

YORK COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Nurse-Family Partnership

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality
Enhancement

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Annual Report

2017-18



OUR VISION:

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

www.YCFirstSteps.com

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Executive Director's Message

We need to work on our balance!

I love this time of year as fall arrives and eventually, the weather will get a bit cooler and the leaves will change. It is also time to put "pen to paper" to provide a postscript to our fiscal year we just completed and a look forward to the year to come. In the pages that follow, you can review our program summaries to see how many children and families we impacted this past year through our direct interventions and our many partnerships. I encourage you to read the full report, see where we have made our impacts and where we plan to leverage our successes to expand even more.

Recently I was re-reading a couple of books from thought leaders interested in early childhood interventions to at risk children. Dependent on our current perspectives, we can take away different ideas from books that we may read a number of times. In this case, two authors from two different books gave me a different perspective regarding what and how we do what we do. Eric Jenson in his book, Teaching with Poverty in Mind, makes the following comments:

- "The reason things stay the same is because we've been the same. For things to change, we must change!"
- "Poverty calls for key information and smarter strategies, not resignation and despair."

In today's debate, we have plenty of voices looking to place blame and point to ineffective methods and organizations. We also have voices and legislators looking to find the "silver bullet" intervention that will address the root causes and even the playing field between advantaged children and at risk children. This is where the second author's thoughts intersected with Jensen's. In Paul Tough's book, Helping Children Succeed, he points to several recent studies that compared early childhood spending in developed countries. It probably will not come as a great surprise that the US ranked 31st out of 32 in its percentage of spending on social services that goes to early childhood. To make the point even more pointed, of the limited funds that do focus on preschool children, roughly 94% of the spending is focused on 4K programs with a few including 3 year olds. This leaves only 6% spending for the 0-3 year old category. There was a recent article in Charlotte highlighting their priority to move to universal 4K options and SC started several years ago expanding 4K availability in School Districts with high poverty rates.

As well meaning and even beneficial as these efforts are, they miss the growing mountain of evidence that points to the earliest years as the most critical. If we achieve universal 4K, I am willing to predict that we will help some children change their educational trajectory for the better, but I also predict that we will still miss too many children because we were not there soon enough. Brain development research is clear, earlier interventions are much more effective. We must strive for more balance in our efforts; we need to continue our push for 4K options but much more priority in effective earlier interventions. We welcome your comments and support as we work to implement "smarter strategies" and promote positive changes in our approach.



OUR MISSION:

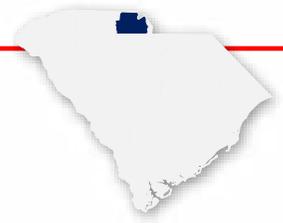
The Mission of the York County First Steps Partnership Board is to assist children, birth to six, and their families by supporting collaborative efforts that ensure all children are prepared to succeed in school.

David W. Lisk, Sr.
Executive Director
York County First Steps

Find York County First Steps:



www.YCFirstSteps.com



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 York County.

How are York County's children doing?	What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:	Where can families access child care in our county?
16,444 are under age 5	16 attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	69 licensed child care centers
14.2% live in poverty	255 attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	43 licensed group/family homes
9.4% of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	851 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	27% participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
32.4% of children live in single parent homes	877 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	20 providers are rated B or higher by A B C Quality
41.4% of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	20 were served by 	935 families received assistance with affording child care last year
<small>Kids Count data provided by: </small>	<small>Data provided by:  SC Profile Early Childhood</small>	<small> SC Profile and  A B C Quality</small>

THE GOALS

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

- 1. Coordinate efforts to profile all 4K Programs offered in York County and provide parents and 4K Providers the coordination and tools to reach more children by casting a wider net within the County.**
- 2. Transition from current Quality Enhancement Program to Quality Counts.**
- 3. Continue to expand our Nurse-Family Partnership Program to reach more at risk first time mothers and their children.**

THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, York County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **91 children and 98 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 (**Parents as Teachers and Nurse-Family Partnership Programs**)
- ✓ **229 staff** working in 45 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 2005 children ages 0-5 in their care** (**Quality Enhancement and Child Care Training Programs**)
- ✓ financial assistance to help **9 children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents could attend school to complete their high school diploma (**Child Care Scholarships and Parents as Teachers Programs**)
- ✓ **Over 33,000 books** were distributed across the County to **spark the love of reading** for preschool children (**Countdown to Kindergarten, Parents as Teachers, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Reach out and Read Programs**)

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:

YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT (398 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	29%	26%	45%
Language&Literacy	25%	45%	29%
Mathematics	37%	39%	24%
Physical Dev&WB	25%	27%	48%
OVERALL	26%	41%	34%

FORT MILL SCHOOL DISTRICT (1143 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	18%	28%	54%
Language&Literacy	16%	46%	38%
Mathematics	18%	34%	47%
Physical Dev&WB	20%	20%	61%
OVERALL	15%	38%	47%

CLOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT (521 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	23%	22%	55%
Language&Literacy	18%	41%	40%
Mathematics	25%	36%	39%
Physical Dev&WB	21%	23%	56%
OVERALL	19%	36%	45%

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
OVERALL	26%	38%	36%

ROCK HILL SCHOOL DISTRICT (1310 children)			
Domain	Emerging	Approaching	Demonstrating
Social Foundations	25%	23%	52%
Language&Literacy	25%	41%	34%
Mathematics	33%	37%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	26%	29%	46%
OVERALL	26%	37%	38%

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

- 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

What is York County First Steps doing to help School Districts with improving KRA results?

York County First Steps is working closely with each School District to identify how we can enlarge the net in our collective appeal to have preschool children enrolled in quality educational settings prior to reaching 5K. One specific area we are facilitating is to generate a comprehensive listing of 4K and earlier programs available in the County as well as a parental guide to assist in the decision making process for families to decide what setting would be best for their child and family circumstances.

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 York County, Nurse-Family Partnership is the implementing Agency for Chester, Lancaster, and York County.



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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... have more than two risk factors
- 16% ... were 18 years old or younger

NFP by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	39
Number of Home Visits	792

I wouldn't have made it without my home visits with my nurse. The depth of service was beyond anything I could imagine. I look forward to each visit and how to be a better mother.

Tamara – NFP Mother

This year, our NFP program:

- ✓ 90% of births reached full term (at least 37 weeks) at delivery
- ✓ 90 % of births were at a healthy birth weight (at least 5pounds 5 ounces)
- ✓ 79.5% of our NFP mothers breast fed their babies
- ✓ Our NFP Program reached full capacity for our initial footprint and we were able to secured additional funding to double our capacity in FY 2019

Thank you to our NFP partners!

- The United Way of York County
- The Sisters of Mercy NC Foundation
- The J. Marion Sims Foundation
- The Women's Enrichment Center

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Nurse-Family Partnership meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Parents play a critical role in their child's development.

Program Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

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

100% ... live in poverty
67% ... didn't graduate from high school
19% ... were teen parents working to finish their high school diploma



A book is a dream that you hold in your hands.

Neil Gaiman

My son is excited when we have a Parent Educator visit our home, especially with the kits the teachers bring. I feel that I can be a better parent since I have been in PAT.

Wanda - PAT Mother

PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	50	
Children Served	52	
Total Home Visits	895	
Hours Spent Serving Families	1147	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	KIPS Average Gain - 0.21	ACIRI Average Gain - A - .08 C - 0.2

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 17.21 home visits per family over an 8-9 month period, with each visit being at least one hour with a Parent Educator providing coaching and skill development to foster positive bonding experiences between the child and parent.
- ✓ Made 188 connections for families to services such as Medical Services, Food Assistance, ESOL Classes, Job Skills, BabyNet, and GED Services.
- ✓ Improved parenting practices for nine teenage mothers working to complete their high school diploma while receiving a Child Care Voucher from YCFS.
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by distributing over 2700 books to children and helping their parents understand their role in developing pre-literacy skills.

Thank you to our PAT partners!

York School District #1

Clover School District #2

Rock Hill School District #3

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Parents as Teachers meet the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Child Care Quality Enhancement

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, ECERS, FCCERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2017-18

Child Care Providers Served	6
Number of TA Visits Provided	123
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	217

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2017-18!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Adventures Plus Child Care	From 2.76 to 4.41
Kids First Academy	From 3.07 to 4.56
God's Blessing Christian Acad.	From 3.31 to 4.74
House of Joy II	From 3.47 to 4.74
Reach for the Stars	From 4.34 to 5.20

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality, on average, by 1.12 points based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments
- ✓ Provided over 308 hours of technical assistance to child care providers, contributing to the professional growth of 44 child care teachers and directors
- ✓ Provided \$7500 in total material grants to participating child care providers
- ✓ Funded scholarships for 9 children at five of our partner child care providers

Thank you to our Quality Enhancement partners!

- Adventures Plus Child Care
- God's Blessing Christian Academy
- House of Joy II
- Kids First Academy
- Open Arms Child Support Center
- Reach for the Stars

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Quality Enhancement meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description

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

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

OMG, it was so much fun! I will take as much back that I can to do better at my center.

You can't teach what you don't know.

Two Early Childhood Conference Attendees

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

Topic:

1. Boys and Girls Learn Differently
2. Creating in the Early Childhood Classroom (2 Sessions)
3. Child Care: Can anyone really do it all?
4. The Power of Reflection
5. Communicating Effectively in an Emergency
6. Safety and Environment
7. Physical Development



Teachers have three loves, love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together. - Scott Hayden

Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	356
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	185
Number of Training Sessions Offered	14

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 185 early childhood staff with high quality training, impacting 39 providers and 1898 children
- ✓ 135.5 hours of certified training and 5 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 6 follow-up visits with our 6 Quality Enhancement Partner Centers to help put training into practice
- ✓ Hosted 175 Child Care Professionals at our annual Early Childhood Conference, providing them with 5 hours of high quality training

Thank you to our Training partners!

Kaplan Early Learning Company	Deanna Hibbard/Lakeshore
Johnson & Wales University	Dr. Kimberly P. Johnson
Dutchman Creek Middle School/Rock Hill SD #3	Mr. Nigel
York Culture and Heritage Museum	Shaun Rogers

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Training and Professional Development meet the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.

Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in York 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.

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 100% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 100% ... were teen parents

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

All of our Teenage Mothers that received childcare vouchers also received the Parents as Teachers Program through their respective school districts. As we bring on our Nurse-Family Partnership Program, we can engage with these teens even earlier.

I had no other options; this voucher helped me stay in school to finish high school. It was so hard but I at least have my degree and hope to provide for my baby in the future.

Teenage Mother – Recent Graduate and Enrolled for 2 years in PAT and with a Child Care Voucher



A baby is born with a need to be loved – and never grows out of it.

Frank A. Clark

Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	9
Providers Served	5

This year, our Scholarship program:

- ✓ Provided 9 children with scholarship assistance so their mother could attend school to complete their high school diploma
- ✓ Made 97 Parents as Teachers home visits with teenage mothers developing needed parenting skills and balance the demands required to complete high school.
- ✓ Supported five small businesses in York County by subsidizing childcare tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care. These same centers provided discounts to YCFS to assist these families as part of our collaboration.

Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

- York, Clover, Rock Hill, and Fort Mill School Districts
- York County Childcare Provider Network

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered **evidence-based** because it is connected to the following evidence-based programs:
 Parents as Teachers



Countdown to Kindergarten



Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description

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

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

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2017

Children Served	141
Families Served	137
Home/School Visits	837

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



I am so happy to see my child looking forward to going to school!

Ceil - CTK Mother

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.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ 86.6 % increase of families reported having a good understanding of what to expect when their child enters kindergarten, based in pre and post survey results.
- ✓ 33% of our CTK families reported increasing their reading time with their child from a few times a week to almost every day
- ✓ Over 95% of our CTK Parents, they and their child were satisfied or very satisfied with the Home Visits, Materials and the Curriculum
- ✓ 20% of our Home Visits were conducted in Spanish

Thank you to our CTK partners!

- Kaplan Early Learning Company
- York County Children's Museum
- St. John's UMC
- York, Clover, and Rock Hill School Districts

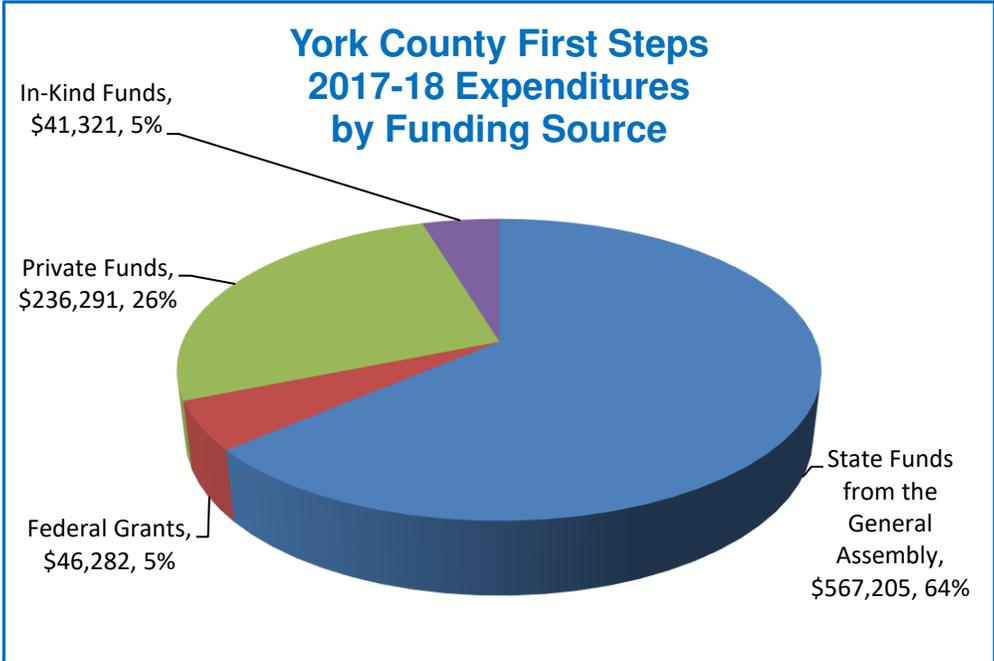
Like us on Facebook!
 Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina:

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Countdown to Kindergarten program meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-informed** program.



Financial Impact



Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$891,099

State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18*: 57%

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

2017-18 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$129,358	\$0	\$1,522	\$33,231	\$164,111	18%
Nurse-Family Partnership	\$141,976	\$0	\$170,771	\$0	\$312,747	35%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$11,248	\$0	\$19,680	\$5,321	\$36,249	4%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$69,172	\$0	\$5,150	\$0	\$74,322	8%
Child Care Training	\$8,005	\$0	\$19,729	\$0	\$27,734	3%
Child Care Scholarships	\$14,837	\$0	\$17,443	\$0	\$32,280	4%
Early Head Start	\$0	\$46,282	\$0	\$0	\$46,282	5%
Program Support	\$138,983	\$0	\$1,010	\$2,769	\$142,762	16%
Administrative Support	\$53,625	\$0	\$986	\$0	\$54,611	6%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$567,204	\$46,282	\$236,291	\$41,321	\$891,098	

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

Since inception, York County First Steps has leveraged \$5,165,277 from sources outside of state government. That is 66 cents for every state dollar.

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, York County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

Funding Support

- State of South Carolina: \$567,204
(through South Carolina First Steps)
- J. Marion Sims Foundation: \$50,000
- Sisters of Mercy NC Foundation: \$50,000
- EHS Federal Grant: \$46,282
- United Way of York County: \$29,000
- Junior Welfare League: \$4,500
- YCFS Board Members



In-Kind Support

- York School District #1 (PAT and NFP Office Space)
- Clover School District #2 (PAT)
- Rock Hill School District #3 (PAT, YCFS Office Space, Early Childhood Conference Space)
- Culture and Heritage Museum (CTK and Early Childhood Conference)
- Kaplan Early Learning Company (Early Childhood Conference, Quality Enhancement Grants, and CTK)
- Lakeshore Company (Early Childhood Conference)

The best partnerships aren't dependent on a mere common goal but on a shared path of equality, desire, and no small amount of passion.

Sarah MacLean

How your support helps children in York County:

- ✓ \$325 provides a rising kindergarten child with the Countdown to Kindergarten Program for the summer
- ✓ \$250 pays for a CTK Celebration Dinner for our CTK children and their families at the end of the CTK Program
- ✓ \$500 helps a teenage mother stay in High School with quality child care for one month
- ✓ \$350 can provide a community or faith based organization with age appropriate books for a literacy program for families with limited access to books

HOW TO GIVE: Check out our website: www.YCFirstSteps.com

Save the Date!

- YCFS Annual Meeting and Holiday Gathering – Monday December 3, 2018, 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm
- Early Childhood Conference – Saturday March 23, 2019, 8:00 am- 2:15 pm at Dutchman Creek Middle School
- Countdown to Kindergarten Celebration – Thursday, August 1, 2019, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Rock Hill, SC

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

Nurse-Family Partnership – 2.0 – Moving Ahead

Taking NFP to the next level and adding capacity.

We enrolled our first NFP Client in September of 2016. After a tremendous amount of effort to secure approval to be the Implementing Agency, develop strategic collaborations with community partners, raising the needed funds, and hiring and training the required staff, we were finally ready to provide services. It was a slow beginning, as one might expect with a new intervention. We experienced some difficulties as we worked through the unique issues that exist in our community, but in the end, the NFP Program can and does make a difference to the families enrolled. This time last year, we were at capacity and serving 50 families. What we needed to do now was expand our capacity, but this would take more funding and likely a few new funding partners. Enter, J. Marion Sims, Children's Trust, and the National Service Office of Nurse-Family Partnership.

Through 3-year incentive grants from the National Service Office and Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) Federal Grant through the Children's Trust of SC, we were able to plan for roughly \$500,000 to add two home visitation nurses. This will effectively double our capacity to serve at risk first time mothers and their children. The timing for these opportunities to work with the NSO and Children's Trust could not have come at a better time. We are in the hiring process for new home visitation nurses as of this update. As we deploy our new capacity in the communities we serve, we also look to expand to full regional coverage of Chester, Lancaster, and York Counties. With initial limited capacity at the beginning and then full capacity, we have tried to focus on where the needs were more easily met. Now we can look to cover our entire regional footprint.



I expect that this time next year, we will once again be in a position to expand NFP even further. The regional demographics indicate that we can support a full NFP Team of eight home visitation nurses; this expansion gets us half way there. We have persevered through finding a suitable Implementing Agency, we are the only First Steps organization that is an Implementing Agency, finding our own funding for the Program, we are the only NFP site in SC that has secured its own funding, and we have paved our own way to meeting the needs of our community. There are a great deal of accomplishments that have been



achieved along this journey and there are many to thank for our progress to date, including the YCFS Board of Directors and Staff for their patience and their perseverance in overcoming not only challenges but also in blazing a new path toward success. For this brief moment, we will pause, thank our partners and supporters, recognize the mountains we have climbed and celebrate where we are. Our first enrolled mothers will begin graduating in the next few months and they too will see how far they have come in such a short time. Their efforts and successes make this all worthwhile.

Support York County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.

Getting the “Band Back Together” Two Office Moves in a Year!

We are very blessed to have some really great partners; one of those long time partners is the Rock Hill School District. They have provided close to free office space for most of the years we have been around. A couple of years ago the School District sold their office building and planned to build a new one in uptown Rock Hill. To accomplish that goal they needed to tear down the building that housed ParentSmart, the Family Resource Center, that grouped the partner agencies that provided interventions to at risk preschool children and their families, basically where our offices were located. We were going to be displaced for at least a year while all the new construction was completed. As the planning for all the moves that needed to take place progressed, it became very apparent that we were being provided not only temporary office space during all the construction but also the District would move us as part of their organization. In April 2018, the District once again moved us to new office space at the Sylvia Center Family Learning Center. All the former partners have been gathered back from their dispersed locations and we are all back together. We have more room than we had before and we are excited to be considered “one of the family” by the Rock Hill School District and look forward to serving together for many years to come.

York County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Cindy Hunt, Vice Chair	ParentSmart Family Resource Center	Appointee – Rock Hill SD #3
Carol Mann, Chair	Retired School Teacher	Appointee - Legislative
Sharon Grooms	York Technical College Professor	Family Education
Tenisha Powell, Secretary	Winthrop University	Early Childhood Education
Joyce Argo	Teacher at Clinton Elementary School	Pre-K – Primary School
Melinda Chappell-Bursey	Children’s Museum	Business
Nina Feemster	Bright Beginnings Family Resource Center	Appointee – Clover SD #2
Susan Collier	DHEC	Appointee - DHEC
Carol Perkins	PITC	Early Education
Jane Culp	LEAP Ahead Family Resource Center	Appointee - Fort Mill SD #4
Maya Alexander	Department of Social Services	Appointee - DSS
Penny Sanders	Parenting Partners Family Resource Center	Appointee – York SD #1
Kenya Morris	CCRI	Family Ed. Training and Support
Dina Grant	York County Library	Appointee – York County Library
Beth Cooper	Rock Hill School District	Pre K – Primary Educator
Patricia Samuel	HeadStart Director	Appointee - HeadStart
Dr. Winslow Shock	Chiropractor	Business

What is First Steps?

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.

South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 59-152-30

First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



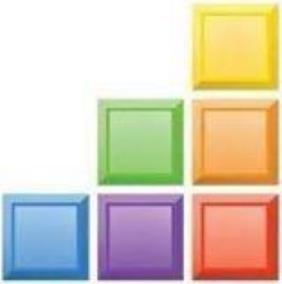
Early Education



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.



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

for York County First Steps:
www.YCFirstSteps.com



[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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