

Annual Report

2019-2020

ORANGEBURG COUNTY



THE NEED

IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY:

4,731

children under age 5

36.5%

of young children live in poverty
or low-income households

70%

of kindergartners are considered "not
ready" for school



THREE MOST COMMON RISK FACTORS:

1. Single parent home
2. Receiving SNAP/TANF
3. In need of additional services

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to get every child in Orangeburg County ready for school.

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

1570

number of children and adults served by ABC
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.

Orangeburg, SC 29115 | 803-987-4164 | www.orangeburgfirststeps.org

Data provided by:



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LaMyra Sanders

Executive Director
Orangeburg County First Steps

During this time of uncertainty due to COVID-19, Orangeburg County First Steps continues to strive for excellence in supporting children and families throughout the county. We will continue to train and provide professional development opportunities for those who serve our youngest and most fragile citizens in the county. It is with passion that we search for alternative strategies to continue to prepare children for school. We look for every venue and opportunity to unite this community and share our love for children amid this very challenging time!

If your family can benefit from any of our programs and services, please contact me at 803-987-4165.

LaMyra Sanders

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 Orangeburg County toward the following strategic goals:

Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to increase services for early identification of physical, emotional and educational disabilities.

Orangeburg County First Steps seeks to serve as a community portal for connecting families of preschool children to services designed to strengthen families and promote optimal child development.

Orangeburg County First Steps will offer two trainings on the specific topics of the Ready Kindergartner and Early Childhood Education Standards to providers who work with children on a daily basis.

PIVOTING FOR COVID-19

When the coronavirus pandemic forced South Carolina to shut down in March 2020, Orangeburg 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 Orangeburg County First Steps is enhancing its efforts to provide parents and caregivers with the services and resources they need to weather this storm.

IMPACT ON ORANGEBURG COUNTY

HEALTH

Through June 30, Orangeburg County had a total of **787** confirmed COVID-19 cases and **26** COVID-19 deaths.

JOB LOSS



120.6%

increase in unemployment, 2019-2020

CHILD CARE

19.2%

children under 5 in Orangeburg County living in the following zip codes, lived in a child care desert* before COVID-19: 29018, 29038, 29039, 29047, 29048, 29059, 29107, 29112, 29113, 29115, 29118, 29133, 29142, 29146, 29163, 29432

83.8%

children under 5 in Orangeburg 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.



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

107

children served

742

books distributed

Books are 100% free to children in Orangeburg County because Orangeburg 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

42

children served

252

total home and school
visits



Marco was nervous and using little to no words when we met but as time went on, he would smile, answer questions and was alert and happy about what he was learning.

S. Smith, CTK Teacher





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 2019-2020

4

child care providers served

66

number of TA visits provided

75

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms





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 administration. Our 2019-2020 trainings included:

Being Intentional: Exploring the Theories Behind Child Development

Unpacking Biases About the Diverse Children We Teach

Integrating Music Into the Curriculum With Intentionality

Fostering Learning Through an Integrated Curriculum (Pt.1 and Pt. 2)

Supporting High Quality Environments for Children With Special Needs

Leading High Quality Teachers in High Quality Learning Environments

Document Child and Center Success

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

130

total training attendance

130

child care teachers and
directors served

7

number of training
sessions offered





CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families that are income-eligible for childcare assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction of them receive it due to a lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends, or neighbors, parents are faced with few or no affordable care options.

Orangeburg County First Steps offers scholarships to families enrolled in programs offered by the agency as well as income-eligible children whose parents work or attend school on a full-time basis. Orangeburg County First Steps integrates scholarships with Early Steps to School Success and the Imagination Library.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

9

number of children
served

3

number of providers
served

9

number of
developmental
screenings provided





Early Steps to School Success



an evidence-informed program

Early Steps to School Success is a home visitation program supporting families with children prenatal to three years of age. The program is designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. Services Include: personal visits from a parent educator twice monthly, screenings and assessments, monthly group meetings and connections to outside resources.



Save the Children

EARLY STEPS TO SCHOOL SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

65

families served

399

total home visits





EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM



an evidence-informed program

Reading Rocks is a summer home visitation, literacy based, transition program supporting children 3-4 years of age. This program is designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. Services include personal sessions with a certified teacher and pre/post assessments.



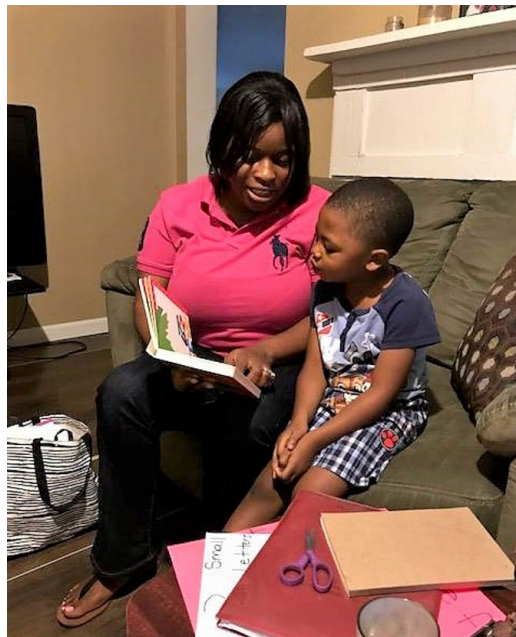
READING ROCKS BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

8

children served

1

providers served





VROOM Play and Learn Groups



an evidence-based program

Vroom is a relationship building concept, encouraging quality interactions between parents and their preschool children in helping to create everyday brain building moments. VROOM Play and Learn Groups target children ages 3-5 years old, enhancing early literacy and math skills before entering Kindergarten.

Powered by
vroom™

VROOM Play and Learn Groups 2019-2020

24

families enrolled

50

Play and Learn group
sessions offered





PUBLIC AWARENESS



Community Events BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

300

materials
distributed

1

events held

83

total event
attendance





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

14

Viable Community Partnerships





OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

United Way of the Midlands \$11,177

Comprehensive Health Management \$5,000

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Alumnae Chapter \$500

Save The Children Federation, Inc. \$50,844

Greenville Technical College \$2,000

South Carolina Early Childhood Association \$300

IN-KIND SUPPORT

South Carolina Department of Social Services \$3,500

Orangeburg County School District \$23,677

Pecan Grove Child Development Center \$929

Small Steps Big Strides Child Development Center \$243

Kaplan Early Learning Co. \$127

JOIN US

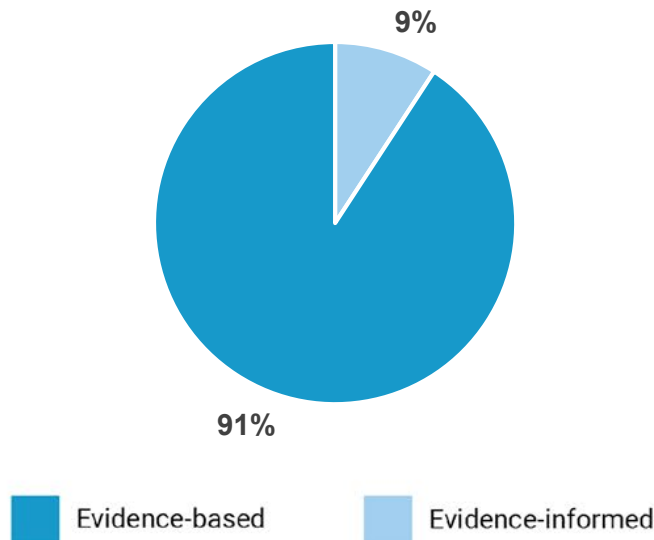
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at www.orangeburgcountfirststeps.org



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Orangeburg County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,871,953** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.26** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Administrative Support	\$36,478	\$0	\$684	\$73	\$37,235
Partnership & Community Ed.	\$34,107	\$1,905	\$4,168	\$73	\$40,253
Imagination Library	\$10,581	\$0	\$377	\$0	\$10,958
Early Steps to School Success	\$68,620	\$0	\$59,654	\$23,439	\$151,713
School Transition	\$20,326	\$0	\$16,209	\$28	\$36,563
Child Care Quality Counts	\$50,225	\$383	\$600	\$1,245	\$52,453
Childcare Training	\$39,754	\$0	\$2,871	\$117	\$42,742
Childcare Scholarship	\$31,089	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$34,589
Total Expenses	\$291,180	\$2,288	\$84,563	\$28,475	\$406,506



LEADERSHIP

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LaMyra Sanders, Executive Director

CONTACT US

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