



GEORGETOWN COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.

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 GEORGETOWN COUNTY:

2,787

children under age 5

56.7%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

50%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

Georgetown County First Steps mission is to ensure that all child in Georgetown County should be prepared for school and school success. They should arrive to school healthy, happy and ready to learn.

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

906

number of children and adults served by Georgetown 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



Ayesha A. Smith, B.S, M.S.
Executive Director
Georgetown County First Steps

Georgetown County First Steps (GCFS) serves as an early childhood community portal to support children, families, and other community agencies in getting children ready for school. It is the mission of GCFS to provide programs and services to all young children to have equal access to developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood education. GCFS staff and board members work diligently to educate early childhood practitioners and the community on understanding the unique learning styles of each individual child to be successful.

Georgetown County First Steps will continue to provide comprehensive early childhood programs focusing on the child's holistic needs in the classroom as well as in the homes. While supporting children in the classrooms, GCFS will continue to offer parenting programs to enlighten parents on the importance of their roles in their child's education.

GCFS in collaboration with all key stakeholders will continue to work together for all children to be successful and ready for school.

OUR GOALS

The goals of GCFS are:

- Serve as a local portal connecting families of preschool children to community-based services to ensure the school readiness for children.
- Increase comprehensive services to children while providing and promoting high-quality preschool programs to provide healthy learning environment.
- Serve as a community liaison to address the needs of children, families, and providers, while supporting state level school readiness.

GCFS has been wonderful in assisting directors, the children we serve, and their families in the county.

Lunda Greene, Owner of Small Minds of Tomorrow I & II

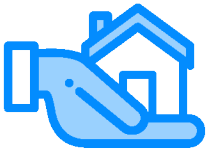


PARENTS AS TEACHERS



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 ABC COUNTY 2018-2019

12

families served

24

total home visits

Briefly describe other evidence of program effectiveness and/or client satisfaction here.



Parents as Teachers



CHILD CARE TRAINING



an evidence-based 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:

Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

Health and Safety in the Childcare Classroom

Behavior Management for Preschool Children

Promoting the well-Being of Child Care Providers

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

34

total training attendance

26

child care teachers and
directors served

4

number of training
sessions offered

Local childcare trainings are a life saver for providers in this areas due to the distance of various conference in the state.

Geannie Britton, Director of Noah Academy



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

For many families in Georgetown County, the cost of quality child care is out of reach. Our scholarship program makes payments to child care providers to care for children 3 years of age, leaving from Early Head Start and low-income families so their parents can return to school or work. This is our 3K pilot program housed in GCSD elementary schools.

Georgetown County First Steps offers scholarships to families enrolled in our Parents As Teachers program, as well as income-eligible children whose parent attends school or works.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

28

number of children
served

3

number of providers
served

28

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 Georgetown 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.



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

FIRST STEPS 4K IN ABC COUNTY 2018-2019

72

children enrolled

7

participating classrooms

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

GCFS participates in community education program and public awareness campaigns listed below:

Palmetto Giving Day

Trick or Treat Halloween Awareness(Special Needs Children)

Georgetown County Annual Meeting/ Christmas Party 2018-2019

500

materials
distributed

2

events held

200

total event
attendance





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are arrangements where parties agree to advance their mutual interest while achieving a mission or amplifying their reach. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Georgetown County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Georgetown 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

9

Convener
Meetings

2

Community
Events





OUR 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

Esther Bynum Sharp-4,000

Carolyn Ellis

Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church-\$500.00

The Francis P. Bunnelle Foundation-\$15,000

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Georgetown School District
Dr. Randy Dozier, Superintendent of GCSD

Fredrick Cohens, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Principals-Mack Burgess and Sabrina Goff- Mark

The Early Learning Council of Georgetown County

JOIN US

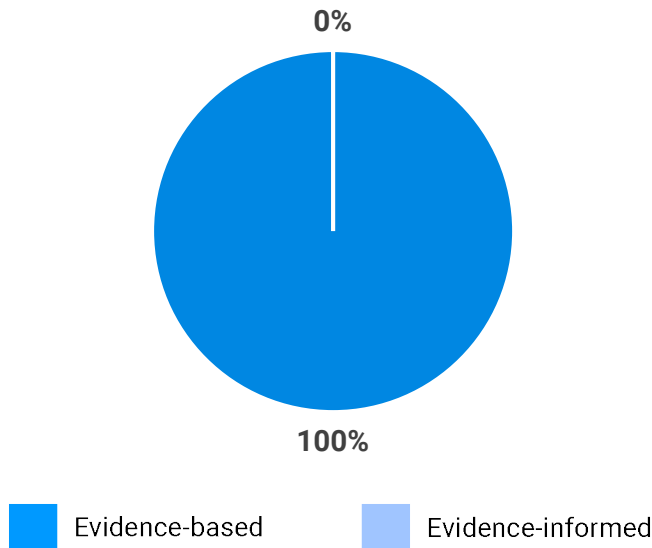
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at
georgetowncountyfirststeps.org



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Georgetown County First Steps has leveraged **\$3,503,374** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.65** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$52,007	\$	\$1,360	\$32,196.52	\$85,564
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$	\$1,089	\$	\$1,089	\$
Child Care Training	\$31,011	\$	\$	\$2000	\$33,011
Child Care Training	\$25,285	\$	\$	\$	\$25,285
Child Care Scholarships	\$56,405	\$9,565	\$392	\$55,472	\$121,833
Early Head Start	\$	\$6,798	\$	\$	\$6,798
Partnerships & Community Education	\$10,205	\$	\$	\$	\$10,205
Administrative Support	\$12,581	\$	\$1,097	\$87,668.04	\$13,678
Total Expenses	\$156,483	17,452	\$2,849	\$87,668	\$264,451



LEADERSHIP

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STAFF

De'Shaud Cox, Executive Assistant

Harolyn Addison, Parent Educator/ Literacy Coach

Ayesha A. Smith, Executive Director

CONTACT US

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