

Annual Report

2019-2020

THE NEED

In Abbeville County:

1,305

children under age 5

56.7%

of young children live in poverty
or low-income households

68%

of kindergartners are considered "not
ready" for school



THREE MOST COMMON RISK FACTORS:

1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP - formerly Food Stamps)
2. Single Parent Household
3. Referral for Neglect

OUR MISSION

The Abbeville County First Steps Mission is to help prepare children for school and to work together to achieve this goal.

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

1,059

number of children and adults served by
Abbeville County First Steps in 2019-2020

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.

Abbeville County First Steps has many partners in Abbeville County. The Abbeville County Department of Social Services has been a key partner for many years. Since 2008, the Department of Social Services has provided referrals to First Steps for parenting programs inclusive of home visitation, parenting groups, and fatherhood. First Steps provides parenting programs for DSS clients for their treatment plans. Abbeville Adult Education has also been a great partner by providing space for Parent Educators to meet with families, and referrals from Adult Education. The Abbeville County Library offered story times and other services virtually which was great for families while at home. Over two years ago through a partnership with Greenwood First Steps, Abbeville and Greenwood have utilized the evidenced and researched based model, The Nurturing Parenting Program for their home visitation, parenting group, and fatherhood initiative. This has been very successful, and the program has really grown using this model with great staff and partners. Groups were offered four times a day, and over 100 sessions were offered for the year.



GETTING CHILDREN READY FOR SCHOOL

All children are ready to benefit from a quality kindergarten experience when they are five years old by September 1 of that school year. But kindergarten readiness—the critical stage at which children are prepared for learning and success—is more than a matter of age. For a strong start in school, children need positive relationships and supportive learning environments beginning at birth. At First Steps, we partner with families, caregivers, and communities to ensure that all children are prepared for success.



South Carolina's Profile of the Ready Kindergartner

Developed by SC First Steps and the SC Department of Education, the state's description of school readiness includes 60 developmental milestones across 5 categories:



Approaches to learning & inquiry



Emotional & social development



Physical development, self-help & motor skills



Mathematical thinking



Language & literacy development

In support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, our approach is focused on advancing Abbeville County toward the following strategic goals:

Abbeville County First Steps Strategic Goals 2018-2020

Goal 1: Provide Comprehensive Parenting Programs

Goal 2: Provide High Quality Comprehensive Parenting Programs inclusive of Fathers

Goal 3: Provide High Quality Trainings for childcare providers and early childhood educators

Goal 4: Serve as a local community portal for families to receive high quality services

Goal 5: Serve as community convener to partner with agencies in the community to promote comprehensive services to families

PIVOTING FOR COVID-19

When the coronavirus pandemic forced South Carolina to shut down in March 2020, Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps put a plan together so that all families could receive services. Parent Educators began doing drop offs with books, diapers, paper towels and whatever the family may need. They also left a lesson plan with the Nurturing Parenting Model, and activities for the families to do with their children. They also began utilizing zoom for parenting groups and fatherhood. Parenting groups and fatherhoods were offered over zoom serving families.

IMPACT ON ABBEVILLE COUNTY

HEALTH

Through June 30, Abbeville County had a total of 112 confirmed COVID-19 cases and three COVID-19 deaths.

JOB LOSS

214.8%

increase in unemployment, 2019-2020

CHILD CARE

45.3%

children under 5 in Abbeville County lived in a child care desert* before COVID-19

71.1%

children under 5 in Abbeville County lived in a child care desert as of May 28, 2020



*The Center for American Progress defines a child care desert as a ZIP code with at least 30 children under the age of 5 and either no child care centers or so few centers that there are more than three times as many children under age 5 as there are spaces in centers.



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 2019-2020

2

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

30

children served

240

total home and school
visits

**I enjoyed working with the families
in Abbeville. It is a very good
program. - Varonica Crawford,
CTK Teacher**





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 SC Endeavors and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program

Shaken Baby Syndrome and the Effects on the Family	Seasonal Creative Activities
Safe Sleep for Infants and Toddlers Development	The Effects of Trauma on Young Children's
Bloodborne Pathogens	Working with Socialization Disorders:
Autism	
Stress Can affect Child Development Management	Guiding Children in the Right Direction and Classroom
What Factors Influence Child Development	Stress Management
Safe Sleep for Infants and Toddlers	Safe Sleep for Infants and Toddlers
Creative Activities for Children	The Importance of Time Management
Shaken Baby Syndrome and The Effects of the Family	Curriculum and Playdough
Capturing the Power of Storytelling	Stress Management for Directors and Staff
Love, Logic and Development	The Importance of Stress Management and Your Health
Child Abuse and Neglect Development	The Effect of Mental Illness on a Young Child's
Music and Movement	Calming Curriculum Activities for Children and Teachers
Guiding Children in the Right Direction Through Nurturing Lifestyles	
What Factors Influence Child Development? Milestones	Curriculum Activities to Enhance Developmental
Encouraging Language Development	Stress Can Affect Brain Development in Young Children
The Effects of Trauma on Social emotional Development	

52

total training attendance

52

child care teachers and
directors served

24

number of training
sessions offered



The trainings were great, it was very informative, and we enjoyed the atmosphere.



Playhouse Center Director



Nurturing Parenting Home Visitation Program

The Nurturing Parenting Program is a compilation of evidence-based programs designed to offer long term, more comprehensive parenting education. Parents & Their Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers participate in a Home Visitation Program that utilizes a parenting curriculum that allows more interactive time between parent and child.

Nurturing Parenting Home Visitation Program BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

20

families served

390

total home visits

- Open to families in Abbeville County who have children prenatal to five years old.
- Home visits are provided twice a month with books, educational toys, and school readiness materials.
- Home Visitors provide community resource information to all families.



“Carson is five years old and already knows how to add and subtract. His teacher Jessica has already taught him that. -Courtney, Nurturing Parenting Participant”



Nurturing Parenting Groups

Summarize your training program here.

The Nurturing Parenting, Parent Groups are a comprehensive group-based parenting program for parents of young children. Sessions are offered weekly and parents learn skills needed for a healthy nurturing parenting lifestyle. Clients must complete a total of 15 sessions to receive a certificate of program completion. This program is operated inhouse and the goal is to increase Parental involvement and reduce abuse and neglect.

Nurturing Parenting Group BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

13

total number of
training participants

26

number of training
sessions offered

**I really enjoyed the groups I came to.
-Ashley, Nurturing Parenting
Participant.**

NURTURING PARENTING

Nurturing Fathers - Fatherhood Program

Nurturing Fathers is 13 sessions that range from topics of self nurturing skills and the role of a father to a time and place for fathering. There is a graduation ceremony at the end of 13 sessions.

Nurturing Fathers consists of different workshops based on each families need. Workshops range from self nurturing skills, discipline, relationships, fathering without violence overcoming barriers such as stress and substance abuse.

Nurturing Fathers BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

18

total number of
training participants

26

number of training
sessions offered

“First Steps has helped me by providing the tools I need to be stronger. I am more well-rounded. I don’t know how I would be without them. -Matt, Nurturing Fathers Participant”



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, Abbeville County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Abbeville 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 2019-2020

50

Number of
families served
through the local
portal

30

Number of
participants from
agencies

“
**First Steps is a great partner for
services. -Mary Lou Edens, The
Tracy Jackson Food Program.**
”



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

Abbeville Rotary Club
7750 District Grant
Mary Lou Edens, Board Member
Patti and Tom Howie
CSX Transportation
Abbeville Lions Club
Cold Springs Enterprises
Due West Lions Club
Sage Automotive
Little River Cooperative
West Carolina Telephone
Merls Countertops

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Abbeville County Recreation Department
Christmas Angel Tree
Goodwill Industries
Abbeville Adult Education
Abbeville Presbyterian Church
Abbeville County School District

JOIN US

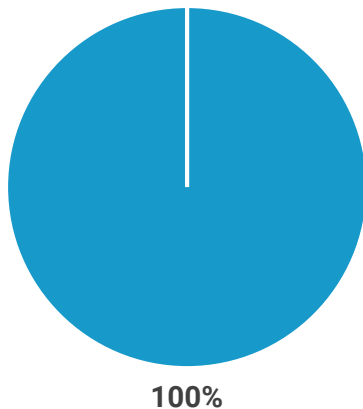
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at www.acfirststeps.org or call us at (864) 388-4102.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



100%



Evidence-based



Evidence-informed

ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Abbeville County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,456,187** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.37** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Administrative	\$6080.40	\$	\$909.00	\$926.74	\$7916.14
Core Functions	\$10591.45	\$	\$61.00	\$926.74	\$11579.19
Nurturing Parenting	\$164,254.90	\$	\$9989.95	\$17,138.22	\$191,383.07
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$	\$7461.11	\$	\$	\$7461.11
Childcare Trainings	\$14,650.26	\$	\$514.11	\$926.74	\$16091.11
Total Expenses	\$195,577.01	\$7,461.11	\$11,474.06	\$19,918.44	\$234,430.62



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY19-FY20

Dr.	Charles	Costner	Principal	Abbeville High School		Finance Chair
Mrs.	Mary Jane	Trainor	Retired- Lander University			Early ChildhoodChair
Mrs.	Jane	Agan	United Christian Ministries			Member
Mrs.	Mary Lou	Edens	Tracy Jackson Summer Food Program			Secretary
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Mr.	Henry	Green	Newspap e Editor	Press and Banner		Board Chair
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Mrs.	Ursula	Best	CPS Superviso r	Abbeville DSS		Member
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Mrs.	Melissa	Depung	Manager	Ingles		Member
Mr.	Daniel	Crawford	Principal			Member
Mrs.	Janet	Vandiver	Retired/V olunteer	Abbeville County School District		Member
Mrs.	Connie	Normand	Nurse	Free Clinic (United Ministries)		Member
Mrs.	Mary	Elizabeth	Land	Abbeville County Library		Member

1402c Highway 72 West, Greenwood, SC 29649 | (864) 388-4102 |
www.acfirststeps.org

