



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

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

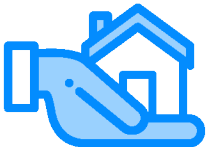


PARENTS AS TEACHERS



an evidence-based program

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 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.

PAT IN CHESTER COUNTY 2018-2019

33

families served

614

total home visits



Parents as Teachers®



CHILD CARE TRAINING



an evidence-based program

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 through 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

Be True to the Game

Family Engagement in Preschool Setting

A Safe Place

Language Development & Literacy

Interactions & Brain Development

Let's Have a Block Party

Understanding Behaviors

System Management

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.

Soisette 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



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

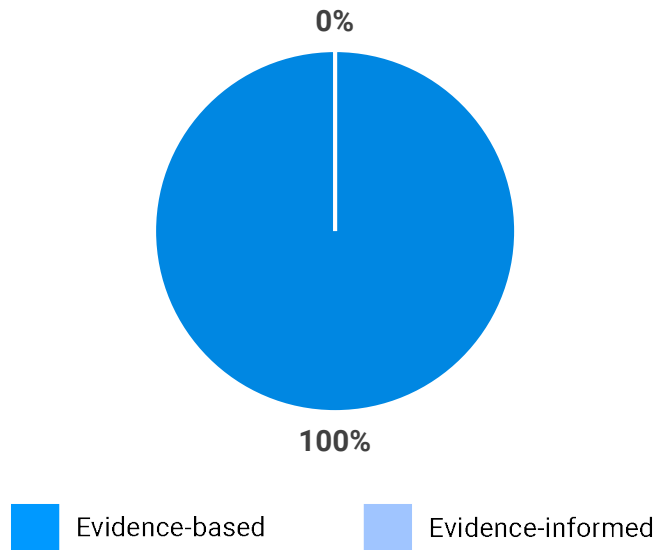
For more information on how you can be involved, see us on Facebook or email:
firststepscc@truvista.net



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



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

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Administrative Functions	\$17,993	\$0	\$200	\$720	\$18,913
Core Functions	\$16,899	\$96.45	\$326	\$576	\$17,898
Parents as Teachers	\$105,542	\$0	\$1,348	\$20,640	\$127,531
Child Care Training	\$55,341	\$0	\$980	\$19,632	\$75,953
Total Expenses	\$195,775	\$96	\$2,854	\$41,568	\$240,295



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CONTACT US

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