

LEE COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Early Steps to School
Success (Save the Children)

Parents as Teachers

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Strengthening Families
Program

Annual Report

2015-2016



OUR VISION:

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

First Steps WORKS for the children of Lee County.



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Lee County
Children Under Five	289,990	886
Children In Poverty	26.4%	36.3%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	48.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	19.4%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Lee County First Steps has leveraged **\$2,672,084** from sources outside state government. **That's \$.66 for every dollar received.**
- **55 children served by Parenting Programs**
- **7 children received Child Care Scholarships**
- **20.5 hours of Child Care Training were provided**
- **10 children in Countdown to Kindergarten**
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 72**

Lee County First Steps

310 Roland Street,
PO Box 344
Bishopville, SC 29010

Phone: 803-484-5110
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Board Chair
Andrew Moses

Supporting and Encouraging One Family at a Time

Lee County First Steps
Alexis D. Pipkins, Sr.
Executive Director

2015-2016 Fiscal Year has been a successful year for Lee County First Steps. The partnership board has managed to sustain partnerships which made it possible to continue providing already established services. LCFS has continued to provide the following support with limited funding and staff: child care scholarships and center staff training and professional development to both early care professionals and parents. Also, Lee County continues to implement parenting programs (Parents as Teachers and Early Steps to School Success). LCFS provided support for 4K Assessment with the DIAL-3, and the PPVT-3. To enhance program quality, LCFS concluded the Parents As Teachers ILA Project. LCFS and RLI-Lee County continues its work through the SC Healthy Initiative Grant from SC DHEC and SC Tobacco Collaboration to focus on the health and well-being of Lee County's children and their families.

LCFS continues to work hard to expand services throughout the community and across county lines, if necessary, to reach families and children who are in dire need of these services. LCFS received funds from SC Children's Trust to expand the Strengthening Families Program to serve families in the Darlington and Florence County areas. Additionally, LCFS has secured funds through Family Corps to implement Parent Anonymous Program. Parents Anonymous is an evidence-based family strengthening program utilizing mutual support, parent leadership, and shared leadership to achieve personal growth, improve family functioning and achieve parental resilience.

The value adds which LCFS continues to have on the local community is that we continue to serve as a visible advocate for the children and parents in Lee County. Although local resources are limited, LCFS is still passionate about its commitment to help children and their families, strengthening collaboration efforts with the Lee County School District, Head Start, private child care, and other partners in the local and regional community. LCFS has maintained its focus on addressing parenting, home visiting, quality child care with limited child care scholarships, child training, and school readiness.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

Early Steps
Parents as Teachers
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Training
Child Care Scholarships
Strengthening Families

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, Lee County First focuses its investments in Family Strengthening, School Transition, Quality Child Care, and Early Education

Providing quality home visitation, early literacy support, and book bag exchange program.

Program Description

Early Steps to School Success (ESSS) is a language and pre-literacy development program operated by Save the Children, a leading international nonprofit helping children in need. ESSS is the birth-to-five component of a continuum of Save the Children programs which focus on literacy and language development, physical fitness and nutrition programs for children birth to age 12. ESSS provides early childhood education services to pregnant women and children birth to five years of age, education services to their parents, and ongoing staff training to the community early childhood educators involved with the program.

In Lee County, ESSS is implemented in collaboration with Lee County School District.

Lee County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our ESSS families:

- 100% ... Live in Poverty
- 54% Single Parent



ESSS by the Numbers, 2015-2016

Children Served	29
Number of Home Visits	272
Total Hours of Home Visits	272
Number of Group Meetings	16
Number of Families Served	26

ESSS Expansion on the way...

This year, ESSS Program learned that Save the Children will provide support to expand to Lower Lee Elementary School. This will mean that Early Steps will be present in each of the Lee County School District elementary schools attendance zones, increasing the impact on children and families in the most rural pockets of Lee County.

Thank you to our partners!

- Save the Children
- Lee County School District
- Bishopville Primary School
- Lower Lee Elementary School
- West Lee Elementary School
- Lee County Adult Education
- Bishopville Lee Adult Education
- Jhane Family Day Care

Lee County First Steps

PO Box 344; Bishopville, SC 29010
Phone: 803-484-5110

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

I’m a single mother with five children and not much income, so providing the resources my children, and I needed to help them begin reading before school was not looking too promising.

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

- 100% **live in poverty**
- 91% **Single parents**
- 6% **were teen parents**
- 12% **didn’t graduate high school**



PAT by the Numbers 2015-2016

Children Served	26
Total Home Visits	433
Hours Spent Serving Families	433
Number of Group Meetings	12
Families Served	25

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.27 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed potential developmental delays by referring to BabyNet or Child Find
- ✓ Parenting practice on the KIPS is helping parents strengthen their nurturing and parenting skills.
- ✓ Improved literacy skills: books given, books lent, and books read to 1,695 children
- ✓ Made connections for families to services such as referrals

Thank you to our partners!

- Lee County School District
- Save the Children
- Parents as Teachers (ILA)
- Bishopville Lee Child Care Center
- Kershaw County First Steps

Lee County First Steps
PO Box 344; Bishopville, SC 29010
803-484-5110

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.

"We enjoyed each session, and the training was excellent!" Mary Lee Arthur

**Child Care Training Sponsored by
 Lee County First Steps, 2015-2016**

Topic:
 Growth and Development
 Curriculum
 Program Administration
 Strengthening Families Conference



Training by the Numbers, 2015-2016

Total Training Attendance	38
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	38
Number of Training Sessions Offered	15

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 38 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 20 hours of certified training and 5.5 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 50 hours of TA follow-up with training participants to help put training into practice
- ✓ Full Conference, Strengthening Families: Building Healthier Families Conference

Thank you to our partners!

- Lee County School District
- Save the Children
- Parents as Teachers
- Bishopville Primary School
- Kershaw County First Steps
- Bishopville Lee Child Care Center
- Lee County Adult Education
- Child Care Resource and Referral

Lee County First Steps
 PO Box 344; Bishopville, SC 29010
 Phone: 803-484-5110

Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Lee 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.

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... had at least 1 risk factor



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.

Lee County First Steps partners to integrate scholarships h other programs, such as Parents as Teachers, Early Steps to School Success, and Family Literacy with Lee County Adult Education.

“Child care scholarships help me complete my high school diploma requirements and graduate. “

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2015-2016

Children Served	7
Providers Served	2

This year, our Scholarship program:

Provided 7 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school

- ✓ Identified and addressed no potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Supported 2 small businesses in Lee County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided training for scholarship parents in topics such as Social and Emotional Development, School Readiness, Child Assessments, Growth and Development, Literacy, Strengthening Families

Thank you to our partners!

- Lee County Adult Education
- Lee County School District
- DSS ABC Child Care
- Bishopville Lee Child Care Center
- Jhane Family Day Care

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 PO Box 344; Bishopville, SC 29010
 803-484-5110

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

Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

- ✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
- ✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- ✓ 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.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2015

Children Served	10
Families Served	10
Home/School Visits	60

**CTK program data is for June-August 2015 whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2015 through August 31, 2015.*



"CTK helped my child learn more and understand that Kindergarten will be a new adventure of learning"

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 100%
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in LIST AREAS FROM THE CTK TEACHER SURVEY during the 2015-2016 School Year.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education in the areas of LIST AREAS FROM THE CTK TEACHER SURVEY.

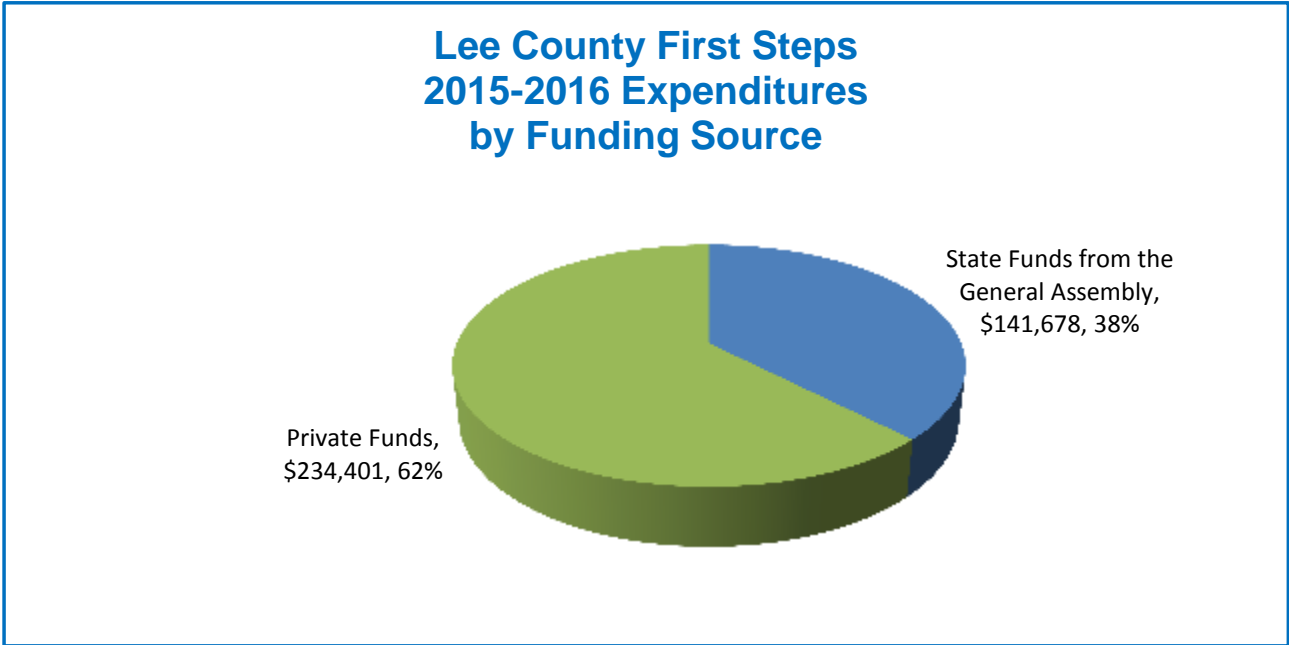
Thank you to our partners!

Lee County School District
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Bishopville Primary School
Wateree Head Start- Bishopville Site

Lee County First Steps

PO Box 344; Bishopville, SC 29010
Phone: 803-484-5110

Financial Impact



Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$376,079

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*: 165%

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

2015-2016 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2015-16 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$23,274	\$0	\$1,694	\$0	\$24,968	7%
Early Steps To School Success	\$11,396	\$0	\$2,978	\$0	\$14,374	4%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$2,912	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,912	1%
Child Care Training	\$24,317	\$0	\$171	\$0	\$24,488	7%
Child Care Scholarships	\$28,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$28,000	7%
Community Education Program	\$2,543	\$0	\$228,439	\$0	\$230,982	61%
Program Support	\$23,328	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,328	6%
Administrative Support	\$25,908	\$0	\$1,119	\$0	\$27,027	7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$141,678	\$0	\$234,401	\$0	\$376,079	

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

Since inception, Lee County First Steps has leveraged \$2,672,084 from sources outside of state government. That's \$.66 cents for every state dollar.

Community Impact



Parent Speaks Loud:

My name is Shanequa Durant. I have a four year old son and a one year old daughter. We are currently enrolled in the Lee County First Steps Early Steps Program. I met the Parent Educator, Gloria Burris, when I started working at the First Steps Office through the DSS Work Experience Program. The First Steps Program is very helpful for me and my children. It helps me to understand my kids better. Since I have been in the program, I have taken the Work Keys at the Lee County Adult Education School. I have received a lot of parent information on how to help my children grow healthy from Mrs. Gloria. My kids just love to read and for us to have story time together. I have learned that reading and communicating are very important for a child's development and skills. I'm still in the First Steps Program, and I appreciate and enjoy the parent meetings, and I am benefiting a lot from it!



Congratulations to Shakala Boyd, for toilet training her child! For Shakala, it took a lot of work and efforts to toilet train her child but she did it. Shakala, said that she enjoyed and looked forward to the Early Steps to School Success (ESSS) visits of sharing information. It helped her to take on the responsibility of motherhood and show good example for her children.

Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

- State of South Carolina: \$152,660.00
(through South Carolina First Steps)
- Children's Trust of South Carolina: \$228,401
- Center for Child Care Career Development: \$2000.00
- Lee County School District
- DHEC
- Save the Children
- Midland Gives Program
- Parents as Teachers: IAL Project

In-Kind Support

- Lee County School District
- Lee Central Middle School
- Lee County Adult Education
- Children's Trust of South Carolina
- Save the Children: Early Steps to School Success
- DSS ABC Child Care
- Representative Grady Brown
- Darlington County School District

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

Community Partnerships

Lee County First Steps works tirelessly to provide services for our children and families. This also ensured that the 2015 Holiday and Christmas Season was a special time for children. Lee County First Steps coordinated a local community effort to coordinate the Angel Tree Giving Program for Lee County Families who needed help during the holiday season. This was a huge success! Also, Lee County First Steps, in collaboration with Wateree Head Start- Bishopville Site, continued the coordination to ensure that Lee County families received toys for Christmas from Toys for Tots sponsored by the Marine Corp Toys for Tots Foundation. Over 300 children in Lee County received toys because of the collaborative efforts.



Week of the Young Child 2016



Week of The Young Child Reading and Art Exhibit at the Lee County Arts Council was a collaboration with Lee County School District, Lee County Arts Council, Lee County Library, Bishopville Lee Child Care Center, and Wateree Head Start- Bishopville Site.



First Steps Partnership Board

Lee County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-2016

Board Member	Position	Board Category
1. (Rev.) Archie Temoney, Board Chair	New Zion AME Church	Faith Community
2. Andrea Favor	Lee County DSS	Lee County DSS
3. Andrew Moses, Vice-Chair	Lee County School District	Legislative Appointee
4. Beauty Murphy	Lee County School District	Early Childhood Education
5. Belinda Butler	Select Health	Business Community
6. Bertha Scott	Lee County School District	Family Ed, Training & Support Provider
7. Betty D. Addison	Retired, Lee County School District	Non-profit Organization
8. Bettye Scott	Retired/ Lee County Transit	Transportation
9. Danielle Boyd, Secretary	Wateree Head Start – Bishopville Site	Head Start
10. David “Keel” Addison	Addison Barber Shop	Parent of Preschool Children
11. Diana Williams, Assist. Secretary	Retired, Lee County School District	Early Childhood Education
12. Eloise W. Witherspoon	Lee County Adult Education	Family Ed, Training & Support Provider
13. Hannah Hickman (deceased)	Retired, Wateree Head Start	Legislative Appointee
14. Jacqueline Josey	Lee County Council	Lee County Council
15. Jeanette Isaac	Lee County School District	Preschool through Primary Education
16. Jerlene Atkinson	Kiddy Land Daycare Center	Early Childhood Education
17. Jonita Pearson	Lee County School District	Parent of Preschool Children
18. Julia Young	Colonial Neurology	HealthCare Provide
19. Kateisha Simmons	Parent of Preschool	Lee County School District
20. LaToya Hopkins	Wateree Head Start	Parent of Preschool Children
21. Lillie Patterson	Bishopville Lee Child Development Center	Childcare & Early Childhood Dev. Ed. Provider
22. M. DeLoris LeGrant	Sumter County School District	Early Childhood Education
23. Mary Lee Arthur	Lee County School District	Lee County School District
24. Maverick Wilson	Wateree Correctional Inst.	Legislative Appointee
25. Patricia Toney	Retired, Lee County School District	Faith Community
26. Regina Nesmith	DHEC	DHEC
27. Sandra Holmes	Lee County School District	Health Care Provider
28. Sandy Jenkins	Wateree Regional Trans. Authority	Transportation
29. Sheila Moses, Treasurer	Lee County School District	Health Care Provider
30. Taylor Smith	Pee Dee Math Science & Tech. Academy	Childcare & Early Childhood Dev. Ed. Provider
31. Victoria McCray	Bishopville Lee Child Dev. Center	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 Lee County:

Phone: 803-774-8280

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

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