



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 CLARENDON COUNTY:

1,555

children under age 5

34.8%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

67%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

To partner with organizations within and outside of Clarendon County to leverage and maximize resources to provide quality, research-based programs and services that will prepare Clarendon County's preschool children for success in school and in life.

OUR APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education

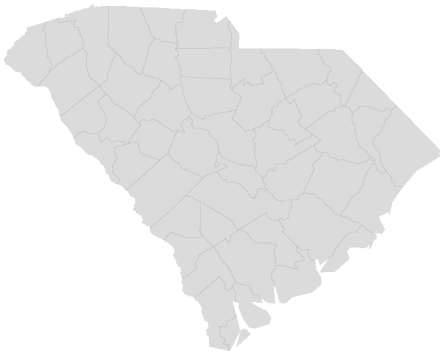
OUR IMPACT

580

number of children and adults served by Clarendon 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

Looking back on our journey, it is hard to believe that SC First Steps, Clarendon County First Steps (CCFS), and other First Steps Partnerships across the state have been hard at work implementing programs and services to help prepare our children for school for 20 years. This report reflects what we and our many and diverse partners have done from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019 to promote school readiness in Clarendon County.

From 1999 to 2019, we have done a lot, but there is still more work that needs to be done. CCFS' Board and I look forward to the next leg of our journey to ensure that all of Clarendon County's children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed. Together, WE CAN and WILL make a positive difference in the lives of our children!

OUR GOALS

The Clarendon County First Steps Partnership Board will work in partnership with other organizations to:

- Help Clarendon County's citizens understand school readiness, best practices in school readiness, and how, together, we can implement quality programs and services to ensure Clarendon County's preschool children arrive at first grade healthy and ready to succeed;
- Develop infrastructure that promotes, sufficiently funds, and holds accountable its efforts to promote school readiness in Clarendon County;
- Help parents of children birth to five succeed in their role as their child's first and best teacher;
- Provide children birth to five with access to quality early care and education programs that meet the needs of families and children; and
- expand evidence-based early literacy programs for preschool children.

**Kasserian Ingera?
(Are the children well?)**

~The traditional greeting among the Massai Warriors of Kenya

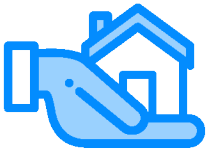


PARENTS AS TEACHERS



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 CLARENDON COUNTY 2018-2019

43

families served

768

total home visits

PAT celebrates 35 years of building strong communities, thriving families, and children that are healthy, safe and ready to learn.



Parents as Teachers



IMAGINATION LIBRARY



an evidence-based program

As the local affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, we provide free, high-quality books to children from birth until age five, no matter their family's income.

Children enrolled in our Imagination Library program receive one book per month by mail. Each title is selected by a panel of early childhood literacy experts, who are responsible for choosing books that meet the age-specific developmental needs of young children.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

186

children served

1,737

books distributed

Books are 100% free to Clarendon County's preschool children because Clarendon County First Steps secures funding to cover the cost of books and shipping fees.

Join us by sponsoring a child for just \$25 a year so that all of Clarendon County's preschool children can participate in the program!





COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-informed program

Developed by South Carolina First Steps – and identified as a promising state practice by the National Governor’s Association in 2005 – Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a home visitation program pairing the families of rising kindergartners with their future teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, establishing strong connections during the summer that facilitate classroom learning throughout the year.

CTK BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

3

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

26

children served

156

total home and school
visits



The cost to serve one child in the Countdown to Kindergarten Program: \$242. The cost of a parent saying the following: “The best part of my CTK experience was my child getting to know his teacher and having one on one time with her even if he did not want to do anything. That lets me know she is going to be a good person to him”: Priceless





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:

Training Sessions:

“How Teachers Enrich Language & Concept Development”

“Preschool to Primary: Understanding Child Development”

“Creating an Environment for Health & Safety Practices”

“Promoting Culturally Appropriate Positive Guidance for Children”

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

21

total training attendance

21

child care teachers and
directors served

4

number of training
sessions offered

No matter how many years I have been working with children and no matter how much I know, I always walk away from training with something else I can use to help my students.

**Tammy Reardon, Teacher
Emmanuel Child Care Center**



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, Clarendon County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Clarendon 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

69

Referrals through
PAT

39

Connections
through PAT

“ We don't have a lot of money here in Clarendon County, but what we do have, we put it all together so that we can help as many people as we can. ”

Kathleen L. Gibson, Director, Clarendon School District One Resource Center & Title I Parent & Family Engagement Coordinator



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

South Carolina First Steps: \$200,000

South Carolina Center for Child Care Career Development: \$2,000

Clarendon County School District Two: \$250.00

Farmers Telephone Cooperative: \$250.00

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Clarendon County School District One

Clarendon County School District Two

Clarendon County School District Three

Palmetto Goodwill

JOIN US

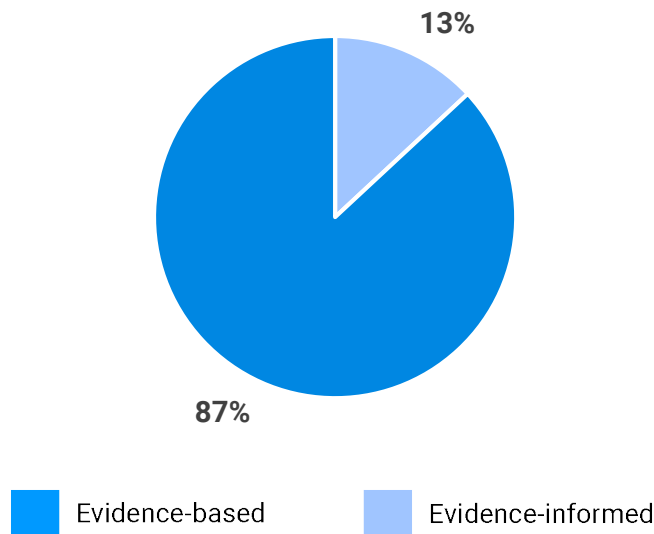
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at www.scfirststeps.org/clarendon. **Working together, we can ensure all of Clarendon County's children reach school healthy and ready to succeed!**



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Clarendon County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,440,922.90** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.28** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$130,278.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$73,285.00	\$203,563.89
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	\$3,166.33	\$0.00	\$867.25	\$0.00	\$4,033.58
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$25,633.52	\$0.00	\$1,693.74	\$734.00	\$28,061.26
Child Care Training & Professional Development	\$14,767.24	\$0.00	\$4,250.00	\$0.00	\$19,017.24
Partnerships & Community Education	\$24,406.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,077.00	\$33,483.00
Administrative Support	\$25,449.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,419.00	\$34,868.67
Total Expenses	\$223,701.65	\$0.00	\$6,810.99	\$92,515.00	\$323,027.64



LEADERSHIP

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CONTACT US

Post Office Box 426 Manning, SC 29102 | (803) 433-2848 |

www.scfirststeps.org/clarendon

