

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training



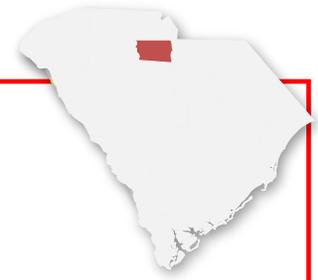
Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Chester County
Children Under Five	291,026	1,914
Children In Poverty	24.4%	38%
3rd Graders "Does Not Meet" Standard in Reading	22.2%	30.9%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	23.8%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Chester County First Steps has leveraged \$1,302,444 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.43 for every dollar received.**
- **628 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 34 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 22 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **9 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 37**

Chester County First Steps

109 Ella Street
 Chester, SC 29706

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

Board Chair
 Joni Arrowood

firststepscc@truvista.net

Chester County First Steps
Centuria S. Watson
 Executive Director

Collaboration has created a network of resources that play a pivotal role in the ability of parents, teachers, other caregivers, and an engaged community to be vigilant supporters of our children's school readiness. In other words, there is a broad spectrum of widespread interest in school success, and a path to lifelong learning. When needs exist there must be systems in place to bring remedies that promote progress. Collaborative relationships allow families to have the support they need to equip their children with tools necessary for learning. Research repeatedly tells us the window of opportunity for capitalizing on brain growth and development is before age four. We would be remiss to sit by while this window closes and not seize every moment possible to advance a foundation for learning.

Sustained partnership with community stakeholders has been paramount for undergirding awareness for the importance of investing in early childhood services and programs. The Chester County Community Coalition, Chester School District, Chester County Library, Head Start, Hazel Pittman Center, YMCA, Chester County Government and Chester Department of Social Services have been unwavering in their support for children and their families. The Chester County First Steps Partnership Board believes each child starting school healthy and ready to succeed is imperative; *we must invest today in the children who will lead us tomorrow.*



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

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 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, Chester County First focuses its investments in Parents As Teachers and Childcare Training.

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

20.6% ... live in poverty
23.8% ... didn't graduate from high school
3.6% ... were teen parents



New Parent Educator, Robin Capers, shares a selfie with one of her babies, Miss Starr.

"Being a part of the PAT Program has helped me understand how to support my child's learning."

Dominique

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	37	
Children Served	37	
Total Home Visits	594	
Hours Spent Serving Families	628	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	KIPS - .85	ACIRI - 1.09 (A) 1.25 (C)

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 17.47 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 8 potential developmental delays, and made 1 connection for families to services such as hearing testing.
- ✓ Supported literacy skills by distributing 321 books to PAT families & local childcare centers.

Thank you to our partners!

Chester County Government
Chester Branch YMCA

Chester County First Steps

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803.385.6174
firststepscc@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. Instruction for practices that fine tune expertise include follow-up with teachers in the classroom.

"I am grateful for the quality, affordable trainings offered by Chester County First Steps."
 S. Kennedy

Child Care Training Sponsored by Chester County First Steps, 2016-17

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
CPR & First Aid	One Session
Natural Learning in a Natural Environment	One Session
What Does It Mean To Be A Mandated Reporter	One Session
EC Building Blocks: Choosing An Assessment	One Session
Play Anytime, Anywhere	One Session
Nutrition: Marketing It To Families	One Session
Early Language & Literacy Development	One Session
Staff Orientation & Best Practices	One Session



Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total Training Attendance	59
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	24
Number of Training Sessions Offered	8

This year, our Training program provided:

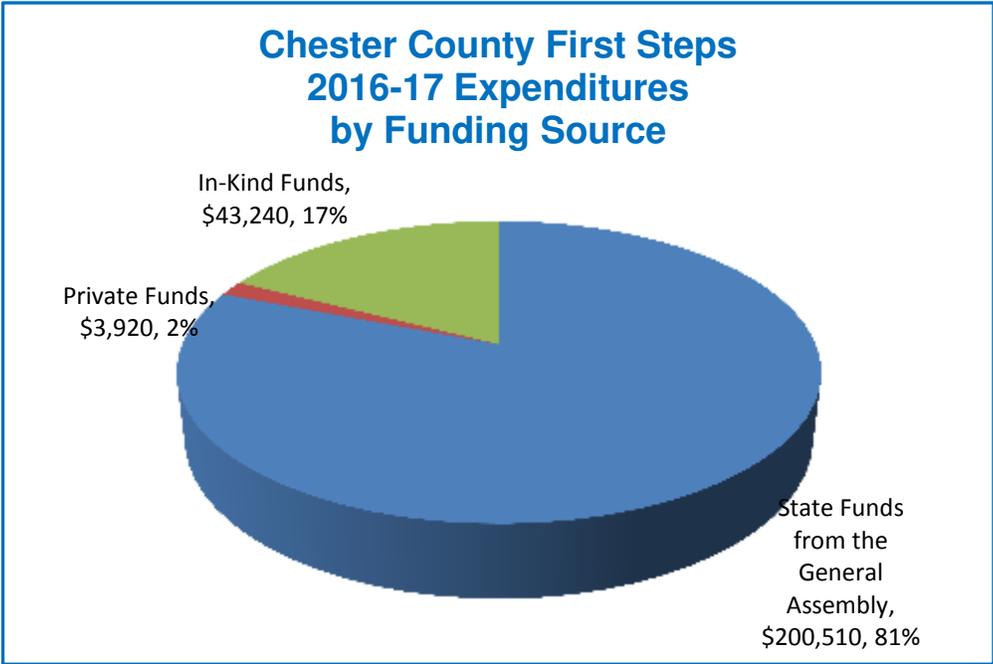
- ✓ 59 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 5 hours of certified training and 7 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements

Thank you to our partners!

Clemson Extension

Chester County First Steps
 109 Ella St. Chester, SC 29706
 803.385.6174
 firststepscc@truvista.net

Financial Impact



Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$247,670

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 24%

**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	\$133,767	\$0	\$2,422	\$17,300	\$153,489	62%
Child Care Training	\$7,934	\$0	\$699	\$15,140	\$23,774	10%
Program Support	\$37,898	\$0	\$670	\$8,100	\$46,668	19%
Administrative Support	\$20,911	\$0	\$130	\$2,700	\$23,741	10%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$200,510	\$0	\$3,921	\$43,240	\$247,672	

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

Since inception, Chester County First Steps has leveraged \$1,136,773 from sources outside of state government. That's 47 cents for every state dollar.

Providing Quality Care in Chester

4K Classrooms

Progress in quality early childhood programming is on the rise, a welcomed trend in Chester County. Two providers are making their own unique profile for best practices in 4K classrooms. Horizons Christian Academy and Richburg Child Development Center receive funding specifically designated for private child care providers. These centers offer the same quality early learning features found in public school 4K programs. Horizons Christian Academy is in their third year of offering this program to the Chester Community. Childcare services can be accessed following the end of the daily 4K preschool session. The well-trained staff is engaging with children and parents, as reflected in the waiting list for this popular program. Director, Gina Jordan emphasizes parental involvement that supports the children's growth in skills that advance current and future learning experiences. She is an avid early childhood messenger working hand-in-hand with parents that encourage enhancing learning domains.

Richburg Child Development Center is gaining momentum as their program embarks on its second year of offering quality 4K preschool services to the bustling community of Richburg that continues to witness an influx of new commerce to the area. Located a mile from interstate Highway 77 places this facility within a few minutes' drive from most businesses, schools and rural communities in its region. Joni Arrowood, leads her team with a attention on teacher professional development, acute teacher-child interactions for nurturing emerging critical thinking skills, and best practices in early childhood environments.

These examples are encouraging, hopefully soon additional early care sites will embrace implementing 4K programs to exemplify best practices in early childhood classrooms. The directors and staff of Horizons Christian Academy and Richburg Child Development Center attend many professional development classes during the year. This is a clear indication that growth is occurring on many levels resulting in environments that advance the optimum development of all the children at these centers.



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

First Steps Partnership Board

Board Success

Attention to community outreach is an ongoing practice of the Partnership Board. Messaging for services offered and special community projects begin with including all regions of the county. As regions are considered, so are the agencies, organizations, businesses, schools and churches. Key to the concept of outreach are the quarterly meetings of the Early Childhood Partners. This team of advisors is comprised of individuals from agencies that daily work with families. They can be counted on to work with the staff and board for including families of our youngest learners in their services. Representatives from Adult Education, Chester Department of Social Services, Horizons Christian Academy, the Library, Clemson Extension Services, Hazel Pittman Center and the City of Chester volunteer beyond the Early Childhood Partners commitment. Their understanding of the challenges and rewards of working with families has led to ideas that produced impactful outcomes. This input has also been a guiding light when designing focused special projects such as “Read to Me Wednesday.”

Moreover, Board leadership is instrumental for supporting for this agency’s strategies and mission. Their knowledge of the inner workings of other organizations and agencies has been significant when navigating options for overcoming difficulties that can arise when serving families, early childhood professionals and working with local partners. And, board members demonstrate their commitment by a willingness to serve, giving their time and resources for the greater good, the embodiment of a service philosophy.

Chester County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

Name	Position	Board Category
Joni Arrowood	Chair	Childcare & Early Childhood
Stephanie Barber	Member	Pre-kindergarten through Primary
Ricky Cremeans	Member	Business
Lottie Crosby	Member	Early Childhood Education
Sandra Davie	Secretary	Head Start Representative
Tammy Graham	Member	Chester County School District Rep
Allison Howe	Member	Pre-kindergarten through Primary
Tiffany McClurkin	Member	Parent of a Preschool Child
Fran McNaughton	Member	DHEC Representative
Erica Murphy	Treasurer	DSS Representative
Oresa Roddey	Member	Parent of Special Needs Children
Stacey Patterson	Member	Parent of a Preschool Child
Tabatha Strother	Member	County Government Rep



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.

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