



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

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



IN MARLBORO COUNTY:

1,386

children under age 5

60.2%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

73%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

"Collaborating with other entities, Marlboro County First Steps helps South Carolina 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 APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education

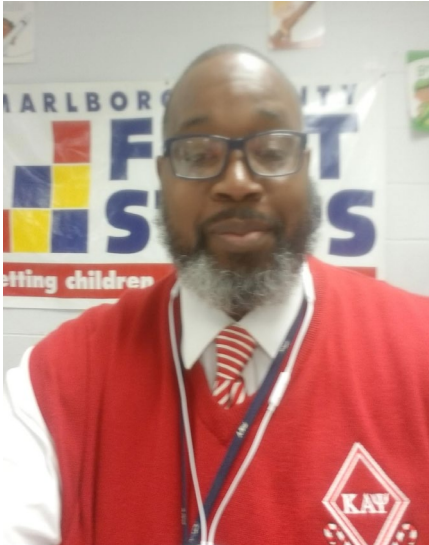
OUR IMPACT

664

number of children and adults served by Marlboro 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.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to be a quality contributor to the well-being for families with young children in the Marlboro community. This can especially be noticed via parenting and childcare. This past fiscal year we worked with 27 families who may not receive other quality services. MCFS also continues to be the lead county agency that works with child care facilities throughout the community. We stress quality and efficient learning as opposed to the babysitting approach.

Randall S. Johnson, M.Ed

Randall S. Johnson, M.Ed.
Executive Director
Marlboro County First Steps

The Marlboro County First Steps partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Marlboro County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

OUR GOALS

- Marlboro County First Steps will work to ensure that families understand the importance of their child's well-being as it relates to early development & preschool.
- MCFS will ensure that Early Intervention is key tool to determining what's needed for county eligible families
- MCFS will support early childhood education in the county through various programs that we provide.
- MCFS will continue being involved with the Marlboro County Coordinating Council & others in community through various levels of collaboration.

Success starts in the mind no matter the age. Too often we are reactive to the children/families needs' in our community. Marlboro County First Steps allows us to be proactive.

Shasta Loyd, NEW BOARD MEMBER



PARENTS AS TEACHERS



an evidence-based program

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:



Personal visits from a parent educator at least twice monthly



Monthly group connections with other PAT families



Screenings and assessments to identify developmental concerns



Connections to outside resources that families may need to succeed



PAT IN THE NEWS

PAT recently received the highest rating from the federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse. This recognition validates the effectiveness of Parents as Teachers as a strategy for improving parenting practices, promoting early detection of developmental delays and health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect, and enhancing school readiness and success.

PAT IN MARLBORO COUNTY 2018-2019

27

families served

400

total home visits

Marlboro County First Steps/Marlboro County School District PAT program will be recognized as a Blue Ribbon Model Affiliate as noted by National Parents As Teachers. This will happen during the Conference in St. Louis.



Parents as Teachers
Model Affiliate



CHILD CARE TRAINING



an evidence-informed 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 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:

Emotional & Social Development in Preschoolers

Using Language & Literacy in Guiding Children's Behavior

Creating Safe Environments Using Active Supervision

Connecting Parents to Community Resources

**Nutrition: Sneaking in the Veggies
Physical Activity-Dinosaur Romp**

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

61

total training attendance

25

child care teachers and
directors served

6

number of training
sessions offered

We continue to enjoy the fact that we are offered quality trainings and trainers through Marlboro County First Steps year after year.

Janice Faye Green, Owner/Director, Kids Learning Kastle



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

For many families in Marlboro County, the cost of quality child care is out of reach. Our scholarship program makes payments to child care providers to care for children from low-income families so their parents can return to school or work as well as income-eligible children whose parent attends school or works at least 20 hours per week. In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

- Each one of the participants in our program who receives a scholarship must also participate in the Marlboro County First Steps PAT program
- Every child who receives a scholarship also receives books

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

18

number of children
served

8

number of providers
served

30

number of
developmental
screenings provided

**100% of the money paid to child care providers
goes back into our local economy to benefit the
citizens of Marlboro County.**

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 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.



FIRST STEPS 4K IN MARLBORO COUNTY 2018-2019

21

children enrolled

1

participating classrooms

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

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.





PUBLIC AWARENESS



an evidence-informed program

Marlboro County First Steps public awareness consist of a lot of collaboration. Being in a community this small, agencies who work with families must collaborate with each other because we service the same clients in different capacities.

Awareness Events/Collaborations BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

1004

materials
distributed

6

events held

583

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

2

meetings with stakeholders

various other collaborative efforts throughout the year

“ We continue to support Marlboro County First Steps through our collaborative relationships. Marlboro County School District has been a partner since its inception. ”

MARGARET QUICK, MCSD FAMILY LITERACY COORDINATOR



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

State of South Carolina: \$200,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)

\$250, Parker's Used Cars

\$91, AT&T

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Marlboro County School District

S.C. ABC Childcare

S.C. Resource & Referral

JOIN US

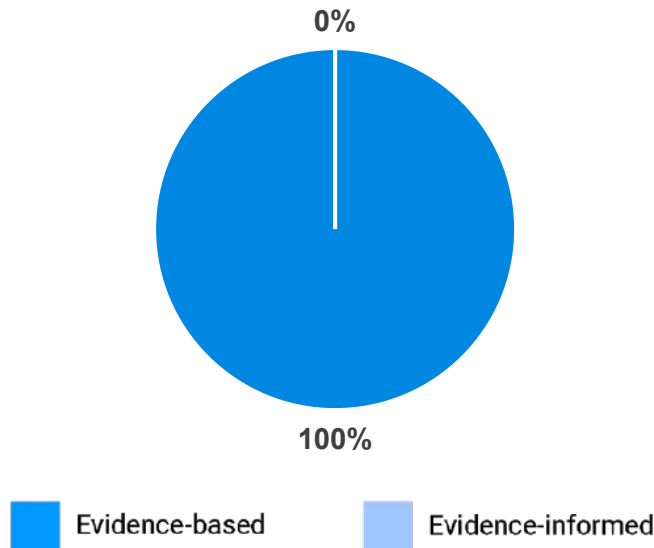
If you would like to give a tax-deductible donation please send to Marlboro County First Steps, P.O. Box 249,
Bennettsville, SC 29512



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Marlboro County First Steps has leveraged **\$952,105** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.27** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$ 83,931	\$	\$	\$ 28,125	\$ 112,056
Scholarships Initiatives	\$ 66,807	\$	\$	\$ 7,000	\$ 73,807
Child Care Training	\$ 33,076	\$	\$	\$	\$ 33,076
Core Functions	\$ 14,373	\$	\$	\$	\$ 14,373
Administrative Support	\$ 6,398	\$	\$	\$	\$ 6,398
Total Expenses	\$ 204,585	\$	\$	\$ 35,125	\$ 239,710



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shirley Jones, Board Chair

Nichelle Nichols

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Loretta Brown

Marlon Prince

Theresa Curtis-Willis

Elaine Purvis

Nidra Ellison

Linda Sanders

Bobbie Jo Grooms

Renata Stubbs

Shasta Loyd

Bishop Ulysses Sullivan

Brenda McRae

Tamika Thomas

STAFF

Randall Johnson, Executive Director

Tamiko Warney, Parent Educator

CONTACT US

215 Broad Street, Room A114, Bennettsville, SC 29512 | 843-479-4200 |

