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

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

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.

County Programs
- Parents as Teachers
- Child Care Training
- Parent Training

State Programs
- Early Head Start
- First Steps 4k

Like us on Facebook
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.

**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, Abbeville County First focuses its investments in Family Strengthening and Quality Childcare.**
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

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
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
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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Training Attendance</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers and Directors Served</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Training Sessions Offered</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Abbeville County First Steps
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Greenwood, SC 29649
(864) 388-4102
apruitt@acsdsc.org
www.acfirststeps.org
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.

Why Parent Training Works!

“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
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

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

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.
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

Joephine 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

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

Support Abbeville First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.
### First Steps Partnership Board

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