

SUMTER COUNTY



**FIRST  
STEPS**

Getting children ready for school.

# 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 SUMTER COUNTY:

**7,238**

children under age 5

**29.5%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**74%**

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

## OUR MISSION

Sumter County First Steps will cultivate, nurture and develop opportunities for children and families for success in school and life 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

**6,645**

number of children and adults served by ABC 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.

220 Hasel Street, Sumter, SC 29150 | 803.464.1224 | [scfirststeps.org/sumter](http://scfirststeps.org/sumter)

Data provided by:



**Julia A. Nelson, MPA**  
Executive Director  
Sumter County First Steps

## OUR GOALS

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As South Carolina First Steps celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Sumter County First Steps reflects on the positive impact we continue to have with school readiness in our community.

Every effort is made to provide quality strategies and programs to empower families, children and childcare providers with the skills needed to ensure school readiness. It is our goal to help children reach their fullest potential while preparing them with the foundation for long-term success through their adult life.

Our success is due to the commitment of our board, parents, school district, childcare providers, staff and other community partners in early education to collaborate and share limited resources for the greater good of our youngest population.

We look forward to the challenges and opportunities to continue to ameliorate school readiness in Sumter County.

*Julia A. Nelson, MPA*  
Executive Director

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

- Provide a high comprehensive parenting program (PAT) to strengthen families and access to local resources
- Coordinate and partner with local organizations to serve as a portal for expansion early intervention programs to increase school readiness
- Improve quality professional development opportunities in order to increase the number of qualified staff for child care centers
- Improve the child care environment of child care centers enrolled in our QE strategy
- Provide and expand opportunities for children to have access to affordable high-quality child care with scholarships



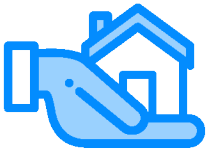


# PARENTS AS TEACHERS



*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 SUMTER COUNTY 2018-2019

**56**

Children Served

**978**

Home Visits

Briefly describe other evidence of program effectiveness and/or client satisfaction here.



Parents as Teachers



## IMAGINATION LIBRARY



*an evidence-based program*

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

**440**

children served

**3418**

books distributed

Books are 100% free to children in Sumter County because Sumter 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.**





# 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

114

number of TA visits provided

39

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms

Sumter County First Steps has equipped me with an opportunity to improve Vanessa's Palace by providing technical assistance, training, guidance and support. My center is now safer and my staff is now equipped with the needed skills to teach and take care of our children".

**Vanessa Simmons, Director of Vanessa's Palace**



## 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:

### Training Topics

**Fundamental Causes of Positive and Negative Behavior**  
**Maintaining A High Quality Learning Environments**  
**How Teachers Enrich Language and Concept Development**  
**Preschool to Primary: Understanding Child Development**  
**Creating An Environment for Health and Safety Practices (Blood Borne)**  
**Promoting Culturally Appropriate Positive Guidance for Children**

### TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

**519**

total training attendance

**519**

child care teachers and  
directors served

**5**

number of training  
sessions offered





## CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



*an evidence-based program*

For many families in Sumter 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.

Due to limited funding, priority is given to parents and children enrolled in our Parent As Teachers Program. Those enrolled are eligible to apply for Child Care Scholarships/ABC Vouchers. Families also have to meet an income eligibility and work or school/training program to receive a voucher..

### SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

63

number of children  
served

47

Families served

I'm a single parent and the mother of two beautiful daughters. I have enjoyed being a part of the Sumter County First Steps (SCFS) Parents As Teachers Program. While participating in the program, I received my Masters Degree. This was only possible due to a First Steps Childcare Scholarship/Voucher for my youngest child and their assistance in my oldest child attending school within Sumter County. The partnerships SCFS has established allowed me to navigate established systems, that alone I could not have navigated. I will forever be grateful for the Sumter County First Steps and their partnerships.

**Alexa Blair, Parent ~ Sumter First Steps PAT Program**





## OUR SUPPORTERS

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Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from the State Funding, Sumter County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

### FUNDING SUPPORT

State of South Carolina First Steps \$372.765

Private Donations \$450.00

### IN-KIND SUPPORT

Sumter School District

South Carolina DSS

Dr. Earlene Walker Kelly

## JOIN US

For additional information, please contact us at [sumterfirststeps@gmail.com](mailto:sumterfirststeps@gmail.com) or

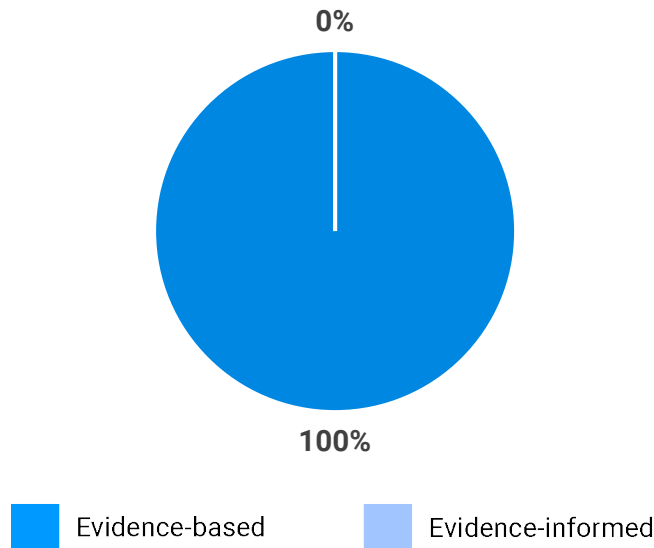
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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

#### Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



### ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Sumter County First Steps has leveraged **\$2,083,564.00** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.29** for every state dollar.

## SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$147,456.00	\$	\$	\$52,500.00	\$199,956.00
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$39,400.00	\$	\$	\$3,000.00	\$42,400.00
Child Care Training	\$35,895.00	\$	\$	\$750.00	\$36,645.00
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	\$6,590.00	\$	\$2,900.00		\$9,490.00
Scholarships/ABC Vouchers	\$105,827.00	\$	\$	\$21,000.00	\$126,827.00
Partnership & Community Education	\$13,868.00	\$	\$	\$	\$13,868.00
Administrative Support	\$19,460.00	\$	\$1,129.00	\$	\$20,589.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$368,497.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$4,029.00</b>	<b>\$77,250.00</b>	<b>\$449,775.00</b>



## LEADERSHIP

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Artrell Brown, Board Chair

Walter Newman, Vice-Chair

Toni Brew, Treasurer

Reverend Billy Bennett

Dr. Karen Bradford

Austin Floyd

Harrison Brown

Dianne Jeter

Michael Jonas

Jennifer Miles

Michelle Davis Parker

Wanda Ramsey

Julia Triplett

### STAFF

Julia A. Nelson, MPA

Executive Director

## CONTACT US

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# Sumter County First Steps Photo Gallery

