

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

THE NEED

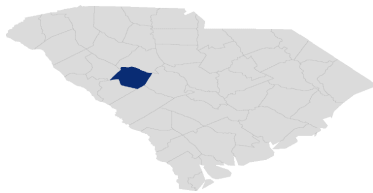
IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

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 SALUDA COUNTY:

1241

children under age 5

65%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

88%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

To ensure that every child in Saluda County will: Be born into a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment; Be viewed as our most important resource; Have parents who are their first and most important teachers; Receive quality early education.

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

1810

number of children and adults served by Saluda 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.

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Data provided by:



Kim Chariker
Executive Director
Saluda County First Steps

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am honored to serve as the new Executive Director of Saluda County First Steps this year. I look forward to providing support through our community programs to enhance the education of our young children and promote collaboration with other county agencies to promote excellence in early education for young children in Saluda County.

Saluda County First Steps began an Enhanced Early Education program this year in collaboration with Saluda School District One to provide one-on-one and small group enhanced instruction to assist our most needy young children. As a result of our first year, we saw a 100% promotion rate for the children served. We also became part of the Saluda Service Network that meets monthly to share ways to collaborate and share our needs and services. Agencies from all over the county and state attend these informative meetings to provide the best possible care for the young children of Saluda County.

Kim Chariker

OUR GOALS

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

- Provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children.
- Promote high-quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development.
- 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.

As we enter a season of change, we celebrate Saluda County First Steps fiscal year 2019 program successes. I am proud to call Saluda County home.

Allyson Bartley, Board Chair FY 19



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

4

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

24

children served

126

total home and school
visits



Our parents are always willing to find new ways to help their children succeed in school.

Jeannie Winn CTK Lead for SPS





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

1

child care providers served

30

number of TA visits provided

43

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms

I welcome every opportunity to help my staff develop quality education plans and provide the best enhanced education opportunities for the young children of Saluda County.

Dakota Chariker, Director of ABC Academy, LLC



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**
- Challenging Moments**
- Managing Stressful Moments**
- Descriptive and Questioning Moments**
- Moments of Inclusion**
- Developing Stages of Art**
- From Boss to Coach- Three Coaching Fundamentals**
- Yes, I'm the Director. What Can I Do For You?**
- Blood Borne Pathogens**
- Nutrition**
- Kids In Action - Physical Activity**

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

138

total training attendance

15

child care teachers and directors served

11

number of training sessions offered

Child Care Trainings help me see how the process of making art is more important than the end result. Children learn through doing.

Alicia Shealy, 4K Assistant Teacher (ABC Academy, LLC)



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

For many families in Saluda 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.

Saluda County First Steps offers scholarships to families who have income-eligible children whose parent attends school or works at least 20 hours per week. As part of the scholarship program, parents participated in the Nurturing Parenting program.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

3

number of children
served

1

number of providers
served

3

number of
developmental
screenings provided

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



NURTURING PARENTING PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

Saluda County First Steps in collaboration with Saluda County Department of Social Services provides the Nurturing Parenting program to DSS identified families. The purpose of Nurturing Parenting program is to collaborate with Saluda County Department of Social Services to provide high-quality parenting support services for families of preschool children.

NURTURING PARENTING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

19

families served

50

total Hours
offered





FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

Our Family Literacy program fosters a love of learning in both children and parents. Adults develop the language and literacy skills needed to support their children's early development, and children gain the foundational skills needed to succeed in school. In Saluda County, our Family Literacy program focuses on the large Hispanic population within our county to encourage English as a second language and support for their children to succeed in school and their community.

FAMILY LITERACY BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

5

families served

1

providers served

In addition to the obvious benefit of language instruction and learning parenting skills, the ELS/Family Literacy program helps parents form a comfortable relationship with the school system in general.

Jimmy Crawford, Director of Adult Education for Saluda School District One



EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

The Saluda County First Steps Enhanced Early Education program collaborated with Saluda Primary School to provide high-quality enhanced early educational services for 4K/5K Latino and English families whose children are enrolled at Saluda Primary School and identified through teacher referral and assessment as needing assistance to master skills. This program was highly successful in its first year, as 100% of the children served through this enhanced early education program were promoted to their next grade level, and the majority showed improvement in their MAP scores and Reading Levels.

ENHANCED EARLY EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

47

children served

1

providers served





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

330

Children reached

340

Materials distributed





OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

State of South Carolina (through South Carolina First Steps):
\$200,000

Child Care Center for Career Development Grant: \$2,000

Midlands Give Campaign: \$1374.10.

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Saluda County School District

Saluda County Administration

Saluda County DSS

Scholastic Reading Club

ABC Academy

Kaplan Early Learning Company

Pizza Hut

Office Depot

Positive Promotions

JOIN US

For more information on partnership opportunities, contact us at 103 South Rudolph Street Saluda, South Carolina 29138 Phone: (864)321-1441 Email:

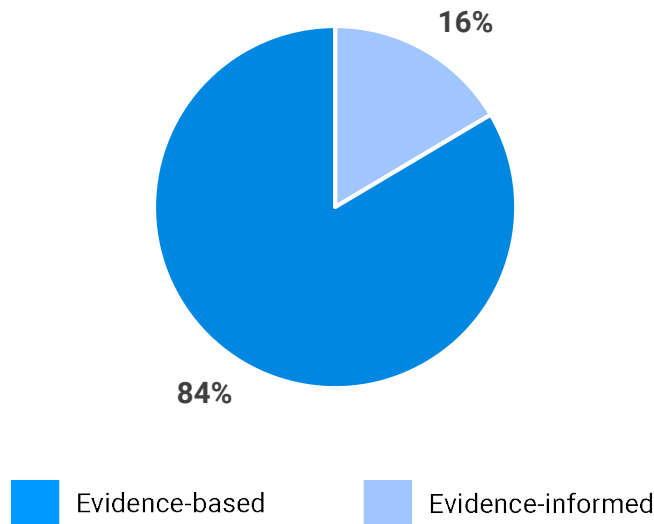
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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Saluda County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,725,207** 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
Family Literacy	\$10,797	\$0	\$0	\$46,434	\$57,231
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$25,835	\$0	\$236	\$2,966	\$29,037
Child Care Training	\$19,139	\$0	\$1,238	\$109	\$20,486
Nurturing Parenting	\$25,764	\$0	\$0	\$4,436	\$30,200
Enhanced Early Education	\$42,913	\$0	\$0	\$2,994	\$45,907
Countdown To Kindergarten	\$15,660	\$0	\$0	\$980	\$16,640
Scholarship Initiatives	\$20,521	\$0	\$0	\$3	\$20,524
Administrative Support	\$20,266	\$954	\$0	\$12	\$21,232
Total Expenses	\$180,895	\$954	\$1,474	\$57,934	\$241,257



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allyson Bartley, Chair	Angela Cunningham
Hugh Gray, Co-Chair	Dr. Abbey Duggins
Lynn Padgett, Secretary	Cynthia Howard
Perrin Bryan	Christy Marshall
Jennifer Campbell	Becky McDowell
Tracey Caughman	Dr. Harvey Livingston
Jimmy Crawford	

STAFF

Kim Chariker, Executive Director
Joy Burge, PT Program Specialist
Sandy Butler, PT Program Specialist

CONTACT US

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