

WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parent-Child Home

Imagination Library

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Training

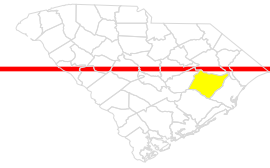
# Annual Report

2016-17



## OUR VISION:

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



## By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Williamsburg County
Children Under Five	293,134	1678
Children In Poverty	24.4%	43.3%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Scoring "Does Not Meet" Standard in Reading	22.2%	38.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	14.6%

KIDS COUNT data provided



- Since inception, Williamsburg County First Steps has leveraged \$2,129,296 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.43 for every dollar received.**
- **718 hours of support and guidance** were provided to **38 families** in our Parent-Child Home Program.
- **Parents and Childcare professionals received 7,800 books across the county to share and read with children.**
- Improved parent awareness of kindergarten expectations through **120 hours of home visits through the Countdown to Kindergarten Program.**
- **Total Children Served in FY17: 634**

**Williamsburg County First Steps**

500 North Academy Street, Building A  
 Kingstree, SC 29556

Phone: (843) 355-1031

**Board Chair**

Ophelia McClary Starks

Email address

[opheliamicclary@aol.com](mailto:opheliamicclary@aol.com)

[http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us/pages/WCSD/Department/First\\_Steps](http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us/pages/WCSD/Department/First_Steps)

Williamsburg County First Steps

**Felicia Patrick**

**Executive Director**

WCFS 2016-2017 Annual Report

Williamsburg County First Steps (WCFS) Partnership Board is proud of the many successes we have attained and collaborative partnerships established to serve children and their families more efficiently and effectively in Williamsburg County. These collaborative efforts are reflected in our programs to include Parent-Child Home, Imagination Library, Countdown to Kindergarten and Child Care Training. These programs provide services to children and assist parents in getting their children ready for school. Imagination Library provides free books to children from ages 0 to 5. Donations from our partners have made it possible to place over 5000 books in the hands of children in fiscal year 2016-2017. County Council annually underwrites the WCFS annual meeting, which provides children, parents and WCFS staff an opportunity to recognize the good work that is being done by WCFS.

Additionally, Williamsburg County First Steps has increased the quality of services available to children and families using research and data. Through the SC Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistics, programs and results are tracked longitudinally. Independent reviews show that 66% of parents who work with First Steps programs show significant improvements in skills after participation in a First Steps parent education program. Similar results are shown for child care providers participating in First Steps quality enhancement efforts in all domains of quality.

Williamsburg County First Steps will continue its efforts to provide high quality services to children and their families so that all children will reach school healthy and ready to succeed.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

### County Programs

- Parent-Child Home
- Imagination Library
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Child Care Training

### State Programs

- 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, Williamsburg County First focuses its investments in Quality Childcare, Family Strengthening, Early Education, and School Transition.**

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

## Program Description

Parent Child Home is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PCH services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least six times monthly
2. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify concerns
3. **Service** to the most At-Risk Children and their families
4. **Connections** to Outside Resources that families may need to succeed.

**Williamsburg First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PCH families:**

- 57% ... **Live in poverty**
- 86% ... **Eligible for SNAP assistance**
- 57% ... **single parent households have a need for other services**

## PCH by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	38	
Children Served	40	
Total Home Visits	1454	
Hours Spent Serving Families	718	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	<b>KIPS</b> Pre: <b>3.50</b> Post: <b>3.69</b>	<b>ACIRI</b> A: 2.32/2.51 C: 1.39/2.14

**This year, our Parent-Child Home program:**

- ✓ Averaged home visits per month 6.32.
- ✓ Served 100% of families with at least one South Carolina First Steps approved Risk Factors.
- ✓ 1,454 hours were spent in homes with families.
- ✓ 100% of families and children participated in the annual PCHP field trip

**Thank you to our partners!**

- Williamsburg County School District
- Farmers Telephone Company
- Wells Fargo
- Williamsburg County Retired Teachers Association

**Williamsburg County First Steps**

PO Box 825, Kingstree, SC 29556  
843-355-1031

[http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us/pages/WCSD/Department/First\\_Step](http://www.wcsd.k12.sc.us/pages/WCSD/Department/First_Step)

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

## Program Description

According to the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the peak period for brain development related to language is around **nine months of age. One of the easiest and most effective ways to build this capacity in young children’s brains is to read to them.**

Williamsburg First Steps is the local sponsor of Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free, age-appropriate books to children age birth to 5 years. Operated by the Dollywood Foundation, Imagination Library is currently in more than 1,600 communities internationally and mails books to about 700,000 children each month.

Children who register with Williamsburg First Steps receive one book per month by mail through the month of their fifth birthday. Each book is carefully selected by a committee of educational specialists.



Williamsburg County First Steps has provided free age appropriate books to children for the past 12 years funded by citizens and businesses from the county.

## Imagination Library by the Numbers, 2016-17

Children Served	489
Books Given to Children 0-5	5,521

### This year, our Imagination Library program:

- ✓ Provided one book per month to 588 children who were referred from the Parent-Child Home Program, School District, First Steps 4K Programs, Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and parents
- ✓ Received donations from community members , board members, local government, faith-based community, citizens, Williamsburg County School District, and local sororities in support of children’s literacy



### Thank you to our partners!

- Williamsburg County School District
- Farmers Telephone Company
- Wells Fargo
- Williamsburg County Retired Teachers Association

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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.

*Enjoyed class today!  
 Presenter made the training interesting.  
 Thank you for offering these courses.  
 Awesome Job!*

### Child Care Training Sponsored by Williamsburg First Steps, 2016-17

Topic:	Sessions:
Child Growth and Development	Four Sessions
Curriculum	Ten Sessions
Child Guidance	Three Session
Professional Development	One Session
Blood-Borne Pathogens	Two Sessions
Health and Safety	Three Sessions
Program Administration	Four Sessions
Nutrition	One Session



Childcare providers were engaged in hands on activities in small groups.

### Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total Training Attendance	331
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	50
Number of Training Sessions Offered	20

### This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 141 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 40 hours of certified training and 6 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements

### Thank you to our partners!

- South Carolina Center for Child Care and Career Development
- Williamsburg County School District
- Williamsburg Technical College

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**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.

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.

## \*CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2016

Children Served	20
Families Served	19
Home/School Visits	120

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



## This year, our Countdown to Kindergarten program:

- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK parents exceeded the goals in the following: increase family awareness of Kindergarten expectations; the importance of home activities relating to literacy and hands-on learning; smooth transition into the school environment for the child and family; and create a positive relationship between the family and the child's school.
- ✓ According to kindergarten teachers, 100% of CTK parents were more involved than other parents in their child's education.

## Thank you to our partners!

Williamsburg County School District

Kaplan Early Learning Company

Like us on Facebook!  
Countdown to Kindergarten-South Carolina

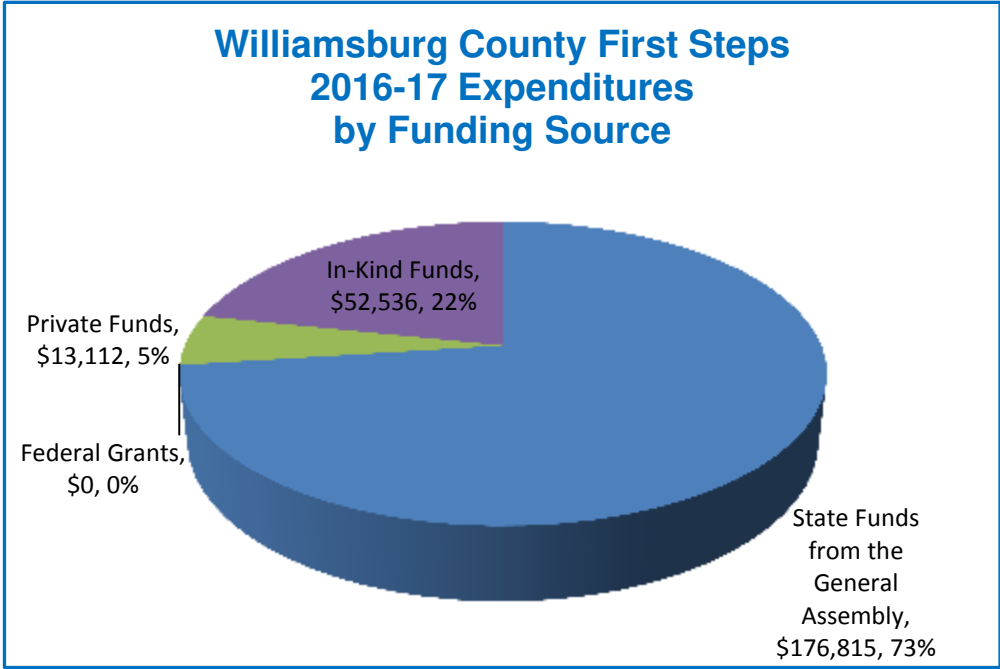


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# Financial Impact



**Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$242,463**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17\*: 37%**

*\*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
Parent-Child Home	\$69,639	\$0	\$0	\$49,428	\$119,067	49%
Imagination Library	\$7,192	\$0	\$4,402	\$0	\$11,594	5%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$3,554	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,554	1%
Child Care Training	\$21,158	\$0	\$5,151	\$1,554	\$27,862	11%
Program Support	\$54,016	\$0	\$3,560	\$1,165	\$58,741	24%
Administrative Support	\$21,256	\$0	\$0	\$388	\$21,644	9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$176,815</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$13,112</b>	<b>\$52,535</b>	<b>\$242,462</b>	

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

**Since inception, Williamsburg County First Steps has leveraged \$2,121,296 from sources outside of state government. That's .42 cents for every state dollar.**





# Thank you supporters!

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

## Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$176,820  
*(through South Carolina First Steps)*

Williamsburg County Council: \$2,300  
Greenville Technical College: \$2,000  
DSM Nutritional Products: \$450  
Farmers Telephone Cooperative: \$750  
Black River United Way: \$350  
Wells Fargo Foundation: \$1,000  
Williamsburg County Treasurer: \$500  
Kentucky Fried Chicken: \$100  
Greater St. Mark AME Church: \$150  
Dotherine Williams: \$30  
Kimberly Matthews: \$175  
Janice Gamble: \$110

Williamsburg County First Steps Board Members:  
\$160

Georgetown Kraft Credit Union: \$100  
Ernestine Young: \$30  
Angela Fulton: \$100  
Rosemarie Moore: \$30

## Funding Support

Kaplan Early Learning Company: \$250  
Nan Ya Plastics Corp., America: \$250  
Jenkinson, Jarrett and Kellahan, P.A.: \$100  
Lambda Theta Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority Inc.: \$200  
Law Office of Ronnie Sabb: \$200  
Haselden Brothers, Inc.: \$50  
Big Country Chevrolet, Inc.: \$80  
ABC Office Supply: \$50  
Redmond-Richardson Funeral Home: \$125  
Williamsburg County Development Board: \$150  
Cedar Swamy United Methodist Church: \$50  
Kingstree Lions Club: \$60  
Silversteen Mitchum: \$10

## In-Kind Support

Williamsburg County School District -  
\$52,536

Williamsburg Technical College -  
\$7,000

## How your support helps children in Williamsburg County:

- ✓ \$30 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$250 provides a child toys and books for 46 visits!
- ✓ \$327 provides 6 home visits by his/her kindergarten teacher prior to the start of a new school year!

**HOW TO GIVE:** Please make check or money order payable to Williamsburg County First Steps and mail to  
PO Box 825, Kingstree, SC 29556

## Save the Date!

- **Annual Meeting** – Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Williamsburg County School District Annex Cafeteria
- **Annual Board Training and Orientation** – Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 5:30 PM in the Williamsburg County School District Annex Professional Development Room
- **Week of the Young Child Banquet** – Friday, April 20, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Williamsburg County School District Annex Cafeteria
- **Week of the Young Child Conference** - Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM at the Williamsburg County School District Annex
- **Kids Jamboree and Taste of the Pee Dee** - Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 12 noon to 2:00 PM at the Williamsburg County School District Annex

**Support Williamsburg First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!**

## Parent-Child Home Program Field Trip to Ripley's Aquarium

Parent-Child Home Program

Williamsburg County First Steps in collaboration with Williamsburg County School District Parent-Child Home Program traveled to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to Ripley's Aquarium on Friday, May 12, 2017. Over seventy parents, children, and staff visited the aquarium to explore a collection of delicate undersea life which provided a one-of-a-kind experience for all animal lovers.

Parents and children were given the opportunity to see live sea animals up close. Students experienced the thrill of holding and touching horseshoe crabs and jellyfishes at the Discovery Center, an interactive, multimedia playground and educational center that fascinated the children and adults within our group. Students and parents had the opportunity to touch various animals throughout the visit.

Students found themselves immersed in a watery world of sharks, rays, colorful tropical fish, and incredible hands-on learning experiences. Floor Educators brought the Aquarium to life for all our children, entertaining and educating them with fascinating stories of the undersea world. Educators also amazed our students using movement, where they demonstrated how different underwater animals make their way through the ocean. Students were also taught how animals live in water and the different types of food sea animals eat. Through different activities, students also learned how various marine animals use their senses to explore the idea of touch, sight, smell, taste and sounds. Students discovered the characteristics of a habitat while exploring the sights and inhabitants of the Deep Sea, Coral Reef and Tropical Rainforest. Students, parents, home visitors, and other staff members also had the opportunity to share a delicious and nutritious lunch at a local McDonald's. The entire day was full with enough fun, excitement, and memories to last a lifetime!



Parents, children, and staff members enjoyed the thousands of sea animals and countless activities while visiting Ripley's Aquarium in Myrtle Beach, SC.

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

## 2017 Week of the Young Child Celebrated in Williamsburg County

### Child Care Training and Professional Development

More than forty child care providers throughout Williamsburg and surrounding counties attended the 2017 Week of the Young Child Conference held at Williamsburg County School District Annex on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The Week of the Young Child was held from Sunday, April 23 to Saturday, April 29, 2017. As part of the national Week of the Young Child celebrated across the country, Williamsburg County honored young children and all those who made a difference in children's lives.

"All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life, and Williamsburg County has a great opportunity to do our part to help young children," said Ophelia McClary Starks, Boar Chair. "Week of the Young Child™ was a time for Williamsburg County to recognize that Early Years are Learning Years® for all young children."

During the week of April 23-29, 2017, Williamsburg County First Steps in collaboration with Williamsburg County School District, Department of Social Services, Williamsburg County Library, and Williamsburg Technical College hosted several events. The first day was Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pass the Pan. Local churches were asked to collect a donation to sponsor children to receive the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books. The second day was on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Awards and Recognition Banquet and Opening Session of Mini Conference. The final day was on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Kids Jamboree, continuation of the Mini Conference, and Taste of the Pee Dee held at Williamsburg County School District Annex Cafeteria.



Patricia Lewis conducted several training sessions during the Week of the Young Child Conference.



Carletta Isreal, Senior Consultant of SC First Steps, was the Keynote Speaker for the Week of the Young Child Conference.





# First Steps Partnership Board

## Board Continued to Serve Children and Families through Innovative Programs

Williamsburg County First Steps Board Members continues to advocate for children and garnering the support needed to assist families in getting their children ready for school. The board has continued to implement the Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library (DPIL), Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) Program and Child Care Training. The board has partnered with Williamsburg County School District (WCSD) to ensure children are engaging in literacy experiences prior to entering the K-12 school system through the PCHP. As well as sponsoring more than 60 children to receive books through the DPIL along with community partners. Building relationships and understanding the expectations of kindergarten has fostered the board’s energy to work diligently with WCSD to implement the CTK Program in schools where the district saw children with the most need before the first day of kindergarten. Evidence-based “best practices” in early childhood education is critical in children’s child growth and development for school readiness. The board understands the importance of providing certified training in the county to support and develop the skills of the most important early childhood professional, our child care providers. It is through this level of understanding and advocacy that WCFS Board Members are committed and dedicated to ensuring each and every child in Williamsburg County is ready for school.

## Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

Name	Position	Board Category
Ophelia McClary Starks, Chair	South Carolina First Steps	Non-Profit Organization
Ernest J. Jarrett, Vice Chair	Jenkinson, Jarrett & Kellahan, P.A.	Legislative Appointee
Kimberly Matthews, Treasurer	Williamsburg County Library	Legislative Mandated Member
La-Dine’ Williams Gamble, Parliamentarian	Williamsburg County School District	Legislative Appointee
Dr. Doretha M. Cooper, Chaplain	Retired Educator	Faith Community
Eric T. Williams, Secretary	Williamsburg County Disabilities & Special Needs Board	Non-Profit Organization
Joe Castle, Jr.	Retired SCDJJ	Family Education, Training and Support Provider
Adrian D. Dukes	Law Office of Ronnie A. Sabb, LLC.	Business Community
Angela B. Fulton	Retired Educator	Pre K/ Primary Educator
Ella Fulton	Lane Head Start	Childcare/Early Childhood Development
Dr. Janice M. Gamble	Retired Educator	Legislative Appointee
Janice P. Gamble	Hope Health Care	Healthcare Provider
Vastine S. Graham	Waccamaw Center for Mental Health	Healthcare Provider
Janie McCrea	Wells Fargo Bank	Business Community
Keisha L. McDonald	Self-Employed	Childcare/Early Childhood Development
Gwendolyn McFadden	Wilson’s Daycare	Childcare/Early Childhood Development
Josa Epps McIntosh	Unemployed	Faith Community
Nathaniel Myers, Jr. *	Williamsburg County Department on Alcohol and Drug Abuse	Legislative Appointee
Aisha Singletary	Department of Health and Environment Control (DHEC)	Legislative Mandated Member
Jeff Singleton	Williamsburg County EMD	Local Government
Wilhelmina Whitfield	Lane Head Start, Director	Legislative Mandated Member
Ernestine Young	Williamsburg County School District	Legislative Mandated Member
*Deceased Member		

## 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](http://ican.sc)

Like us on Facebook: [icansc](https://www.facebook.com/icansc)