To collaborate with other entities, First Steps helps Williamsburg County 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 IMPACT**

3,767

number of children and adults served by Williamsburg 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.

---

**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

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**OUR APPROACH**

High quality programs and services for children and families

Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers

Strategic partnerships and community education

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**IN WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY:**

1,558

children under age 5

64%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

60%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

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500 North Academy St., Kingstree, SC 29556 | 843-355-1031 | scfirststeps.org/williamsburg
The success of our Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership is the result of competent staff members, partnerships with other entities (private, public, and religious), our elected officials (state and local), concerned community and caring parents who have embraced the same vision: Every South Carolina child will be prepared for success in school.

DR. JANICE M. GAMBLE, WCFS BOARD CHAIR
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**

512 children served 6,149 books distributed

Books are 100% free to children in Williamsburg County because Williamsburg County First Steps secures the funds to cover the cost of books and shipping fees.

Join us by sponsoring a child for just $30 a year.
COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

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

6 kindergarten teachers trained as home visitors
36 children served
216 total home and school visits

Countdown to Kindergarten students at Greeleyville Elementary were greeted by their new principal, Mrs. Berlinda Mack. During their visit to the school, students were introduced to their kindergarten classroom and enjoyed a tour of their new school.
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:

*Toddler Diaper Derby Time-Part 1
*Developing Resilience in Young Children
*Fun with Food: Celebrations and Snacks
*No! No! No! Biting: Supporting Teachers When a Child Bites
*Motivating Your Staff
*Early Learning Standards Overview 2018
*Approaches to Play & Learning
*Regulations, Regulations, Regulations: What’s New

*Effective Communication with Parents
*Turning up Learning for Young Children
*Explore the Outdoors- Science and Math
*Physical Activity-Physical Games for Young Children
*The Magic of Literacy- Summer of Adventure
*Infant & Child CPR
*First Aid
*Bleed Borne Pathogens

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS
2018-2019

350 total training attendance
133 child care teachers and directors served
44 number of training sessions offered

During the Week of the Young Child, child care providers attended a conference hosted by Williamsburg County First Steps in collaboration with South Carolina Early Childhood Association (SCECA). Participants attended a variety of sessions and keynote speakers to receive mandated DSS and SC-CCCCD required training hours.
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 WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY 2018-2019

23 children enrolled

4 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.
Parent Child Home is an home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PCH services include:

1. **Personal Visits** from an Early Learning Specialist at least six times monthly
2. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
3. **Service** to the most at-risk children and their families
4. **Connections** to outside resources that families may need to succeed

**PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS**

2018-2019

- 40 families served
- 1,757 total home visits

Williamsburg County First Steps in collaboration with Williamsburg County School District Parent-Child Home Program traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC to Ripley’s Aquarium. Parents and children were given the opportunity to see live animals up close. Students experienced the thrill of holding and touching horseshoe crabs and jellyfish. Students found themselves immersed in a watery world of sharks, rays, colorful tropical fish and incredible hands-on learning experiences.
Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Williamsburg County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Williamsburg 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**

598 families served 1,646 materials distributed

First Steps plays a vital role in the community in Williamsburg County by providing the tools and skills to enable preschool children to be prepared for beginning their journey into formal education.

**REV. KAREN STARR, WCFS VICE CHAIR**
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Williamsburg County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**FUNDING SUPPORT**

Williamsburg County School District Empl.: $259.34  
Williamsburg County Treasurer: $500  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church: $131.46  
Greater St. Mark AME Church: $150  
Hemingway Elem. School: $545  
Bethel United Methodist Church: $100  
Kingstree United Methodist Church: $190  
Williamsburg Branch NAACP 5558: $100  
St. Luke United Methodist Church: $100  
New Mt. Carmel AME Church: $50  
Williamsburg County First Steps Board Members: $1,006.75  
Asbury United Methodist Church: $41  
Cedar Swamp Methodist Church: $100  
Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church: $100  
Union Baptist Church: $150  
Redmond-Richardson Funeral Home, Inc.: $275  
Nan Ya Plastics Corporation, Amer.: $250  
Farmers Telephone Cooperative (FTC): $500  
Mishoe Oil Company: $100  
Williamsburg County Development Board: $200  
ABC Office Supply, LLC: $140  
Kingstree Family Dentistry: $20  
Williamsburg County Council: $1,100  
Representative Cezar McKnight: $100  
Charyl Epps-Normoo: $50  
Teresa Wilson: $50  
Jim Clyburn: $250  
Ronnie A. Sabb: $300  
Williamsburg County Retired Teachers Assoc.: $60  
Iota Mu Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.: $100

**IN-KIND SUPPORT**

Williamsburg County School District: $55,828.59  
Williamsburg Technical College: $5,814.76

**JOIN US**

Edit this message for your partnership. Example: For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at scfirststeps.org/williamsburg
### 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Training &amp; Professional Dev.</td>
<td>$55,835</td>
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<td>$5,005</td>
<td>$1,312</td>
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<td>Countdown to Kindergarten</td>
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<td>Dolly Parton Imagination Library</td>
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<td>Parent-Child Home Program (Public)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent-Child Home Program (In-House)</td>
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<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$2,153</td>
<td>$83,278</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$187,501</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,005</strong></td>
<td><strong>$53,004</strong></td>
<td><strong>$253,510</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Estimation of Cost Savings

Since inception, Williamsburg County First Steps has leveraged **$2,283,459** from sources outside of state government.

That’s **$0.37** for every state dollar.

#### Summary of Expenditures by Strategy

- **Evidence-based**: 76%
- **Evidence-informed**: 24%

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type

- Child Care Training & Professional Dev.
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Parent-Child Home Program (Public)
- Parent-Child Home Program (In-House)
- **Total Expenses**
LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jeff Singleton
Wilhelmina Whitfield
Ernestine Young

STAFF

Felicia C. Patrick, Executive Director
Shakira Fulton, Program Assistant
Rochelle Gamble, Lead Early Learning Specialist
Carrie White, Early Learning Specialist
Geneva Dorsey, Early Learning Specialist
Buetine Pressley, Early Learning Specialist

CONTACT US

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