

COLLETON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Parent Training

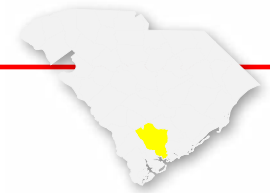
Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Colleton County
Children Under Five	291,026	2,232
Children In Poverty	24.4%	36.7%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	22.2%	33%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	20.5%



- Since inception, Colleton County First Steps has leveraged \$1,795,770 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.54 for every dollar received.**
- **245 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 22 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 52.5 hours** of certified training for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **16 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **6,378 books** were distributed throughout the county.

Colleton County First Steps

609 Colleton Loop
 Walterboro, SC 29488

Phone: (843) 542-9494
 Fax: (843) 542-9513

Board Chair
 LaToya Lynah

<https://scfirststeps.org/colleton/>

Staff:

Cindy L. Dickerson, Executive Director

Edith Bright-Washington, Parent Educator

Susan T. Martin, Parent Educator

Colleton County First Steps Cindy L. Dickerson Executive Director

Our programs require successful collaboration with community partners. We ask all parents and partners to join us as we launch new programs and continue programs that have proven outcomes. Parents find our programs easy to participate in and appreciate the educational books and materials we supply to enhance their role as their child's first teacher.

The entire Board and staff work through-out the county with non-profits, faith-based organizations, businesses, and government organizations to implement programs for children pre-natal to 5 years old. One of our outreach programs includes books that have been provided to all collaborating organizations by our partnership.

Colleton County First Steps was asked to provide the Christmas "Fill the Stocking" Project for the 2016 Christmas Season. Our hope was it would become a community effort and that is exactly what happened. We were amazed at the way the community stepped up and helped us to serve 236 families and 499 children. Many civic organizations and individuals adopted families and contributed to the project; we raised over \$6,000 to help fund the project.

Several of our Board Members attend Presbyterian Churches in Colleton County. Susan Dodd, Janice Young, and Juliette Green. All three of these individuals participate in the back to school project, Hands of Christ. This program provides school supplies to children in the county, clothing, and bibles. We also provided books this year, which were very much appreciated, to help the children while they were waiting to be served. We appreciate our Board Members and their service to the community



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Scholarships



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

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based 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, Colleton County First focuses its investments in Quality Childcare, Family Strengthening, and School Transition.

Nurse-Family Partnership

Helping vulnerable first-time mothers empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

Program Description

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership’s Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with the first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children and themselves.

In Colleton County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Lowcountry Department of Environmental Control. It is funded through the state “Pay for Success” program.

Colleton County First Steps is included with the service provided to Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties and serves families in greatest need.

Of all four counties participating in this program – there were 29 graduates this year and 9 of those were from Colleton County



NFP by the Numbers, 2016-17

Percent of Clients Colleton County	13
Approximate Number of Home Visits Colleton County	310

This year, our NFP program:

- ✓ 53% of clients working at intake vs. 69% at graduation
- ✓ 20% of graduates on private insurance vs. 5% at enrollment
- ✓ 3.7% cigarette smoking at 36 weeks, compared with 5.1% statewide
- ✓ Immunization rates at 12 months 96% vs. 95% statewide
- ✓ 88% of current, local NFP moms initiate breastfeeding (Healthy People 2020 goal is 81.9%)

Thank you to our partners! We have many partners and here are just a few.

- SC Medicaid Program All School Districts
- Children’s Trust Housing Authority
- SC Commission for Minority Affairs Stork’s Nest
- PASOs Federally Qualified Health Centers

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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

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

- 59% ... single parent household
- 54% ...children with documented delays
- 100% ... children receiving SNAP



PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	22	
Children Served	34	
Total Home Visits	326	
Hours Spent Serving Families	282	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting</i>	3.89	4.17

Santa came to our Christmas Party

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.13 home visits per family per month
- ✓ Identified and addressed 35 potential developmental delays, and made 27 connections for families to services such as child care, Head Start, housing, food banks, BabyNet, Special Needs, and interventionalists
- ✓ Improved parenting practices includes over 50% of our parents are attending school and seeking higher education diplomas

Thank you to our partners!

Colleton County School District Family Literacy
Molina Health Care Colleton County Fire Dept.
Wal-mart Family Dollar Colleton County Library

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Parent Training

Parents are their child's first and best teachers.

Program Description

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children to improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services provide information for all of the following:

1. Adult Education
2. Child Education
3. Parent Education
4. Interactive Parent/Child Activities



Our family literacy program:

- ✓ **Helps parents of young children increase their education levels**
- ✓ **Teaches parents how to support their child's literacy and overall development**
- ✓ **Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education**

Our programs provide assistance and information to parents of children under the age of 5 years old and are always ready to connect to other organizations for help.

Colleton First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among famies in the county:

39%	... live under 100% of poverty
87.11%	... children 0-5 receive SNAP
22%	... of babies are born to mothers without a high school diploma

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2016-17

Adults Served	355
Children Served	355

This year, our Family Literacy program:

- ✓ **Provided bags with materials to all parents that had a baby at the hospital in Colleton County**
- ✓ **Held a group meeting in the fall and had 116 people attended and over \$2,000 worth of diapers were distributed to families**
- ✓ **Provided information and materials about many types of services available in the county for new parentns**

Thank you to our partners!

- Colleton Medical Center
- Molina Health Care Family Dollar Stores
- Coastal Dental Services
- WIC Office at DHEC

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Child Care Training

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 Colleton First Steps, 2016-17

Topic:	Sessions:
Growth & Development	4
Curriculum	4
Guidance	1
Professional Development	5
Blood Borne Pathogens	2
CPR & First Aid	2
Special Needs	1
Nutrition	1
Program Administration	4

All Child Care Providers that attend training receive books to share with their classrooms, literacy materials, educational manipulatives to implement the training strategies that they learn during the training sessions.



Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total number of children served	1113
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	184
Number of Training Sessions Offered	20

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 184 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 52.5 hours of certified training and 2 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 89 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- The Beaufort Fund – Coastal Community Foundation
- Child Care Center for Career Development
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Coastal Electric Cooperative

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Colleton 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.

Colleton County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

- 100% ... receive SNAP
- 59% ... single parent household
- 36% ... do not have a high school diploma
- 54% ... had developmental delays



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.

All of our scholarship recipients are required to participate in our Parents as Teachers program.

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	13
Providers Served	5

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 13 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 91% potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 100% connections for families to services such as Parents as Teachers program
- ✓ Supported 5 small businesses in Colleton County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care

Thank you to our partners!

- SC Department of Social Services
- ABC Child Care
- Child Care Resource and Referrals

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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 each child will attend class in the fall.

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases to help parents and caregivers get children ready for Kindergarten.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016

Children Served	48
Families Served	47
Home/School Visits	282



Watching my son during the lesson with his teacher and becoming excited about his new books was the best part of the Countdown to Kindergarten experience.
 Joseph Ferneza

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ Found parents realizing that there is always an opportunity to volunteer at their child’s school.
- ✓ Surveys showed that parents began to understand the importance of reading to their child everyday.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, CTK children have always performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students which is a wonderful result when you realize that the children we serve are the highest risk children.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, CTK are always more involved than other parents in their child’s education in the areas of volunteering, helping out on field trips, and attending PTO meetings.

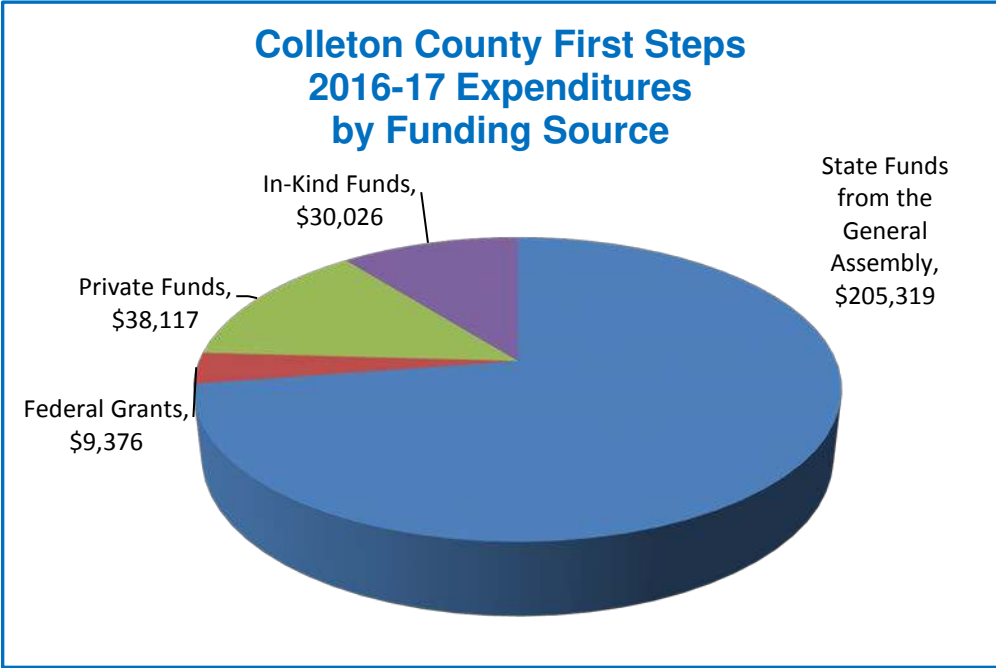
Thank you to our partners!

- Colleton County School District – Title One
- Colleton County Library
- Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Palmetto Rural Telephone
- Wal-mart

Like us on Facebook!
 Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

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Financial Impact



Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$282,838

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 38%

*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	\$84,006	\$0	\$5,094	\$6,356	\$95,456	34%
Parent Training	\$10,076	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,076	4%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$9,233	\$9,376	\$4,367	\$3,670	\$26,646	9%
Child Care Training	\$12,624	\$0	\$16,590	\$6,356	\$35,570	13%
Child Care Scholarships	\$31,500	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$38,500	14%
Program Support	\$38,263	\$0	\$11,886	\$5,358	\$55,507	20%
Administrative Support	\$19,617	\$0	\$180	\$1,286	\$21,083	7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$205,319	\$9,376	\$38,117	\$30,026	\$282,838	

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

Since inception, Colleton County First Steps has leveraged \$1,796,572 from sources outside of state government. That's \$.54 cents for every state dollar.

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*)

Beaufort Fund: \$10,500

Child Care Center for Career Dev. \$2,000

Palmetto Rural Telephone: \$300

Colleton County School District: \$7,872

In-Kind Support

Colleton County School District

Kaplan Early Learning Company

SC Department of Social Services

Bethel Presbyterian Church

St. Judes Episcopal Church

Coastal Electric Cooperative



HOW TO GIVE:

If you would like to make a donation to Colleton County First Steps, your donation will be tax deductible. Colleton County First Steps is an IRS designated 501(c)3 organization. Please make your check payable to Colleton County First Steps, 609 Colleton Loop, Walterboro, SC 29488.

- ❖ Volunteer to help a family have a good Christmas by adopting a needy family during the holiday season.
- ❖ Make a donation to allow a needy child to have age appropriate books in their home.
- ❖ Make a donation of a box of diapers to help with our diaper drive and promotion through parent training.

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

Books for Every Child

Colleton County First Steps believes all children should have age appropriate books in their home, available for them to read or have someone read to them. With the help of FirstBooks.org, we have been able to receive books and pay only the postage required to mail them to us. During the 2016/2017 fiscal year we purchased almost 7,000 books. These books were distributed throughout the county in many ways. Books were provided to new mothers giving birth at the hospital, through the local library's children's department and book mobile, many churches distributed books, our Parents as Teachers program, our Christmas project, the children's art council, Countdown to Kindergarten program, schools, and any family that stopped by our office and asked for books.

Sophie and Chloe were having a birthday party and stopped by to find some books for their guests.



Fill the Stocking Project:

Two years ago Colleton County First Steps was asked to take over the Christmas program for needy children in Colleton County, known as "Fill the Stocking". The first year we served 104 families and 235 children. This year our numbers increased and we provided Christmas presents to 499 children in 236 families.



Our hope was that it would become a community effort and that is exactly what happened. We have been amazed at the way the community stepped up and helped us to serve 499 children we received applications from. Many civic organizations, businesses and individuals adopted families and contributed to the project and we raised over \$6,000 to help fund the project. The Board was very involved and we believe our community impact and recognition has grown because of this program. We could not do this without the support and assistance we have received from community involvement.

Collaboration by Board Members Through-out the County

The entire Board works with non-profits, faith-based organizations, businesses, and government organizations to distribute books throughout the county. Books have been provided to all these organizations by our board members. We are currently working with the Department of Social Services to create a reading room for children to enjoy while they wait for appointments. The Board worked with the entire community to provide Christmas to 499 children this past December. Several Board Members are Presbyterians and participate in the Hands of Christ – Back to School Project. Other members provide food banks at their churches and work with the homeless. All Board members have pulled together to make each of our projects successful throughout the county.

Colleton County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

Name	Position	Board Category
LaToya Lynah, Chair	Early Beginnings/Early Intervention Services	Colleton Co. Dept. of Special Needs
Debbie Skoland, Vice Chair	Retired Nurse/Early Childhood Education	Early Childhood Education/Volunteer
Susan D. Dodd, Treasurer	Case Supervisor/Colleton County DSS	DSS Representative
Ebone Edwards, Secretary	WIC Clinical Team Lead Nutritionist III	DHEC Representative
Carl Coffin	Colleton Memorial Library Director	Library Representative
Dawn Davis	Retired Nurse	Faith Based Representative
Alisha Fender	Nurse	Colleton Medical Center
Louise Ford	Family Coordinator	Head Start
Juliette Green, Previous Chair	Retired DSS	Faith Based Representative
Tangela Green	Parent & Family Engagement/Title One	Colleton County School District
Brenda Hughes	Grant Coordinator	DHEC Representative
Barbara Kulisek	Principal, Black St. Early Education Center	Colleton County School District
Jessica F. Williams	Early Childhood Education	Colleton County School District
Janice Young	Retired Pre K Interventionist	Early Childhood Education

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:

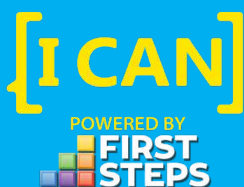
<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



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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