

CALHOUN COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Imagination Library

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

Every child in Calhoun
County will enter school
healthy and ready to
learn.

CCfirststeps.org

304 Agnes Street, P.O. Box 195, St. Matthews, SC 29135 ♦ calhounfirststeps@windstream.net

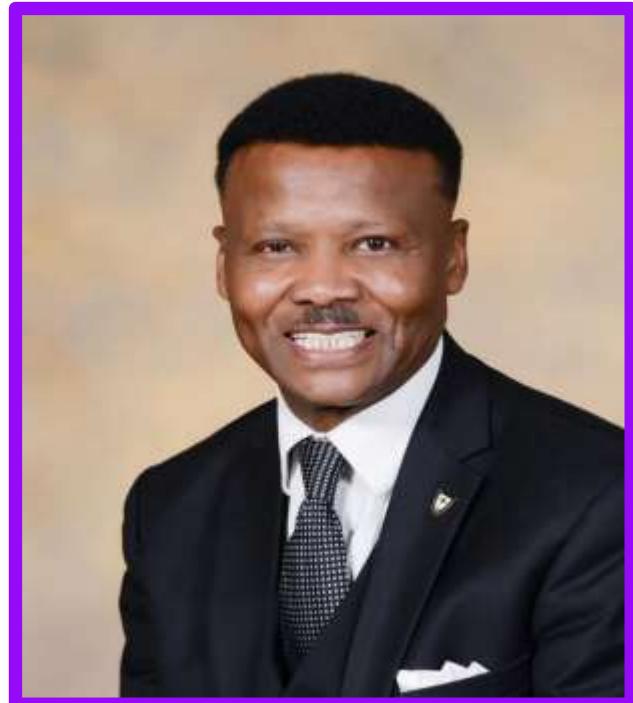
Director/Board Chair Message

Champions of Calhoun County Children

Reflecting back on our annual report for 2017-18, I am grateful for all the support of all our partners who make Calhoun County First Steps great. Partners like the United Way of the Midlands, Tri-Country Electric and Calhoun County Council provide unwavering support. I am also appreciative for the in-kind support of Calhoun County School District and those who gave countless hours of time to make this organization what it is.

Through programs like Parents as Teachers, Imagination Library and Countdown to Kindergarten, we see our children truly reaching school readiness. None of these programs could come to fruition without the collaboration of our many partners.

As board chair, I am very proud of the impact Calhoun County First Steps has made in the life of those who we serve, our children. The Board looks forward to even greater success in the coming year as parents, teachers, schools and community partners continue together as Champion for the children of Calhoun County.



Reverend Stanley Rivers, Board Chair

OUR MISSION:

Collaborating with other entities, Calhoun First Steps helps Calhoun County families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.

Find Calhoun First Steps:





THE NEED

School readiness **depends on the capacity of caregivers** to provide children with consistent, nurturing, and responsive relationships in safe, stimulating learning environments, **continuously**, starting at birth. Unfortunately, these quality early childhood experiences happen for too few children in Calhoun County.

How are Calhoun County's children doing?	What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:	Where can families access child care in our county?
701 are under age 5	N/A attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	4 licensed child care centers
26.3% live in poverty	31 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	1 licensed group/family homes
5.7% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	103 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	0 participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
1% Of children in foster care	37 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	0 providers are rated B or higher by A B C Quality
24.30% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	1 were served by 	8 families received assistance with affording child care last year

Kids Count data provided by: 

Data provided by:  **SC Profile** and **A B C Quality**

THE GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Calhoun County towards these strategic goals in support of the **Profile of the Ready Kindergartner**, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

1. Expand and engage more dads in our parenting and school transition programs and community activities: Call Me Mister and 101 Black Males.
2. Become more visible in the community by getting involved in the School Improvement Council, PTO and activities at St. Matthews K-8 and Sandy Run K-8 schools.
3. Increase community collaboration and participation in Calhoun County First Steps program and activities.

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Calhoun County First Steps provided:

367 children and **94 adults** with **intensive support** to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall (**Parents as Teachers and Countdown to Kindergarten**)

- ✓ **1 staff** working in **1** child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 7 children ages 0-5 in their care** (**Stepping Stones Child Care Center**)
- ✓ **2798 books** to spark the love of reading for **374 children** (**Imagination Library, Parents as Teachers; School Transition**)
- ✓ a total of **374 children** and **167 adults** were impacted by Calhoun County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

School Readiness Outcomes

What is the KRA?

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

CALHOUN SCHOOL DISTRICT (111 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	27%	25%	48%
Language&Literacy	25%	54%	21%
Mathematics	36%	44%	20%
Physical Dev&WB	32%	32%	35%
OVERALL	27%	49%	24%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
OVERALL	26%	38%	36%

1. **Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
2. **Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
3. **Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
4. **Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

Demonstrating Readiness: student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

Approaching Readiness: student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

Emerging Readiness: student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

What is Calhoun County First Steps doing to improve KRA results:

Collaborate with the school district to learn KRA results of kindergarteners served through our 2018 Countdown to Kindergarten especially those kindergarteners that were also served through our Parents as Teachers (PAT) program.. If KRA results are higher for these students, will work with the school district to expand our Countdown to Kindergarten. Will increase outreach to certain underserved population of your county. Direct PAT home visitors to plan more activities around kindergarten standards.

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CCfirststeps.org



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

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

86% ... live in poverty

14% ... didn't graduate from high school

1% ... were teen parents



Parent Satisfaction Survey shows 96% of families strongly agree the parent educator encourages them to read more books to their child, increases their understanding of their child's development and help them find useful resources in their community.

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	50	
Children Served	54	
Total Home Visits	1061	
Hours Spent Serving Families	1082	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	KIPS/2.08	ACIRI/2.0

Bryant and his sons Bryon, Bryce and Braylen attend HS Male-Fatherhood Conference. Dad participates during home visits.

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 21 home visits per family.
- ✓ Identified and addressed NO potential developmental delays (ASQ Report), and made 39 connections for families to services such as employment resources, Adult Education (job skills; GED), early education programs, SCSU Speech Services, medical hearing, DSS Food Stamps, clothing-household items assistance; Mentoring New Mothers program.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices: Parent surveys show that activities in the visits have strengthened parent-child relationships.

Thank you to our PAT partners!

Calhoun County Council
 United Way of the Midlands
 Calhoun DHEC

Calhoun School District
 Calhoun DSS

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Parents as Teachers meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.





Children's reading scores improve dramatically when parents are involved in helping them learn to read.

Program Description

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around **nine months of age**. **One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children's brains is to read to them.**

Calhoun First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children who register with Calhoun First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.



Father reads his son's favorite book, *Little Loon and Papa* by Roni Buzzo during Parents as Teachers June group connection. This book was received through the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	257
Books Given to Children 0-5	2331

This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month to 257 children who were referred from Calhoun DHEC WIC, St. Matthews Head Start, Calhoun DSS, Calhoun Library, St. Matthews K-8, Sandy Runn K-8 and Steping Stones Early Education Center.
- ✓ Survey results showed that families have increased the amount of time read to their child. Children insisted that their newly arrived book was read to them upon receipt.
- ✓ Received \$2000 from Tri-County Trust, each board member sponsors a child for the program and \$4,241 were raised through our 4th Annual Golf Tournament.

Thank you to our Imagination Library partners!

Dollywood Foundation

Tri-County Electric Trust

Calhoun County First Steps Board

United Way of the Midlands

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Imagination Library meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



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.

Training Sponsored by Calhoun First Steps, 2017-18

Topic:	Sessions:
Montessori (3-6) Theory	Component 1
Practical Life and Sensorial	Component 2
Language Arts and Math	Component 3
Culture and Science	Component 4



Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	1
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	1
Number of Training Sessions Offered	10

Calhoun First Steps PAT-certified parent educators, Krystal Jackson and LaGwenda Thomas share a book with early learners of Stepping Stones Center in recognition of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 1 early childhood staff with high quality training (4 sessions), impacting 1 provider and 7 children.
- ✓ 40 hours of certified training and 40 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 2 follow-up visits with training participant to help put training into practice

Thank you to our Training partners!

Sandy Run K-8 (Montessori Classroom)

Northg American Montessori Center

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Training and Professional Development meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Countdown to Kindergarten



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 2017

Children Served	40
Families Served	40
Home/School Visits	227

*CTK program data is for June-August 2017, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.



I thoroughly enjoy Countdown to Kindergarten. I found the relationships I built with students/families during the summer invaluable to our relationships in the classroom

Marla Fanning

Thank you to our CTK partners!

Calhoun County School District

Kaplan Early Learning Company

EdVenture Children's Museum

United Way of the Midlands

WACH Fox 57

Like us on Facebook!
Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

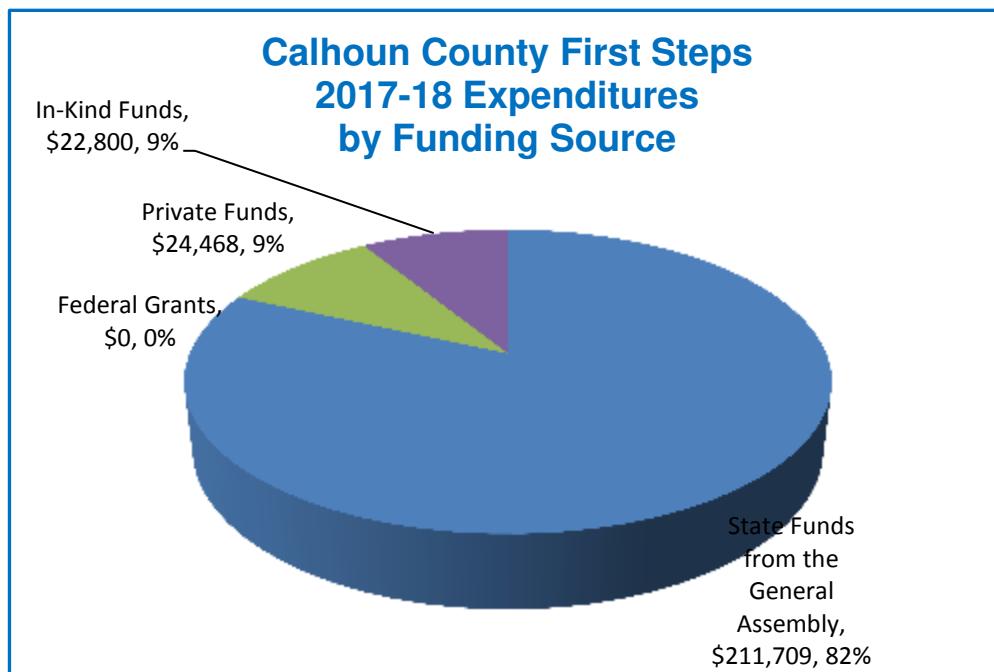


Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-informed** program.



Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$258,977

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 22.33%

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

2017-18 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$143,210	\$0	\$16,207	\$20,500	\$179,917	69%
Imagination Library	\$3,000	\$0	\$1,629	\$0	\$4,629	2%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$8,162	\$0	\$2,357	\$0	\$10,519	4%
Child Care Training	\$1,126	\$0	\$1,099	\$0	\$2,225	1%
Program Support	\$36,348	\$0	\$1,223	\$1,650	\$39,221	15%
Administrative Support	\$19,863	\$0	\$1,953	\$650	\$22,466	9%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$211,709	\$0	\$24,468	\$22,800	\$258,977	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

Since inception, Calhoun County First Steps has leveraged \$855,893 from sources outside of state government. That's 30 cents for every state dollar.



Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Calhoun 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)
United Way of the Midlands: \$21,000
Tri-Country Electric Trust: \$1,500

In-Kind Support

Calhoun County Council
Calhoun County School District
Calhoun County Sheriff Department

Fourth Annual Golf Tournament

Hole Sponsors

Charity Home Care, LLC	Mt. Carmel Baptist
BW Transport	Tri-County Electric
Rev. & Mrs. Sam Richardson	Leroy Ravenell
Roselawn Memorial Cemetery	Farmers Gin
Calhoun County Council	William Chapel AME
Physicians Foot Care	Coach Willie Jeffries
Representative Russell Ott	



Golfers from the Carolinas gather at Calhoun County Golf Complex to raise funds for Calhoun County children to participate in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

How your support helps children in Calhoun County:

- ✓ \$25 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$3630 offers a low income family to participate in an evidence-based family empowering program for one year.
- ✓ \$310 will allow a rising kindergartener/family to participate in a six-weeks school transition program.

HOW TO GIVE: Checks payable to Calhoun County First Steps, PO Box 195, St. Matthews, SC 29135

Save the Date!

Annual Meeting: November 15, 2018

Midlands Gives: May, 2019

Calhoun First Steps Fifth Annual Golf Tournament: April, 2019

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

First Steps Partnership Board

Calhoun First Steps and Calhoun DSS Host Child Welfare Improvement Team Quarterly Meeting

On June 19, 2018, Calhoun County Council provided meeting space at John Ford Community Center for the Calhoun First Steps Board and the Calhoun DSS director to host a meeting that focused on how the organizations can collaborate as a community to help strengthen the safety, permanence and well-being of Calhoun children. Forty percent of our Child Welfare Team was represented at the June's quarterly meeting and shared a brief summary of their organization. Ideas was shared on how our team can created the most positive outcome for the County's children.

Child Welfare Improvement Team: Calhoun County Cares, First Choice Health Connection, WIA (Calhoun-Orangeburg-Bamberg), Regional Medical Center, Calhoun DHEC, OTEC, Calhoun County Schools, Calhoun First Steps, OAKS PACE Center, RMC Safe Kids, Calhoun County Mental Health, RMC Health Plex, Calhoun County Sheriff Dept., Vocational Rehabilitation, Union AME Church; St. Matthews Police Department.

Calhoun County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Stanley Rivers, Chair	Pastor, Williams Chapel AME Church	Faith Community
Mariam Aiken, Secretary	Retiree	Child serve Cahoun FS Program
Michael Smalls, Fundraiser Chair	Chief, St. Matthews Police Department	Family Education-Support Provider
Sharon Daniels	Director Head Start, OCAB	Head Start Appointee
Jeri Jeffcoat	Children Librarian	County Library Appointee
Melissa Eisom	Student	Faith Community
Frederick Golden	Interim Director of Student Services	Legislative Appointee
Wanda Green-Adams	Reading Coach, PreK-5 th Grade	Early Childhood Educator
Bridgett McKnight	Nurse Aide	Child serve in Calhoun FS Program
Cheryl Prickett	Director, Calhoun DHEC	Calhoun DHEC Appointee
Sam Richardson	Pastor, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church	Faith Community
Crystal Williams	Private Business Owner	Family Education Support Provider
Gary Jones	Jones Country Meat Market	Business Community
Christia Murdaugh	Chief Academics Officer-Curriculum and Instruction	School District Appointee
Katy Arant	Owner, Stepping Stones Child Care Center	Childcare Provider

What is First Steps?

At the state level and in every county, First Steps leverages state funding with other public and private resources to help South Carolina's children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. First Steps programs and services support families as their child's first and most important teacher and are customized to meet the unique needs of local communities, grounded in strong evidence, fueled by stakeholder collaboration, and accountable for results.

First Steps Goals

- (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.

First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



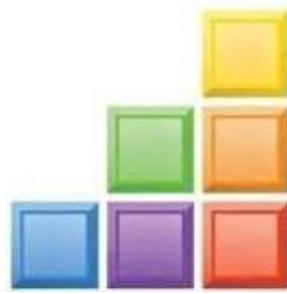
School Transition

From Greenville to Charleston, Abbeville to York, First Steps local partnerships serve as ...

Local portals connecting preschool children and families to services

Conveners of community stakeholders to address the needs of young children and their families

Champions of the importance of school readiness to our children's future.



for South Carolina and to learn about First Steps 4K programs in your area:

scfirststeps.org

for Calhoun County First Steps:

CCfirststeps.org



[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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