



COLLETON COUNTY



**FIRST  
STEPS**

Getting children ready for school.

# 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 COLLETON COUNTY:

**2,252**

children under age 5

**75.3%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**72%**

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

## OUR MISSION

To collaborate with other entities to help families and caregivers prepare our children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance, and expand high quality early childhood services.

## 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

**4,616**

number of children and adults served by Colleton 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.

609 Colleton Loop, Walterboro SC 29488 | 843-542-9494 | [colletonfirststeps.com](http://colletonfirststeps.com)

Data provided by:



## OUR STORY

Colleton County First Steps' staff and entire partnership board work through-out our county with non-profits, faith based organizations, businesses, and government organizations to implement programs for children pre-natal to 5 years old. One of our outreach programs is free books that are provided to all collaborating organizations and/or individuals by our partnership. As a small rural community, our families do not always have the needs and resources available to them that larger metropolitan areas may offer, but our board and staff work diligently to streamline services with other agencies to meet the needs of all of our families.

## OUR GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Colleton County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

- Goal 1- Colleton County First Steps serves as the local portal connecting families of preschool children to community based services they may need or desire to ensure school readiness of their children.
- Goal 2-Colleton County First Steps partnership board will document efforts to mobilize community early childhood agencies/organizations to enhance services to support high risk families and their children.
- Goal 3-Colleton County First Steps will work with community partners to enhance and secure additional resources for school readiness strategies.

Colleton County First Steps works diligently to increase the awareness of families in our programs so they know what opportunities and resources are available to them.

**Edith Bright-Washington, Parent Educator Colleton County First Steps**



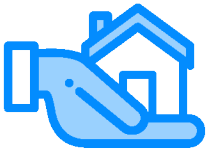


# PARENTS AS TEACHERS



*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 COLLETON COUNTY 2018-2019

**37**

families served

**670**

total home visits

Our parent educators have provided our families with over 1,288 books to have in their home to read with their children .



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:

### **Program Administration:**

**Communicating with Your Staff, Understanding Generational Differences, Everyday Etiquette and Manners in the Workplace, Bullying & Harassment in the Workplace, Executive Functions**

### **Curriculum:**

**Interactive Read Alouds, All About Preschool, Time for Learning Centers**

### **Professional Development:**

**Connecting Parents to Community Resources**

### **Special Needs & Nutrition:**

**Fast Foods & It's Nutritional Effects on Children, Using Storytime to Help Children with Special Needs**

### **Growth and Development:**

**Boosting a Preschooler's Brain Power, The Effects of Physical Activity in the Growth and Development of Children**

## TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

**215**

total training attendance

**306**

child care teachers and  
directors served

**26**

number of training  
sessions offered

We strive to offer affordable certified training sessions to the childcare workforce in our county and surrounding counties.

**Cindy Riley, Colleton County First Steps**



## CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



*an evidence-based program*

For many families in Colleton County, the cost of quality child care is out of reach. Our scholarship program makes payments to child care providers to care for children from low-income families so their parents can return to school or work.

Colleton County First Steps offers scholarships to families enrolled in our Parents as Teachers program. Our families must be in our PAT program for a minimum of three months and must be working and/or going to school in order to apply for a scholarship.

### SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

**28**

number of children  
served

**8**

number of providers  
served

**63**

number of  
developmental  
screenings provided

**100% the money paid to child care providers  
goes back into our local economy to benefit the  
citizens of Colleton County.**

# 4K

## FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN



*an evidence-based program*

South Carolina First Steps provides eligible children with free enrollment in full-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. In coordination with First Steps local partnerships and more than 200 private, faith- and community-based preschool providers, First Steps 4K expands access to quality child care across the state.



### ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for enrollment, a child must:

- ✓ Be 4 years old on or before September 1
- ✓ Qualify for Medicaid or a free or reduced-price lunch program
- ✓ Live in one of 64 qualifying school districts

### FIRST STEPS 4K IN ABC COUNTY 2018-2019

# 20

children enrolled

# 1

participating classrooms

### 4K NEWS

In fiscal year 2019-2020, South Carolina First Steps is launching a pilot program to expand 4K enrollment within underserved communities. Age- and income-eligible children residing in any SC school district may qualify for a slot in a participating center that also serves students from eligible districts.







## PUBLIC AWARENESS



*an evidence-informed program*

Colleton County First Steps has an outreach programs that provides books to all collaborating organizations and/or individuals by our partnership. Another of our outreach programs is the Christmas Fill the Stocking Project. This program has become a community project with the help of individuals, civic organizations, and businesses. Our board is always looking at the needs of families in our community. As a small rural community, our families do not always have the needs and resources available to them that larger metropolitan areas may offer, but our board and staff work diligently to streamline services with other agencies to meet the needs of all of our families. Through partnerships, volunteers, and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Colleton County First Steps works diligently to enhance and expand services in Colleton County to children and their families.

### CHRISTMAS FILL THE STOCKING PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

# 269

Families Served

# 461

Children Sponsored







## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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

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## OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

**525**

Books Provided  
for the Summer  
Reading Program

**6,936**

Total Books  
Distributed  
Throughout the  
County

“ Colleton County First Steps is a great partner with the Colleton County Memorial Library. CCFS and the library work together collaboratively to meet the needs of our children. ”

**Sheila Martina Keaise, Children's Librarian,  
Colleton County Memorial Library**



## OUR SUPPORTERS

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

### FUNDING SUPPORT

South Carolina State Office of First Steps - \$200,000

Coastal Community Foundation - \$11,000

SC Office of First Steps Innovation Grant - \$10,000

Walterboro Rotary Club - \$3,000

SC DSS Certified Training Incentive Grant - \$2,000

### IN-KIND SUPPORT

Colleton County School District - \$18,856

SC Department of Social Services - \$7,000

## JOIN US

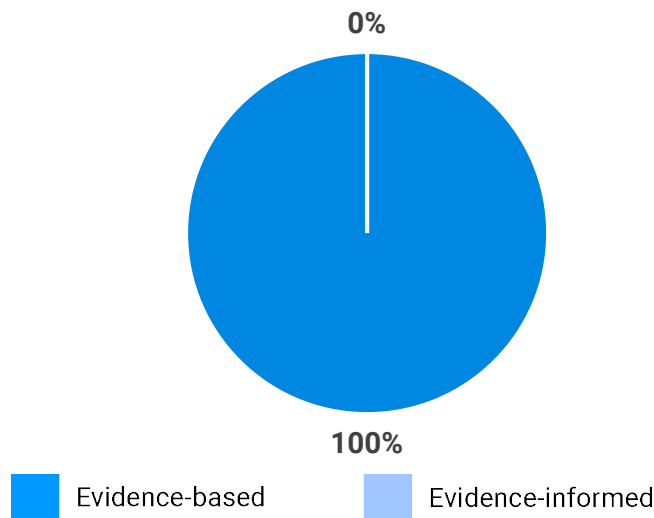
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at [colletonfirststeps.com](http://colletonfirststeps.com).



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

#### Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



### ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Colleton County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,891,514.90** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$.52** for every state dollar.

### SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$122,630.57	\$0	\$6,739.98	\$11,756	\$141,126.55
Child Care Training	\$7,237.96	\$0	\$9635.43	\$2,014	\$18,887.39
Scholarships	\$38,500	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$45,500
Core Functions	\$17,901	\$1,270.36	\$9,819.75	\$3,543	\$32,534.11
Administrative Functions	\$19,081	\$0	\$713.89	\$1,543	\$21,337.89
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$205,350.53</b>	<b>\$1,270.36</b>	<b>\$26,909.05</b>	<b>\$25,856</b>	<b>\$259,385.94</b>



## LEADERSHIP

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Latoya Lynah, Chair  
Debbie Skoland, Vice Chair  
Susan Dodd, Treasurer  
Ebony Edwards, Secretary  
Carl Coffin  
Alisha Fender  
Senekita Farmer

Juliette Green  
Tangela Green  
Brenda Hughes  
Martha Johnson  
Barbara Kulisek  
Jessica Williams  
Janice Young

### STAFF

Cindy S. Riley, Executive Director  
Edith Bright Washington, Parent Educator  
Susan Martin, Parent Educator  
Lesley Utsey, Parent Educator

## CONTACT US

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