

NEWBERRY COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

Parents as Teachers

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality Enhancement

Child Care Training

Library-Based Program



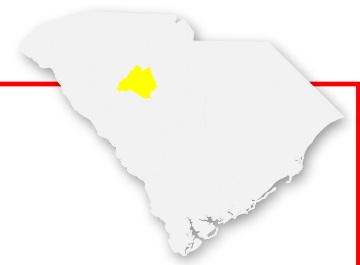
Annual Report

2016-17

OUR VISION:

Every South Carolina child will arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed.





By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Newberry County
Children Under Five	291,026	2,287
Children In Poverty	24.4%	28.5%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	22.2%	25.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	24.2%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Newberry County First Steps has leveraged \$1,113,228.30 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.36 for every dollar received.**
- **550.5 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 25 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **We served 603 children** in our library-based literacy program, **giving children 5,271 books.**
- Total attendance for our quality childcare training program was **484.**
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 758**

Newberry County First Steps

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Board Chair
 Elizabeth Bozard

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 Patricia H. Caldwell

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Newberry County First Steps

Patricia H. Caldwell
 Executive Director

Newberry County First Steps targets children 0-5 years of age. Our programs are designed to achieve results through partnerships at state and local levels, among public and private entities. County-level partnerships – with their unique ability to identify local needs, resources and collaborative opportunities – are designed to efficiently focus program efforts and reach children where they live.

There has been a strong collaboration with the School District of Newberry County, the Newberry Library, child care centers, faith based and other local non-profits, Newberry public housing, local government, and other county partnerships to maximize our resources and ensure that all families know where to go to receive assistance.

Each year our programs show evidence of improvement: nationally recognized programs, Parent as Teachers, Library-Based program (children's literacy), Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) – where we reached forty-seven children throughout the county – and Child Care Quality Enhancement/Child Care Training where we served seventy one teachers and directors. All centers have quality programs and one center has an A+ rating. We are in the 2nd year of Early HeadStart which serves 16 families and children 0-2 years old. The First Steps 4K program serves 32 children.

Newberry First Steps will continue to work with our partners as we focus on making sure that all children are healthy and ready to experience the success needed to create the motivation and engagement that sustains learning.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

Parents as Teachers Library-Based Program
 Child Care Quality Enhancement
 Child Care Training Countdown to Kindergarten

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, Newberry County First focuses its investments in....FAMILY STRENGTHENING, EARLY EDUCATION, SCHOOL TRANSITION, AND QUALITY CHILD CARE/TRAINING.

Parents play a critical role in their child's development.

Program Description

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

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed
5. **Connect families** to a Pediatric medical home

Newberry First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

100% ... live in poverty
 100% ... didn't graduate from high school
 72% ... were teen parents



Primary Care Givers are often grandparents and great grandparents.



2017
 Summer
 Celebration
 at the Park

PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	25	
Children Served	26	
Total Home Visits	433	
Hours Spent Serving Families	550.50	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	KIPS 0.55	ACIRI 0.38

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Each family averaged 2.07 visits each month, usually our teen parents required more visits per month
- ✓ There were forty-one connections made for services our children/families required. Services such as food, emergency shelter, education, Babynet, and mental health to name a few.
- ✓ Parenting practices were improved as shown through the pre and post parent surveys and pre and post KIPS and ACIRI as well as parents attaining primary and secondary goals they set for themselves.
- ✓ Literacy skills improved not only for our children, but our parents/guardians as well. This year we had parents doing more reading during home visits and provided more group meetings with literacy activities. We distributed over five hundred books.

Thank you to our partners!

School District of Newberry County
 Newberry First Steps Newberry Hospital
 Newberry Adult Education
 United Way of the Midlands Special Services

Newberry County First Steps

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Library-Based Program

Children’s reading scores improve dramatically when parents are involved in helping them learn to read.

Program Description

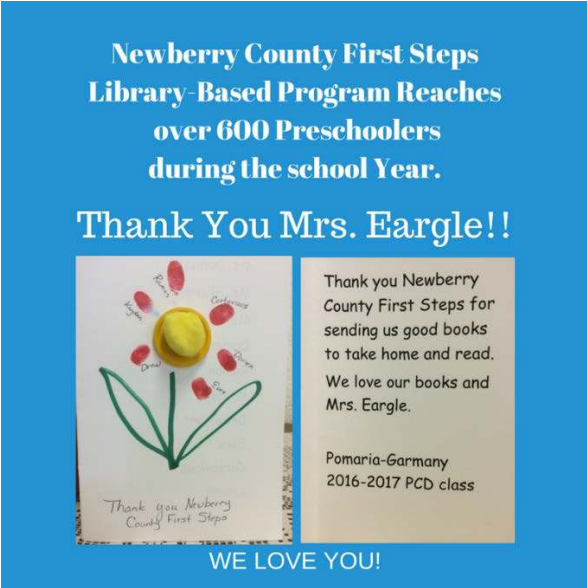
The Newberry County First Steps Library-Based Program is designed to provide literacy activities for 3-4-year-olds enrolled in a certified preschool program. These programs include child care centers, private preschools, faith-based preschools, and public schools. We are especially targeting children who have been identified as at-risk.

One main goal is to instill in children a love of reading and of books. Another goal is to place in the homes of these children quality children’s literature to encourage reading and together time for the children and adults in the home.

Each class receives visits twice a month by the Outreach Librarian. Each child receives eight (8) books to take home to add to his or her personal library. Children are taught the proper care and handling of books. Through the reading sessions every two weeks, teachers are trained in storytelling techniques to use in their own reading times. Books are also given to the classroom to build up their classroom library.

Library-Based Program by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	603
Books Given to Children 0-5	5,271



My child’s love for books has grown so much since starting school. Library Day is now a favorite at home and school. I am thankful for the outreach program and the books they provide for our children.

Preschool Parent

This year, our Library-Based program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month for 8 months to 603 children enrolled in public and private preschools in the county.
- ✓ Taught children how to care and handle books.
- ✓ Trained 72 teachers in storytelling techniques to use in their own reading times
- ✓ Received donations from Friends of the Library and organizations in support of children’s literacy.

- Thank you to our partners!**
- Newberry County Library Faith-Based Preschools
 - School district of Newberry County Head Start
 - Scholastic and Ingram Book Services Newberry Academy
 - First Books National Book Services Public Preschools
 - Local Child Care Centers United Way of the Midlands
 - Friends of the Newberry County Library

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Child Care Quality Enhancement

In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

Program Description

The quality of care they 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
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, FCCERS)

QE by the Numbers, 2016-17

Child Care Providers Served	2
Number of TA Visits Provided	41
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	96

QE participants for 2016-17

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
Newberry Child Development Center, 2-year-old room	4.23 to 3.52
Kids Unlimited of Prosperity, wobblers room	3.90 to 4.76

This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality in most areas in the 2 classrooms working with First Steps on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments
- ✓ Provided 94 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
- ✓ Provided \$2,045 in materials grants to participating child care providers

Thank you to our partners!

- Child Care Centers in Newberry County USC/CCR&R
- Newberry County Library System Aiken County First Steps
- Richland County First Steps Edgefield County First Steps
- Saluda County First Steps ABC Child Care DSS DHEC

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Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

I love that I can take the tools I learn in training back to the classroom!
 Child Care Staff Member

Child Care Training Sponsored by Newberry First Steps, 2016-17

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
T.E.A.C.H.	One Session
Program Administration	Three Sessions
Foodborne Pathogens	One Session
Curriculum	Four Sessions
Nutrition	One Sessions
Growth and Development	Two Sessions
Professional Development	Two Sessions
Child Guidance	Three Sessions



Ms. Jan Peterson had everyone up and moving during her training sessions!

Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total Training Attendance	484
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	71
Number of Training Sessions Offered	17

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 71 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 24 hours of certified training and 4 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ Follow-up surveys and evaluations with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

Center for Child Care Career Development
 NTUNE Trainer & Consultant USC/CCR&R DHEC
 ABC Child Care USC/CCR&R HappyVoices
 Piedmont Technical College Newberry College
 Edgefield County First Steps Saluda County First Steps

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Countdown to Kindergarten



Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

Program Description

Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a summer home visitation model connecting rising kindergartners and their families with their future teachers. The program is designed:

- ✓ to forge strong and lasting home-school relationships,
- ✓ to acquaint children and families with the state and classroom expectations to increase the likelihood of school success,
- ✓ to increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly in hard-to-reach communities), when children’s learning is foundational for life success; and
- ✓ to increase public awareness of the importance of school readiness and provide ways for parents and communities to impact children’s early school success.

*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016

Children Served	33
Families Served	33
Home/School Visits	177

**CTK program data is for June-August 2016, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.*



Countdown to Kindergarten integrates all of the following:

Home Visitation. Teachers make six visits over the summer to the homes of participating students and families. Children and families are introduced to actual materials used in kindergarten and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to keep.

Learning Celebration. The last visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall.

Public Awareness. Throughout the summer, First Steps releases tips to media to help parents and caregivers get children ready for kindergarten.

This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

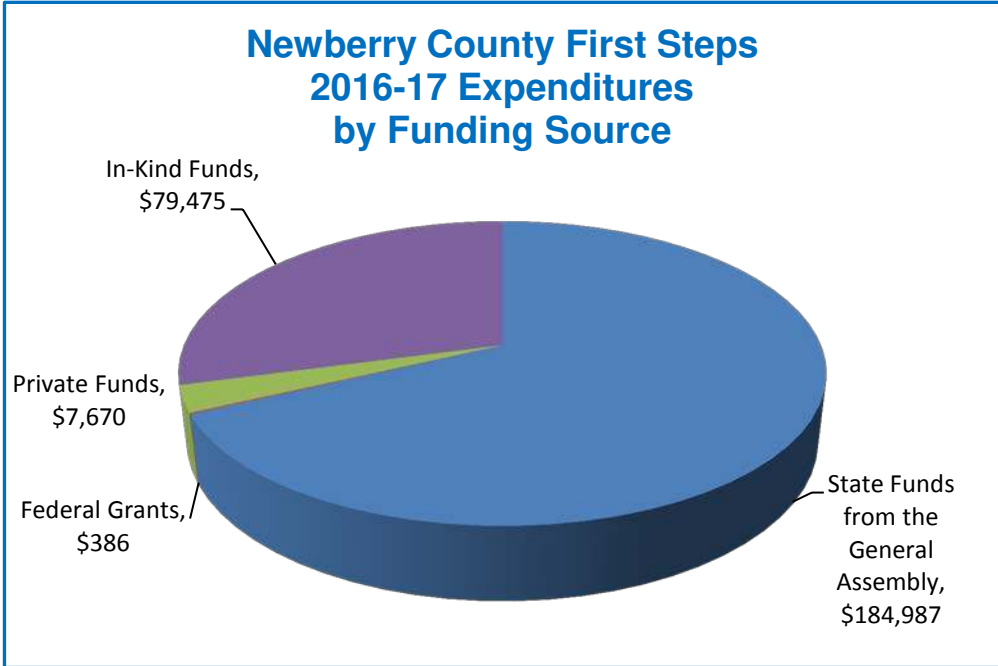
- ✓ On the post parent survey, parents stated that they read to their children daily.
- ✓ After completing the CTK program, 56% of parents reported that they had current knowledge of kindergarten expectations at their child’s school.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 66.27% of CTK children performed as well as, or better than, their fellow students in the areas of: approaches to learning and inquiry, emotional and social development, self help and motor skills, physical development, language and literacy development and mathematical thinking.
- ✓ According to the post parent survey, 52.5% of parents stated – they would make it a priority to participate as a volunteer and attend regular meetings (PTO, parent conferences, etc.) in support of their child’s education.

Thank you to our partners!

- School District of Newberry County Stokes-Trainor
- Kaplan Early Learning Company Midlands Gives
- EdVenture Children’s Museum WKDK
- Newberry Observer United Way of the Midlands

Like us on Facebook!
 Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina:

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Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$272,517.89

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 47.317%

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

2016-17 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2016-17 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$57,230	\$0	\$0	\$32,200	\$89,430	33%
Library-Based Program	\$35,875	\$0	\$1,485	\$23,133	\$60,493	22%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$7,446	\$0	\$1,816	\$10,000	\$19,261	7%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$38,273	\$0	\$916	\$6,493	\$45,682	16%
Child Care Training	\$575	\$0	\$3,453	\$150	\$4,177	2%
Head Start Programming	\$0	\$386	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,386	1%
Program Support	\$31,074	\$0	\$0	\$4,125	\$35,199	13%
Administrative Support	\$14,513	\$0	\$0	\$1,375	\$15,888	6%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$184,986	\$386	\$7,670	\$79,475	\$272,517	

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

Since inception, Newberry County First Steps has leveraged \$1,113,228.30 from sources outside of state government. That's 36 cents for every state dollar.

Newberry Housing Authority

Margie Suber

It has given me great privilege to witness the children's enjoyment of reading books that were donated by Mrs. Pat Caldwell and the First Steps Program. These books were brought into our office at the Julian E Grant Homes (The Newberry Housing Authority) for the children to enjoy. It is a joy and pleasure to see parents reading to their children and to see children coming into the office just to pick up a book to read. The children loved the books so much that all the books disappeared from our office. That is great, because now they enjoy reading them at home! Newberry Housing values the partnership with Newberry County First Steps as we work together to meet the needs of our families.

Countdown to Kindergarten Makes a Lasting Impact

Alison Bowers, CTK/5k Teacher

Countdown to kindergarten has been a true blessing to me as a teacher. Having the opportunity to form a relationship with both the parents and the child has been critical for student success in my classroom. The children are given a backpack filled with supplies that will help them long after summer has ended. The children that I have had in the CTK program are better equipped for kindergarten success and I enjoy communicating in a positive manner with their parents.



Family and students participate in the CTK Celebration at Newberry Elementary

PAT Participants Take Part in The Family Literacy Program

Rita Saddler, Coordinator for Newberry Parenting/Family Literacy Program

This year our services were extended throughout the entire summer. The Family Literacy Program partnered with the Newberry Literacy Council to help coordinate summer activities at the Hal Kohn Memorial Library for students and parents in the community. Incentives were offered for the students who attend the library sessions and activities. The summer focus was the total solar eclipse. The incentives offered were gift cards and entrance passes to family events, such as the Riverbank Zoo. Program participants were given four books a month through the Bright Beginnings Child Development Center as well as during home visits with the Newberry Family Literacy Program Parent Educators. Gift cards were regularly distributed throughout the year when documents and surveys were turned in by the required deadlines. Incentives such as gift cards were provided through the collaboration with Newberry Literacy Council and United Way of the Midlands. Holiday gifts were also given to the children at the Holiday Celebration. Healthy snacks and *bookit* treats were given to the children every month for different holidays/recognitions such as, but not limited to: Veterans' Day, Cancer Awareness, National Family Literacy Month, Fire safety, Easter, Valentine's Day and Harvest season/Thanksgiving.



The Newberry Family Literacy Holiday Celebration is a night of fun filled activities for the whole family. They spend about 15 minutes at each station after meet and greet. Stations include music and movement, make and take and storytime. In the end, everyone enjoys one-on-one time with Santa at this annual event.

Support Newberry First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer.

Community Collaborates to Increase Public Awareness of First Steps' Work

Beth Bozard, Newberry County Board Chair

As the public becomes more aware of the importance of Early Childhood Development, our agency's role in ensuring that all students begin school ready to succeed continues to gain support in the public and private sectors. Research has shown and continues to show the value of what we do. However, as with any agency, finances remain one of our most limiting factors. Newberry County First Steps has collaborated with the School District of Newberry County, the Hal Kohn Library, local child care centers, local businesses and elected officials to make the most efficient and effective use of our funds.

Investing in Our Children's Future

I am very proud to be a part of Newberry County First Steps to School Readiness Board. We have a group of creative and dedicated individuals who are committed to our mission and who work well together to accomplish our goals. I am looking forward to the coming year as we continue to invest in our children's future.

Newberry County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

Name	Position	Board Category
Elizabeth Bozard, Chair	Nurse, Lovelace Medical Clinic	Healthcare Provider
Clyde E. Hill, Vice Chair	Assistant Director, Triangle Child Care Center	Childcare & Early Childhood Dev. Ed. Provider
Frances Wright, Secretary	Head Start Teacher, GLEAMNS	Legislative Appointee
Crystal Hayward, Treasurer	Lowe's Home Improvement of Newberry	Parent of Pre-School child
Kelly Bannister	SC DHEC	Social Agency Appointee
Alison Bowers	Teacher – Newberry County School District	Pre-K/Primary Educator
Beth Brooks	Director, Elementary Ed, Newberry County School Dist.	School District Appointee
Erica Gallman	Gleamns Headstart	Gleams Appointee
Lemont Glasgow	Newberry City Council	Local Government
Roberta Hall Kinard	Director, Adult Education, Newberry County School District	Family Ed., Trg., Support Provider
Kenneth McBride	Director, DSS	Social Agency Appointee
Virginia Riddle	Early Childhood Education, Newberry College	Childcare and Early Childhood Dev. Ed. Provider
Rita Saddler	PAT Coordinator Newberry County School District	Family Ed. Trg., Support Provider
Rev. Johnny Mack Scurry	Minister	Faith Community
Mamie Shippy	Benedict College	Legislative Appointee
Martha Suber	Retired Assistant Principal	Legislative Appointee
Robert Summer	Owner, Summer Media	Business Community
Patricia Turner	Retired	Legislative Appointee
Reggie Wicker	Principal, Newberry Elementary School	Pre-K/Primary Educator
T. Sam Ziady	Director, Newberry County Library System	County Library Appointee

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 4K. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



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.

Visit: ican.sc

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