

DILLON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

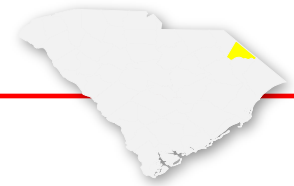
Annual Report

2016-17




OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Dillon County
Children Under Five	293,134	2,033
Children In Poverty	24.4%	32.9%
3 rd Graders Scoring "Does Not Meet" Standard in Reading	22.2%	Dillon 3: 17.2% Dillon 4: 25.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	15.7%

KIDS COUNT data provided by  Children's Trust

- Since inception, Dillon County First Steps has leveraged \$1,249, 254 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.47 for every dollar received.**
- **759 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 34 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 20 hours** of certified training to meet annual certification requirements.
- Improved parenting practices through **12 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 34**

Dillon County First Steps

926 Perry Ave.
 Dillon, SC 29536

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

Board Chair
 Nina Bradley

shirleenlewis@bellsouth.net

www.scfirststeps.org

Dillon County First Steps
Shirleen Lewis, MS
 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 2016-17, DCFS continues the Parents As Teachers (PAT) Home Visitor Program that serves families with prenatal through kindergarten children and Child Care Training and Professional Development 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 9th 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 has 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

County Programs

Parents as Teachers
 Child Care Training

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, 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
50% ... didn't graduate from high school
25% ... were teen parents



Home Visitor Jessica Swindler with Raven McLellan and Kyan German reading his favorite book.

My success story is about Kinessence's learning. The program and Ms. Jessica has been a big help. She pays attention to the learning cartoons on T.V. especially when they are counting and saying ABC's. She loves playing with the blocks and learning her colors. I thank them so much.

Toyoka Rouse, Parent

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	34	
Children Served	45	
Total Home Visits	744	
Hours Spent Serving Families	740.81	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	3.48	4.34

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.59 home visits per family per month (Parenting Home Visit Intensity Report, Avg. Number of Visits)
- ✓ Identified and addressed 23 potential developmental delays, and made 27=79.4% connections for families to services such as Family Events/Activities, Vision Service, BabyNet and Early Education Programs
- ✓ 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.

Thank you to our partners!

City of Dillon Wellness Center
Dillon County United Way
Doo Rights LLC

Dillon County First Steps

926 Perry Ave. Dillon, SC 29536
(843) 774-0061
Email: smmcteer@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 County First Steps, 2016-17**

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>
-Health & Safety Best Practices In Child Care	-Emergent Literacy and Language
-Nurturing Self-Esteem In Preschoolers	-Blood Borne Pathogens
-Nutrition Is Not Just Food	-Learning Happens With Art
-Social & Emotional Skills of Friendship	-Emergent Literacy and Language
-PHYS ACT – Physical Activities For Preschoolers	-Child Guidance and Discipline
-The Six Stages of Emotional Development In Children	
-Early Childhood Building Blocks Tools for Meaningful Learning and Authentic Assessments	

Local trainings are great. The training schedule is convenient for me and my staff. DCFS Child Care Trainings allow me to obtain 100% of the training hours required by DSS.

*-Priscilla Moody
 Moody's Day Care*

- 96% of the providers surveyed indicated that training information is very useful.
- 17% Increase in Pre-/Post Testing results



Child Care Providers displaying their art work through curriculum activities. Child Care trainings are fun and interactive.

Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total Training Attendance	214
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	47
Number of Training Sessions Offered	12

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 47 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.
- ✓ 16 Childcares represented: serving and estimated 227 children 0-5 year olds and 142 6+ year olds.
- ✓ 680 Books placed in childcares.

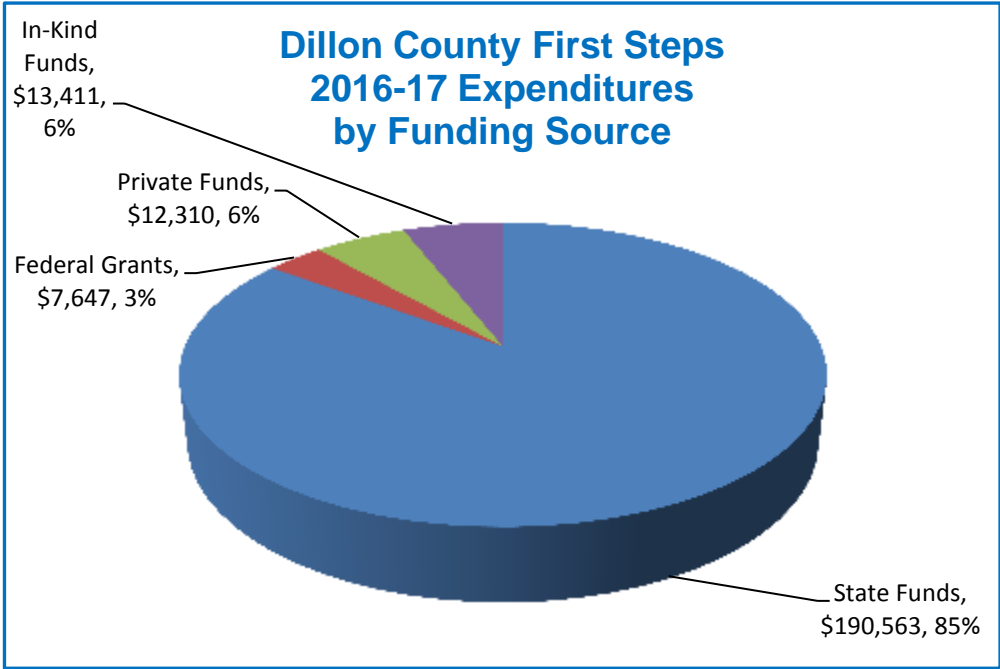
Thank you to our partners!

- Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)
- City of Dillon Wellness Center
- Dillon School District Four
- SC Center for Child Care Career Development (SC-CCCCD)

Dillon County First Steps

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Financial Impact



Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$223,931

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 18%

*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	\$82,249	\$0	\$4,604	\$3,485	\$90,338	40%
Child Care Training	\$28,262	\$0	\$2,918	\$3,316	\$34,496	15%
Head Start Programming	\$0	\$7,647	\$0	\$1,860	\$9,507	4%
Program Support	\$63,312	\$0	\$3,047	\$2,790	\$69,149	31%
Administrative Support	\$16,739	\$0	\$1,742	\$1,960	\$20,441	9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$190,562	\$7,647	\$12,311	\$13,411	\$223,931	

Since inception, Dillon County First Steps has leveraged \$943,400 from sources outside of state government. That's 21 cents for every state dollar.



Thank you supporters!

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

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$190,563
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Bartell Funeral Home

Willie J. Bethea

Ryan & Constance Blackhorse

Dr. Daniel W. Blue, Jr.

Dr. Frank Blue

Nina Bradley

Business & Professional Women’s Club

Century 21 King Agency

Rev. Johnnie O. Coe

Angela Coward

Dillon County Boys and Girls Youth Center

Dillon County Branch of NAACP

Dillon County Council

Dillon Family Medicine, PA

Doo Rights, LLC

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church

Elliott Realty

First Bank

First Choice by Select Health of SC, Inc.

Freight Heights

Rep. Wayne George

Harbor Freight Tools

Mr. & Mrs. Moses Heyward

Shannon Hargrove

House of Thomas Funeral Home

Crystal Johnson

Ressie Jones

Mary Kinney

Latta Drug Company, Inc.

Rachelle Lighty

Chief Judge James E. Lockemy

MANN-HUMMEL Filtration Technology Dillon

Veronica Smith McCormick

Hattie McInnis

McLeod Health – Dillon

Miracle Temple Family Fellowship

New Bethel Apostolic Church

Outreach Family Fellowship

Bruce E. Page

Doretha Page

Pee Dee Electrical

Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson

Gabriel Salmon, Sr.

Kenneth L. Smith

The Schafer Foundation

Whittaker Head Start

In-Kind Match

Brandi’s Banquet Hall

Child Care Resource and Referral

City of Dillon Wellness Center

Dillon School District Four

Harbor Freight Tools

Ja-Novice Greene-Richardson

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

Parent As Teachers

Success Stories

Kenlie learned her Abc's and 123's at the age of 1 year's old. Now she is well manner and very independent. She learned a lot from being in the program.

—**Jessica Anderson**

PAT Parent

This program has been a success to me in many ways. My child has become more familiar with pointing out what things are and knowing his colors. My child has also become very familiar with his body parts.

—**LaCandice Singletary**

PAT Parent

We really enjoy being in this program

—**Jessamine Jackson**

PAT Parent

Yes, I would like to thank the First Steps program for accepting Malasia into their program and helping her with her learning skills. Malasia and I are happy with her teacher. We love Mrs. Tell to the death of the both of us.

—**Kiley Bethea**

PAT Parent

I love and appreciate all you've done and all that you do!

—**Anelica McRae**

PAT Parent

This program has been so helpful to me and my family. This is my last child to graduate from the program. She had services from BabyNet to help with her speech and helping her walk better. We love the books that we get. I'm really thankful for Mrs. Tell and First Steps.

—**Alexis McRae**

PAT Parent

My daughter has learned a lot in this program. Tasia knows how to count from 1 to 10, she can identify some of her colors, and shapes overall she is very smart to be a 2-year-old child. I thank everyone for their support for me and my family.

—**Felicia Ware**

PAT Parent

Before the program and Mrs. Shantel came into our lives I honestly had a few concerns about my son, Ny'Zeam Goodson. One of my concerns was him getting along with other kids his age and then the doors opened with Mrs. Shantel and the program. When my daughter was able to join the group, I wasn't too concerned then when she started crawling and trying to stand on her own I was concerned, but thanks to Mrs. Shantel and this wonderful program. I am a satisfied parent.

—**Okeida Colvin**

PAT Parent

I really love the program and my son Jayceon too. He has learned so much from the program and his books. We love the group meetings and everything.

—**Daysha Samuel**

PAT Parent



Donte Jones enjoying the outdoors and bubbles.



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 made it possible to offer quality trainings to childcare providers.

Board Highlights

During FY 17, Dillon County First Steps Board Members volunteered 157 hours to board meeting and devoted 34.75 hours to committee meetings.

Dillon County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

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

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

Like us on Facebook: [icansc](https://www.facebook.com/icansc)