

GEORGETOWN COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Child Care Quality  
Enhancement

Child Care Scholarships

3K Pilot Program

# Annual Report

2017-18



**OUR VISION:**

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

Georgetown County First Steps or SCFS web page

2018 Church Street, Georgetown SC 29440 ♦ (843)520-1830 ♦ [ayeshasmith.smith@aol.com](mailto:ayeshasmith.smith@aol.com)

# Director Message

*Ayesha Smith, Executive Director*

Many families with young children rely on child care for infants and toddlers. Georgetown County First Steps focuses on supporting quality early child care. Quality child care can be an enriching experience in a child's life and can provide support to families as they work to gain self sufficiency. Statistics show children benefit most from child care by gaining socialization skills and learning to communicate with peers and adults. Quality child care also promotes stability and strong relationships within the families we serve. Research indicates all children benefit from high quality child care programs that allow families to work closely with them to enrich children's learning and development. It is imperative that we continue to provide the kind of learning environments necessary for all children to be successful in the early years as well as preparing them for success in school and as they progress through life. In our constant pursuit to provide services that support unmet needs of our preschool community, we are excited to offer scholarships serving the most needy families.



On a personal note, I am very new in my role as Executive Director and look forward to serving families here in Georgetown County. I have a lot of new ideas and look forward to seeing what the future holds as I join forces with the rest of the county in helping families and getting children prepared for school. My main goal is to rebrand Georgetown County First Steps so that it is a recognizable brand that stands for supporting all children and their families as they prepare to enter Kindergarten.

*Ayesha Smith, Executive Director*

## OUR MISSION:

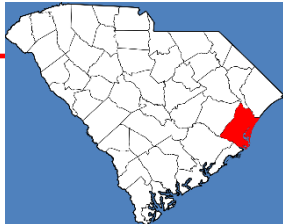
To promote awareness through collaboration of other entities as we prepare our children for success.

Find Georgetown County First Steps:









# We get children ready.



## 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 Georgetown County.

How are Georgetown 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?
<b>2,852</b> are under age 5	<b>32</b> attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	<b>32</b> licensed child care centers
<b>30%</b> live in poverty	<b>150</b> attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	<b>17</b> licensed group/family homes
<b>11.4%</b> of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	<b>412</b> 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	<b>40%</b> participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
<b>63.3%</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders tested below state standards in English/Language Arts-SC Ready	<b>157</b> 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	<b>15</b> providers are rated B or higher by <b>A B C</b> Quality
<b>53.4%</b> of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	<b>36</b> were served by 	<b>501</b> families received assistance with affording child care last year
<small>Kids Count data provided by: </small>		

## THE GOALS

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

1. Parents are children's first teacher; families are the most important influence on the development of their children because learning happens in every day moments.
2. Services offered should be based on the needs and of the community and adaptable to meet the unique needs of children and families.
3. School readiness means that if parents become engaged early in their child's education then in the long term lifelong success can be expected.

## THE IMPACT

**In 2017-18, Georgetown County First Steps provided:**

**30 children and 16 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  
**12 staff** child care providers working in Head Start and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 30 children ages 0-5 in their care (3-K program, Child Care Scholarships, and Child Care Quality Enhancement)** financial assistance to help **30 children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school, **books to spark the love of reading for children**, 3K Scholarships, Centers of Excellence. A total of **250 books** and **16 children** were impacted by Georgetown 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:

Georgetown County School District (640 children)			
Domain	% Emerging	% Approaching	% Demonstrating
Social Foundations	18%	19%	63%
Language&Literacy	14%	38%	48%
Mathematics	21%	33%	48%
Physical Dev&WB	19%	18%	63%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>53%</b>

SOUTH CSASROLINA (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%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

- 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

## What is Georgetown County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Georgetown County First Steps goals for Kindergarten Readiness includes continuing to work with Quality Enhanced Centers to collaborate and ensure that each child is successful as s/he prepares for kindergarten. Georgetown will be implementing new programs that will be evidence-based, such as PAT, and other programs that will improve and make a difference in families’ lives and promote awareness of children’s needs. We also will be providing Countdown to Kindergarten as well as implementing more child care training.

[ayeshasmith.smith@aol.com](mailto:ayeshasmith.smith@aol.com)

Ayesha Smith, Executive Director ♦ 843-520-1830 ♦ Merit Justice, Board Chair

# Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Georgetown 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.

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

- 100% ... live in poverty
- 94% ... live in single parent households and have needs of other services

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

Our scholarships are provided to families with children who participate in our 3-K program at Sanpit and Little Smurfs.



### Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	16
Providers Served	3

### This year, our Scholarship program:

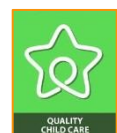
- ✓ Provided 16 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Supported 3 small businesses in Georgetown County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 9 hours of training for scholarship parents.

### Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

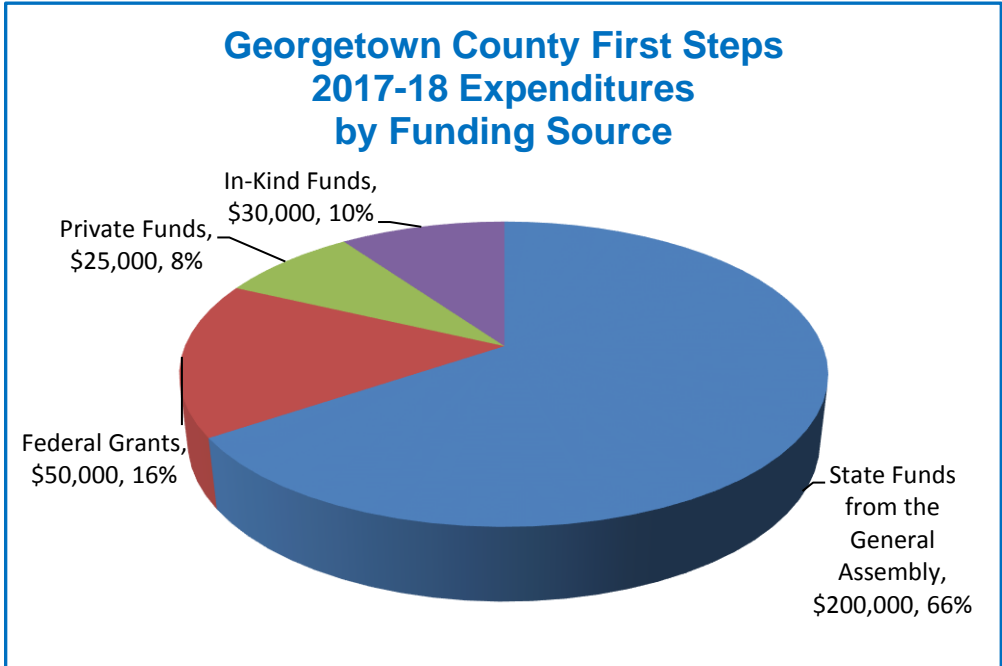
- U.S. Department of Education
- Georgetown County School District
- ABC Child Care

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership’s Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered *evidence-based* because it is connected to the following evidence- based program: 3K



# Financial Impact



**Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$377,086**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18\*: 66%**

\*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
Child Care Scholarships	\$100,310	\$0	\$15,286	\$559	\$116,155	31%
Quality Enhancement	\$39,332	\$0	\$3,040	\$0	\$42,372	11%
Early Head Start	\$8,949	\$79,744			\$88,693	
Program Support	\$48,968	\$0	\$0	\$23,888	\$72,856	19%
Administrative Support	\$29,476	\$0	\$1,645	\$25,889	\$57,010	15%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$227,035</b>	<b>\$79,744</b>	<b>\$19,971</b>	<b>\$50,335</b>	<b>\$377,086</b>	

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

**Since inception, Georgetown County First Steps has leveraged \$3,411,768 from sources outside of state government. That's .65 cents for every state dollar.**



# Thank you supporters!

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

## Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$227,035  
*(through South Carolina First Steps)*  
Precious Blood: \$1,600

## In-Kind Support

Georgetown County School District  
First Book Company  
Kaplan Company  
Lunda Green

### How your support helps children in Georgetown County:

- ✓ \$25.00 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$110.00 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting workshop
- ✓ \$50.00 helps a low-income family afford quality child care for one month
- ✓ \$25.00 etc. etc.

**HOW TO GIVE:** include here instructions on how to submit contributions to your partnership

### Save the Date!

- October 8-11, 2018 Parents As Teachers National Conference
- November 14-18 NAYEC Conference Washington DC
- November TBA- Georgetown Childcare Training

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

## Making a difference one child at a time

Georgetown County was able to provide 3K scholarships as assistance for the most needy families for children in two of our local child care centers. One of two centers is located within Georgetown County School District. Georgetown County First Steps collaborated with Georgetown County Housing Authority to promote community awareness by adding three-year olds to a waitlist for the 3K program.

Georgetown County First Steps was able to work along with childcare centers so that every Early Head Start (EHS) child that transitioned out of an EHS classroom was provided a scholarship to a 3K classroom.

Georgetown County's Quality Enhancement centers participated in educational field trips which provided a realm of knowledge and age appropriate learning for 3K children.







# First Steps Partnership Board

## Georgetown County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
Merit Justice *	Chairperson	School District Receptionist
Whitney Martin *	Vice Chair	Kindergarten Teacher-EHS
Pam Bradley	Treasurer	Business Community Sales: Kaplan Co.
Patricia Canada *	Secretary	School District Designee: ADEPT
Lakisha Myers	GCSD Employee	Early Childhood Education Early Childhood Paraprofessional
Kiara Logan	Georgetown County Housing Authority	Georgetown Housing Choice Voucher Coordinator
Gwen McNeil	Andrews Magistrate	Faith Community; and Judge
Anita Floyd	Attorney	Business Community Attorney
Tiffany Jenkins	Georgetown County DHEC Nutritionist	DHEC Designee
Dwight McInvaill *	Georgetown County Library Director	Library Designee: Director
Jane Wishart	Consultant	Educational Community

# 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.

### 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](http://scfirststeps.org)

for Georgetown County First Steps:  
<http://scfirststeps.org/georgetow>