



THE NEED

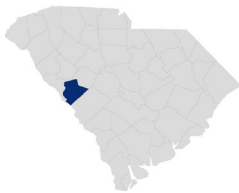
IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

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 EDGEFIELD COUNTY:

1,073

children under age 5

51%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

68%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

Edgefield County First Steps empowers Edgefield County families and caregivers to prepare children for school success by delivering, enhancing, and expanding 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

2,064

number of children and adults served by Edgefield County First Steps in 2018-2019

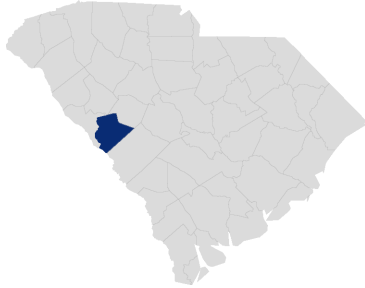
JOIN US

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.

416 Calhoun Street, Johnston, SC 29832 | 803-275-0800

Data provided by:

OUR STORY



In September of 1999, the first public meeting was held in Edgefield County to begin the process of selecting a First Steps Board to meet the needs of young children in our county. A nominating committee was formed to identify individuals who would represent the business, faith, transportation, education, health, and non-profit communities. Board elections were held in October of 1999, and a 28-member Board began its work.

Twenty years later, the work continues. Since inception, over 5.1 million dollars has been raised and/or leveraged serving Edgefield County children and their families with quality programs such as family literacy, parenting programs, childcare scholarships, and nurse family partnership.

OUR GOALS



Two years ago, the Board completed a 3-year comprehensive plan, in collaboration with state and local partners, and is focused on advancing Edgefield County with these strategic goals:

- Increase access to and affordability of high-quality childcare and a continuum of early childhood services
- Increase knowledge of parenting skills to empower parents to be their child's first teacher
- Address barriers of families to increase participation in our programs
- Educate the community about our programs and services
- Determine the long-term benefits of participation in our programs with longitudinal tracking of participants
- Engage and mobilize our community to promote early childhood education programs county-wide

OUR VISION:

Every Edgefield County child
will be prepared for success in school.

OUR MISSION:

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NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP



an evidence-based program

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with their clients, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

14

children served

194

number of home
visits provided

I was willing to participate in this program so that I would be able to learn things about being a first-time mom. If I had any questions, I knew that I could ask and feel comfortable with the answers from my nurse.

NFP Participant



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

301

children served

2,582

books distributed

Books are 100% free to children in Edgefield County because Edgefield County First Steps secures the funds to cover the cost of books and shipping fees.

Join us by sponsoring a child for just \$27 a year.





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

1

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

13

children served

78

total home and school
visits



Our Countdown to Kindergarten home visitor works with one of her students, helping her assemble a puzzle, as Mom and big brother watch.





CHILD CARE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT



an evidence-based program

Many private child care centers strive to provide high quality care but lack the resources often available to publicly-funded early childhood programs. Our Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) program aims to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children.

Our services include:



Rigorous quality assessments



On-site technical assistance at least twice monthly



Funding for equipment and materials



Training and workforce development



Coordination with community partners

QE BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

2

child care providers served

54

number of TA visits provided

115

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms

The relationships I build with the teachers in the child care centers are so important in our work together. Our coaching sessions are designed to not only share best practice information, but also to build their confidence as they work with the children. I want them to be loving, nurturing, and flexible in their work as they teach critical early childhood skills to the children in their care.

Joy Burge, Edgefield County Quality Enhancement Coach



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:

Math Moments
Healthy Eating for Young Children
Developing Stages of Art
Preschoolers' Growth and Development
Managing Stressful Moments
Moments of Inclusion
Descriptive and Questioning Moments
Systems Management Approach to Ensure Program Safety
Challenging Moments: They Only Feel Like Hours
Bloodborne Pathogens
The Powerful Role of Stories
From Boss to Coach - Three Coaching Fundamentals
Yes, I'm the Director. What Can I Do For You?
The Role of Meaningful Experiences
Strategies for Supporting Early Language and Literacy

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

286

total training attendance

64

child care teachers and
directors served

35.5

number of training
sessions offered

The training provided by First Steps helps us by providing information and increasing our confidence, which allows us to work more efficiently and effectively with the children in our classrooms. Another benefit is being able to share ideas with other infant and toddler teachers in neighboring centers.

Terika and Rebecca, Infant and Toddler Teachers, Creative Learning Center



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

For many families in Edgefield 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 families who have risk factors that might impact their child's success in school. The children in this program receive developmental screenings twice a year. These children are also enrolled in our Imagination Library program. The parents of our scholarship children are referred to our Triple P Parenting program.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

26

number of children
served

2

number of providers
served

47

number of
developmental
screenings provided



This program has been a huge financial blessing to me, and it is important to me that my children are in a facility with well-trained staff that do more than just babysit for me. I will be forever grateful.



Rebecca, Child Care Scholarship Recipient

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 EDGEFIELD COUNTY 2018-2019

10

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.





TRIPLE P



an evidence-based program

Triple P - Positive Parenting Program - is one of the most effective evidence-based parenting programs in the world, backed up by more than 35 years of ongoing research.

Triple P gives parents simple and practical strategies to help them build strong, healthy relationships, confidently manage their children's behavior, and prevent problems from developing.

TRIPLE P BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

22

Parents
enrolled

10

number of parenting
sessions provided

30

number of children
impacted



The parenting classes really allow me to do a self-evaluation of how my parenting skills really are and how they affect my children. The teacher and the real-life experiences that we hear about in class are very helpful as well.



Jocelyn, Triple P Parenting Program Participant



FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM



an evidence-informed program

Family literacy programs offer an integrated and family-friendly approach, helping both parents and children improve their literacy skills. Family literacy services integrate all the following: adult education, early childhood education, parent education, and interactive parent/child activities.

Our family literacy program:

Helps parents of young children increase their education levels

Teaches parents how to support their child's literacy and overall development

Provides quality early learning experiences for children 0-5 while their parents attend adult education

FAMILY LITERACY BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

9

families served

20

Children served

44

total home visits



Parenting and Family Literacy Coordinator, Renee Williams, recognizes Charlene Staley and her children at the annual awards and recognition ceremony.



PUBLIC AWARENESS

Edgefield County First Steps has developed a community education and outreach plan that includes the following activities:

1. Develop, produce, and/or distribute public education materials to promote our partnership's mission and inform the public of available resources.
2. Sponsor, co-sponsor, and/or participate in community events that reach our target audience, encourage community engagement, and create public awareness
3. Use effective online and social media to communicate, inform, and activate
4. Educate and engage local and state policymakers and other community leaders on the local impact of First Steps
5. Network, coordinate, and convene local stakeholders to collaboratively build a system of care for early childhood

COMMUNITY EVENTS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

2,765

materials
distributed

13

events

546

total children
impacted



Participation in community events and festivals is an integral part of our community education and outreach plan.

Board Chairwoman Liz Posey (on right) talks with one of our Imagination Library sponsors during the Johnston Peach Blossom Festival.



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

12

Community and/or
partner meetings

“We are so fortunate to have Edgefield County First Steps as a partner. Not only do they participate in our monthly child protective services multi-disciplinary treatment and advisory team meetings, they also provide parenting classes for some of our families.”

Moronda Talley, Director, Edgefield County Department of Social Services



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

South Carolina First Steps \$203,000

Center for Child Care Career Development \$2,000

IMAGINATION LIBRARY SPONSORS

Women in Rural Electrification (W.I.R.E.) – Aiken Electric Cooperative
United Way of Edgefield
Beth McLeod, Fulcher Law Firm
Elizabeth Gordineer, M.D.
Council Guardian ad Litem Services, LLC – Desiree’ B Council
Dr. Jeffery Gosney
Maxwell & Halford Drug
Town of Trenton
Power One Family Matters Ministry, Calvin and Rev. Sallie Cooks, Co-Founders
Johnston Development Corporation
Reel Insurance Agency, Inc.
Edgefield Educational Consulting Services, LLC
Sumner Law Firm, LLC
Over 50 additional individual sponsors

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Edgefield County School District
Carolina Health Centers, Inc
Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce
First Book

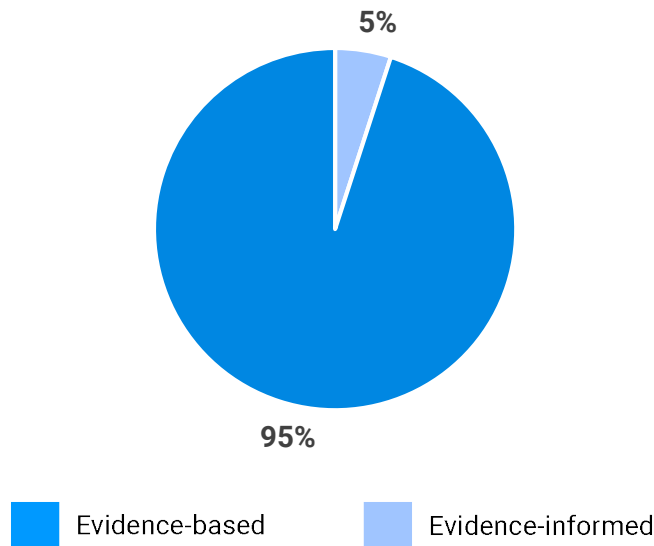
JOIN US



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Edgefield County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,959,301** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.62** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Triple P Parenting	\$3,905	\$0	\$0	\$180	\$4,085
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$23,428	\$0	\$0	\$360	\$23,788
Child Care Training	\$10,216	\$0	\$1,488	\$360	\$12,064
Nurse Family Partnership	\$26,082	\$0	\$	\$5,988	\$32,070
Imagination Library	\$3,082	\$0	\$3,265	\$72	\$6,419
Family Literacy	\$40,621	\$0	\$0	\$98,252	\$138,873
Child Care Scholarships	\$64,880	\$0	\$0	\$360	\$65,240
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$7,340	\$0	\$1,312	\$180	\$8,832
Partnerships & Community Education	\$12,757	\$2,251	\$4,667	\$21,554	\$41,229
Administrative Support	\$19,589	\$0	\$1,214	\$1,260	\$22,063
Total Expenses	\$211,900	\$2,251	\$12,563	\$128,566	\$355,280



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Carla Dorn

Aramis Hillary

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Betsy Painter

Jennifer Satterwhite

Moronda Talley

Donna Thompson

Heather Trotter

Amy Wilhelm

Renee Williams

STAFF

Candi Lalonde,
Executive Director

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