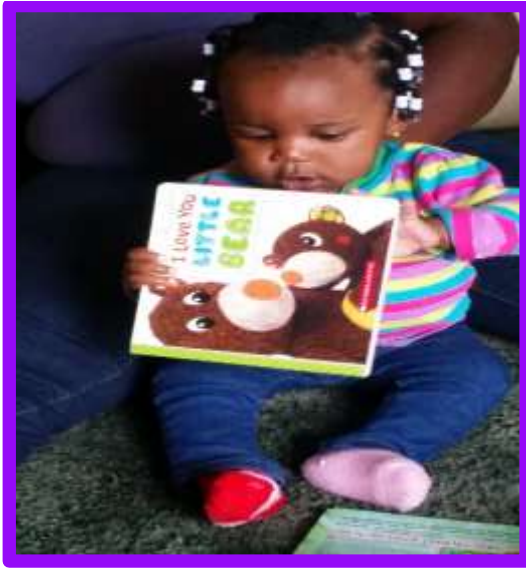


DILLON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

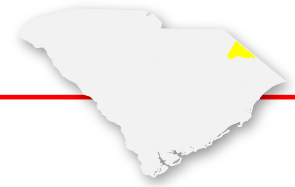
# Annual Report

2015-16




## OUR VISION:

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



## By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Dillon County
Children Under Five	289,990	2,193
Children In Poverty	26.4%	41.8%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	29.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	29.5%

KIDS COUNT data provided by  Children's Trust

- Since inception, Dillon County First Steps has leveraged \$910,032 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.21 for every dollar received.**
- **641 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 22 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 21 hours** of childcare training hours.
- Improved parenting practices through **12 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 35**

Dillon County First Steps  
**Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr.**  
 Executive Director

Dillon County First Steps (DCFS) Partnership Board and staff are proud to serve Dillon County's youngest children to build a strong educational foundation to ensure Dillon County's children are ready for school.

In 2015-16, DCFS continues the Parents As Teachers (PAT) Home Visitor Program that serves families with prenatal through kindergarten children and the Child Care Training and Professional Development Program that serves child care providers by offering certified training hours to fulfill their yearly DSS credit hours.

Dillon School District Four continues to support DCFS by providing office space, meeting space, utilities, and copying service. A grant from the Dillon County United Way supports the Parents As Teachers program through the purchase of age appropriate books. A grant from South Carolina Child Care Career and Development supports child care trainings by assisting with presenter fees and advertising. Child Care Resource and Referral provides a trainer for child care training.

DCFS continues to encourage community support through its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Fundraiser. The fundraiser raises awareness of First Steps and assists with the purchase of needed supplies to enhance all programs.

DCFS will continue to serve high quality education programs and encourage community support to ensure that Dillon County children have the best possible education. By DCFS and the community working together as a team, we will build a dependable, reliable, and educated workforce in Dillon County.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

### Dillon County First Steps

926 Perry Ave.  
 Dillon, SC 29536

Phone: (843) 774-0061  
 Fax: (843) 774-0480

**Board Chair**  
 Nina Bradley

dcfsteps@bellsouth.net

[www.scfirststeps.org](http://www.scfirststeps.org)

### County Programs

Parents as Teachers  
 Child Care Training

### State Programs

BabyNet  
 First Steps 4K  
 Early Head Start

# 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, Dillon County First focuses its investments in Family Strengthening and Quality Childcare.**

**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

**Dillon county First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:**

100% ... live in poverty  
23% ... didn't graduate from high school  
41% ... were teen parents



*Preston Jackson is using his fine motor skills and five senses to explore water, baking soda, and food coloring.*

*Preston has really improved since his tube implant in his ears. He has started talking and doing much more!*

*Sabrina Lee  
Parent, Parents As Teachers*

## PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	22	
Children Served	35	
Total Home Visits	625	
Hours Spent Serving Families	641	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	4.02	4.41

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 28.4 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 7 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices with Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS) Assessment with an average 9.7% increase
- ✓ Improved literacy skills, Parents as Teachers lessons always ended with a small literacy activity that helped the parent get more creative with their story time.
- ✓ Made 35 connections for families to services such as interventions to BabyNet, referral to early education programs, and local family events and housing resources.

## Thank you to our partners!

City of Dillon Wellness Center  
Dillon County United Way  
Doo Rights

### Dillon County First Steps

926 Perry Avenue, Dillon, SC 29536  
Phone: (843) 774-0061  
Email: dcfsteps@bellsouth.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 Dillon First Steps, 2015-16	
Topic:	Sessions:
Cradling Literacy	Module 2 Session 5 and 6 Module 3 Session 8 and 9 Module 4 Session 10 and 12
Let's Get Excited!	One Session
Blood-Borne Pathogens	One Session
Hands on Math	One Session
How Are You Learning	One Session
It's More Than Just A Business	One Session
Nutri-Tasty Acres Farm	One Session

*Childcare Trainings hosted by DCFS are awesome. I am learning more techniques to use in my child care.*  
 ~Ms. Brenda Swinney  
 Little Miss "B"

*Licensing hours are obtained locally on Thursday evenings, which work best for me.*  
 ~Ms. Florine Jones  
 Noah's Ark



## Training by the Numbers, 2015-16

Total Training Attendance	181
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	30
Number of Training Sessions Offered	12

**This year, our Training program provided:**

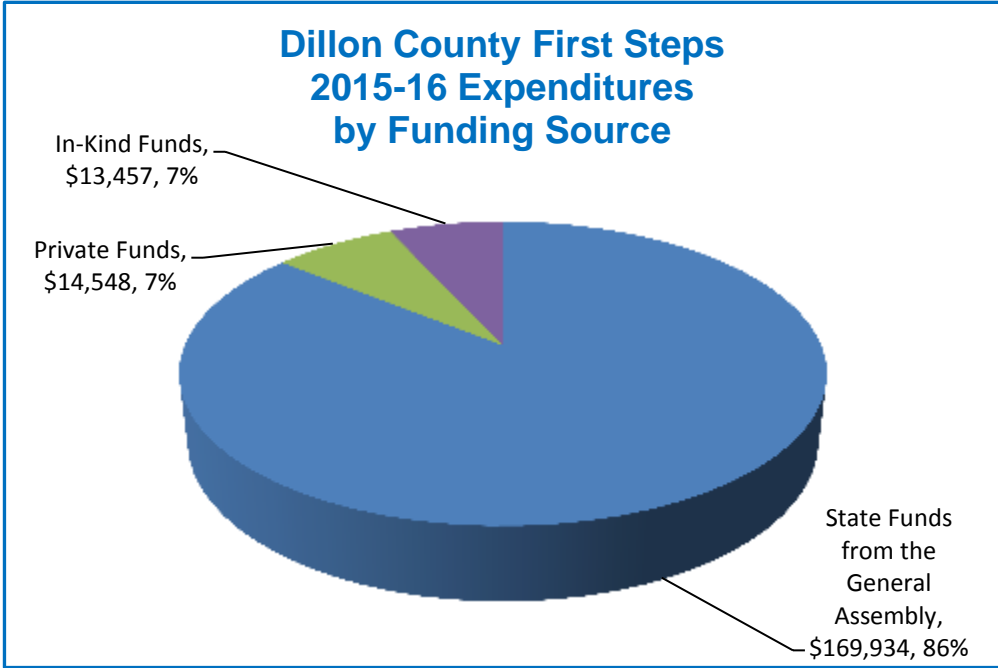
- ✓ 30 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 20 hours of certified training and 1 hour of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 15 Childcares represented: serving an estimated 233 children 0-5 years old and 76 6+ years old.
- ✓ 102 Books placed in childcares

## Thank you to our partners!

- Brandi's Banquet Hall
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- City of Dillon Wellness Center
- SC Center for Child Care Career Development

**Dillon County First Steps**  
 926 Perry Avenue, Dillon, SC 29536  
 Phone: (843) 774-0061  
 Email: dcfsteps@bellsouth.net

# Financial Impact



**Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$197,939**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16\*: 16%**

\*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	\$53,432	\$0	\$7,786	\$3,525	<b>\$64,743</b>	<b>33%</b>
Child Care Training	\$28,724	\$0	\$2,456	\$4,007	<b>\$35,186</b>	<b>18%</b>
Program Support	\$65,664	\$0	\$2,633	\$3,838	<b>\$72,134</b>	<b>36%</b>
Administrative Support	\$22,113	\$0	\$1,674	\$2,088	<b>\$25,875</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$169,934</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,548</b>	<b>\$13,457</b>	<b>\$197,939</b>	

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

**Since inception, Dillon County First Steps has leveraged \$910,032 from sources outside of state government. That's 21 cents for every state dollar.**

## Parents As Teachers (PAT)

### Success Stories

I love the program. I'm learning a lot about being a 1<sup>st</sup> time mom.

**-Nicole Odom**  
PAT Parent

This is my 1<sup>st</sup> year and I love the program. My daughter is learning a lot. My son is only 3 months and I'm learning a lot on what to do for him.

**-Erin Ellison**  
PAT Parent

I like the program. My girls love the books and toys. They are ready for school.

**-Kiley Bethea**  
PAT Parent

The kids have learned to read and identify objects well. They love to get books and sit and read to us. They can identify some colors and they talk better and a lot more. I thank you all for this program is amazing.

**-Shannon Dunson**  
PAT Parent

Jayceon enjoys his books from the program. He has his favorite book "The Wheels on the Bus." He enjoys everybody reading the books to him.

**-Daysha Samuels**  
PAT Parent

I am so grateful for this program. It has really helped me to become a better mother and teacher to my children. This program has influenced many values into my everyday living. My child has developed tremendously from the curriculum and lessons that this program teaches. We definitely love the support and love that we get from the program as a whole from the PAT Educator, staff and all of the PAT participants. My daughter is really improving in her social skills. She is interacting with other children more and she is learning how to share. My baby has a love for learning and she is so exciting to watch as she explores her surroundings. Even though she can't read right now she has a love for books and she is excited reading in her own language. The program is a great one and I would recommend it to everyone I know.

**-Nancy Leach**



*Christasia Quick*



*Chaniyah & Malasia McCollum*



*Logan Leggette, Ja'lyn Johnson, Ja'Ziyah Leggette,  
and Nehemiah Wright*

# Community Impact

## Parents As Teachers

### Success Stories

My daughter started this program as an infant. She really is excited about learning and exploring inside and outside. She loves to look at books and turn the pages. She really enjoys you reading to her. I feel that this program is really helping and enhancing her gross and fine motor skills. It has also helped her start saying more words. I have seen her go from crying and whining about things to getting up and going to point, show and almost tell you what she wants. She loves to be praised and love praising others for doing things. I am so excited about her growth and I look forward to seeing more of her potential as we continue in this program. This program is an exceptional program that is great for the whole family. I would definitely recommend this program to other families and friends.



David McRae and Angeliya McRae enjoying a PAT Group Connection activity.

**-Felicia Ware**  
**PAT Parent**



Jayceon McLellan



Kalayah McLellan



PAT Group Connection Easter Egg Hunt



PAT Group Connection with SANTA!

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



## Child Care Training

### Success Stories

First Steps has given my staff and I the opportunity to meet credential hours that are mandatory from DSS. Child care training has helped us to develop lesson plans for all ages. First Steps has made it so convenient right here at home to be able to obtain the necessary training hours without traveling long distances. Mother's Love Day Care staff and I really appreciate our Dillon County First Steps program staff.

**-Eva Owens**  
**Owner/Director Mother's Love Day Care**

Dillon County First Steps has enabled me to further my education. I am attending ECD 101 at Northeastern Technical College this fall. I've learned a lot and I really enjoy First Steps employees. They have given me a positive outlook on early childhood development.

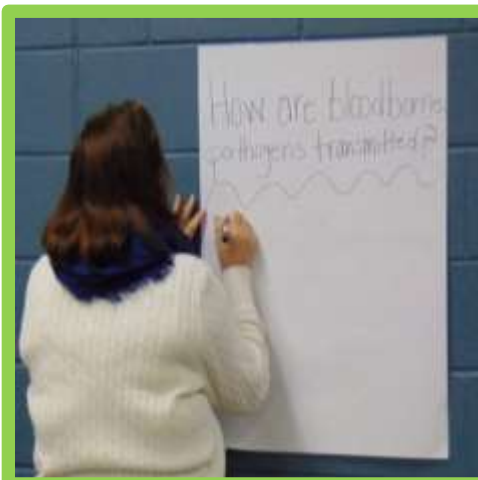
**-Lisa McRae**  
**Mother's Love Day Care**

Dillon County First Steps Child care trainings are great and have been very beneficial to me. I have learned something new every year that I have attended. I have met a lot of positive minded people. It's always a good time when I attend. The trainings aren't far, and the environment is very comfortable. I used all this information and decided to further my education. I attended the 4K Academy in Columbia, South Carolina to become an assistant 4K teacher. I am also enrolled at Northeastern Technical College this fall for EDC 101. I enjoy these trainings and the staff of Dillon County First Steps are kind and loving people.

**-Sherrica Roberson**  
**Mother's Love Day Care**



*Lisa McRae displaying her math activity.*



*How are bloodborne pathogens transmitted?*



*Child Care Staff Participating in a training session.*

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

# First Steps Partnership Board

## Board/Community Collaboration

Dillon School District Four provides office space, meeting space, copying service and utilities for day to day operations. First Steps is actively involved with the Dillon County Collaborative Council, which engages with other agencies such as DSS, DHEC, Chamber of Commerce, etc. McLeod Medical Center Dillon continues to host Teen Pregnancy Prevention meetings to reduce teen pregnancy in Dillon County. Partnerships with Child Care Resource and Referral and the SC Center for Child Care Career Development make it possible to offer quality trainings to childcare providers.

## Board Highlights

During 2015-16, Dillon County First Steps Board Members volunteered 147 hours to board meetings and devoted 33.5 hours to committee meetings.

## Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-16

Name	Board Category
Nina Bradley, Chair	Non-Profit Organization That Provides Services to Families and Children
Gabriel Salmon, Sr., Vice Chair	Faith Community
Ressie Jones, Secretary	DSS
Johnnie Luehrs, Assistant Secretary	Legislative Appointee
Crystal Johnson	Head Start
Linda Kelley	Family Education, Training and Support Provider
Mary Kinney	Legislative Appointee
George Liebenrood	Latta School District Three
Rachelle Lighty	Dillon School District Four
Alisha McCall	Dillon County Library
Tonny McNeil	Local Government
Doretha Page	Legislative Appointee
Reginald Scott	DHEC
Kenneth L. Smith	Non-Profit Organization That Provides Services to Families and Children



# 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 Dillon County:  
(843) 669-8689

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



# Thank you donors!

## Funding Support

- State of South Carolina: \$169,934  
*(through South Carolina First Steps)*
- Brenda Arnette
- Bartell Funeral Home
- Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr.
- Reverend Dr. Frank Blue
- Susie Blue
- Nina Bradley
- Monique Covington
- Angela Coward
- Criterion Club
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Dillon Branch No. 5513 NAACP
- Dillon County Board of Education
- Dillon County Boys & Girls Youth Center
- Dillon County Council
- Dillon County Dept. of Social Services
- Dillon Internal Medicine Associates, PA
- Doo Rights, LLC
- Duke Energy
- Maggie Durant
- Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
- First Bank
- Harbor Freight Tools Distribution Center
- Ressie Jones
- K.L.S. Incorporated
- Rev. May Kinney
- Latta Drug Company, Inc.
- Nancy Leach
- Judge James E. Lockemy
- Johnnie Luehrs
- Marlboro Electirc Cooperative, Inc.
- Gwen McClellan
- Tamela McGill
- McLeod Medical Center – Dillon
- Tiffany McTeer
- Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
- NETC Business Class
- New Bethel Apostolic Church, Inc.
- Outreach Family Fellowship
- Doretha Page
- Pee Dee Electricom, Inc.
- Cynthia Pernell
- Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson
- SC Center for Child Care Career Development
- SC State Representative Wayne George
- SC State Senator Kent Williams
- Schafer Distributing Company
- Reginald Scott
- Select Health of SC, Inc.
- The Patricia C. Schafer Foundation
- Town of Sellers
- Winner’s Choice
- Wix Filtration Corp
- Elaine B. Wright

## In-Kind Support

- Brandi’s Banquet Hall
- Child Care Resource and Referral
- City of Dillon Wellness Center
- Dillon School District Four
- Doo Rights
- Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson

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