

GEORGETOWN COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



**Child Care Quality
Enhancement**

Child Care Scholarships

Early Head Start

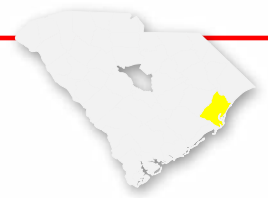
Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

**Every South Carolina child
will arrive at Kindergarten
ready to succeed.**



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Georgetown County
Children Under Five	291,026	2,868
Children In Poverty	24.4%	32%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	22.2%	23.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	17.2%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception Georgetown County First Steps has leveraged \$3,198,211.67 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.66 for every dollar received.**
- **Support and guidance** were provided to 50 families in our EHS Parenting Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 148 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **11 Group Connections Parent Meetings and home visitations to select families.**
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 261**

Georgetown County First Steps

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Board Chair

Whitney Martin

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www.georgetownfirststeps.org

Georgetown County First Steps

Carol Daly

Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that I present the Georgetown County First Steps Annual report.

Georgetown First Steps shares with other agencies and citizens a common concern for and a commitment to the welfare and future success of our youngest children. As part of a statewide early childhood initiative, Georgetown First Steps serves as a local leader in developing a comprehensive, collaborative approach to serve the needs of all children birth to five in Georgetown County.

In our constant pursuit to fund services that support unmet needs in our preschool community we are proud of the following innovative programs:

- Host partnership to the State Early Head Start initiative sponsoring 3 Early Head Start Centers with 40 children and families
- Employing two Family Advocates providing service delivery to parents in group meetings and home visitations
- Implementation of a pilot 3K program in strong collaboration with the Georgetown School District and private providers. This is presently the only public/private 3K in the state

In closing, thank you for your continued support of our programs. I cannot think of a more important or consequential goal than securing the future educational opportunities for our youngest citizens.

Best,



Healthy
Start



Family
Strengthening



Early
Intervention



Quality
Child Care



Early
Education



School
Transition

County Programs

Week of the Young Child

Wellcare Parenting Meetings

Community Outreach

State Programs

Early Head Start

First Steps 4k



What We Do

Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With **measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas**, First Steps is getting results.



Healthy Start

We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.



Quality Childcare

Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child's development and success in school.



Family Strengthening

Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps' intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at "low" levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.



Early Education

Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar. Early Head Start expands quality early learning and family support to infants and toddlers.



Early Intervention

Children's school readiness depends on their healthy growth and development. First Steps helps identify potential delays early through developmental screenings and referring children to BabyNet and other early intervention resources.



School Transition

Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Georgetown County First focuses its investments in Early Intervention, Quality Childcare, Early Education and School Transition

Child Care Quality Enhancement

QE by the Numbers, 2016-17

Child Care Providers Served	7
Number of TA Visits Provided	128
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	261

Program Description

The quality of care received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

First Steps' Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners (SECA)
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS ECERS ECCERS)

Congratulations to our QE participants for 2016-17!

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Sampit	3.44/3.95
Noah's	3.01/3.05
Small Minds II	3.63/3.98

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

Provided 148 hours of technical assistance to child care providers

Provide \$8,320.84 in materials grants to participating child care providers

Funded scholarships for 11 children within participating child care providers

Distributed 250 books to Georgetown County Children

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

U.S. Department of Education
Georgetown County School District
Georgetown Housing Authority
WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
Ellis Foundation
Cornerstone Support Services

Georgetown County First Steps

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Georgetown County cannot afford quality care for their children.

Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to 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.

Georgetown County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:

- 32% ... live in poverty
- 15.1% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 65% ... were teen parents
- 23% ... had developmental delays

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.



Scholarships by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	11
Providers Served	4

This year, our Scholarship program:

Provided 11 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school

Identified and addressed 5 potential developmental delays among scholarship children

Provided 12 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as nutrition, emergency response, discipline and money management

Thank you to our partners!

Steve Daly, Scholarship Fund
 Carolyn Ellis, Private
 Small Minds of Tomorrow Child Care
 NOAH's Academy
 Sampit Child Care
 Playhouse Child Care
 Little Smurfs I & II
 Pawley's Island Child Care Center
 International Paper
 Precious Blood of Christ

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Children involved in high-quality preschool are more likely to have better academic outcomes.

Program Description

GCFS demographic data shows success in reaching out to poor and more diverse segments of the population in order to provide services to those families and children who have the most urgent need for EHS services.

The most needful have been identified through detailed screenings and have been carefully administered according to a weighted scale during registration periods. Observations include such indicators as limited literacy, limited income, parental stress, and special needs such as behavioral/developmental concerns, physical/substance abuse, low birth weight, recent migration, and lack of reading materials in the home.



EHS by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	40
Providers Served	3

This year, our EHS program:

Made it possible for 40 children to attend quality preschool

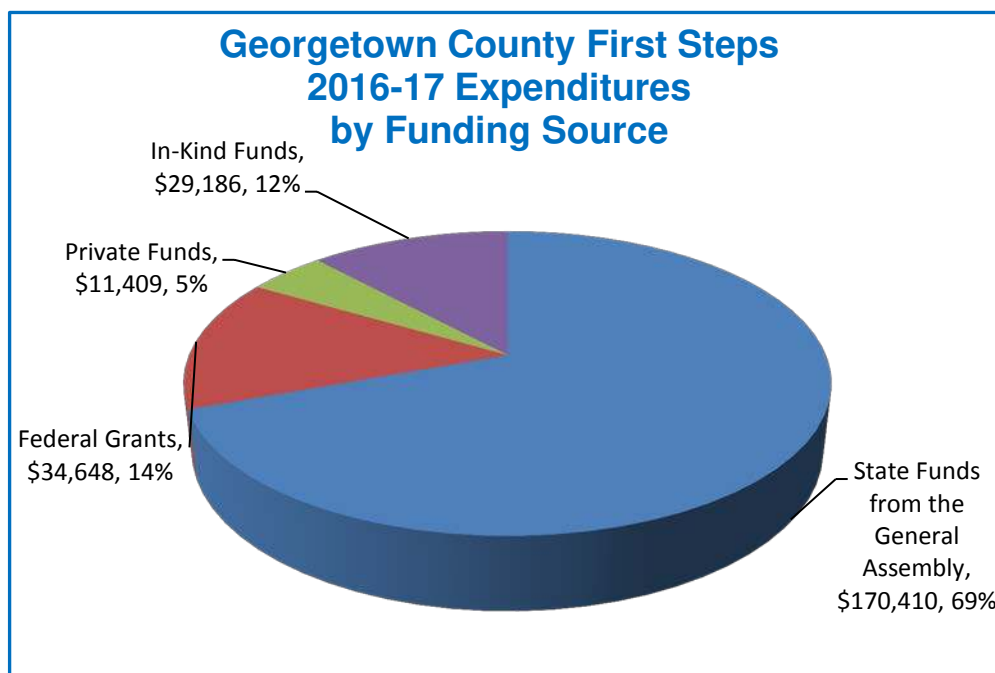
Program addresses topics such as: child outcomes, parent involvement, nutrition/health, teacher training, etc.

Thank you to our partners!

Georgetown County School District
Pawley's Island Child Care Center
Little Smurfs
Small Minds II

Georgetown County First Steps

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Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$245,653

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 44%

*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2016-17 Expenditures
FQE Program	\$26,049	\$0	\$1,389	\$4,735	\$32,173	13%
Training/Professional Development	\$14,934	\$0	\$417	\$1,500	\$16,851	7%
Child Care Scholarships	\$21,369	\$0	\$6,981	\$1,421	\$29,771	12%
Early Head Start	\$4,605	\$34,648	\$0	\$0	\$39,253	16%
Early Identification & Referral	\$28,986	\$0	\$1,751	\$250	\$30,987	13%
Programmatic Support	\$43,092	\$0	\$79	\$0	\$43,171	18%
Administrative Support	\$31,375	\$0	\$792	\$21,280	\$53,447	22%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$170,410	\$34,648	\$11,409	\$29,186	\$245,653	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

Thank you supporters!

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Georgetown 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)

International Paper: \$2,000

Ellis Foundation: \$6,000

Donations: \$632.79

In-Kind Support

Georgetown County School District

Palmetto Ace Hardware

Kaplan Company

First Book Company

Georgetown Housing Authority

Fred Poplin

Craig Mitchum

Jazmin Noriega

Jane Wishart

Carol Daly, ED

Janice Hickman

Lunda Green

Carolyn Ellis



Thank you to all our supporters!

With your time and money we are able to continue helping our children of Georgetown County in the School Readiness Program!

How your support helps children in Georgetown County for the Future:

\$5000 will provide free childcare per child for a school year.

PLEASE SEND ALL DONATIONS TO THE ADDRESS BELOW

MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO GEORGETOWN COUNTY FIRST STEPS

All donations are tax deductible, if receipt needed please note on check!

Send Donations to: Georgetown County First Steps

2018 Church Street

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Save the Date!

September 21, 2017: Low Country Giving Day

October 18, 2017: Georgetown County Annual Meeting

November 15 – 18, 2017: NAEYC Atlanta Conference

Support Georgetown County First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!

Community Impact

State and Local Funds for Maximum Community Impact!

Georgetown County First Steps works hard to leverage funds beyond the state dollars provided. We ran a couple of fundraisers last year through the support *of Craft Fair at Ace Hardware, book baskets in local stores and a special donation from a local foundation, The Cliff and Carolyn Foundation.*

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD!

In the spring, we held different activities for “THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD”!. Tuesday was Taco Tuesday; made Taco’s with the children as they explored the taste and touch of food. Wednesday we took a class trip to Ripley’s Aquarium in Myrtle Beach to explore the world of the sea; and on Artsy Thursday we made caterpillar’s showing different shapes.



TACO TUESDAY! WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD”. Children learning about different types of food. Each year we try to find different types of food to introduce and expose the children to. While engaged in this activity the children learned the colors and shapes of the ingredients as they *made their own tacos*



Ripley’s Aquarium, Myrtle Beach



Making Shape Caterpillars

First Steps Partnership Board

Name	Position	Board Category
Jane McSweeney-Wishart	Retired Kindergarten Teacher	Pre-kindergarten – primary educator
Carolyn Ellis	Vice President of the Cliff and Carolyn Ellis foundation	Non profit organization servicing families and children
Whitney Martin- Board Chair	Early Childhood Teacher	Childcare and early childhood development/education provider
Lakisha H Myers	Early Childhood Paraprofessional	Early Childhood Education
Gwen McNeil	Andrews Magistrate	Faith Community
Pam Bradley-Vice Chair	Sales, Kaplan Company	Business Community
Anita Floyd	Attorney	Business Community
Celia Sargent	S & L Services	Transportation provider
Merit Justice	GSCSD Gifted and Talented Teacher	Appointee
Kiara Logan	GHA-HVC Coordinator	Georgetown Housing Authority
Tiffany Jenkins-Treasurer	DHEC	DHEC Designee
Dwight McInvaill	GC Library Director	Library Designee
Patricia Canada – Secretary	GCSD ADEPT Coordinator	School District Designee

Getting children ready for school.

The Goals of First Steps

- (1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want** to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
- (2) increase comprehensive services** so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
- (3) promote high-quality preschool programs** that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
- (4) provide services** so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
- (5) mobilize communities** to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

-- Section 59-152-30



Interested parents with Medicaid-eligible children who live in eligible school districts can contact any participating provider to complete an application for free, full-day 3K. To view a list of participating First Steps 3K providers please call:

Georgetown County First Steps: 843-520-1830



EARLY HEAD START – CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP

Low income families with children 0-36 months, and families with infants or toddlers with special needs, are invited to apply for this year-round, comprehensive program. Available in the following counties: Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Berkeley, Dillon, Georgetown, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Saluda and York, and coming soon to Fairfield and McCormick counties. To apply, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/ehs/>



[I CAN] is First Steps' public awareness campaign for school readiness, in support of the state's Profile of the Ready Kindergartener. Includes resources for parents, providers and communities to learn what they can do to support school readiness.

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