OUR VISION:
Every South Carolina child will arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.
By The Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Allendale County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Under Five</td>
<td>293,134</td>
<td>428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children In Poverty</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Graders “Does Not Meet” Standard in Reading</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KIDS COUNT data provided by Children’s Trust of North Carolina**

- 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.

County Programs
Parents as Teachers
Child Care Training
Countdown to Kindergarten
Child Care Scholarships

State Programs
Early Head Start
First Steps 4k

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
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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 as Teachers

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**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Home Visits</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours Spent Serving Families</td>
<td>570.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIPS/ACIRI Pre</td>
<td>1.74/1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIPS/ACIRI Post</td>
<td>2.34/2.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Sessions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caring Classroom</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM for Young Children</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication Administration &amp; Poison Prevention</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing Childhood Illness</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involving Parents in the Classroom</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventing Staff Burnout</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning through Play</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood-Borne Pathogens</td>
<td>One Session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Training Attendance</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers and Directors Served</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Training Sessions Offered</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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% ... did’nt 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.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Served</th>
<th>17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Providers Served</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.
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 2016

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/School Visits</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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
649 Railroad E, PO Box 236, Allendale, SC 29810
803-702-9010
Email phall@scfirsteps.org
## 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

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

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.
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!**
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

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
Along with our community partners, Allendale County First Steps Board of Directors sponsored a “Secret Santa Angel Tree” which provided a Christmas gifts for thirty-three (33) children participating in our programs and seven (7) additional children from the community. Because of this collaboration these families were blessed with a happy holiday.

Our partnership with Allendale County School District allowed twenty (20) children to participate in our summer program, Countdown to Kindergarten. These children completed all six visits, which better prepared them to enter into kindergarten. They also received a back pack loaded with school supplies.

Allendale County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Board Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Carter, Chair</td>
<td>Sheriff, Allendale County</td>
<td>Legislative Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Harley-Fitts, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Council member, Town of Allendale</td>
<td>Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willard Ranch</td>
<td>Judge, County Magistrate</td>
<td>Legislative Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverend James Brewton</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>Faith Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estella Cohen</td>
<td>Supervisor, Low Country Healthy Start</td>
<td>Family Ed/Training/Support Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Lott</td>
<td>Entrepreneur</td>
<td>Business Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lelia Williams</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>County School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lainey Reed</td>
<td>Librarian</td>
<td>County Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donella Robinson</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>DSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Russell</td>
<td>Victims Advocate, Allendale County Sheriff Department</td>
<td>Family Ed/Training/Support Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Simmons</td>
<td>Jailer, Allendale County Detention Center</td>
<td>Parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Smith</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td>DHEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvonda Speight</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>OCAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marzella Washington</td>
<td>Teacher, Fairfax Elementary School</td>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edna Youmans</td>
<td>Director, Little New Steps Child Care Center</td>
<td>Child Care Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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