



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 LEXINGTON COUNTY:

17,000

children under age 5

41%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

64%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

The mission of Lexington County First Steps is to support families in Lexington County so that all children enter school.

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

2,294

number of children and adults served by Lexington 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.

101 West Columbia Avenue, Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29006 | 803-532-6861 | scfirststeps.org/county

Data provided by:

OUR STORY



OUR GOALS

Since 2001, Lexington County First Steps (LCFS) has been defined as filling gaps, enhancing and enlarging services and serving the most at-risk children through the collective wisdom of collaborations and partnerships across Lexington County. There is a particularly strong relationship between LCFS and each of the county's five school districts.

Parents as Teachers (PAT), is an evidenced-based home visitation model used by LCFS since inception of First Steps. It is the flagship of our county services and is the largest PAT program in South Carolina, partnering with each of the five school district's parenting centers.

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK), evidence-informed, is a 5 in-home summer visitation program plus a 6th visit to the school which serves as a transition for children entering 5K in the fall. LCFS has the largest CTK program in South Carolina serving 34 of 39 schools in the county.

As a result of our mission, specific goals have been developed to meet the needs of families in Lexington County. These goals are:

- Ensure that every family has access to the culturally appropriate, coordinated and comprehensive parenting and family services that are necessary to assure child readiness to learn by first grade.
- Increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems.
- Promote high-quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment will promote normal growth and development.
- Provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed.
- Mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

Being a board member of Lexington County First Steps, LCFS has been one way that I have found to support the preparation of some of our most at-risk children to be ready for the big step of going to school. Our programs, (Parents as Teacher in Parenting Centers and Countdown to Kindergarten) offer first hand preparation to educate and support children birth to five and also directly teach and support the parents in numerous ways that improve their parenting skills. In addition, LCFS also offers resources that can improve the quality of our county child care centers. Our board meetings are informative and efficiently run so that we can make quality decisions for how to help meet the needs of our young children, their parents and caregivers. LCFS partners with our local school districts and our county library system, DHEC and other agencies to more efficiently and extensively support our goals for the children of Lexington County.

Julia Johnson, Board Member
Terms served: 2003 – 2009 and 2011 – 2019



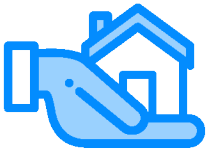


PARENTS AS TEACHERS



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 LEXINGTON COUNTY 2018-2019

122

families served

2,356

total home visits

- ✓ PAT families averaged 2.25 visits per month
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by delivering 3,636 books



Parents as Teachers.
Model Affiliate



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

34

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

161

children served

945

total home and school
visits



Mom assisting child in a
patterning activity during visit # 3.





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:

Child Care Licensing: New Center DSS Regulations

Blood-borne Pathogens

Block Play, Movement as a Communicator & The Concept of Creativity

Palmetto Shared Service & Time Management in Early Childhood

Early Childhood is a Time of Rapid Physical Development & Understanding the Theory of Cognitive Development in Early Learners

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

190

total training attendance

156

child care teachers and
directors served

7

number of training
sessions offered



The things Mrs. Ella taught us reminded us to be the best teacher we can be.
Really enjoyed the facts to remember: fair, firm, & friendly.



Training Participant

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 LEXINGTON COUNTY 2018-2019

160

children enrolled

17

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.





CHILD CARE PROGRAM



an evidence-informed program

Palmetto Shared Services Alliance

This program offers childcare centers a free enrollment to Palmetto Shared Services Alliance. This web-based program offers multiple services designed especially for childcare centers. From updating policies and procedures, developmental information for parents and staff, to advertising for staff positions and childcare openings. Another huge benefit is saving money on orders from materials to food purchases.

Palmetto Shared Services Alliance 2018-2019

2

child care providers
served

12

number of site visits

127

number of children 0-5
enrolled in provider
classrooms





Early Identification Referrals



an evidence-based program

PASOs Community Health Worker 2018-2019

USC-PASOs, is hosted by the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health. PASOs, which mean "steps" is a community Based Organization dedicated to developing Healthy Latino Community in South Carolina. PASOs started in 2005 serving two counties, currently it serves 29 counties.



PASOs utilizes the Community Health Worker (CHW) model and nurtures grassroots leaders within communities called Promotores, or CHWs, that serve as trusted access points for others. PASOs trains these grassroots leaders to navigate and connect individuals to appropriate resources. The CHW model helps amplify the voices and lived experiences of community members to inform the solutions and policies implemented that affect their lives.

Why is it important?

- The CHW model is evidence-based and has roots in Latin America. PASOs' CHW trainings cover a wide range of pertinent information regarding Latino experiences and cultures, resources available to families, outreach techniques, and immigrant rights.
- By providing a platform for oftentimes unheard voices, this initiative actively engages the strengths of Latino community leaders for contributing to a statewide overall well-being.



PASOs
Educate. Connect. Advocate.



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

2

Countywide Events:
Riverbanks Zoo,
EdVenture Museum

150

Group Meetings with PAT Families

The Lexington Two Early Childhood Community Collaboration is valuable in many ways. Through the planning and implementation of Early Childhood Community meetings during the last two years, a culture of collaboration rather than competition has been created between the school district and childcare providers in our area. A support system has been built that strengthens all of our programs through networking, exploring resources and sharing ideas. All involved are now connected by a common goal to help all children be successful in school and in life.

Sherie Stewart,
Lexington School District Two Lead Parent Educator



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

State of South Carolina SC First Steps: 624,416

SC Center for Childcare Career Development: \$2,000

United Way of the Midlands Contributions Designated to LCFS: \$1,107

LCFS Staff & Board Contribution: \$345

Countdown to Kindergarten

Lexington One: \$4,686

Lexington Two: \$21,492

Lexington Three: \$871

Lexington Four: \$2,024

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties: \$11,833

United Way of the Midlands: \$10,000

South Carolina First Steps 3,340

Preschool Development Grant

\$79,119 March 25, 2019 with balance carried to FY20

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Lexington One: \$97,366

Lexington Two: \$151,850

Lexington Three: \$24,000

Lexington Four: \$22,968

Lexington Five: \$86,750

JOIN US

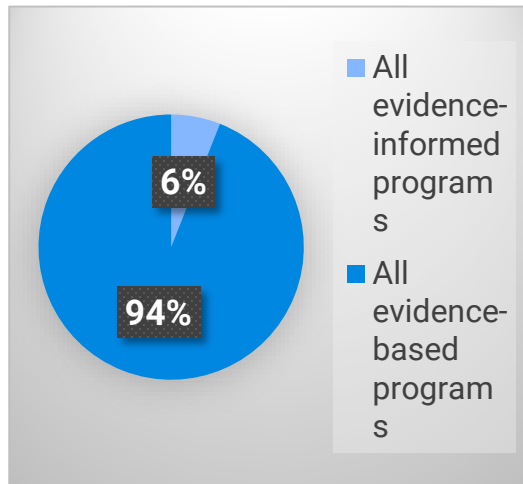
For more information on partnership opportunities, email **James H. Riddle Jr. at jriddle@lex3.k12.sc.us**



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



 Evidence-based  Evidence-informed

ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Lexington County First Steps has leveraged **\$8,193,153** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.63** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$433,008	\$0	\$1,311	382,935	\$817,254
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$31,166	\$17,500	\$39,499	\$0	\$88,165
Child Care Training & Professional Development	\$23,786	\$0	\$4,393	\$0	\$28,179
PSSA	\$31,635	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,635
Early Identifications Referral Services	\$0	\$5,489	\$0	\$0	\$5,489
Partnerships & Community Education	\$60,183	\$0	\$880	\$0	\$61,063
Administrative Support	\$35,613	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,613
Total Expenses	\$615,391	\$22,989	\$46,083	\$382,935	\$1,067,398
					12



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Amy Brant	Cindy Parrish
Mary Brooks	Melissa Pityk
Joyce Carter	Angie Rye
Crystal Grimes	Mike Taylor
Marla Hamilton	David Weissman

STAFF

James H. Riddle Jr., Executive Director
Pat Smith West, Program Coordinator
Debbie Teer, Director of Childcare Quality
Sandy Butler, PASOs Community Health Worker

CONTACT US

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