

ABBEVILLE COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Parent Training

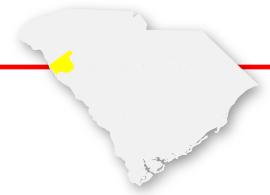
# Annual Report

2016-17



## OUR VISION:

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



## By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Abbeville County
Children Under Five	291,026	1,318
Children In Poverty	24.4%	26.2%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Below Standard in Reading	22.2%	11.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	16.7%



KIDS COUNT data provided by

- Since inception, Abbeville County First Steps has leveraged \$1,143, 660 from sources outside state government.
- **535 hours of support and guidance** were provided to families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 15 hours** of training for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **69 hours Parenting Workshops**.
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 772**

### Abbeville County First Steps

1402C Highway 72 West  
 Greenwood, SC 29649  
 Phone: (864)388-4102  
 Fax: (864) 388-4103

**Board Chair**  
 Henry Green

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

Abbeville County First Steps  
**Angela Pruitt**  
 Executive Director

Our County Partnership has had a great year in 2016. Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps starting sharing office space in March 2011, and this Joint County Partnership has continued into 2016. By sharing administrative and programmatic resources across county lines, this joint venture has created a significant cost saving which can provide more for program services to children and families. We have continued to have great relationships with the Department of Social Services and the Guardian Ad Litem Programs. The *Real Fathers Are Dads* Fatherhood Initiative continues to grow and gain community support with participants, civic organizations, churches. The Real Fathers are Dads Program has grown into a Parent Training Program to include the Real Mothers are Moms Program, mothers and fathers receive services. We also have a great relationship with The Social Change Initiative to ensure we have additional parenting services for our families. We have provided services to over 475 participants since our inception in 2008. The Fatherhood Initiative and Parents as Teachers Program work jointly to include the entire family. The father has been the missing component for many years with our programs, and we have found the missing component. By using the holistic approach and working with the entire family, we are starting to see change happen. Other agencies and partners in our community are starting to see change and want to be a part of this initiative. We also continue to partner with Lander University and Erskine College's Education Department to provide Early Childhood Conferences each year. We were able to provide quality child care trainings with approved Certified Trainers to 9 facilities and serving more than 694 children. Community Partnerships are continuing to expand to provide services to the most at risk children in Abbeville County.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

### County Programs

- Parents as Teachers
- Child Care Training
- Parent Training

### State Programs

- Early Head Start
- 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, Abbeville 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

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

98% ... live in poverty  
29% ... didn't graduate from high school  
4% ... were teen parents



*"The home visits have really assisted my family!"*

Amy

## PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	55	
Children Served	59	
Total Home Visits	511	
Hours Spent Serving Families	535.17	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.62	3.72

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 3.96 home visits per family each month.
- ✓ Identified and address 6 potential developmental delays, and made 100% intervention connections for families to services such as the BabyNet and Benefits Bank.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices with the Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale with a pretest of 3.62 and a posttest of 3.72.
- ✓ Improved literacy skills with 342 books read during home visits.

## Thank you to our partners!

Abbeville County School District  
Abbeville County Department of Social Services  
Greenwood County First Steps  
Abbeville Rotary Club  
The Social Change Initiative  
Local Churches and Businesses

### Abbeville County First Steps

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[www.acfirststeps.org](http://www.acfirststeps.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.

*"First Steps has the best conferences!"*  
 Prissy

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

**Topic Sessions:**

Professional Development	2
Special Needs	2
Curriculum	4
Child Guidance	2
Program Administration	1
Growth and Development	4
CPR/First Aid	2



## Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total Training Attendance	154
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	54
Number of Training Sessions Offered	25

## This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 54 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 4 hours of certified training and 11 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 54 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

## Thank you to our partners!

- Lander University
- Erskine College
- Greenwood County First Steps
- The Social Change Initiative

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 www.acfirststeps.org

# Parent Training

## Why Parent Training Works!

### Program Description

Parent trainings are group based sessions offered twice a month, and individualized sessions based on families' needs. The group and individualized sessions are based on the Real Fathers Are Dads Curriculum for fathers which includes life skills such as communication, relationship building skills, budget/financial management, teamwork parenting, and making appropriate choices, which includes the researched and evidenced based National Fatherhood Initiative 24/7 Dad and Doctor Dad Curricula. The Strengthening Families Module 3-5 will also be utilized for families who have children 3 to 5 years of age, and the National Parents as Teachers Curriculum for families with prenatal up to age 3. This comprehensive family training will be utilized to promote family success for mothers and fathers.

Families are referred by the Department of Social Services, Abbeville County School District, Mental Health, local doctors' offices, The Social Change Initiative, and other community agencies.

Outcomes are measuring utilizing pre and post testing with the Protective Factors Surveys.

- ✓ Promote parenting knowledge and life skills through group and individualized sessions
- ✓ Assist with community resources and employment opportunities through goal planning
- ✓ Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect by utilizing the Protective Factors.

*"Parent Training has made me a better parent."*

*Tiffany*

### Parent Training by the Numbers 2016-17

Adults Served	21
Children Served	19
Hours-Individualized Sessions	15
Hours-Group Sessions	69



### This year, our Parent Training

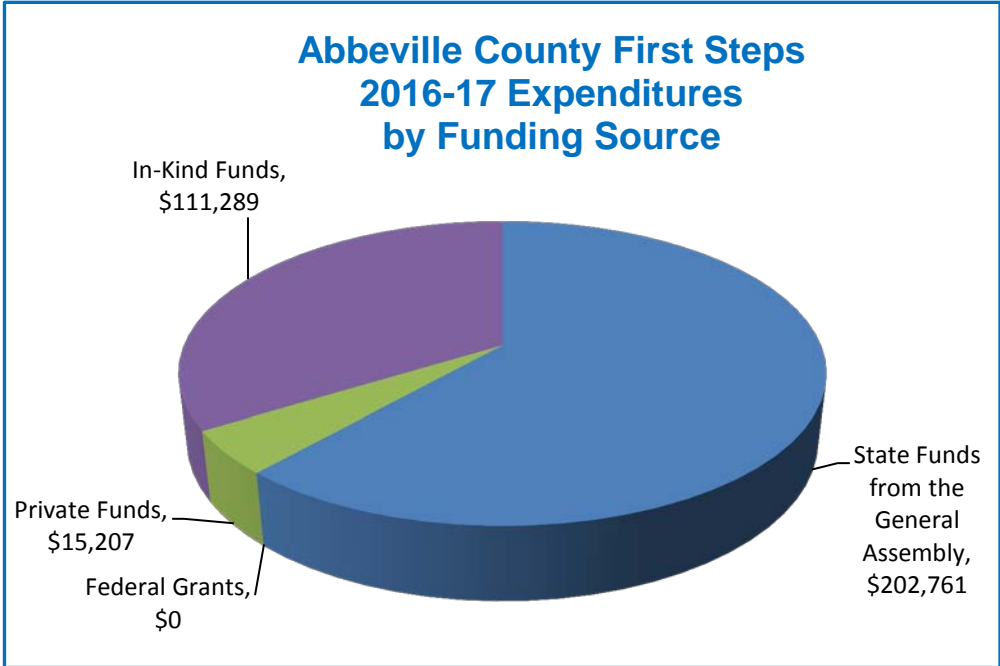
- ✓ Made 100% connections for families to services such as adult education, employment, food assistance, housing assistance, utility assistance, and library resources.
- ✓ Provided over 69 hours of services to families with group and individualized sessions.
- ✓ Provided nutritious meals to families.
- ✓ Provided sessions to 100% of families on budget and financial management.

### Thank you to our partners!

- Abbeville County School District
- Abbeville County Department of Social Services
- Greenwood County First Steps
- Abbeville Rotary Club
- The Social Change Initiative

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# Financial Impact



**Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$270,856**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17\*: 40 %**

\*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	\$91,653	\$0		\$30,840	\$122,493	45%
Parent Training	\$57,582	\$0	\$13,087	\$10,194	\$80,863	30%
Child Care Training	\$7,704	\$0	\$0	\$13,435	\$21,139	8%
Program Support	\$17,469	\$0	\$0	\$6,688	\$24,157	9%
Administrative Support	\$19,151	\$0	\$790	\$2,263	\$22,204	8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$193,559</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$13,877</b>	<b>\$63,420</b>	<b>\$270,856</b>	

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

**Since inception, Abbeville County First Steps has leveraged \$1,143,660 from sources outside of state government.**

# 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*)

Rotary Foundation: \$2,950

Joesphine Moffat Stevenson Charitable  
Community Trust: \$6,000

CSX Transportation: \$1,000

West Carolina Telephone: \$500

## In-Kind Support

Greenwood County First Steps

The Social Change Initiative

Abbeville County School District

Abbeville Civic Center



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



## True Collaboration Makes a Difference!

Abbeville County First Steps in partnership with Greenwood County First Steps has had many success stories in the community. Great partnerships have been formed across county lines to save costs administratively, and to serve more families and children in the community. The Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps Boards have supported the two agencies with sharing office space to saving administrative costs to direct more funding into programs to serve families and children. This successful partnership has had tremendous cost savings for both agencies and became a model to share with other agencies.

Abbeville County First Steps also partners with another extremely successful agency, The Social Change Initiative. The Social Change Initiative provides additional parenting services to ensure the entire family receives services. To add to this "perfect partnership," The Social Change Initiative also shares office space with Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps! This one location is a hub for these amazing entities: Abbeville County First Steps, Greenwood County First Steps, and The Social Change Initiative. If that is not enough, Lander University's Early Childhood Department conducts classes at this location weekly, and the Lander University Early Childhood Department's professors' provide workshops for all of the Early Childhood Trainings! Lander students observe home visits by a parent educator, parents and children in an office setting as part of their Early Childhood experience. With First Steps serving as a local community portal with Benefits Bank Services, there are several other agencies who have also been a successful part of this collaborative partnership, as well. The agencies include the local Department of Social Services, the Guardian Ad Litem Program, and the Solicitor's Office. Through these partnerships, families with the highest needs are receiving services such as parenting for the entire family, anger management services, access to apply for SNAP Benefits, Medicaid, Family Independence, and assistance with going back to school.



# First Steps Partnership Board

## Abbeville County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

Name	Position	Board Category
Henry Green, Chair	The Press and Banner	Legislative Appointed Position
Daniel Crawford, Vice Chair	First Baptist Church/Anderson School District	Parent of a Preschool Child
Mary Jane Trainor, Secretary	Lander University	Early Childhood Education
Dr. Charles Costner, Finance Committee Chair	Principal Long Cane Primary	Legislative Appointed Position
Jean Smith	Abbeville County School District	School District Representative
Mary Stackhouse	Abbeville County Health Department	DHEC Representative
Jane Agan	Christian United Ministries	Non-profit
Gail Johnson	Educator Cherokee Trail Elementary	Early Childhood Education
Ursula Best	Abbeville Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
Lee Logan	Stephenson Trusts	Philanthropic Community
Joe Bryson	Kingdom Life Training Center	Faith Community
Kelley Thrasher	Kids Unlimited	Child Care
Mary Lou Edens, Development Committee Chair	Tracey Jackson Food Program	Non-profit
Connie Normand	United Christian Ministries Free Medical Clinic	Health Care
Janet Vandiver	Mental Health America	Health Care
Charles Miller	Sage Automotive	Business Community
Rita Gamble	Educator LongCane Primary	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Amy Glover	GLEAMNS Head Start	Head Start Representative
Mary Elizabeth Land	Abbeville County Library	Library Representative
Abby Evans	Abbeville Civic Center	Local Government
Millie Ricketts	Principal LongCane Primary	Early Childhood Education
Amy Bohler	GLEAMNS Head Start	Parent of a Preschool Child
Adrienne Padner	Sacred Heart Church	Faith Community

# 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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