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 CHESTER COUNTY:

1826 children under age 5

58.7% of young children live in poverty or low-income households.

64% of kindergartners are considered “not ready” for school.

OUR MISSION

Your mission statement goes here. Omit any preamble (“Our mission is…”) and begin with the word “To”.

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

791 number of children and adults served by Chester 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.
Our Story

Collaboration is the vehicle that drives all strategies linked to school readiness outcomes for young children. No one agency, organization or individual is greater than the collective power of the community rising to inspire all sectors to be champions of young learners. The champions will look different according to the occasion. We strive to share the importance of early childhood programs, services and the vital role of each person for contributing to the community’s school readiness assets and assets to be.

The Parents As Teachers and Child Care Training programs provide guidance and support to frontline early care practitioners. Best practices for early care begin in the home with a continuation of these practices at childcare sites and in prekindergarten classrooms. The common thread is the promotion of optimal brain development, social emotional growth, physical growth and healthy outcomes in preparation for lifelong learning.

Alliances with community partners have been the hallmark of our work toward establishing and sustaining awareness and appreciation for quality early care. The important elements needed in preparation for lifelong learning has city, county, and state investments. This collaborative effort reveals the high value Chester and South Carolina have for our youngest children and their family. Noteworthy of collective investments for our youngest learners:

• Individuals from all sectors of the community volunteer to read to young children
• A local farmer, Wild Hope Farm, donates fresh vegetables for the Parents As Teachers nutrition classes
• Over 500 Books have been donated by Dr. Winslow School to support literacy activities
• The 4-K classrooms in Chester County School District participated in literacy activities and their teachers in professional development classes.
• Clemson Extension Service provided tablets for parents to participate in a statewide online project.
• Chester Police Department conducted an active shooter training for childcare teachers and staff
• North Chester Head Start participated in literacy activities

The value of the investments on behalf of our youngest learners is immeasurable. The impacts will not be fully known immediately, but we are certain they will affect Chester, South Carolina and the world.

Chester County First Steps is a natural partner for our agency and collaboration with them is easy being housed together.

Abigail Phillips, Clemson Extension 4-H Agent
Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

- Personal visits from a parent educator at least twice monthly
- Monthly group connections with other PAT families
- Screenings and assessments to identify developmental concerns
- Connections to outside resources that families may need to succeed

**PAT IN CHESTER COUNTY 2018-2019**

- **33** families served
- **614** total home visits

**PAT IN THE NEWS**

PAT recently received the highest rating from the federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse. This recognition validates the effectiveness of Parents as Teachers as a strategy for improving parenting practices, promoting early detection of developmental delays and health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect, and enhancing school readiness and success.
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:

- Mapping Out Learning Through Sta-Ages
- Family Engagement in Preschool Setting
- Language Development & Literacy
- Let’s Have a Block Party
- System Management
- Be True to the Game
- A Safe Place
- Interactions & Brain Development
- Understanding Behaviors
- First Aid/CPR

**TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019**

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

“I enjoy the trainings because they are cost efficient, inspirational and facilitated by great speakers. The staff is very friendly and always willing to help us.”

*Soissette Kennedy, Director of A World of Kids*
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Chester County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Chester 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

16 Volunteers
24 Hours of Service

I enjoyed volunteering as a reader for the Read-to-Me Program. The children were attentive and a joy.

Wanda Thompson, Chester County Delegates’ Office Administrator
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Chester County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**IN-KIND SUPPORT**

Chester County

Clemson Extension Service

Chester YMCA

Wild Hope Farm

Horizons Christian Academy

**JOIN US**

For more information on how you can be involved, see us on Facebook or email: firststepsc@truvista.net
**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY**
Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Federal Funding</th>
<th>Private Funding</th>
<th>In-Kind Contributions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Functions</td>
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<td>$720</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$96</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,854</strong></td>
<td><strong>$41,568</strong></td>
<td><strong>$240,295</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS**

Since inception, Chester County First Steps has leveraged $1,392,484 from sources outside of state government.

That’s 41 cents for every state dollar.

**SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY**
LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephanie Barber, Member  
Ricky Cremeans, Member  
Lottie Crosby, Secretary  
Sandra Davie, Member  
Tammy Graham, Vice Chair  
Alison Howe, Treasurer  
Sandra Johnson, Member  
Ke’Shona Johnson, Member  
Tamika McMullen, Member  
Jessica McWaters, Members  
Stetavia Mackey, Member  
Kathryn Powell, Member  
Oresa Roddey, Chair  
Destiny Strong, Member  
Kevin Taylor, Member  
Wade Young, Member

STAFF

Centuria S. Watson, Executive Director  
LaTonya W. Boyd, Parent Educator Supervisor  
Candy Gore, Parent Educator

CONTACT US

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