Through community collaboration, KCFS will provide access to resources and support for families, enabling children to enter school ready to learn.

High quality programs and services for children and families

Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers

Strategic partnerships and community education

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.

110 E. DeKalb Street, Camden SC 29021 | 803-432-7756 | website: kershawfirststeps.org
The Parents as Teachers program has helped me to continue working with my children. One special goal was for my husband to be home every night. Our Parent Educator helped my husband to update his resume through the Unemployment Workforce, he is now working locally and home every night. “Thank you, Kershaw First Steps!”

Lindsey Sorrow, Parents as Teachers’ Parent

We want to thank you for your support of Kershaw County First Steps and all that we are attempting to do for our children and their families. We feel that the enclosed Annual Report of the past year is a valuable tool to share with you. From a programmatic standpoint, 2018-2019 was a year of continued achievement. We received financial and other resources from various sources and continued to be good stewards of the money entrusted to us. Our outreach events continue to be a valuable tool for sharing these programs with the Kershaw County community, while encouraging participation and support.

Thank you for your support and partnership—it means everything! We look forward to strengthening these partnerships in the coming year because together, we can make a difference for our children today and especially for tomorrow!

Kimberley Jordan
Executive Director
Kershaw County First Steps

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

1. Leadership as a Convener & Partner
2. Make Programs and Community Resources Accessible
3. Increase Public Awareness
4. Capacity Building

Kimberley Jordan
I am thankful to First Steps for giving my son assessments and referring us to the Parents as Teachers program. It’s good to know we have that support.”

Cierra DuBose, Parent EIR
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.

Over 127 books were distributed during the home visits and parent meetings.

**PAT IN KERSHAW COUNTY 2018-2019**

- 29 families served
- 502 total home visits
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
3 children served
18 total home and school visits

My daughter is ready for school. The bookbag was a great starter. The items were used to kickstart our summer learning fun.

Tammie Smith, Parent of Countdown to Kindergarten parent
CHILD CARE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

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

- 5 child care providers served
- 102 number of TA visits provided
- 349 number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms

“Every day, is a new learning experience at my child’s school. I thank, Kershaw County First Steps for the new toys in the room that allowed my child to thrive.”

Betty Hillmon, Parent of Preschooler
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 KERSHAW COUNTY**

**2018-2019**

- **58** children enrolled
- **3** 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.
LITERACY PROGRAM

Raising A Reader (RAR) is a rotating lending library in which students receive a red bag containing 4 books weekly. Books are fiction, non fiction, and culturally diverse. Parents and teachers are provided with workshops to help develop early literacy skills and healthy personal relationships with their children. At the end of the year, classes and parents visit the library for a tour and for students to obtain their own library card. This allows families to continue the love of reading with their child. Students then receive their own blue bag for library books.

RAISING A READER BY THE NUMBERS
2018-2019

57 families served
4 providers served

Parents shared with me that they like the convenience. The books come to them. They like the book variety. The children really like the nonfiction stories with the REAL pictures!

Patrice Davis, Raising A Reader Coordinator
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, Kershaw County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Kershaw 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

89
Families served
community education

176
Materials distributed
community education

I enthusiastically recommend Kershaw County First Steps as a partner for community events and workshops and the development of early care and education services. I recognize KCFS’ commitment to also provide referrals and hands-on assistance...I understand the value that early intervention services bring to the Kershaw community

*Margaret Lawhorn, Director - Mentor Program*
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Kershaw County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**FUNDING SUPPORT**

United Way of Kershaw County, $12,000
United Way of Midlands, $700
Kershaw Clergy, $723

**IN-KIND SUPPORT**

Kershaw County Department of Social Services
Bethesda Christian School
Kershaw County Library
United Way of Kershaw County
Williams Plumbing Company
Kershaw County School District
Montessori School of Camden
Sandhill Medical Foundation
Clemson Extension Family Community Building
Total Tech
Kershaw County First Steps Board of Directors

**JOIN US**

For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at kershawfirststeps.org
### Financial Highlights

#### Our Investment in Quality

**Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Federal Funding</th>
<th>Private Funding</th>
<th>In-Kind Contributions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$66,173</td>
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<td>Raising A Reader Enhanced</td>
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<td>Core Function</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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#### Estimation of Cost Savings

Since inception, Kershaw County First Steps has leveraged **$1,599,011** from sources outside of state government.

That’s **$40.14** for every state dollar.

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#### Summary of Expenditures by Strategy

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Evidence-based: 93%
Evidence-informed: 7%
LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Wilson, Chair
Jennifer Kelley, Vice Chair
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   Jeanne Hanna
   Cynthia Bolin
   Charlene Hayward
   Veronica Lewis

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Leslie Williams
Shelia Williams
Pamela Whitehead
Florence Darby
Audra Scott
Lydia Hall
Betty Turner
David Roberts

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Kimberley Jordan, Executive Director
Rudine McLeod, Program Manager
Patrice Davis, Early Childhood Coordinator
Jessica Clea, Parent Educator

CONTACT US

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