



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 NEWBERRY COUNTY:

2,303

children under age 5

71.3%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

67%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

Newberry County First Steps Fosters Nurturing Experiences so that Children will be Successful in School.

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

1989

number of children and adults served by Newberry 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



Sarah Eargle
Executive Director
Newberry County First Steps

“Most brain development is complete well before a child enters kindergarten...Common sense tells us investing in our children early is the right thing to do.” Bill Frist, MD, former US Senator(member, ReadyNation).

Newberry County First Steps (NCFS) Partnership Board and Staff serve Newberry County’s youngest learners and their families through quality early childhood and parenting programs. NCFS serves at-risk children through collaborations and partnerships across Newberry County. NCFS partners with the School District of Newberry County to provide the evidence based, home visitation Parents as Teachers (PAT) program and the summer Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) program. Our PAT program achieved Blue Ribbon status this year – the highest quality rating for a parenting affiliate. The Newberry County Library partners with NCFS to provide an Outreach Librarian who makes twice monthly visits to 3 and 4 year old preschools in Newberry County. Providing early literacy skills is foundational to language development and school readiness. NCFS also works with early childhood educators, providing Child Care Quality Enhancement programs and Child Care staff training. NCFS will continue to work at filling gaps in our community by providing quality programs and services. A special thank you for all the collaboration and support from our staff, board, participants, community partners, and donors. “It takes a village”.

Sarah Eargle

OUR GOALS

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

- Goal 1 Provide access to local resources and services in order to strengthen families and promote development of preschool children.
- Goal 2 Increase comprehensive services by mobilizing communities to enable children to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.
- Goal 3 Promote high-quality preschool programs.

“ A healthy start in life is essential for our children. We promote their social, emotional, and physical well being by giving them the essential tools of nurturing and support for their educational growth early in their development. Our goal is to promote success at home and in the classroom. ”

Clyde E. Hill, Board Chair

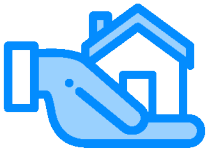


PARENTS AS TEACHERS



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



Parent Educator working with a family.

PAT IN NEWBERRY COUNTY 2018-2019

23

families served

361

total home visits

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.



Parents as Teachers.
Model Affiliate



COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-informed program

Developed by South Carolina First Steps – and identified as a promising state practice by the National Governor’s Association in 2005 – Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a home visitation program pairing the families of rising kindergartners with their future teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, establishing strong connections during the summer that facilitate classroom learning throughout the year.

CTK BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

8

kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

53

children served

297

total home and school
visits



Mrs. Carter and her CTK students enjoying their final visit together in what will be the children’s kindergarten classroom.





CHILD CARE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT



an evidence-based program

Many private child care centers strive to provide high quality care but lack the resources often available to publicly-funded early childhood programs. Our Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) program aims to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children.

Our services include:



Rigorous quality assessments



On-site technical assistance at least twice monthly



Funding for equipment and materials



Training and workforce development



Coordination with community partners

QE BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

2

child care providers served

57

number of TA visits provided

130

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms

Quality early education “builds essential skills in young children that have significant, beneficial short-and long-term effects on education, health, social behavior and lifetime employment and income.”

James Heckman, The Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago



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:

- **Systems Management Approach to Ensure Program Safety**
- **You Are What you Eat**
- **Blood Borne Pathogens**
- **Making the Most of Your \$\$\$**
- **Blending Learning Experiences for Early Classrooms**
- **Creating Routines & Environments that Promote Positive Infant/Toddler Dev.**
- **Everyday Science: Bringing Scientific Wonder Into Your Classroom**
- **Let's Talk About the ABC's of Behavior**
- **Health and Safety 101**
- **Language Development and Young Children**
- **Emotional Development of Young Children**
- **The Optimal Learning Environment**
- **Teaching Assertiveness**
- **Developing friendship skills**
- **S.E.E. to Eliminating Staff Turnover**
- **Can Anything Good Come From Playing with Blocks**
- **Full Swing Into STEAM Activities for Toddlers**
- **Regulations, Regulations, Regulations, What's New?**
- **Staffing 101**

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

353

total training attendance

98

child care teachers and directors served

19

number of training sessions offered



Ms. Susan Kirby leads two Conscious Discipline sessions: "The Optimal Learning Environment" and "Teaching Assertiveness".

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 NEWBERRY COUNTY 2018-2019

28

children enrolled

2

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.





LIBRARY BASED PROGRAM



an evidence-informed program

“More than 1 in 3 American children enter Kindergarten without the skills they need to learn to read” (American Academy of Pediatrics).

Our Library-Based Program is designed to provide literacy activities for 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in preschool programs in Newberry County. Each class receives twice a month visits by the Outreach Librarian. Children receive a book each month to add to their own personal library and books are given to each classroom library. Reading, rhyming, singing, and talking influence literacy and language development, the foundations for all other learning. Children introduced to reading early on tend to read earlier and excel in school compared to children who are not exposed to language and books at a young age (American Academy of Pediatrics).

LIBRARY BASED PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

20

Providers/Schools
served

43

Classrooms

580

children served

5427

Books Distributed



Edith Bedenbaugh, Outreach Librarian, reads to a preschool class at Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center.



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

1560

Books Given

614

Children Served



One of Newberry County First Steps' projects provided "Let's Get Ready" bags to 490 children registering for public 4K and Kindergarten.





OUR SUPPORTERS

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

SC First Steps Early Childhood Innovation Grant: \$13,415

Center for Child Care Career Development Training Grant: \$2,000

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer: \$14,712

Friends of the Newberry County Library: \$1,500

Midlands Gives: \$1,342

Other Donations: \$213

IN-KIND SUPPORT

School District of Newberry County

Newberry County Library

SCECA District IV

USC/CCR&R

First Baptist Newberry

JOIN US

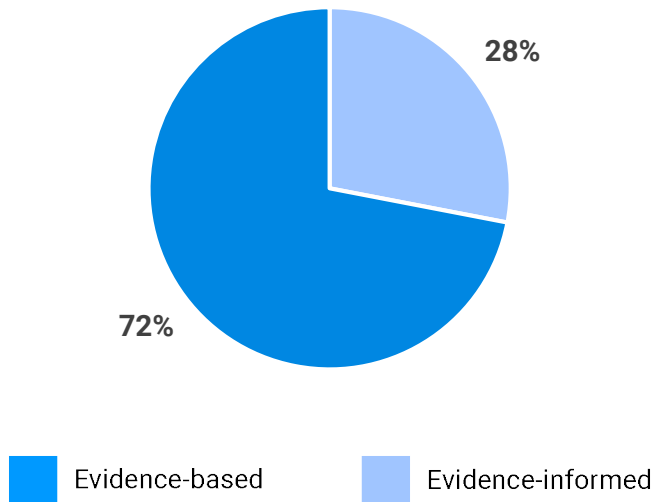
For more information on partnership opportunities, email seargle@Newberry.k12.sc.us, call 803-321-1073 or visit our website at newberryfirststeps.com



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Newberry County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,255,911** from sources outside of state government.

That's **36 cents** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$84,365	\$	\$8.00	\$23,742	\$108,115
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$25,949	\$	\$8.00	\$734	\$26,691
Child Care Training	\$16,889	\$1,285	\$491	\$878	\$19,543
Library Based Program	\$21,065	\$	\$2,100	\$23,133	\$46,298
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$28,472	\$1,338	\$13	\$8,887	\$38,710
Partnerships & Community Education	\$20,578	\$3,398	\$5426.43	\$1800	\$31,202
Administrative Support	\$22,257	\$	\$176	\$1458	\$23,891
Total Expenses	\$219,575	\$6,021	\$8,223	\$60,632	\$294,450



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Crystal Heyward, Treasurer	Rev. Jonny Mack Scurry
Alison Bowers	Mamie Shippy
Beth Brooks	Keith Suber
KyShon Dewalt	Patricia Turner
Laurie Donahou	Wanda Woodruff
Stacy Farr	T. Sam Ziady

STAFF

Sarah Eargle, Executive Director
Katie Nichols, Program Coordinator
Edith, Bedenbaugh, Outreach Librarian

CONTACT US

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