



Annual Report

2019-2020

THE NEED IN CHESTERFIELD COUNTY:

2615

children under age 5

67%

of young children live in poverty
or low-income households

75%

of kindergartners are considered "not
ready" for school



THREE MOST COMMON RISK FACTORS:

1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP –formerly Food Stamps) or Free School Lunches eligibility.
2. Single parent household and has need of other services.
3. Military families

OUR MISSION

To ensure opportunities for young children and their families in Chesterfield County so that every child enters school healthy and ready to learn.

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

235

number of children and adults served by
Chesterfield 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In 2019-2020, Chesterfield County First Steps (CCFS) continued to enhance its services to the children and families of Chesterfield County and to support the vision, mission and goals of South Carolina First Steps.

Compass Point 4K, a CCFS collaboration with Northeastern Technical College, concluded our second successful year, seeing ten children complete the program even with the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Compass Point also earned an “A” rating from the SC ABC Quality Program, signifying our commitment to best practices in getting children ready to learn and succeed in school.

CCFS’s Blessings in a Backpack weekend nutritional program completed its eighth year of serving food insecure children at Petersburg Primary School. Our faith and business community volunteers continued their dedicated work for these children, packing and distributing the food even through this COVID-disrupted summer.

CCFS also continued our collaboration with McCleod Hospital’s Nurse Family Partnership program and re-emphasized our Imagination Library reading program.

CCFS is most grateful to all our partners, donors and volunteers and we sincerely appreciate the support of South Carolina First Steps.

Karen Martini-Waller

Karen Martini-Waller

Executive Director

Chesterfield County First Steps



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



OUR GOALS

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

- Goal 1: To build a dependable, sustainable and diversified funding stream to support Chesterfield County First Steps activities.
- Goal 2: To engage more parents in early childhood education efforts.
- Goal 3: Expand services to include areas of need not currently addressed by Chesterfield County First Steps.
- Goal 4: To improve the overall capacity of the board, staff, volunteers and partners to carry out the mission of Chesterfield County First Steps.

PIVOTING FOR COVID-19

When the coronavirus pandemic forced South Carolina to shut down in March 2020, Chesterfield County First Steps quickly pivoted to provide much-needed support to young children, their families and CHILD-CARE providers.

Our work has never been more critical. While children are at low risk for the serious health effects of the virus, the crisis is having a profound impact on their wellbeing and development. For children of color and low-income communities, these impacts are expected to be even more damaging. That is why Chesterfield County First Steps is enhancing our efforts to provide parents and caregivers with the services and resources they need to weather this storm.

IMPACT ON CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

HEALTH

Through June 30, Chesterfield County had a total of **385** confirmed COVID-19 cases and **16** COVID-19 deaths.

JOB LOSS

151.7%

increase in unemployment, 2019-2020

CHILD CARE

43.7%

children under 5 in Chesterfield County lived in a CHILD-CARE desert* before COVID-19

100%

children under 5 in Chesterfield County lived in a CHILD-CARE desert as of May 28, 2020





NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP



an evidence-based program

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with their clients, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

31

children served



Nateya Gary, a first-time mother and Nurse-Family Partnership client, reads to her infant child, Yahana, as part of First Steps' "Start with a Book" literacy campaign for young children under the age of five who live in Chesterfield County. Chesterfield County First Steps reached out this summer to Sarah Griggs, RN, BSN, to distribute the age-appropriate children's books to her clients in the McLeod Nurse-Family Partnership program.

“Having strong connections in our community is a vital component in helping our McLeod Nurse-Family Partnership clients and their families succeed. Chesterfield County First Steps has helped support the developmental growth and development of my clients' children by providing developmental toys and age appropriate books over the last few years. This summer's *START WITH A BOOK* donation of books will help ensure that even during a pandemic, our clients and their children have access to new books which promotes literacy and school readiness. We are deeply grateful for our partnership with First Steps and look forward to many more years.”

Sarah Griggs, Registered Nurse, McLeod Nurse Family Partnership -Chesterfield



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 2019-2020

112

children served

620

books distributed

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

Sponsor a child for just \$30 a year.





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

3

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

9

children served

52

total home and school
visits



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. In coordination with First Steps local partnerships and more than 230 private, community and faith-based preschool providers, First Steps 4K expands access to quality early education across the state.

Chesterfield County First Steps in partnership with Northeastern Technical College operates the county's only First Steps 4K program –Compass Point 4K. In 2020, Compass Point is the only SC CHILD-CARE ABC Quality program rated as an "A" center.



ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for enrollment, a child must be:



4 years old on or before September 1



Eligible for Medicaid, SNAP or TANF, experiencing homelessness or transiency, or in foster care

FIRST STEPS 4K IN ABC COUNTY 2019-2020

11

children enrolled

1

First Steps 4K providers

PIVOTING FOR COVID-19

When schools closed due to COVID-19, First Steps 4K classroom converted to distance-learning, with teachers creatively supporting their young learners through video chat, take-home materials, and hands-on projects that caregivers could facilitate at home.





EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

COMPASS POINT 4K

The First Steps Compass Point 4K program is a full day 4 year-old preschool program that is free to eligible students. Located on the Northeastern Technical College Cheraw campus, it is led by licensed and highly qualified staff. The lead teacher, along with teacher assistants, provide a positive and encouraging environment for student learning. This high quality 4K educational program is only possible because of the strong partnership among Chesterfield County First Steps, Northeastern Technical College, Chesterfield County Schools and SC First Steps 4K.



COMPASS POINT 4K BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

11

children served





LITERACY PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

Raising A Reader is an evidence-based early literacy and parent involvement program. Each week redbook bags containing four age appropriate books are sent home from enrolled child-care sites to increase families' access to books and to encourage pre-literacy skills. Parent workshops are provided throughout the school calendar year to provide parents with interactive reading skills, book cuddling ideas, and help them develop a literacy routine at home.

RAISING A READER BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

11

families served

1

providers served





NUTRITION PROGRAM



an evidence-informed program

Blessings in a Backpack is a weekend nutrition program that provides nutritious, easy to prepare food for the forty 4K students and their siblings at Petersburg Primary. Each week during the school year, volunteers will pack backpacks with food for the children to ensure that their nutritional needs can be met over the weekends.

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK BY THE NUMBERS



an evidence-informed program

61

children served

13,176

meals provided

188

volunteer hours





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

Local Churches
McLeod Health -NFP

Northeastern Technical College
Chesterfield County Schools



Community Partnership for Children



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

First Presbyterian of Pageland

Mary B. Redfearn

Myra Coffey

Omicron Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma

Pageland Family Pharmacy

Pee Dee Disaster Relief Fund

Presbytery of Charlotte

Providence Baptist Church

Roddy Outen

Sandhills Telephone Cooperative

SC Department of Social Services

SC ONE Foundation

South Pointe Christian School

The Malloy Foundation

Walmart of Cheraw

Walmart Logistics

Wolf Pond Baptist Church

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Chesterfield County School District

Northeastern Technical College

&

All of Our Wonderful Backpack Volunteers

JOIN US

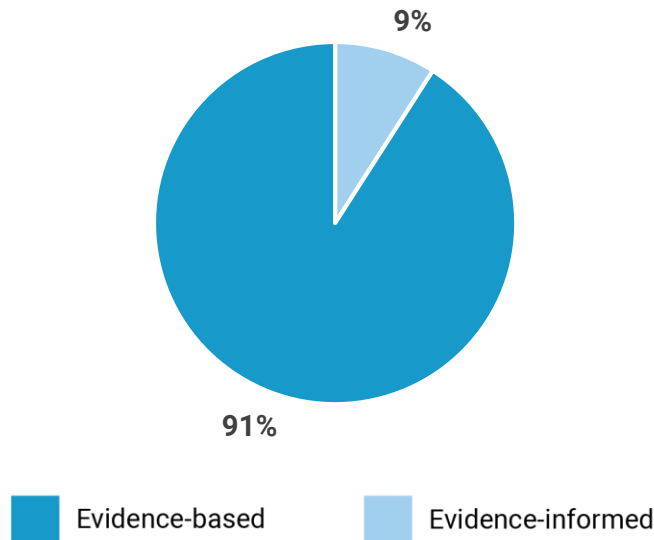
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at
chesterfieldfirststeps.org



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Chesterfield County First Steps has leveraged **\$3,137,874.88** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.82** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Raising A Reader EB	\$2,667.07				\$2,667.07
Nutrition Services	\$14,923.59	\$348.21	\$20,494.11	\$4,259.07	\$23,468.53
Imagination Library	\$1,616.12		\$2,395.53		\$4,011.65
Nurse Family Partnership	\$6,465.01				\$6,465.01
Full Day 4K	\$141,405.49		\$20,494.11	\$33,693.19	\$195,592.79
Countdown to Kindergarten		\$576.96			\$576.96
Core Functions	\$21,868.06	\$1,030.29	\$570.18		\$4,011.65
Administrative Support	\$11,611.21		\$2,991.26		\$14,602.47
Total Expenses	\$200,556.55	\$1,955.46	\$50,739.36	\$37,952.26	\$291,203.63



LEADERSHIP

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marek Calhoun, Treasurer

Melissa Chapman

Myra Coffey

Angela Crawford

Harrison Goodwin

Michael Kaltwang, Secretary

Bernice Linton

Kristen Miller

Edwina Moody

Tony Nolan

Erica Phillips

Carrie Turner

Kyle Wagner

Ernest Winburn, Chairman

STAFF

Kelly Branch, Lead 4K Teacher

Samantha Deese, Co-Teacher (NETC)

Rochelle Michael, Co-Teacher

Karen Martini-Waller, Executive Director

CONTACT US

1201 Chesterfield Highway, Cheraw SC 29709 | 843-921-1452 |

www.chesterfieldfirststeps.org

