



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 YORK COUNTY:

16,680

children under age 5

36.3%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

54.4%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

To assist at risk children, birth to six and their families by supporting collaborative efforts to ensure all children are prepared to succeed 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

7593

number of children and adults served by York 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.

929 Sylvia Circle, Rock Hill, SC 29731 | 803-981-5780 | www.YCFirstSteps.com

Data provided by:



Celebrating 20 Years of York County First Steps

First Steps celebrates 20 years of service in the communities we represent in 2019. This is significant for York County First Steps in a number of ways as we wrap up 2019 and look toward 2020.

- We made a significant step in 2019 to expand our Nurse-Family Partnership Program with the addition of two Home Visitation Nurses. This program is foundational in our efforts to reach our at risk families as early as possible in the development of the child.
- We continue to work with our Child Care Partners and School Districts to profile all the 4K options available in York County. We plan to develop a Parent Guide to help parents of rising 4K children in determining the best option for their family.
- We continue to elevate the technical support and training options for our Child Care Partners. Child Care Providers are an integral part of our early childhood educational system as more children experience their first classroom setting in a child care center.

We sincerely appreciate the collaboration of our partners and sister organizations as we look forward to their continued support in serving the families of York County.

David W. Lisk, Sr.

Executive Director
York County First Steps

OUR GOALS

We continue to make progress on our Strategic Comprehensive Goals to drive our continuous improvement objectives.

- **Goal 1** Coordinate efforts to profile all 4K Programs offered in York County and provide parents and 4K Providers the coordination and tools to reach more children by casting a wider net within the County.
- **Goal 2** Transition from current Quality Enhancement Program to Quality Counts with our Child Care Partners.
- **Goal 3** Continue to expand our Nurse-Family Partnership Program to reach more at risk first time mothers and their children.



Board member and staff engagement are critical to any successful organization. York County First Steps is blessed with both, board members who want to provide effective interventions with the families we serve and staff dedicated to making a difference in the communities where our families live. We will continue to collaborate with our partners and seek out children and families who need assistance to make our community's future brighter for all.



NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP



an evidence-based program

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with their clients, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

71

children served

917

number of home
visits provided



“

- The experience with the program was amazing
- I've learned everything about being a mother...to teaching my son how to be more independent.
- ...taught me everything I needed to know to be the best mommy I can be.

C.D., NFP Graduate Mother

”

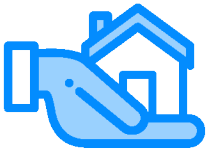


PARENTS AS TEACHERS



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 YORK COUNTY 2018-2019

48

families served

990

total home visits

Our PAT Partners offered over 100 Group Meetings this past year with total attendance of 1625.



Parents as Teachers



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

10

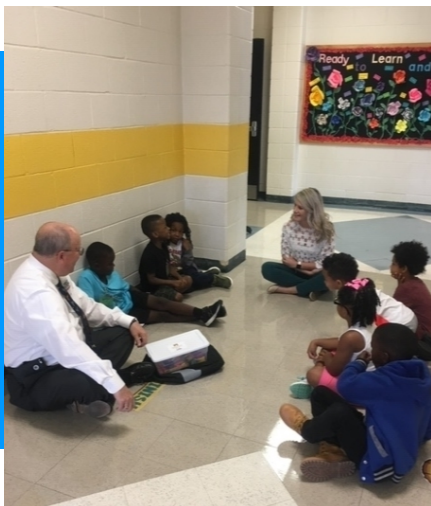
kindergarten teachers
trained as home visitors

84

children served

491

total home and school
visits



This year our Board of Directors decided to provide each CTK Student with an Art Kit of supplies to have at home in addition to needed school supplies. Supplies were being sent to school for school activities and many of our children did not have basic markers, crayons, scissors, and construction paper for artistic expressions when they were at home. We provided an Art Kit full of tools and ideas for parents to channel their budding artist to showcase their talents.

Delivering Art Kits to CTK Students





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

6

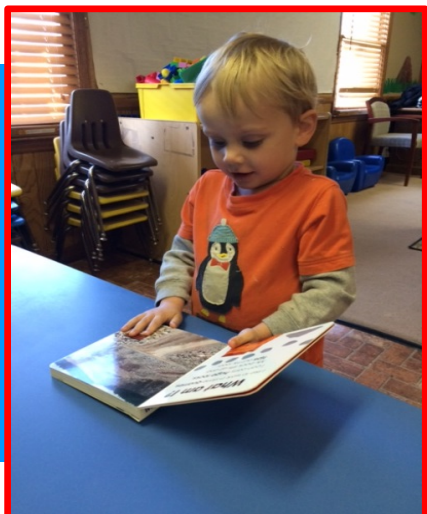
child care providers served

120

number of TA visits provided

285

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms



There are roughly 150 child care centers in York County of various shapes and sizes, all trying to help preschool children prepare for success when they enter school. The childcare professionals who serve our children each day want to provide the most nurturing and educationally stimulating environment possible. York County First Steps helps elevate the quality, training, and resources available at the centers we serve so our children can thrive.



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:

Handling Conflict in the Classroom

Successful Social and Emotional Development

Professionalism in the Early Childhood Field

Working with Parents: Partnerships or Hardships

Being a Professional: No Matter What Happens

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

451

total training attendance

211

child care teachers and
directors served

17

number of training
sessions offered



York County First Steps hosts an Annual Early Childhood Conference for child care professionals. We provide a dual track of sessions offering classroom skills and resources as well as updates on the latest early childhood topics such as Adverse Childhood Experiences and the impact of poverty on early brain development. Our key goal is to help celebrate the choice our participants have made to serve young children in their educational journey and help them renew their passion that learning with young children can be fun and exciting.



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

Our Child Care Scholarships are dedicated to assist teenage mothers that are still in school working to complete their high school diploma. There are several risk factors present for the unborn child: teenage mother, parent without a high school degree, and in many cases, poor job prospects leading to poverty. By combining either Parents as Teachers or Nurse Family Partnership, both of which are evidenced based programs, we are able to help the teen mother strike the balance between being a new mother and being a successful student. The completion of their degree removes one of the risk factors for their child and helps provide a foundation for positive job prospects. We provide child care scholarships for the teenage mothers to a high quality child care setting as they continue to attend their school classes. We have been able to either graduate or retain our families at a rate of 80% or greater since the inception of the program.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

6

number of children
served

4

number of providers
served

6

number of
developmental
screenings provided

100% the money paid to child care providers goes back into our local economy to benefit the citizens of York County. Our child care providers help extend our reach by providing discounts to YCFS and each mother pays a small percentage as part of their commitment to the program.

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 YORK COUNTY 2018-2019

34

children enrolled

3

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.





COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to young children and their families and support for child care providers, York County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in York 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

1282

Preschool
Children Directly
Served

106

Community
Meetings to
Emphasize Early
Childhood



Early Childhood Issues intersect with many of the hottest topics today. Successfully obtaining an education is a key to self sufficiency. Early healthy brain development has a life long impact on our ability to navigate as a child and as an adult. Being a part of the community as it discusses and prioritizes current and future investments helps York County better serve the needs of our young children. In 2020, we plan to continue our efforts to be the resident expert in early childhood interventions for York.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, York County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families. We sincerely thank our partners for their financial support and confidence in our ability to serve our community.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Children's Trust (MIECHV): \$84,458

National Service Office of NFP: \$107,116

Sisters of Mercy NC Foundation: \$50,000

Springs Close Foundation: \$14,700

York School District #1: \$3,943

Clover School District #2: 13,289

Rock Hill School District #3: \$23,000

CCCC&D: \$2,000

IN-KIND SUPPORT

York School District #1

Clover School District #2

Rock Hill School District #3

JOIN US

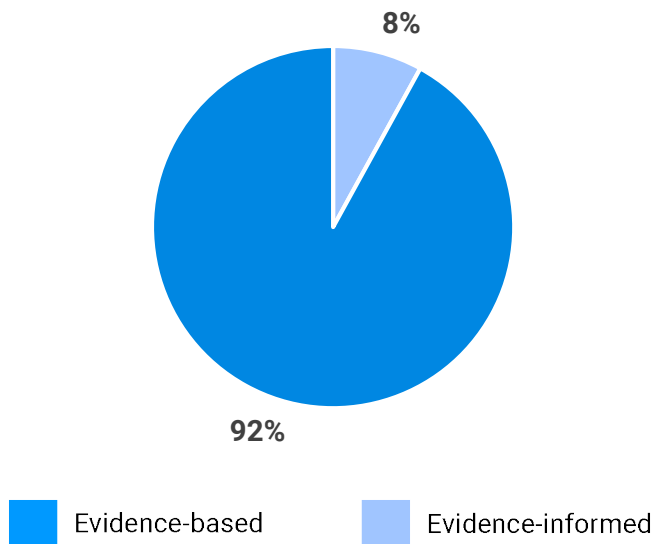
We welcome your support and encourage you to join us in our efforts to serve our youngest learners. To become an active participant, visit our website at www.YCFirstSteps.com for more information.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, York County First Steps has leveraged **\$5,529,202** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.67** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers/Scholarships	\$148,177	\$	\$480	\$	\$148,657
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$83,621	\$	\$2,001	\$	\$85,622
Child Care Training	\$39,901	\$	\$13,851	\$	\$53,752
Nurse Family Partnership	\$135,259	\$	\$295,658	\$	\$430,756
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$41,540	\$4,960	\$22,126	\$	\$68,627
Early Head Start	\$	\$4,270	\$	\$	\$4,270
Partnerships & Community Education	\$26,611	\$	\$	\$	\$26,611
Administrative Support	\$2,930	\$25,770	\$302	\$	\$29,002
Total Expenses	\$478,038	\$35,000	\$334,418	\$	\$847,456



LEADERSHIP

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YORK COUNTY FIRST STEPS STAFF

David Lisk, Executive Director

Tricia Sutphin, NFP Home Visitation Nurse

Susan Hagood, Program Administrator

Karmen Barrett, NFP Home Visitation Nurse

Susan Robinson, Early Learning Specialist

Elizabeth Forbes, NFP Home Visitation Nurse

Julie Toppen, Nurse Family Partnership Manager

Nancy Cannada, NFP Home Visitation Nurse

CONTACT US

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