



Comprehensive Plan 2018-2020

Introduction

Per First Steps legislation (Section 52-152-70 (A)), each First Steps Partnership Board shall bring the community together to identify the area needs related to the goals of First Steps, develop a strategic long-term plan for meeting those needs, and then develop specific initiatives to implement the elements of the plan while integrating service delivery where possible. The partnership board is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the partnership's comprehensive strategic plan, which shall include direct service provision, contracting for service provision, and organization and management of volunteer programs. In addition, each partnership's comprehensive plan shall include the following core functions:

- a) service as a local portal connecting families of preschool children to community-based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children;
- b) service as a community convener around the needs of preschool children and their families; and
- c) support of state-level school readiness priorities as determined by the State Board.

Needs and Resources Assessment: Each local First Steps partnership undergoes a community needs and resources assessment process every three years, in consultation with its local board, staff, clients and partners. A description of this process can be found online at <http://scfirststeps.com/fy-17-needs-and-resources-assessment/>.

Alignment to State First Steps Priorities: Each local First Steps partnership is a non-profit organization created in legislation in support of the statewide First Steps initiative, which is governed by a state board of trustees and supported by the State Office of First Steps. Each local plan aligns with the priorities of the South Carolina First Steps Strategic Plan, **Vision 2020** (<http://scfirststeps.com/resources-and-state-reporting/>). These priorities are:

- Increase access to quality early childhood programs and resources
- Enhance leadership development and capacity building
- Strengthen interagency accountability and public-private collaboration

Support for First Steps Legislative Goals: The strategic goals of this comprehensive plan support one or more goals of the First Steps initiative, as defined in state legislation (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c152.php>):

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."

Promotion of South Carolina's Definition of School Readiness: The goals and objectives of this comprehensive plan promote one or more descriptions of school readiness (Ready Children, Ready Families and Caregivers, Ready Schools and Educators, Ready Communities) as defined in South Carolina's Profile of the Ready Kindergartner (<http://www.ican.sc>), adopted in 2015 by the South Carolina First Steps Board of Trustees and the South Carolina Board of Education as the state's readiness benchmarks.

South Carolina's School Readiness Description (Profile of the Ready Kindergartner)



Profile of the Ready Kindergartner brochure

1 Ready Children

- 1A Approaches to Learning & Inquiry (10)
- 1B Emotional & Social Development (12)
- 1C Physical Development, Self-Help & Motor Skills (4)
- 1D Language & Literacy Development (24)
 - Listening, Speaking and Understanding (8)
 - Early Reading (12)
 - Early Writing (4)
- 1E Mathematical Thinking (9)
 - Number Sense (5)
 - Matching, Sorting, Classifying (4)

2 Ready Families and Caregivers

Ready Kindergartners have the foundation of family and caregivers who:

- 2A Provide safe and loving home environments in which children can grow and develop optimally.
- 2B Ensure that their children's pediatric health and dental needs are regularly addressed.
- 2C Create "language rich" homes in which conversation and written literacy are modeled daily.
- 2D Ensure that their young children receive adequate rest and a healthy diet.
- 2E Expose young children to regular and varied learning experiences in and out of the home.

3 Ready Schools and Educators

Schools and educators for the Ready Kindergartner:

- 3A Understand that each child develops on a unique timeline.
- 3B Are prepared to meet the unique, individual needs of all students.
- 3C Are highly knowledgeable in both child development and the progression of early learning.
- 3D Provide the social, emotional and academic supports needed to advance their students abilities.
- 3E Create emotionally safe and nurturing environments that are free of stress.
- 3F Are equipped to support the needs of their students' parents and caregivers.

4 Ready Communities

Communities that support the Ready Kindergartner:

- 4A Provide access to the resources necessary to ensure good health and optimal physical, social/emotional and cognitive development.
- 4B Create environments in which children:
 - Can grow and develop in the absence of fear, stress, danger and hunger.
 - Have access to needed pediatric, dental and mental health resources.
 - Spend their days in nurturing, language-rich, and developmentally supportive environments (whether a loving home, a high-quality early education setting or both).
 - Are cared for by loving adults attentive to their physical, emotional and developmental needs.

Profile of the Ready Kindergartner brochures are available from each local First Steps office.

Profile of the Ready Kindergartner resources: <http://www.ican.sc/>

South Carolina's Definition of School Readiness (Section 59-152-25 (G))

"School readiness' means the level of child development necessary to ensure early school success as measured in the following domains: physical health and motor skills; emotional and social competence; language and literacy development; and mathematical thinking and cognitive skills. School readiness is supported by the knowledge and practices of families, caregivers, healthcare providers, educators, and communities."



January 31, 2018

The partnership board has managed to sustain partnerships which made it possible to continue providing already established services. Lee County First Steps (LCFS) has continued to provide the following support with limited funding and staff: child care scholarships and center staff training and professional development to both early care professionals and parents. Also, Lee County continues to implement parenting programs (Early Steps to School Success). LCFS provided support for 4K Assessment with the DIAL-3, and the PPVT-3. LCFS and RLI-Lee County continues its work through the SC Healthy Initiative Grant from SC DHEC and SC Tobacco Collaboration to focus on the health and well-being of Lee County's children and their families.

LCFS continues to work hard to expand services throughout the community and across county lines, if necessary, to reach families and children who are in dire need of these services. LCFS received funds from SC Children's Trust to expand the Strengthening Families Program to serve families in Lee, Darlington, Florence County, and Sumter Counties.

The value adds which LCFS continues to have on the local community is that we continue to serve as a visible advocate for the children and parents in Lee County. Although local resources are limited, LCFS is still passionate about its commitment to help children and their families strengthening collaboration efforts with the Lee County School District, Head Start, private child care, and other partners in the local and regional community. LCFS has maintained its focus on addressing parenting and family strengthening, home visiting, quality child care with limited child care scholarships, child training, and school readiness.

Lee County First Steps Partnership Board began the Needs and Resources Assessment process in April 2017, and also hosted 2 Local Portal Convening Sessions of various stakeholders.


Andrew Moses, Board Chair


Elder Alexis D. Pipkins, Ed.S., Executive Director

Where does the board see the partnership 3 years from now – what areas of need will the partnership target?
How is the partnership planning to expand/enhance/change its services over the next 3 years?

Why We Serve – What We Believe

We want our children to be ready for school and to reach their dreams.

We want a better education and for children and their family.

We believe that through collaboration, we can better serve our children.

We want to help the children in Lee County to soar to their dreams.

We want our programs and services to stand outside of the shadows of other, larger communities.

We want our children to be supported and allowed to be a success and move forward in life.

We want to help children learn and get ready for school.

We believe the wellbeing of the community and our children is our future.

We want to make sure to develop the whole child and the whole family.

Our board is a family.

We believe that when children have the skills to be ready for school on day one, they arrive with their heads up and their chest out.

We want to make sure to build coalitions that ensure that our presence does not dictate our future.

We believe that while we may in be our moment, our time is what we make it.

We want to get to know our children, understand where they are going, and help them get there.

We believe that when we start with the parents and strengthen their language and literacy, then that folds into our children.

Thank you to the Lee County First Steps Partnership's collaborating partners, board members, volunteers, clients, etc.

Andrew Moses, Board Chair

Elder Alexis D. Pipkins, Ed.S., Executive Director

The Lee County First Steps Comprehensive Plan was approved on January 31, 2018.

Vision, Mission, and Values

Source: *Guiding Principles and Best Practices for South Carolina Nonprofits, 4th Edition* (TogetherSC, 2017)
<http://www.togethersc.org/?page=GPBP>

In order to engage in strategic thinking that steers the organization in a **mission-focused direction**, the local partnership board must clearly define its mission, vision and values and use these statements to guide planning and action.

Mission and vision statements capture the essence of your organization's beliefs and values, and define its place in the world. A **vision statement** explains the overall goal of your organization looking into the future, while the **mission statement** outlines the present plan to realize the vision.

VISION

Communicates the desired future we seek for the community we serve.

SC First Steps Vision 2020 Vision Statement

Every South Carolina child will be prepared for success in school.

- The partnership board adopts the following vision statement for its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan:

Lee County First Steps Vision Statement

Every Lee County child will arrive at school healthy and ready to learn.

MISSION

Describes the purpose that guides everything we do.

SC First Steps Vision 2020 Mission Statement

Collaborating with other entities, First Steps helps South Carolina 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.

- The partnership board adopts the following mission statement for its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan:

Lee County First Steps Mission Statement

Collaborating with other entities, Lee County First Steps helps South Carolina families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private resources to ensure that children arrive at school healthy and ready to learn.

VALUES

Core values and beliefs reflect how our people – and the organization itself – behaves.

SC First Steps Vision 2020 Core Values

The years of early childhood are a critical window of development during which much of human potential is shaped.

Families are the single most important influence on the development of their young children.

The work of supporting families and caregivers is a collaborative effort between state and local stakeholders within the public, private and faith sectors.

School readiness is the result of a child's development in many areas, with each contributing to the child's success.

Services must be individualized and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.

We value, and demonstrate in our collaborative work and advocacy, diverse perspectives in the development of public policy and programs.

To achieve desired results, services must be high-quality and grounded in strong evidence. First Steps operates within a culture of accountability.

- The partnership board adopts the SC First Steps Vision 2020 core values for its 2018-2020 Strategic Plan

Lee County First Steps Core Values

The years of early childhood are a critical window of development during which much of human potential is shaped.

Families are the single most important influence on the development of their young children.

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STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic goals set the direction for how the organization intends to implement its mission and address the needs of its focus population(s) for the duration of the plan.

#	<p style="text-align: center;">Lee County First Steps Strategic Goals, 2018-2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FS Legislative Goal(s) Addressed (abbreviate as Goal 1, 2, etc.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Profile of the Ready Kindergarten Benchmark(s) Addressed (abbreviate as 1A, 2B, etc.)</p>
1	By 2020, increase diversity (age, race/ethnicity, gender, and geographic location) of the board to have 33% of the current county population reflected on the local partnership board.	2 and 5	4 and 3
2	Increase community outreach through more partnerships to include the annual meeting, state of the young child, health and community fair, more partnerships, Blue Print for Lee County Health, Child's Trust, Prevention Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month, Kindergarten Ambassador Program.	1, 2, 3, 4, and 5	1, 2, 3, and 4
3	By 2020, increase board's funding goal by 100%.	5	4
4	Increase the awareness and commitment of state local and state official on the needs of Lee County First Steps.	5	4
5	Increase serves to the rural areas outside of the city limits of Bishopville to include the Tri County, Pee Dee and Wateree regions.	1, 2,3,4, and 5	1, 2, 3, and 4
6	By 2020, increase the implementation of county programs which are promising practices and/or research-based.	1, 2,3,4, and 5	1, 2, 3, and 4

Lee County First Steps Partnership

2018-2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Organized by the partnership’s current and proposed programs and services, as well as the core functions common to all First Steps partnerships (serving as a local portal connecting families of preschool children to services; serving as a community convener in support of the needs of preschool children and their families; and supporting state readiness priorities).

Local Portal			
Lee County First Steps will connect families of preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development (State Priority: Core Function).			
Objective Each objective addresses one or more priorities of the SC First Steps Strategic Plan, <i>Vision 2020</i> : 1) Increase access; 2) Build capacity; 3) Strengthen interagency accountability & collaboration	In Support of Partnership Strategic Goal(s) (abbreviate as 1, 2, etc.)	Success Metrics Evidence for demonstrating progress, or achievement, of this objective (assessments, surveys, evaluations, focus groups, or other documentation)	Action Items Major activities to be initiated in support of the objective (to be operationalized by staff and partners)
Increase the diversity within the Lee County First Steps Board by racial and cultural by 33% to reflect local community by 2020.	1,2,3,4,5	Board Composition, Board Member Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Board Nomination Committee board member recruitment plan ▪ Board follows up with board composition and demographics
Increase male and fatherhood involvement by 15% in Lee County First Steps early childhood education, early literacy, family engagement programs by 2020.	1,2,3,4,5	Program Evaluations, and Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ESSS Program will encourage families to include father or male in family visit ▪ Kindergarten Ambassador Program will encourage males to participate in meetings ▪ Collaborate with school district, Head Start, private child care, faith, and fraternity organizations to collaborate with local and regional fatherhood initiatives
Develop a communications plan that targets Lee county First Steps messages throughout the 8 identified Lee County communities and service areas by 2020	1,2,3,4,5	Community Surveys, Focus Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify a key person in each of the identified 8 communities ▪ Meetings within identified zones to target participation of parents, and residents within the respective identified 8 communities and the service areas
Increase collaboration with other agencies for program and service referrals to Lee County First Steps	1,2,3,4,5	Referrals, Letters of Commitment, MOU’s and MOA’s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up meetings with other agencies a ▪ Create collaborative agreements

Community Education and Outreach

Lee County First Steps will increase understanding in the community of school readiness domains and assessment, and “what works” to help young children succeed, and will make information easily accessible in all communities and for all families. (State Priority: SCFS Strategic Plan)

<p style="text-align: center;">Objective</p> <p>Each objective addresses one or more priorities of the SC First Steps Strategic Plan, <i>Vision 2020</i>: 1) Increase access; 2) Build capacity; 3) Strengthen interagency accountability & collaboration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In Support of Partnership Strategic Goal(s) (abbreviate as 1, 2, etc.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Success Metrics</p> <p>Evidence for demonstrating progress, or achievement, of this objective (assessments, surveys, evaluations, focus groups, or other documentation)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action Items</p> <p>Major activities to be initiated in support of the objective (to be operationalized by staff and partners)</p>
<p>Increase community awareness of Early Childhood and Parent Engagement in the 8 designated Lee County Communities.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>Focus Groups, Surveys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Move into new Lee County First Steps Office ▪ Host Week of the Young Child Activities ▪ Lee County First Steps Program Yard Signs
<p>Ensure 100% ESSS Programs are engaged in all three Elementary School attendance zones: Bishopville Primary School, West Lee Elementary School, and Lower Lee Elementary School.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>Focus Groups, Evaluations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend Community Events ▪ Host Parent Community Meeting
<p>Implement Kindergarten Ambassador Program, and ensure fully engaged in all three Elementary School attendance zones: Bishopville Primary School, West Lee Elementary School, and Lower Lee Elementary School.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>Focus Groups, Evaluations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host Kindergarten Ambassador Program Community Awareness Program ▪ Host Monthly Parent Engagement Meetings
<p>Ensure local community is aware of Lee County First Steps Programs and Services in the 8 designated Lee County Communities by 2020.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>Surveys, Focus Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend community events include health and educational fairs ▪ Presentation of Lee County First Steps services and progress reports to local government officials and other community stakeholders. ▪ Keep websites (state web, partnership web site and other sites) current and designed for maximum impact to viewers. ▪ Sponsor events that encourage community participation and reach our target audience such as Lee County First Steps Annual meeting, Week of the Young Child, Primary School registrations, community “Back to School” events, etc.

Mobilizing Communities on Providing Enhanced Services to Support Families and their Young Children

Lee County First Steps will serve as a community convener to address the needs of preschool children in the community, in support of state readiness priorities (State Priority: Core Function).

<p style="text-align: center;">Objective</p> <p>Each objective addresses one or more priorities of the SC First Steps Strategic Plan, <i>Vision 2020</i>: 1) Increase access; 2) Build capacity; 3) Strengthen interagency accountability & collaboration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In Support of Partnership Strategic Goal(s) (abbreviate as 1, 2, etc.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Success Metrics</p> <p>Evidence for demonstrating progress, or achievement, of this objective (assessments, surveys, evaluations, focus groups, or other documentation)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action Items</p> <p>Major activities to be initiated in support of the objective (to be operationalized by staff and partners)</p>
<p>Ensure that LCFS target and receives feedback from all communities within the county and identified service areas by 2020.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>Surveys, Focus Groups,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host a minimum of 3 Local Community Convening Sessions ▪ Keep websites (state web, partnership web site and other sites) current and designed for maximum impact to viewers.
<p>Ensure that staff plan and coordinate health and educational fairs by 2020.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>Surveys, Focus Groups,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend community events include health and educational fairs.

Early Steps to School Success

Description: Home visiting program designed to provide home visits twice a month until the child reaches the age of 36 months. The concept is a continuum to serve children currently enrolled the ESSS in the program and recruits additional children in the community who are not currently served in any formal environment in order to fill the gap in providing early literacy. ESSS three core values are (1) Create positive behavior changes in parents (20 positive adult child relationships), (2) serve and return interactions, and (3) executive function life skills.

Clients participate until the age of three and have the opportunity to transition into the PAT program or the Vroom from ages 3 to five years. The PAT program is in partnership with Kershaw County First Steps.

Integration: ESSS is integrated into all three of the elementary school attendance zones. Also, collaborate with the Early Childhood program for 4 year old screenings, completed early childhood assessments, partner with Head Start. A limited number of child care scholarships for children to participate in high quality childcare.

Collaboration: Lee County School District Early Childhood Program collaboration, child care training, assessments, early interventions, completes 4K registration, participates in the local-state team meeting.

- DHEC completes referral
- DSS make referrals and provide services to families
- Lee County Interagency Council referral clients and
- Save the children provide funding, technical assistance, coaching and ongoing training and support.

Kershaw County First Steps collaborates with Lee County First Steps to provide home visits for children 36 months to 60 months in Lee County. This collaborative approach provides a continuum for children and families which can benefit from home visiting.

Objective	In Support of Partnership Strategic Goal(s) (abbreviate as 1, 2, etc.)	Success Metrics Evidence for demonstrating progress, or achievement, of this objective (assessments, surveys, evaluations, focus groups, or other documentation)	Action Items Major activities to be initiated in support of the objective (to be operationalized by staff and partners)
Each objective addresses one or more priorities of the SC First Steps Strategic Plan, <i>Vision 2020</i> : 1) Increase access; 2) Build capacity; 3) Strengthen interagency accountability & collaboration			
Maintain the number of families enrolled per year to 45 by the end of 2020. At least 75% of clients served will participate in the program for at least 12 months	1,2,3,4,5	Surveys, Evaluations, ESSS Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment of families ▪ Families actively participate in the home visits ▪ Families actively participate in group meetings
Maintain the number of children enrolled in the book bag exchange program, Raising A Reader, to 90	1,2,3,4,5	Surveys, Evaluations, ESSS Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruit children for Raise A Reader Program ▪ Follow-up with parents and teachers of children enrolled in the Raise A Reader Program
Maintain the number of families participating in the Kindergarten Ambassador Program to 45 families with 4 to 5 year old children by the end of 2020. At least 70% of the clients served will participate in the program for least 6 months.	1,2,3,4,5	Surveys, Evaluations, ESSS Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment of families ▪ Families actively participate in the home visits ▪ Families actively participate in group meetings

Countdown to Kindergarten

Description: The service this summer home visitation model provides is that it connects rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The home visits are for 6 weeks or 6 sessions for 1 hour during the months of June thru August, the beginning of the new academic school year.

Integration: This program is operated in collaboration with the schools' in the district transition plan, and provides readiness and appropriate referrals for children with other needs such as developmental delays, special services, and other need. The program operated in house by Lee County First Steps which contracts with 5K Teachers to be independent consultants to provide the services.

Collaboration: SC First Steps provides the training for CTK Teachers, Bishopville Primary School: provides set-up for last visit and CTK Celebration; Lower Lee Elementary School: provides set-up for last visit and CTK Celebration; West Lee Elementary School: provides set-up for last visit and CTK Celebration.

<p style="text-align: center;">Objective</p> <p>Each objective addresses one or more priorities of the SC First Steps Strategic Plan, <i>Vision 2020</i>: 1) Increase access; 2) Build capacity; 3) Strengthen interagency accountability & collaboration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In Support of Partnership Strategic Goal(s) (abbreviate as 1, 2, etc.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Success Metrics</p> <p>Evidence for demonstrating progress, or achievement, of this objective (assessments, surveys, evaluations, focus groups, or other documentation)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action Items</p> <p>Major activities to be initiated in support of the objective (to be operationalized by staff and partners)</p>
<p>Ensure the number of children enrolled is 30 children each year by the end of 2020. At least 100% of clients served will participate in the program for at least 2 months</p>	<p>1,2,3, 4,5</p>	<p>CTK Surveys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each child receives 6 home visits ▪ Parents complete survey
<p>The CTK Teachers will host a Back To School Kindergarten Awareness Day at the local school</p>	<p>1,2,3, 4,5</p>	<p>Focus Groups, Parent Surveys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents participate in focus groups ▪ Parents complete survey

Child Care Training and Professional Development

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.

Integration: This strategy is integrated with a training plan developed locally with sessions based on research-based curriculums or models that consultants provide training. These sessions are Certified Trainings via the SC Center for Child Care Career Development. The trainings are comprehensive.

Collaboration:

- Lee County School District
- Save The Children
- Early Steps/Parents As Teachers
- Bishopville Primary School
- Wateree Head Start- Bishopville Site
- Kershaw County First Steps
- Bishopville Lee Child Care Center
- Lee County Adult Education
- SC Child Care Resource and Referral

Objective	In Support of Partnership Strategic Goal(s) (abbreviate as 1, 2, etc.)	Success Metrics Evidence for demonstrating progress, or achievement, of this objective (assessments, surveys, evaluations, focus groups, or other documentation)	Action Items Major activities to be initiated in support of the objective (to be operationalized by staff and partners)
Each objective addresses one or more priorities of the SC First Steps Strategic Plan, <i>Vision 2020</i> : 1) Increase access; 2) Build capacity; 3) Strengthen interagency accountability & collaboration			
Provide 100% of Certified Training to child care providers by the end of 2020.	1,2,3,4,5	Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Care Training Plan ▪ Collaborate with center directors to develop training courses
Host 1 child care conference that provides a minimum of 5 child care hours by 2020	1,2,3,4,5	Surveys, Focus Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Committee and Annual Meeting Committee collaborate to host child care conference.

Scholarship Initiatives

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.

Integration: Child Care providers participate in child care training and professional development provided by Lee County First Steps. Children who receive the scholarships must also be enrolled a parenting program- Early Steps to School Success, and older children are enrolled in the Parents As Teachers (PAT) Program which is a collaborative effort with Kershaw County First Steps. This strategy is operated in collaboration with SC DSS which administers the approval and final approval of the child care scholarships.

Collaboration: SC Department of Social Services, Lee County Department of Social Services, Bishopville Lee Child Care Center, Kiddie Land Family Day Care
SC DSS provides in-kind match of 20% for every dollar that Lee County First Steps spends for scholarships.

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<p>Increase the number of children enrolled to 18 by the end of 2020.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>Reports from DSS ABC, Parent Satisfaction Survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment of families ▪ Meet with child care providers
<p>At least 95% of clients served will participate in the program for at least 12 months</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>Reports from DSS ABC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow-up with families enrolled in program ▪ Meet with child care providers to get an update on clients enrolled in the program

Community Education

Description: The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is an evidence-based, 14-week program proven to increase resilience and protective factors, as well as reduce environmental risk factors for children and parents.

Integration: The SFP involves providing training sessions using family systems and cognitive behavioral approaches to increase resilience and reduce risk factors. It seeks to improve family relationships, parenting skills, and children’s social and life skills. Also, the SFP is a part of Lee County First Steps programs and provides a means of reaching children 0 to 5 with First Steps services while targeting older siblings as well. The areas selected for services through this grant are determined by the funders. This program provided services for Lee County, Darlington County, rural Florence County, and Sumter County. This strategy is operated in-house.

Collaboration: Collaborating Partners:

Children’s Trust of SC: Program oversight, coaching, evaluation, and funding for SFP.

First Focus for Success, Inc., Lee County Department of Social Services, and the Drug Court, Lee County Interagency Council, RLI-Lee: collaboration, and recruitment of children and families, program implementation and coordination of services.

Lee County School District, Florence School District 4, Sumter School District, Pee Dee Region Boys and Girls Club- Timmonsville Site: Meeting space, collaboration, and recruitment of children and families, program implementation and coordination of services.

Darlington-Lee County Adult Education, Sumter County Adult Education, Sumter Police Department, Sumter Sheriff Department, Faith Based Programs, Sumter County Interagency, Sumter County DSS, Lee County targeted schools; Florence School District 4 targeted schools; Sumter County School District targeted schools, Syntrell C. Thompson Marketing Group, Sumter County Adult Education, United Way of Sumter, Clarendon, and Lee Counties, BSG Diversified Training & Consulting, Lee County Sheriff’s Department, City of Bishopville, Sumter County Sheriff’s Office, and Wateree Head Start.

<p style="text-align: center;">Objective</p> <p>Each objective addresses one or more priorities of the SC First Steps Strategic Plan, <i>Vision 2020</i>: 1) Increase access; 2) Build capacity; 3) Strengthen interagency accountability & collaboration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In Support of Partnership Strategic Goal(s) (abbreviate as 1, 2, etc.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Success Metrics</p> <p>Evidence for demonstrating progress, or achievement, of this objective (assessments, surveys, evaluations, focus groups, or other documentation)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Action Items</p> <p>Major activities to be initiated in support of the objective (to be operationalized by staff and partners)</p>
<p>Increase the number of families served by 20 families for a total of 60 families by the end of 2018.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p>AGA Survey, Children’s Trust Survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement SFP Marketing Plan Recruitment ▪ Target recruitment in communities providing SFP
<p>60 families will complete a minimum of 10 sessions and graduate from the SFP Program by the end of each year until 2018.</p>	<p>1,2, 3,4,5</p>	<p>Graduation List, and Quarterly Reports, Surveys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure SFP Administration staff follow-up with staff to make contacts with families enrolled in SFP Cycles