THE NEED
IN SOUTH CAROLINA:
42% of people live in a childcare desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots.

53% of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in nursery school or preschool.

IN ABBEVILLE COUNTY:
1,151 children under age 5
62% of young children live in poverty or low-income households
65% of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school.

OUR MISSION
To provide quality services and support for Abbeville County families with children newborn to five.

OUR APPROACH
High quality programs and services for children and families
Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers
Strategic partnerships and community education

OUR IMPACT
1419 number of children and adults served by Abbeville County First Steps in 2018-2019

JOIN US
We rely on a community of partners, donors, and volunteers – people like you – who believe in a brighter future for children and families in our community.

1402C Highway 72 West, Greenwood SC 29649 | 864-388-4102 | www.acfirststeps.org
Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps have been partnering for years across county lines. Last year, the two county partnerships worked together to implement a new evidence-based model in South Carolina, The Nurturing Parenting Program. This program provides a home visitation model, and many group-based programs inclusive of Fatherhood programs. Through this great partnership and with The Social Change Initiative, programs have been offered for over 100 families in Abbeville and Greenwood Counties.

**OUR GOALS**

Abbeville County First Steps Strategic Goals 2018-2020

Goal 1: Provide Comprehensive Parenting Programs

Goal 2: Provide High Quality Comprehensive Parenting Programs inclusive of Fathers

Goal 3: Provide High Quality Trainings for childcare providers and early childhood educators

Goal 4: Serve as a local community portal for families to receive high quality services

Goal 5: Serve as community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote comprehensive services to families

"Abbeville County First Steps is a great partner for many agencies. Ursula Best, Abbeville DSS"
High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce. Our training programs are certified though the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Our 2018-2019 trainings included:

• Stress Can Affect Child Development
• Creative Activities for Children
• Preventing SIDS
• How to Deal w/Stress in the Classroom
• Guiding Children in the Right Direction
• Working with Socialization Disorders
• Together We Can Make a Difference
• Guiding Children’s Behaviors in the Classroom
• Blood Bourne Pathogens
• Safety in the Classroom
• Safety First!
• Integrating Early Learning Centers into the Classroom: STEAM
• A Difference is made When...

• Making your classroom more inviting for children with special needs.
• The Art of Imagination...
• Learning Through Play
• Classroom Management
• Working with Special Needs Children
• Literacy in Early Childhood Development
• Learning Through Play in the Classroom
• The Art of Leading, Through Imagination
• Working with Special Needs Children
• The Importance of Promoting
• Developmental Milestones in Social Environments

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS
2018-2019

156 78 18

total training attendance child care teachers and directors served number of training sessions offered

"We are very thankful for the training hours offered by First Steps,

Prissy, Child Care Worker, Abbeville, SC"
The Nurturing Parenting Program is a compilation of evidence-based programs designed to offer long term, more comprehensive parenting education. Parents & Their Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers participate in a Home Visitation Program that utilizes a parenting curriculum that allows more interactive time between parent and child.

NURTURING PARENTING BY THE NUMBERS
2018-2019

- 39 families served
- 552 total home visits

• Open to families in Greenwood and Abbeville Counties who have children prenatal to five years old.
• Home visits are provided twice a month with books, educational toys, and school readiness materials.
• Home Visitors provide community resource information to all families.

"I am very proud of Arianna and what she is learning from Jessica. She is doing great with learning her colors and shapes. Arianna’s language has improved greatly."

Ashley, Nurturing Parenting Participant
The Nurturing Parenting, Parent Training Program is a comprehensive group-based parenting program for parents of young children. Sessions are offered weekly and parents learn skills needed for a healthy nurturing parenting lifestyle. Group and individualized sessions are offered through Parent Training. Clients must complete a total of 13 sessions to receive a certificate of program completion. This program is operated in-house and the goal is to increase Parental involvement and reduce abuse and neglect.

PARENT TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS
2018-2019

18 families served
50 total group meetings

Thanks to a charitable donation from the Abbeville Rotary Club. Thanks to the Rotary Club for providing funding for meals for families in the program.

Your support makes a difference!
Workshops are offered to equip, educate, and empower fathers with the necessary tools to engage positively in their children’s quest to be successful. The goal is to increase father involvement and reduce child abuse and neglect.

“Any Man can be a Father, but it takes a REAL MAN to be a DAD”

**NURTURING FATHERS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019**

- 17 families served
- 45 total group meetings

“Michael did a great job teaching Fathers. He is a great advocate for fathers.”

Matt, Fatherhood Initiative
Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for childcare providers, Abbeville County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Abbeville County begin school ready to succeed.

We serve as a:

**LOCAL PORTAL**
connecting preschool children and their families to services

**CONVENER**
of community stakeholders to develop an effective and comprehensive early childhood system

**CHAMPION**
of the importance of school readiness to our children’s future

**OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019**

592 Families connected to services
644 Materials distributed

“I appreciate all of the housing resources, food, and books given through First Steps. These are great resources for families.”
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Greenwood County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**FUNDING SUPPORT**
- South Carolina State Government: $200,000
- Walmart: $1000
- West Carolina Telephone: $500
- Abbeville Rotary Club: $500
- West Carolina Telephone
- Freshwater Coast Foundation: $2,500
- Dr. Randall T. Ruble $1000
- Abbeville First Bank: $250.00
- CSX Transportation: $1500
- Sage Automotive: $250
- Abbeville Area Medical Center: $350

**IN-KIND SUPPORT/PARTNERS**
- Lander University
- The Social Change Initiative
- Greenwood County First Steps
- Guardian ad Litem
- Abbeville County Department of Social Services
- Abbeville School District 60
- Little River Baptist Church

**JOIN US**

For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at

[www.acfirststeps.org](http://www.acfirststeps.org)
**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY**

Expenditures by Program Type

- **State Funding**: $178,306.00
- **Federal Funding**: $9,715.01
- **Private Funding**: $192,146.00
- **In-Kind Total**: $380,167.01

**ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS**

Since inception, Greenwood County First Steps has leveraged **$1,397,530** from sources outside of state government.

That’s **$0.38** for every state dollar.

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**SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Federal Funding</th>
<th>Private Funding</th>
<th>In-Kind</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Nurturing Parenting</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$203,180.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,712.70</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$192,146.00</strong></td>
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LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Henry Green, Board Chair
Daniel Crawford, Vice-Chair
Charles Costner, Finance Committee Chair
Mary Lou Edens, Development Committee Chair
Mary Stackhouse
Gail Johnson
Mary Elizabeth Land
Lou Paradis
Jane Agan
Janet Vandiver

Connie Normand
Mary Jane Trainor
Lee Logan
Amy Glover
Millie Ricketts
Sarah Kennerly
Ursula Best
Adrienne Padner
Joe Bryson

STAFF

Angela Pruitt, Executive Director
Jessica Sinkovics, Home Visitor

CONTACT US

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