



Parents as Teachers

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Allendale County
Children Under Five	293,134	428
Children In Poverty	24.4%	50.6%
3 rd Graders "Does Not Meet" Standard in Reading	22.2%	52.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	15%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Allendale County First Steps has leveraged \$1,096,138 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.35 for every dollar received.**
- **546 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 33 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 20 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **12 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 53**

Allendale County First Steps
Patricia Hall
 Executive Director

Allendale County First Steps Partnership Board of Directors and staff thank you for your willingness to facilitate the accomplishments of this past year. Your efforts have resulted in successful programs that have brought positive results in our community. These results were possible only through collaboration among partners, teachers, parents, and the community which generously gave of their time, talent, and funds.

Meanwhile, we are asking you to think of other opportunities to expand services for our community. There is still a dire need for expansion of services and improving upon our success. Currently, we are able to serve twenty (20) children in our Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) program, fifteen (15) families in our scholarship program and thirty (30) families in our Parents as Teachers (PAT) program. With your continued collaborative partnership, we aim to serve at least thirty (30) families in each program.

I do hope that you will continue to embrace and serve the community with the benefit of your expert leadership skills in some capacity. We thank you for generous donation of time, talent and funds. We hope to have many more great years.

Again, many thanks.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

Allendale County First Steps

649 Railroad Avenue E
 P.O. Box 236
 Allendale, SC 29810

Phone: (803) 702-9010
 Fax: (803) 702-9020

Board Chair
 Tom Carter

sheriffcarter@allendalesheriff.com

County Program

- Parents as Teachers
- Child Care Training
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Scholarships

State Programs

- Early Head Start
- First Steps 4k



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 Head Start expands quality early learning and family support to infants and toddlers.



Early Intervention

Children's school readiness depends on their healthy growth and development. First Steps helps identify potential delays early through developmental screenings and referring children to BabyNet and other early intervention 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 are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community Allendale County First focuses its investments in quality childcare, family strengthening, and school transition.

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

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

100% ... were single parent households
94% ... live in poverty
27% ... were exposed to depression



Allendale County First Steps made it possible for me to provide for my children!

Brittany

Allendale County First Steps gave my children clothing and rebuilt their library when I lost everything in a fire.

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	33	
Children Served	33	
Total Home Visits	546	
Hours Spent Serving Families	570.50	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS/ACIRI Pre 1.74/1.44	KIPS/ACIRI Post 2.34/2.07

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 16.55 home visits per family.
- ✓ Identified and addressed 14 potential developmental delays, and made 32 connections for families to services such as scholarships, early education programs, BabyNet, department of social service and family events in the community.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices as evidence by a positive growth of .60 in KIPS and .63 in ACIRI
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by distributing 859 books (236 DPIL) to families, building libraries in their homes.

Thank you to our partners!

Allendale County School District
Town of Allendale
County of Allendale

Allendale County First Steps

649 Railroad Avenue E, PO Box 236, Allendale, SC 29810
803-702-9010
Email phall@scfirststeps.org

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 Allendale County First Steps, 2016-17	
<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
Caring Classroom	One Session
STEM for Young Children	One Session
Medication Administration & Poison Prevention	One Session
Managing Childhood Illness	One Session
Involving Parents in the Classroom	One Session
Preventing Staff Burnout	One Session
Learning through Play	One Session
Blood-Borne Pathogens	One Session

I still have my job, Allendale County First Steps made that happen!

Lois

Receiving my training hours in Allendale County was a blessing, since I don't have transportation.



Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total Training Attendance	31
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	25
Number of Training Sessions Offered	8

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ Twenty-one (21) early childhood staff with high quality training.
- ✓ Twenty-one (21) hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements.
- ✓ Six (6) follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)
- Allendale County School District
- County of Allendale
- ABC Child Care
- Town of Allendale

Allendale County First Steps

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Allendale 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.

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

- 100% ... were single parent household
- 94% ... live in poverty
- 15% ... didn't graduate high school

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.

Allendale County First Steps Scholarship program is intergrated with their Parents as Teachers (PAT) program.

My child is better prepared for 4K because of First Steps!
 Bianca
My son knows his colors, shapes, animals, alphabet and sounds - thanks First Steps.



Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	17
Providers Served	2

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided seventeen (17) children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed eight (8) potential developmental delays among scholarship children.
- ✓ Made seventeen (17) connections for families to services such as Parents as Teachers (PAT), early education programs, child care centers and family events in the community.
- ✓ Supported two (2) small business in Allendale County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care

Thank you to our partners!

South Carolina Department of Social Services ABC Scholarship Program
 Allendale County School District

Allendale County First Steps
 649 Railroad Avenue E, PO Box 236, Allendale, SC 29810
 803-702-9010
 Email phall@scfirststeps.org



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 2016

Children Served	20
Families Served	20
Home/School Visits	120

**CTK program data is for June-August 2016, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.*



This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Included satisfaction results from parent surveys.
- ✓ Increased the amount of time parents spent reading to children by 48%
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 70% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students during the 2016-17 school year.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 90% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education.

Thank you to our partners!

Allendale County School District
Kaplan Early Learning Company
EdVenture Children's Museum
WACH Fox 57
Coastal Community Foundation

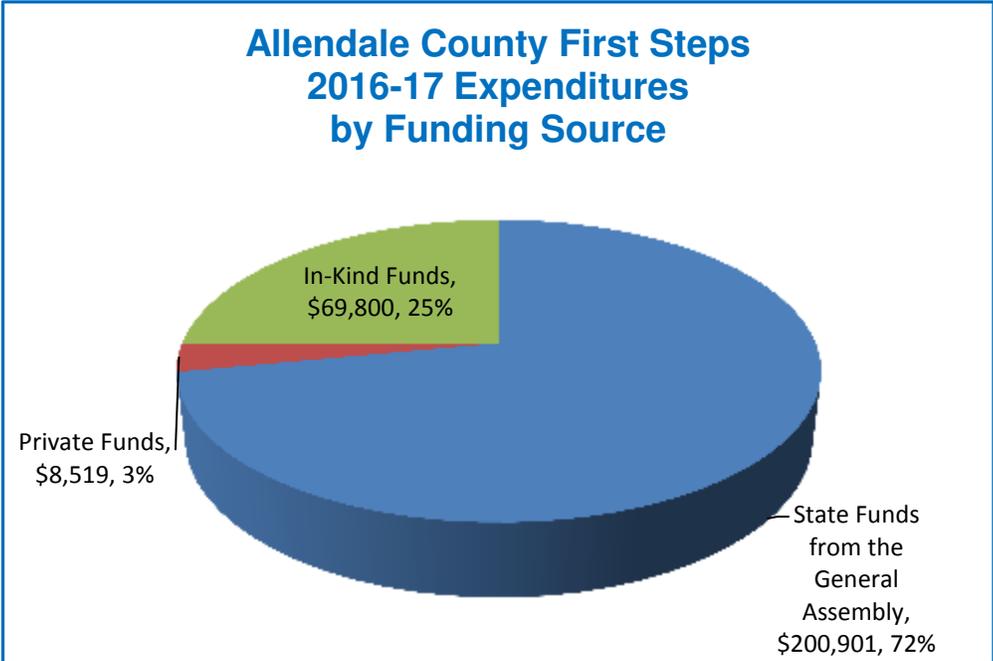
Like us on Facebook!
Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina:



Allendale County First Steps

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Financial Impact



Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$279,220

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 39%

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

2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2016-17 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$95,451	\$0	\$3,057	\$6,340	\$104,848	38%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$3,653	\$0	\$4,201	\$0	\$7,854	3%
Child Care Training	\$5,277	\$0	\$743	\$37,280	\$43,301	16%
Child Care Scholarships	\$49,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,500	\$59,500	21%
Program Support	\$31,680	\$0	\$319	\$13,010	\$45,009	15%
Administrative Support	\$15,839	\$0	\$199	\$2,670	\$18,708	7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$200,900	\$0	\$8,519	\$69,800	\$279,220	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Since inception, Allendale County First Steps has leveraged \$957,864 from sources outside of state government. That's 0.35 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, XYZ First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$200,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Coastal Community Foundation: \$5,000

United Way of Allendale \$1,000

Allendale County School District: \$3,200



In-Kind Support

Allendale County School District

Town of Allendale

County of Allendale

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

South Carolina Department of Social Service

ABC Scholarship Program



How your support helps children in Allendale County:

- ✓ \$50 provides a substantial donation toward a young child receiving a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$25 per year provides a substantial donation toward dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- ✓ \$400 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

HOW TO GIVE: Please make checks payable to Allendale County First Steps and forward to P.O. Box 236, Allendale, SC 29810

Save the Date!

Allendale County First Steps Annual Meeting will be held on December 12, 2017 in the James Brandth Building at 6:00P.M.

October 1, 2017: Allendale County First Steps Secret Santa kick-off begins.
Contact the office at 803-702-9010 for additional information.

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

Thank Goodness for First Steps!

Parents as Teachers/Child Care

Allendale County First Steps made it possible for me to achieve my goals. I was at a point in my life where I didn't know what I was going to do. I was trying to hold down two jobs and take care of my son, age one. I had no child care or strong support system in place. Someone referred me to First Steps and told me to talk to Mrs. Hall. That was one of the best days of my life. Mrs. Hall was very helpful and patient with me. I say this because it took longer than I expected to complete the application. I was introduced to the Parents as Teachers and Child Care Scholarship programs. I was ready to get started with both of them. Even though, I needed child care the most, I really like the Parent as Teachers program. Today, I go to work without any worries, because my son attends child care and my bonus is working with Ms. Debra, parent educator, who comes to my home and helps me work with my son to try to meet his needs.

Vita



Hurray for Countdown to Kindergarten!

Countdown to Kindergarten



I had the pleasure of participating in First Steps Countdown to Kindergarten program and I loved it. Meeting and working with my child's kindergarten teacher before she entered school was a good idea. My daughter was better prepared for kindergarten because she had a relationship with her teacher. I found out what was expected of me as a parent. I looked forward to the weekly activities left for us to do at home. The toolkit gave me an idea of what kindergarteners are doing in the classroom and what I could do at home with her. I have only one problem with this program and that is, it's too short. Six weeks is not long enough. I would love to see Countdown to Kindergarten last longer. I wish it was ongoing throughout the year. It doesn't have to be every week if it was an ongoing program. That's something First Steps can think about.

Krystal

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 with Medicaid-eligible children who live in eligible school districts can contact any participating provider to complete an application for free, full-day 4K. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



EARLY HEAD START – CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Low income families with children 0-36 months, and families with infants or toddlers with special needs, are invited to apply for this year-round, comprehensive program. Available in the following counties: Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Berkeley, Dillon, Georgetown, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda and York, and coming soon to Fairfield and McCormick counties. To apply, visit:

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



[I CAN] is First Steps' public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state's Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

Visit: ican.sc

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