



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

THE NEED

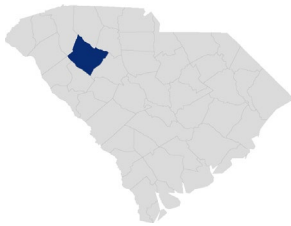
IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

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 LAURENS COUNTY:

3,816

children under age 5

29.3%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

65%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

In collaborate with other entities, Laurens County First Steps helps local 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

1,750

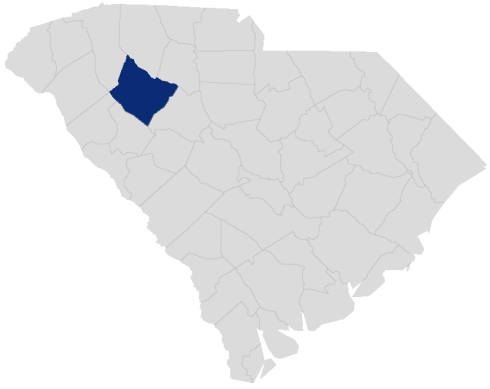
number of children and adults served by Laurens County First Steps in 2018-2019

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.

1029 West Main Street Laurens, SC 29360 864-984-8130 | scfirststeps.org/laurens

Data provided by:



OUR STORY

In April 2019, Laurens County First Steps partnered with the Laurens County City Police Department, the Laurens County Sheriff's Department, United Community Bank, Laurens County Department of Social Services, the city of Clinton and Palmetto Heritage Real Estate to sponsor a candlelight vigil event for the prevention of child abuse. The event took place on the historic courthouse square in downtown Laurens. The main speaker for the event was Cheryl Fowler, the grandmother of a young boy who was abused and murdered in Laurens County. In his memory she created the Brantley's Hope Foundation to support county-wide efforts to educate our community about ways we can work together to recognize the signs of child abuse and steps we can take to prevent the children of Laurens County from suffering abuse.

The mayor, sheriff, and city police chief also spoke to address the statistics associated with child abuse in Laurens County and the state.

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

- LCFS will form a committee of community leaders across all sections of Laurens County to share resources and work to make those resources readily accessible to pre-school children and their families in Laurens County.
- LCFS will revise all printed informational materials, up-date social media platforms, and work to develop a website.

We know what child abuse looks like-death, or foster care. But what does it sound like and look like in the beginning?

Cheryl Fowler

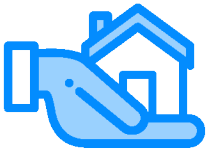


PARENTS AS TEACHERS



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 LAURENS COUNTY 2018-2019

19

families served

297

total home visits



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:

Room Arrangement, Furnishings & Materials
The Effects of Trauma on a Young Child's Development
Developing Friendship Skills
Business Marketing Strategies, Tools & Plans
The Effects of Mental Illness on a Young Child's Development
Reaching Developmental Milestones
Emotional & Social Development in Preschoolers
Connecting the SC Learning Standards to your Lesson Plans
Building Physical Literacy Is Important Too
Meals with Appeal for Young Children
Tools for Meaningful Learning & Authentic Assessment
Physical Development of Young Children
CPR & First Aid
Inclusion
Challenging Behaviors
Creative Experiences & Activities

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

304

total training attendance

131

child care teachers and
directors served

15

number of training
sessions offered

We do like and want the training that First Steps provides. I encourage my staff to do the face to face training instead of Online.

Gail, CCC Director



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

For many families in Laurens County, the cost of quality childcare is out of reach. Laurens County First Steps' childcare scholarship program enables low income , at risk families to have a healthy, safe, and consistent daily learning environment for their pre-school children so parents can work and/or attend school. The parents have a \$15 per week co-pay and Laurens County First Steps pays the remainder of the weekly fee. Families qualify for childcare scholarships based on their application which documents income and risk factors based on the State Board approved program standards. All scholarship families participate in the Parents as Teachers program, which is evidenced based and part of the national Parents as Teachers home- visiting program. Children must be between birth and 4 years old to receive a scholarship. When a child reaches age eligibility for 4K, they age out of our scholarship program.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

21

number of children
served

3

number of providers
served

92

number of
developmental
screenings provided

**100% the money paid to childcare providers
goes back into our local economy to benefit the
citizens of Laurens 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 LAURENS COUNTY 2018-2019

89

children enrolled

6

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.





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

100

**families attended
Community baby shower**

200

**meals & totes provided
by Lauren County First Steps**

Laurens County First Steps does not directly serve families with home visits. We provide financial support and materials for clients and events with private donations or fundraisers..

Your support makes a difference.





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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

1,528

Books given to
children, families,
childcare
providers

14

Attendance at
first EC Advisory
Committee
meeting

“ We thank Laurens County First Steps for initiating the focus on early childhood education in Laurens County. This group can broaden public knowledge on critical needs for preschool children to receive in order for them to succeed in school. ”

Member of Early Childhood Advisory Council



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

State EIA Allocation \$236,229
United Way of Laurens County \$4,000
Center for Child Care Career Development \$2,000
Private Donations/Fundraisers \$2,340

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Laurens School District 55
Laurens County Adult Education
Laurens County Family YMCA.

JOIN US

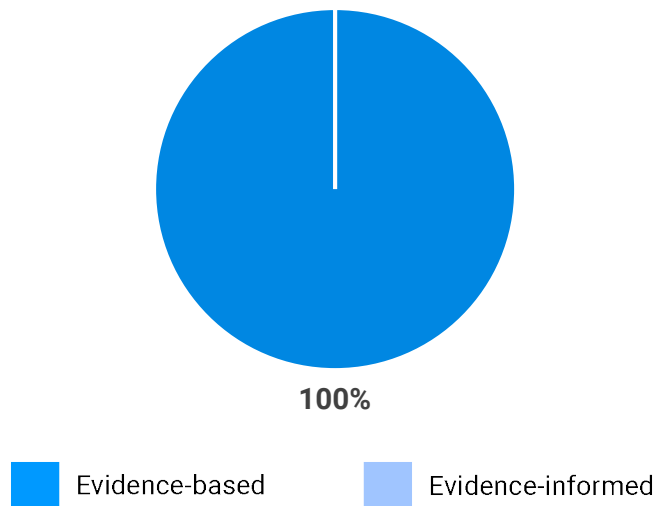
Contact us for more information: 864-984-8130 or rpatterson@laurens55.org
Facebook & scfirststeps.org/laurens



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Laurens County First Steps has leveraged **\$2,494,265** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.47** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

| | State Funding | Federal Funding | Private Funding | In-Kind Contributions | Total |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Parents as Teachers | \$75,681 | \$0 | \$438 | \$3,815 | \$79,934 |
| Child Care Scholarships | \$94,644 | \$0 | \$12,366 | \$1,399 | \$108,409 |
| Child Care Training | \$16,501 | \$0 | \$1,862 | \$6,942 | \$25,305 |
| Nurse Family Partnership | \$733 | \$0 | \$1,539 | \$0 | \$2,272 |
| Administrative Support | \$11,728 | \$0 | \$630 | \$5,153 | \$17,510 |
| Partnerships & Community Education | \$ 8,510 | \$0 | \$528 | \$691 | \$9,729 |
| Total Expenses | \$207,797 | \$0 | \$17,362 | \$18,000 | \$243,159 |



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

Linda Wessel, Chair
Kena Cox Vice-Chair
Jennifer Abercrombie

Jenn Adams
Shawn Brown

Christy Coates, Interim Secretary
Katelyn Crews

Melodie Edwards
Jervelle Fort
Elizabeth Franklin
Phyllis Putman
Avery Martin
Ann Szypulski

STAFF

Caroline Barker, Parent Educator
Kathryn Meadows, Parent Educator
Sandra Owens, Administrative Assistant
Rosemary Patterson, Executive Director

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