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 JASPER COUNTY:

1659
children under age 5

34%
of young children live in poverty or low-income households

86%
of kindergartners are considered “not ready” for school

OUR MISSION
To help families and caregivers prepare their 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

2466
number of children and adults served by Jasper 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.

456 Grays Hwy, Ridgeland, SC 29936  843-726-5100  |  www.jaspercountyfirststeps.org
OUR STORY

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success. I am thankful for the beginning, the progress, and the success here at JCFS. I am a first year Parent Educator at JCFS; however, I have worked with children and families for 13 years. I have a passion for what I do. Since being a part of JCFS, I have been able to help facilitate a partnership between JCFS & and my church home Kingdom Touch Ministries. From this partnership KTM has volunteered at group connections, provided meals for families during group connections, awarded families with gift cards to assist in purchasing household items, and provided our families with sneakers, uniforms, socks, and undershirts as a back-to-school support. I believe the best collaborations create something BIGGER than the sum of what each person can create on their own. Just one great partnership with the right person can have an incredible impact on a business’ success. We have many great partnerships here at JCFS and we plan to make many more.

Cierra Jenkins, PAT Parent Educator

OUR GOALS

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

- **Goal 1** To increase Partnership presence within the local community

- **Goal 2** To increase the reach of programs by building capacity through the development and strengthening of human, institutional and funding resources

- **Goal 3** To identify and recruit board members who are active, committed participants within the Partnership and community

"The best partnerships aren't dependent on a mere common goal but on a shared path of equality, desire, and no small amount of passion."

Sarah MacLean

FIRST STEPS
JASPER COUNTY
With as many as 1 in 4 children at risk for developmental delay, universal early childhood screening provides an opportunity to identify delays early and intervene during the most critical period of development.

*Birth to 5: watch me thrive! a primary care provider’s guide for developmental and behavioral screening.* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Education; 2014
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 JASPER COUNTY 2018-2019

- 23 families served
- 296 total home visits

Awarded the SC Ports Authority Giving Community Grant to support “Dads Matter” initiative purposed to recognize and support paternal involvement in a child’s development and overall success.
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

624 5404
children served books distributed

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

Join us by sponsoring a child for just $25 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

5 kindergarten teachers trained as home visitors
29 children served
174 total home and school visits

OH, THE PLACES YOU WILL GO
You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.
You're on your own, and you know what you know.
And you are the guy who'll decide where to go.

DR. SEUSS
Thank you for your donation to our center. It is our goal to continue to be one of the best facilities in Jasper County, and we cannot do this without the help and support of organizations such as yours. We look forward to working with you to support literacy in our community.

Alvonia Shepherd, Owner/Director, 1+1=2 Day Care Center
EDIT: Summarize your child care scholarship program here. Example: For many families in Jasper 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.

Address scholarship eligibility here. If your partnership integrates scholarships with another program, such as PAT, Imagination Library, etc., mention that here. Example: Jasper County First Steps offers scholarships to families enrolled in our Nurse-Family Partnership program, as well as income-eligible children whose parent attends school or works at least 20 hours per week.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

11  number of children served
2   number of providers served
22  number of developmental screenings provided

100% the money paid to child care providers goes back into our local economy to benefit the citizens of Jasper County.
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 Jasper COUNTY 2018-2019

22 children enrolled

2 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.
EDIT: Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Jasper County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Jasper 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**

- **53** Community Outreach Events
- **15** Sponsored Little Free Libraries

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Thank you again for sponsoring us and for the great introduction to our Little Free Library. We might not have seen many neighbors that day, yet the LFL books are rotating so it is getting used!

Debbie Melnick, LFL Patron, Hearthstone Lake Community
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Jasper County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**FUNDING SUPPORT**

South Carolina First Steps: $200,000  
Jasper County Government: $15,000  
South Carolina Ports Authority: $1,000  

**IN-KIND SUPPORT**

Jasper County School District  
Dollywood Foundation  
Hargray Telecommunications

**JOIN US**

FY20 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, October 23, 2019  1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Palmetto Electric, 4063 Grays Hwy, Ridgeland, SC 29936

For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at [www.jaspercountyfirststeps.org](http://www.jaspercountyfirststeps.org)
Since inception, Jasper County First Steps has leveraged $1,434,273 from sources outside of state government.

That’s $0.41 for every state dollar.
2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deloris Dunham, Chairperson
Eleanor Hazel, Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Tom Balliet, Treasurer
Constance Martin-Witter, Secretary
Kenneth Bell, Member
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Hazel Holmes, Member
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Mattie Wideman, Member
Margaret Williams, Member

STAFF

Duchett Polite Hylton, Executive Director
Pamela Rose, PAT Parenting Supervisor
Cierra Jenkins, PAT Parent Educator

CONTACT US

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