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.

---

**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 childcare 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

---

Post Office Box 426 Manning, SC 29102 | (803) 433-2848 | website: www.scfirststeps.org/clarendon
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!

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 (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 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 celebrates 35 years of building strong communities, thriving families, and children that are healthy, safe and ready to learn.
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 1,737

children served  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

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
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
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

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

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

13% Evidence-based
87% Evidence-informed
LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darla Lee, Chairperson
Dr. Myra Pearson, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Cooper, Secretary
Tamara Alston-Hunter
Melissa Cooper
Kathleen Gibson
Amanda Graham

Priscilla Green
Michael Jonas
Robin Layton
Jason Montgomery
Wanda Nelson
Faye Ragin
Tonia Smith

STAFF

Sharon P. Williams, Executive Director

CONTACT US

Post Office Box 426 Manning, SC 29102 | (803) 433-2848 | www.scfirststeps.org/clarendon