 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 30 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **13 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 31**

Chester County First Steps
Centuria S. Watson
 Executive Director

The lingering effect of community engagement that benefits our youngest learners become evident. We see communities that are sensitive to family issues for advancing all facets of school readiness. Empowered stakeholders seek opportunities to collaborate to spread the messages of why it is imperative to invest in early childhood programming and services. Creating networks within and beyond county borders enable parents, community leaders, and organizations to combine resources that fortify the local infrastructure for supporting 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 learning begins. Guidance and support are provided to families during the earliest period of child rearing. Moreover, 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 increasing early care classroom best practices. The County Partnership Board believes each child starting school healthy and ready to succeed requires investing in our youngest learners now.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

Chester County First Steps

109 Ella Street
 Chester, SC 29706

Phone: (803) 385-6174
 Fax: (803) 385-6265

Board Chair
 Joni Arrowood

arrowoodjoni@yahoo.com

County Programs

Parents as Teachers
 Child Care Training

State Programs

BabyNet
 First Steps 4k

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, Chester County First Steps focuses its investments in Parents As Teachers Program and Child Care Trainings.



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:

93% ... live in poverty
5% ... didn't graduate from high school
81% ... were teen parents



Brylin & Bryson snuggled together for a nap.

"I'm grateful to be a part of this program. I am excited to watch my child grow."

Stacey

PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	31	
Children Served	31	
Total Home Visits	784	
Hours Spent Serving Families	806	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	2.9	3.07

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 25.26 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 8 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices an average of .17 within a six-month period from pre-to-post scores
- ✓ Improved literacy skills an average of .22 for parents and .21 for children within a six-month period from pre-to-post scores

Thank you to our partners!

United Way Success By Six
Chester County Government
Hazel Pitman

Chester County First Steps

109 Ella Street, Chester, SC 29706
(803) 385-6174
Email: 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.

“Chester County First Steps trainings are always interactive & engaging.”
 Debra

Child Care Training Sponsored by Chester County First Steps, 2015-16

Topic:	Sessions:
What To Do When Children Grieve	One Session
Cradling Literacy	Two Sessions
First Aid & CPR	One Session
Organizational Best Practices	Two Sessions
I Am An Individual	One Session
STEM for Young Children	One Session
Natural Learning in Natural Environments	One Session
Early Language Development & Emerging Literacy	One Session



Stacey & Cruz enjoy the photo booth at his birthday party.

Training by the Numbers, 2015-16

Total Training Attendance	80
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	40
Number of Training Sessions Offered	10

This year, our Training program provided:

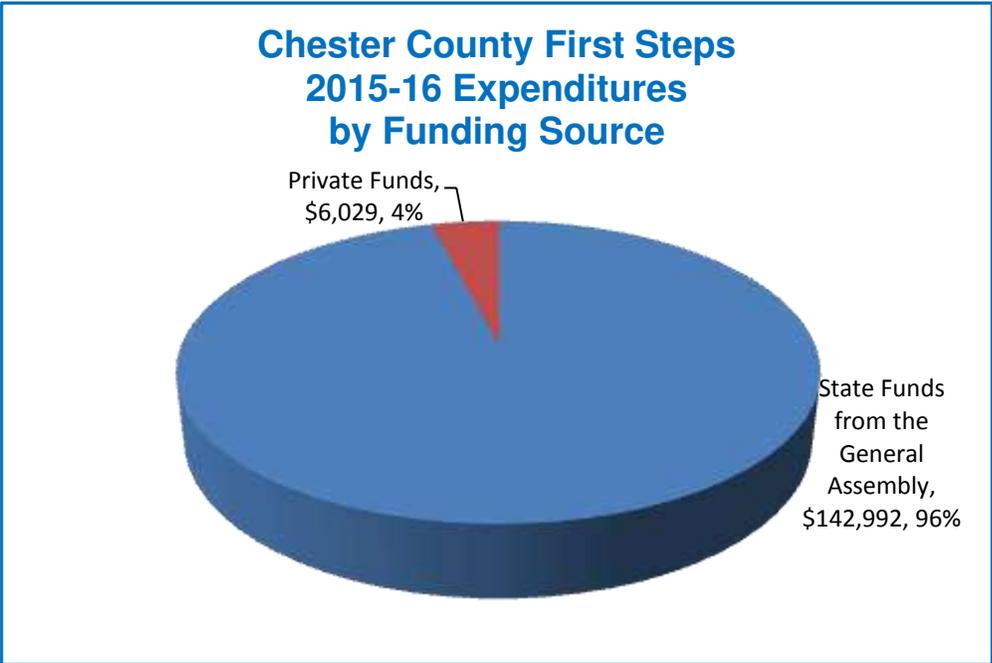
- ✓ 80 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 19 hours of certified training and 7 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 13 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- Child Care Resource & Referral
- ABC Quality Enhancement
- Department of Social Services

Chester County First Steps
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 Email: firststepscc@truvista.net

Financial Impact



Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$142,992

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*: 53%

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

2015-16 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2015-16 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$85,714	\$0	\$2,154	\$30,484	\$118,352	52%
Child Care Training	\$7,383	\$0	\$1,157	\$25,669	\$34,209	15%
Other Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Program Support	\$31,706	\$0	\$1,392	\$18,057	\$51,155	22%
Administrative Support	\$18,189	\$0	\$1,327	\$6,019	\$25,535	11%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$142,992	\$0	\$6,030	\$80,229	\$229,251	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

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.

Tiffany McClurkin Achieving Goals

Parents As Teachers Program

Tiffany McClurkin was a senior in high school when she became pregnant with her first child. She enrolled in the Chester County First Steps Parents As Teachers Program on the suggestion of her older sister who was already a participant. Tiffany was encouraged to continue her education and received support from her parent educator. She learned to set realistic goals for herself and her daughter, Kelsey. She also learned what to expect from her pregnancy as well as her Kelsey's growth & development. She was excited to learn what her child should be doing and how she could provide activities to promote those skills.

After graduating from high school, Tiffany attended the Chester campus of York Technical College to pursue a Nursing degree. Midway through the program, she became pregnant with a second child. She felt she should give up on her goal of becoming a nurse and focus solely on her children. Her parent educator encouraged her to continue taking classes at York Tech on a part time basis and as much online as possible.

Tiffany is now a semester away from completing the nursing program, assistant manager at Dollar Tree and living in her own apartment with her two children. She realizes she can accomplish her major goals by setting small attainable goals directed toward the greater ones. She is determined to be a college graduate so she can be independent and instill those qualities in her children. She attributes her success to have a great support system composed of her family along with Chester County First Steps.



Kelsey enjoys being KJ's big sister.



Tiffany shares quality snuggle time with Kelsey and KJ after a long day.

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

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet in Chester County:
(803) 222-5360

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

Save the Date!

Chester County First Steps Annual Board Meeting will be Tuesday, October 25, 2016 @ 6:00 pm at the Chester County Voter Registration Building located at 109 Ella Street Chester, SC 29706.

Chester County First Steps Mega Chinese Auction will be Saturday, December 3, 2016 beginning at 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

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