OUR VISION:

Every Edgefield County child will be prepared for success in school.
There is an old Chinese proverb that states that one generation plants the trees; another gets the shade. As First Steps nears its 20th year in existence, we are looking at serving our next generation within the next 5-10 years.

In the fall of 2016, Edgefield County First Steps (ECFS) completed its most recent needs and resources assessment. This assessment had two components – identification of existing community resources and determination of county-wide needs using both an agency survey and a community survey. Three priority needs were identified:

1. Assist families with risk factors with the cost of quality child care
2. Offer a parent education strategy that is available independent from other strategies to increase the number of parents who enroll in parent education services
3. Educate the community about our strategies to maximize the number of families who receive services provided by ECFS

Using information from this needs and resources assessment, the ECFS Partnership Board started work in the fall of 2017 to develop a 3-year comprehensive plan. The Board participated in the first strategic planning session to review the current vision and mission statements and to determine the core values for ECFS. An assessment of each of the strategies currently funded was provided for the Board’s review and a second strategic planning session took place where strategic goals and outcomes were determined.

Through this thorough and reflective process, the ECFS Partnership Board is confident moving forward with the strategies outlined in the 3-year plan. With the additional focus on longitudinal tracking of children and families that we have served, the long-term benefits of participating in quality early childhood programs will be determined. A review of the plan each year will ensure our resources are put to best use.

Many thanks go out to our legislative delegation, state office staff, community partners, vendors, Board members, and families for their support of Edgefield County First Steps. We remain committed to serving the children of Edgefield County for years to come.

Candi Lalonde
Executive Director

OUR MISSION:
First Steps empowers Edgefield County families and caregivers to prepare children for school success by delivering, enhancing, and expanding high-quality early childhood services.
How are Edgefield County's children doing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How are Edgefield County’s children doing?</th>
<th>What early learning programs are available for children in our county?</th>
<th>Where can families access child care in our county?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,099 are under age 5</td>
<td>32 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers</td>
<td>7 licensed child care centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.8% live in poverty</td>
<td>41 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds</td>
<td>9 licensed group/family homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.3% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma</td>
<td>108 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start</td>
<td>6% participate in the state’s Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.5% of babies born in 2016 were to moms age 15-19</td>
<td>60 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.</td>
<td>1 providers are rated B or higher by ABC Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.1% of last year’s kindergartners demonstrated readiness</td>
<td>5 were served by 4K First Steps</td>
<td>60 families received assistance with affording child care last year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

1. Increase access to and affordability of high-quality child care and a continuum of early childhood educational services
2. Increase knowledge of parenting skills to empower parents to be their child’s first teacher
3. Address barriers of families to increase participation in Edgefield County First Steps’ services
4. Educate community about programs and services provided by Edgefield County First Steps
5. Determine long-term benefits of participation with longitudinal tracking of participants
6. Engage and mobilize community to promote early childhood education programs county-wide

THE IMPACT
In 2017-18, Edgefield County First Steps provided:

- 49 children and 42 adults with intensive support to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child’s first and best teacher, and strengthen their family’s health, economic, and overall well-being
- financial assistance to help 25 children 0-5 attend quality child care so their parents can work or attend school
- 1826 books to spark the love of reading for 232 children through the Imagination Library program and an additional 3053 books through local schools, Head Start, Early Head Start, and local child care centers
- a total of 709 children and 436 adults were impacted by Edgefield County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.
School Readiness Outcomes

What is the KRA?

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

### Edgefield County School District (240 children)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
<th>Approaching</th>
<th>Demonstrating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Foundations</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language &amp; Literacy</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Dev &amp; WB</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OVERALL</strong></td>
<td><strong>25%</strong></td>
<td><strong>33%</strong></td>
<td><strong>42%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
<th>Approaching</th>
<th>Demonstrating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Foundations</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language &amp; Literacy</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Dev &amp; WB</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OVERALL</strong></td>
<td><strong>26%</strong></td>
<td><strong>38%</strong></td>
<td><strong>36%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

Edgefield County kindergartners are exceeding the state average for demonstrating readiness in all areas with the exception of mathematics, but we still have much work to do so that all kindergartners are ready by the time they reach first grade. ECFS is looking forward to working in partnership with the local child care centers, Early Head Start and Head Start, and the local school district to strengthen early childhood experiences for all Edgefield County children. In addition to a county-wide meeting to discuss an early childhood education plan (to be held in late 2018), ECFS has already scheduled a child care workshop called “Math Moments” for November 2018 to train child care center staff members on offering math experiences to our youngest children.
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 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 Edgefield County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Carolina Health Centers, Inc.

Edgefield County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our NFP families:

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 33% ... less than high school education
- 33% ... teen parents

In partnership with McCormick and Saluda County First Steps, NFP mothers and babies were presented with Christmas gift boxes.

NFP by the Numbers, 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Served</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Home Visits</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our NFP program:

- 100% of mothers reported satisfied or very satisfied with program services
- 100% of mothers had a medical home and were screened for post-partum depression
- 89% of babies were healthy weight
- 50% of families this program year have had more than 20 home visits since enrollment
- Graduated 2 families

Thank you to our NFP partners!

Carolina Health Centers, Inc.
McCormick County First Steps
Saluda County First Steps
Edgefield County Health Department

Evidence of Effectiveness:
Nurse-Family Partnership meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an evidence-based program.
Program Description

The Triple P - Positive Parenting Program - is one of the most effective evidence-based parenting programs in the world, backed up by more than 35 years of ongoing research. Triple P gives parents simple and practical strategies to help them build strong, healthy relationships, confidently manage their children’s behavior, and prevent problems from developing.

Our Triple P program:

✓ Provides interactive workshops for small groups of no more than 12 parents
✓ Utilizes DVD’s and workbooks to engage parents and reinforce strategies
✓ Works across cultures, socio-economic groups, and many different kinds of family structures

Edgefield County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our Triple P families:

78% ... live in poverty
78% ... were single parent households
22% ... had less than a high school education

This year, our Triple P program:

✓ Provided 11 workshops for a total of 24 hours of parenting information
✓ Served 18 families with 21 children

Thank you to our Triple P partners!

Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)
Edgefield County Department of Social Services

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Triple P meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an evidence-based program.
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 integrate 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

Edgefield County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our family literacy program families:

100% ... live in poverty
83% ... less than high school diploma at enrollment
92% ... are single parent households

100% of family literacy participants strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the program services

This year, our Family Literacy program:

✓ Conducted 73 home visits, working with the parents and their children with educational activities
✓ Completed 30 developmental assessments and identified 5 potential delays
✓ Had attendance of over 1,500 adult education hours, with 6 adults earning their High School Diploma or GED
✓ Had attendance of almost 500 parent education hours, and over 1,600 early childhood education hours

Thank you to our Family Literacy partners!

Edgefield County School District
Peach Blossom Express

The Edgefield County Family Literacy program had 6 of their students attain their high school diploma or GED during the 2017-2018 program year.

Family Literacy by the Numbers 2017-18

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults Served</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Education Hours Offered</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education Hours Offered</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting Education Hours Offered</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of adults that achieved their HS diploma or GED</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evidence of Effectiveness:
The Family Literacy components of early childhood education meet the First Steps legislation’s definition of an evidence-based program.
Program Description

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

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

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

Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children Served</th>
<th>232</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books Given to Children 0-5</td>
<td>1826</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This year, our Imagination Library program:

✓ Provided one book per month to 232 children
✓ Pre-survey results indicate that 52% of the children enrolled have fewer than 10 books in their home
✓ Post-survey results indicate that 43% of families enrolled increased the amount of time they spent reading to their child
✓ Received donations from more than 60 community members and organizations in support of children’s literacy

Thank you to these Imagination Library partners (and over 50 more individual sponsors):

Dollywood Foundation    Edgefield Educational Consulting Services, LLC
Beth McLeod, Fulcher Law Firm    Town of Trenton    Dr. Jeffery Gosney
Maxwell and Halford Drug    Sumner Law Firm    Reel Insurance Agency
Creative Learning Center    United Way of Edgefield
Women in Rural Electrification (W.I.R.E.) c/o Aiken Electric Cooperative

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Imagination Library meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an evidence-based program.
In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

Program Description

The quality of care they received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

First Steps’ Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS-3, and/or ECERS-3)
7. Introduction of a comprehensive Quality Improvement Plan document, completed on every child care staff member

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

✓ Improved quality, on average, by 0.645 (on a 7.0 point scale) based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments
✓ Provided 41 hours of technical assistance to child care providers, contributing to the professional growth of 9 child care teachers and directors
✓ Provided $3,600 in materials grants to participating child care providers
✓ Utilized a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), aligned with the new SC Early Learning Standards, to assess individual child care staff member performance – 100% of staff members showed improvement from pre- to post-QIP scores

Thank you to our Quality Enhancement partners!

Creative Learning Center
Saluda County First Steps

QE by the Numbers, 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Providers Served</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of TA Visits Provided</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2017-18!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Care Provider</th>
<th>Pre/Post Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative Learning Center, 3 year-old room</td>
<td>From 4.94 to 5.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Learning Center, 4 year-old room</td>
<td>From 4.49 to 4.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Learning Center, Toddler room</td>
<td>5.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Learning Center, infant room</td>
<td>5.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Quality Enhancement meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an evidence-based program.
Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

**Program Description**

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

**Training by the Numbers, 2017-18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training by the Numbers, 2017-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Training Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Teachers and Directors Served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Training Sessions Offered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Training Sponsored by Edgefield County First Steps, 2017-18**

**Topic:**
- Communication and Language Development of Young Children
- Guided Play: Supporting Both Children and Parents
- Penguins and Polar Bears – Creating A Monthly Plan
- Quality Never Goes Out of Style
- Families as Partners in Supporting Early Language and Literacy
- Impact of Early Childhood Mental Health on Development
- Environments That Nurture Early Language and Literacy
- Curriculum Activities for the Outdoor Learning Environment
- Effective Teaching Strategies for Supporting Social-Emotional Literacy
- Moral Development of Young Children
- Physical Development of Young Children
- Introduction to ECERS-3
- Transition Magician
- Emergent Literacy in Two Languages
- The Importance of Relationships
- Introduction to ITERS-3
- Going From Boss to Coach
- No “I” In Team
- Bloodborne Pathogens

**This year, our Training program provided:**

- 36 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 14 providers and 204 children
- 42.5 hours of certified training and 1.0 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- 100% of training attendees reported they were satisfied or highly satisfied with trainings

**Thank you to our Training partners!**

- S.C. Center for Child Care Career Development
- Saluda County First Steps
- S.C. Child Care Resource & Referral

**Evidence of Effectiveness:**

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

Too many families in Edgefield 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.

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

- 81% ... live in poverty
- 71% ... were single parent households
- 19% ... had less than high school education
- 14% ... were teen parents

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least two developmental screenings each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

All child care scholarship parents are referred to our Triple P strategy and all children are enrolled in our Imagination Library program.

This year, our Scholarship program:

✓ Provided 25 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
✓ Completed 58 developmental screenings and identified and addressed 9 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
✓ 100% of child care scholarship parents were satisfied or highly satisfied with scholarship services
✓ Supported 1 small businesses in Edgefield County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
✓ Provided 2 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as quality child care

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providers Served</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership’s Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered evidence-based because it is connected to the following evidence-based programs:
Triple P, Child Care Training, and Child Care Quality Enhancement.

Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

Creative Learning Center

Raining outside doesn’t stop these scholarship children from getting some exercise – they are enjoying horse racing in the hallway.
Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description
Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
✓ to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children’s learning is foundational for life success; and
✓ to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children’s early school success.

Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

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

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2017

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Served</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Served</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home/School Visits</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

✓ 100% of families would recommend CTK to other families
✓ 100% of families were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with their home visitor and the materials provided.
✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK students performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in self-help and motor skills and 94% of CTK students performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in language and literacy development and mathematical thinking during the 2017-18 school year.
✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 93% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child’s education in the areas of maintaining contact with the teacher during the school year

Thank you to our CTK partners!

Edgefield County School District – Douglas Elementary School and Merriwether Elementary School
Kaplan Early Learning Company

Evidence of Effectiveness:
Our partnership’s Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation’s definition of an evidence-informed program.
Financial Impact

Edgefield County First Steps 2017-18 Expenditures by Funding Source

State Funds from the General Assembly, $202,980, 62%

Private Funds, $10,314, 3%

In-Kind Funds, $116,845, 35%

Federal Grants, $0, 0%

Total 2017-18 Expenditures: $330,139

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 63%

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>State $</th>
<th>Federal $</th>
<th>Private $</th>
<th>In-Kind $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
<th>% of 2017-18 Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Triple P</td>
<td>$1,533</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,533</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imagination Library</td>
<td>$1,930</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,783</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,713</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Family Partnership</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,916</td>
<td>$30,916</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countdown to Kindergarten</td>
<td>$4,099</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$597</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$4,696</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Quality Enhancement</td>
<td>$12,985</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$720</td>
<td>$13,705</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Training</td>
<td>$8,576</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,952</td>
<td>$720</td>
<td>$11,248</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Scholarships</td>
<td>$71,252</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$720</td>
<td>$71,972</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Literacy</td>
<td>$39,694</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,202</td>
<td>$84,959</td>
<td>$125,855</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td>$23,722</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$4,608</td>
<td>$23,090</td>
<td>$51,420</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td>$14,189</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$172</td>
<td>$720</td>
<td>$15,081</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$202,980</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$10,314</td>
<td>$116,845</td>
<td>$330,139</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since inception, Edgefield County First Steps has leveraged $1,816,002 from sources outside of state government. That’s 61.5 cents for every state dollar.
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Edgefield First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**Funding Support**
- State of South Carolina: $200,000
- Community Foundation of the CSRA: $4,000
- SC Center for Child Care Career Development: $2,000
- United Way of Edgefield: $96.00

**In-Kind Support**
- Edgefield County School District
- Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce
- Carolina Health Centers, Inc.
- First Book

How your support helps children in Edgefield County:
- ✓ $27 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ $100 provides back to school supplies for 5 Countdown to Kindergarten students
- ✓ $200 provides 6 summer home visits for a Countdown to Kindergarten student
- ✓ $250 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month

**HOW TO GIVE:**
Mail your tax-deductible check (made payable to Edgefield County First Steps) to: P.O. Box 295, Edgefield, SC 29824

**Save the Date!**
- Nominations for the Edgefield County First Steps Board will be accepted from October 2018 through November 12, 2018. Please contact us at 803-275-0800 if you are interested in serving on our Board.
- The Edgefield County First Steps Annual Meeting will be in November 2018 - see our website for specific date
- The Week of the Young Child is April 8-12, 2019 – check our Facebook page in early 2019 for more details

Support Edgefield County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!
One of the strategic goals for Edgefield County First Steps was to educate the community about the programs and services of Edgefield County First Steps. We set up our display table at the Women in Unity Back to School event in Edgefield in July, at the Peach Blossom Festival in Johnston in May, and at the Ridge Peach Festival in Trenton in June. Hundreds of families and children stopped by our table for information and goodies!

We created our Facebook page in July 2017 and we now have 363 followers. Several times a year we host Facebook giveaways where we post a picture of books and have a drawing where we pick a winner from those who have liked, shared, and tagged 3 friends in our post. This has been very successful endeavor, with these posts having a reach of between 3,500 and 7,000 each time.

Book distributions are one of our most successful outreach endeavors. Every other month, Edgefield County First Steps goes to the 4K and 5K classrooms in the 4 elementary schools in Edgefield County, to the Early Head Start and Head Start classrooms, and to both licensed child care centers in the county giving books to all the children. Last year, we gave away almost 3,000 books through this effort.
The Edgefield County First Steps Partnership Board of Directors exemplifies service and leadership, whether it involves the many hours devoted to reading and studying program materials, attending Board meetings, or accepting the responsibility of local fundraising. Each time the Board meets, there is a convergence of our county’s education, health, business, and faith communities that is dedicated to our mission of empowering Edgefield County families and caregivers to prepare children for school success by delivering, enhancing, and expanding high-quality early childhood services.

This group of committed volunteers carries our message and our mission to the classrooms, the businesses, the churches, and the living rooms of Edgefield County. They also bring the ideas, the input and the concerns of the community for children’s issues into the Edgefield County First Steps’ board room for discussion, evaluation and inclusion in our plans, programs, and services.

We are grateful for their dedication to our community, commitment to progress, and devotion to children.

**Edgefield County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Board Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Posey, Chair</td>
<td>Retired, Edgefield County School District</td>
<td>Faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Mims, Vice Chair</td>
<td>4K Teacher, Edgefield County School District</td>
<td>Pre-K through Primary Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Jackson, Secretary</td>
<td>Retired, Edgefield County School District</td>
<td>Faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Childress</td>
<td>Adult Education Teacher, Edgefield County School District</td>
<td>School District Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridget Clark</td>
<td>Retired, Edgefield County School District</td>
<td>County Library Appointee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janice Cleveland</td>
<td>5K Teacher, Edgefield County School District</td>
<td>Pre-K through Primary Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carla Dorn</td>
<td>LPN, CLC, WIC, IZ, Edgefield County DHEC</td>
<td>DHEC Appointee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Howard</td>
<td>Teacher, GLEAMNS HRC</td>
<td>ECD Education Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis Lott</td>
<td>Early Head Start Director, GLEAMNS HRC</td>
<td>Early Head Start Appointee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blair Massey</td>
<td>Attorney</td>
<td>Business Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Satterwhite</td>
<td>Teacher, GLEAMNS HRC</td>
<td>ECD Education Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moronda Talley</td>
<td>County Director, Edgefield County DSS</td>
<td>DSS Appointee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Thompson</td>
<td>EHS Case Manager, SC First Steps</td>
<td>ECD Education Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Trotter</td>
<td>Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Peach Tree Medical Center</td>
<td>Healthcare Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Wilhelm</td>
<td>5K teacher, Edgefield County School District</td>
<td>Pre-K through Primary Educator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renee Williams</td>
<td>Family Literacy Director, Edgefield County School District</td>
<td>Family Education Provider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At the state level and in every county, First Steps leverages state funding with other public and private resources to help South Carolina’s children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. First Steps programs and services support families as their child’s first and most important teacher and are customized to meet the unique needs of local communities, grounded in strong evidence, fueled by stakeholder collaboration, and accountable for results.

**First Steps Goals**

1. **provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want** to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;

2. **increase comprehensive services** so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;

3. **promote high-quality preschool programs** that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;

4. **provide services** so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and

5. **mobilize communities** to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

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**First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services**

- **Healthy Start**
- **Family Strengthening**
- **Early Intervention**
- **Quality Child Care**
- **Early Education**
- **School Transition**

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

- **Local portals** connecting preschool children and families to services
- **Conveners** of community stakeholders to address the needs of young children and their families
- **Champions** of the importance of school readiness to our children’s future.

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

[www.scfirststeps.org](http://www.scfirststeps.org)

for Edgefield County First Steps:

[www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com](http://www.edgefieldcountyfirststeps.com)

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[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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Like us on Facebook: icansc