



SOUTH CAROLINA

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Helping First-time Parents Succeed

Nurse-Family Partnership Launches in Five South Carolina Counties

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The nationally recognized Nurse-Family Partnership® initiative launched today in South Carolina, with public and private partners supporting and providing resources for the program. NFP is an evidence-based program that positively impacts school readiness and provides positive long-term results for children and their families.

The program is launching in Anderson, Greenville, Lexington, Richland and Spartanburg counties. NFP and its partners in the state are working to expand to additional counties in the near future.

The Duke Endowment, South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and The Children's Trust Fund of South Carolina are collaborating in the S.C. program launch.

“We’ve said from day one that if you’re going to make a positive difference in a child’s life, doing so early is key,” said Gov. Mark Sanford, who also serves as chair of First Steps. “To that end, I’d give real credit to The Duke Endowment and each of the agencies at the state level who are coming together for this effort.”

In addition to funding from state and private partners, South Carolina has received a substantial federal grant – approximately \$500,000 per year for five years – from the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which will be used to further develop the NFP program in the state.

Under the NFP program, first-time mothers meet with a registered nurse early in pregnancy and nurse home visits continue through the child’s second birthday.

“Through Nurse-Family Partnership, South Carolina’s families will have access to resources that will help improve their children’s health and overall well-being, and provide invaluable skills for new parents,” said Susan DeVenny, executive director of First Steps. “This partnership is a perfect example of the good that can result when organizations join forces and work to improve results for our children.”

THE DUKE ENDOWMENT



Children's
TRUST FUND
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.nursefamilypartnership.org



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Randomized, controlled trials conducted over 30 years prove Nurse-Family Partnership works. Substantial and dramatic results observed in those trials include:

- 67 percent reduction in behavioral and intellectual problems at age six;
- 48 percent reduction in child abuse and neglect;
- 56 percent reduction in emergency room visits for accidents and poisonings;
- 59 percent reduction in arrests of children at the age of 15;
- 72 percent fewer convictions of mothers at child age 15.

“Having a nurse involved helps strengthen these families,” said Minor Shaw of The Duke Endowment Board of Trustees and chair of the Endowment’s Committee on Child Care. “By providing families with this type of resource, parents and children begin to thrive and build their confidence. The Duke Endowment is very pleased to support this program, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact it will make on families and children.”

NFP nurse home visitors work with their clients to achieve three goals:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in preventive health practices, including obtaining thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diet, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances;
- Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care; and
- Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

“It is undeniable: By reducing child abuse and neglect incidence, Nurse-Family Partnership helps both parents and children and strengthens the overall family unit.” said Sue Oliver Williams, chief executive officer of The Children’s Trust Fund of South Carolina.

Independent research shows that communities benefit from this relationship between nurses and first-time parents: Every dollar invested in NFP can yield more than \$5 in return.

“There is no doubt that the Nurse-Family Partnership will have a positive impact on South Carolina’s children and families,” said Earl Hunter, DHEC Commissioner. “We are proud to be a partner in the effort to bring this evidence-based health program to our state.”



About the South Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership Partners

[The Duke Endowment](#), in Charlotte, N.C., seeks to fulfill the legacy of James B. Duke by enriching lives and communities in the Carolinas through higher education, health care, rural churches and children's services. With assets of over \$3 billion, the Endowment has awarded more than \$2.4 billion in grants since its inception in 1924.

[The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control](#) was created in 1973 from the merger of the State Board of Health and the Pollution Control Authority. DHEC operates health and environmental regional offices, as well as local health departments and clinics, to ensure that its many programs and services meet local needs.

[South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness](#) was created in 1999 as a comprehensive, results-oriented statewide education initiative to help prepare children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed. Public and private support are combined through state and county partnerships to enable communities to address the unmet needs of young children and their families.

[The Children's Trust Fund of South Carolina](#) was created in 1984 as South Carolina's resource for the prevention of child maltreatment and family strengthening. Through advocacy, trainings, technical assistance, and convening public-private partnerships, the Trust Fund supports community organizations that provide research-based, long-term solutions to improve outcomes for children and families.



What Others Are Saying about South Carolina Nurse-Family Partnership:

Former Governor Jim Hodges:

The launch of Nurse-Family Partnership for SC's children and families showcases what First Steps was meant to do: blend public and private resources to create or expand needed services for kids. I am proud to see that despite tough economic times for our state, these partnerships continue to serve families well~ helping children be ready for school.

House Ways and Means Chairman, Representative Dan Cooper (R-Anderson):

As an elected official and a steward of the state's finances, I am elated to see our state's public agencies and private organizations such as The Duke Endowment working together to bring research-based services to our children and families. In our state's tight economic times, we need to explore all avenues to help our children and are grateful for our private partners' help in making sure all children have the tools to succeed.

Senate Education Chairman, Senator John Courson (R-Lexington, Richland):

As a long-term supporter of early education, I am pleased to see how these partners have come together to offer services to our very youngest learners. Although our budget challenges are real, the children and families of South Carolina always come first.

Senator Mike Fair (R-Greenville), Member of Senate Education Committee and SC First Steps Trustee:

Putting public and private resources together for children in need just makes good sense for South Carolina. I am pleased we can target these evidence-based services to the families who need them, even in these tough fiscal times.

Representative James Smith (D-Richland), and Charter SC First Steps Trustee:

Nurse-Family Partnership is just the kind of evidence-based program we hoped to provide our youngest SC children when we created First Steps. Seeing partners at federal, state and local levels join forces to offer this service to mothers and very young children ~despite our fiscal challenges~ points to the resolve we have for serving our families in the Palmetto State.

Lewis Smoak, Vice Chair, SC First Steps Board of Trustees:

We are proud to join forces with the Duke Endowment, DHEC, and the Children's Trust Fund to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to South Carolina. Only when public and private entities work together for our children can we hope to change the future educational outlook of our state.

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