

COLLETON COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

Parent Training

# Annual Report

2017-18



## OUR VISION:

Every child in Colleton County will be prepared for success in school.

<https://scfirststeps.com>

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# Director's Message

## Colleton County First Steps

Colleton County First Steps' staff and entire partnership board work through-out our county with non-profits, faith based organizations, businesses, and government organizations to implement programs for children pre-natal to 5 years old. One of our outreach programs is books that have been provided to all collaborating organizations by our partnership. Another of our outreach programs is the Fill the Stocking Project. We served 500 children and 243 families this year. This program has become a community project with the help of individuals, civic organizations, and businesses. Our board is always looking at the needs of families in our community. As a small rural community, our families do not always have the needs and resources available to them that larger metropolitan areas may offer, but our board and staff work diligently to streamline services with other agencies to meet the needs of all of our families.



Through partnerships, volunteers, and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Colleton County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services in Colleton County to children and their families. Without the in-kind support we receive, Colleton County First Steps would not be so successful. We want to thank the Colleton County School District, the SC Department of Social Services, Bethel Presbyterian Church, the Colleton County Board of Disabilities, Coastal Electric Cooperative, the Colleton Baptist Association, and Colleton County Adult Education just to name a few of our fantastic partners. We also want to thank our parents and children who allow us to work with them and serve them!

Our partnership board is always looking at ways to expand our services. We hope that over the course of the next three years, that we will be able to expand our Parents as Teachers Program to better serve our at risk families in our community.

*Cindy S. Riley*

**Executive Director**

## OUR MISSION:





**Collaborating with other entities, Colleton County First Steps helps families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance, and expand high quality early childhood services.**

**Find Colleton County First Steps:**



## THE NEED

School readiness **depends on the capacity of caregivers** to provide children with consistent, nurturing, and responsive relationships in safe, stimulating learning environments, **continuously**, starting at birth. Unfortunately, these quality early childhood experiences happen for too few children in Colleton County.

How Colleton County's children doing?	What early learning programs are available for children in our county? Last year:	Where can families access child care in our county?
<b>2,255</b> are under age 5	<b>Not Available</b> attended Early Head Start as infants and toddlers	<b>12</b> licensed child care centers
<b>38.7%</b> live in poverty	<b>135</b> attended free preschool or Head Start as 3-year-olds	<b>15</b> licensed group/family homes
<b>20.2%</b> of babies born in 2016 were to moms without a HS diploma	<b>77</b> 4-year-olds attended free full-day public school 4K or Head Start	<b>48%</b> participate in the state's Quality Rating System (ABC Quality)
<b>48.9%</b> of all children live in single parent families	<b>32</b> 0-5 year olds received early intervention or special ed.	<b>8</b> providers are rated B or higher by <b>ABC Quality</b>
<b>30.6%</b> of last year's kindergartners demonstrated readiness	<b>Not Available</b> were served by 	<b>142</b> families received assistance with affording child care last year
Kids Count data provided by: 	Data provided by: 	

## THE GOALS

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

1. Colleton County First Steps will serve as the local portal connecting families of preschool children to community based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children.
2. Colleton County First Steps staff and partnership board will document efforts to mobilize community early childhood agencies/organizations to enhance services to support high risk families and their children.
3. Colleton County First Steps will work with community partners to enhance and secure additional resources for school readiness strategies.

## THE IMPACT

In 2017-18, Colleton County First Steps provided:

- ✓ **39 children and 146 adults** with **intensive support** to equip parents and caregivers with the confidence and competence to be a child's first and best teacher, and strengthen their family's health, economic, and overall well-being through our Parents as Teachers Program.
- ✓ **221 staff** working in 30 child care providers, Head Start centers and preschool classrooms with training, technical assistance, resources and support, **helping them better meet the needs of 435 children ages 0-5 in their care.**
- ✓ financial assistance to help **22 children 0-5 attend quality child care** so their parents can work or attend school.
- ✓ **6,936 books** to **spark the love of reading** for 4,309 **children** through Parents as Teachers, community partners and events
- ✓ a total of **4,744 children and 980 adults** were impacted by Colleton County First Steps programs, resources, activities and events.

# School Readiness Outcomes

## What is the KRA?

In 2017-18, kindergartners across the state were given for the first time South Carolina's newest assessment of school readiness: the **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment**, or KRA. The KRA provides a snapshot of students' abilities at the beginning of the school year, in four domains: Social Foundations, Language and Literacy, Mathematics, and Physical Development and Well-Being. Here are the results locally and for the state:

COLLETON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (408 children)			
Domain	E m e r g i n g	A p p r o a c h i n g	D e m o n s t r a t i n g
Social Foundations	33%	30%	37%
Language&Literacy	19%	46%	35%
Mathematics	34%	40%	26%
Physical Dev&WB	33%	30%	37%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>31%</b>

SOUTH CAROLINA (54,927 children)			
Domain	E m e r g i n g	A p p r o a c h i n g	D e m o n s t r a t i n g
Social Foundations	28%	27%	45%
Language&Literacy	23%	43%	34%
Mathematics	31%	38%	31%
Physical Dev&WB	28%	24%	48%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>

- 1. Language and Literacy:** reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- 2. Mathematics:** counting, comparison, and sorting
- 3. Physical Well-Being & Motor Development:** dexterity, muscular coordination, and balance
- 4. Social Foundations:** following rules, asking for help, task persistence and other skills necessary to function within the kindergarten classroom

**Demonstrating Readiness:** student demonstrates foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards.

**Approaching Readiness:** student demonstrates some foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

**Emerging Readiness:** student demonstrates limited foundational skills and behaviors that prepare him/her for instruction based on kindergarten standards

## What is Colleton County First Steps doing to improve KRA results?

Colleton County First Steps is working diligently to serve all of the families in need in Colleton County. Our Parents as Teachers Program expanded during 2017-2018 to serve 24 families. We will continue to offer training for day care centers and pre-K staff in order to ensure quality early care and education for our children and their families.



**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

**Colleton County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:**

72% ...children live in single parent families  
66% ...parents didn't graduate from high school  
100% ...children receiving SNAP



Edith Bright-Washington and Susan Martin, our parent educators, lead our children in a fun dance activity!

### Staff:

*Edith Bright-Washington, Parent Educator*

*Susan Martin, Parent Educator*

*Lesley Utsey, Parent Educator*

## PAT by the Numbers 2017-18

Families Served	24	
Children Served	39	
Total Home Visits	511	
Hours Spent Serving Families	568	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	2.07	2.48

## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

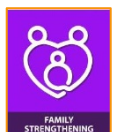
- ✓ Averaged 2.11 home visits per family per month
- ✓ Identified and addressed 42 potential developmental delays, and made 28 connections for families to services such as child care, Head Start, Head Start, BabyNet, Special Needs, and interventionists
- ✓ Improved parenting practices include over 54% of our parents are attending school and seeking high school and/or college diplomas
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by making 511 home visits and distributing 994 books to our children and their families

## Thank you to our PAT partners!

Colleton County School District	Belk Charity Events
Colleton County Adult Education	Coastal Kids Dentistry
Walterboro Police and Fire Department	Molina Health Care
Colleton County Memorial Library	Dr. Harold Rhodes

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Parents as Teachers meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



# 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.

All child care and early childhood staff who attend training receive books and other classroom materials to use in their classrooms. Our participants gave us an excellent rating of 98% for our trainings.

### Training Sponsored by Colleton County First Steps, 2017-18

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
Curriculum	13
Growth and Development	8
Program Administration	5
Health and Safety	3
Program Administration	5
Child Guidance	1
Professional Development	13

### Training by the Numbers, 2017-18

Total Training Attendance	261
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	221
Number of Training Sessions Offered	46



Santa paid us a visit during our December Group Connections Meeting!

### This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 221 early childhood staff with high quality training impacting 30 providers and 435 children
- ✓ 71 hours of certified training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 79 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

### Thank you to our Training partners!

Coastal Community Foundation – The Beaufort Fund  
Child Care Resource & Referral  
Child Care Center for Career Development  
Coastal Electric Cooperative

### Evidence of Effectiveness:

Child Care Training and Professional Development meets the First Steps legislation's definition of an **evidence-based** program.



# Child Care Scholarships

**Too many families in Colleton County cannot afford quality care for their children.**

## Program Description

Access to quality child care is essential for children while away from their primary caregivers. Yet, of those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive it due to lack of funds. In the absence of nurturing and consistently available family, friends or neighbors, parents are faced with few - or no - affordable care options.

**Colleton County First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our scholarship families:**

- 100% ... receive SNAP
- 59% ... single parent households
- 41% ... were teen parents
- 64% ... had developmental delays

In addition to regular monitoring of child care providers that receive First Steps scholarships, First Steps conducts at least one developmental screening each year with scholarship children and connects families to needed services within the community.

Our scholarships are integrated with our Parents as Teachers program. Our families must be in our program for a period of three months before they are eligible to apply for a scholarship. We partner with the Department of Social Services and this agency makes the qualification determination and administers the funds to the day care facilities.

Our childcare scholarships offer parents the opportunity to return to school and complete their degrees as well as the peace of mind that their children are attending a quality day care facility.



Our children participated in a Fall Festival and got to meet our local firemen and police officers!

## Scholarships by the Numbers, 2017-18

Children Served	22
Providers Served	6

## This year, our Scholarship program:

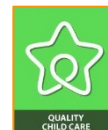
- ✓ Provided 22 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 42 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ Made 100% connections for families to services such as Parents as Teachers Program
- ✓ Supported 6 small businesses in Colleton County by subsidizing child care tuition for families who would not otherwise be able to afford quality care
- ✓ Provided 34 hours of training for scholarship parents in topics such as Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Dental Care, Higher Education, and Health and Safety.

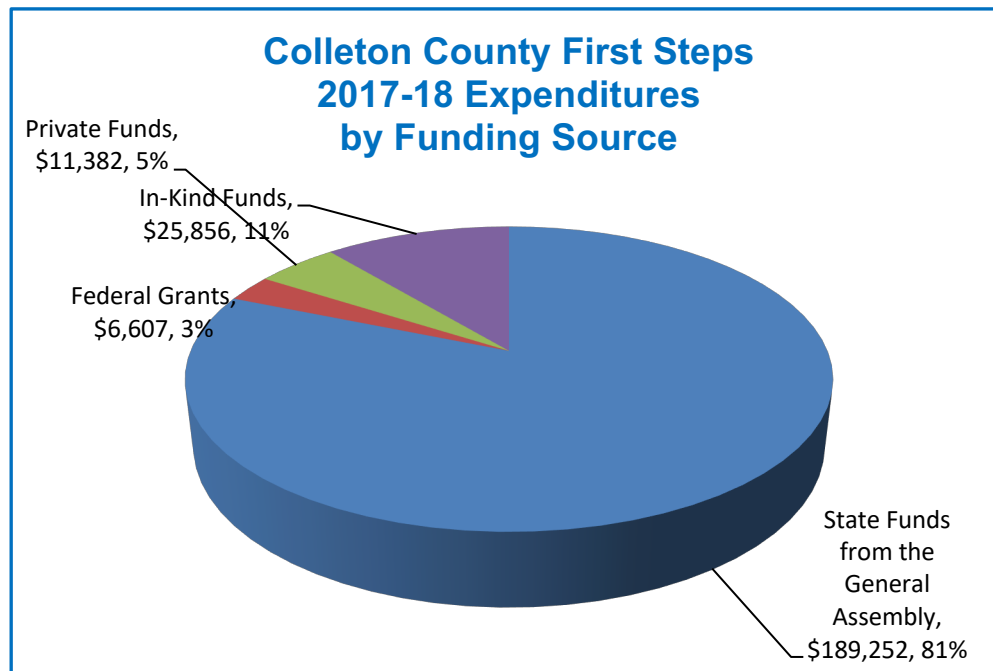
## Thank you to our Scholarship partners!

SC Department of Social Services  
ABC Quality Child Care  
Child Care Resource and Referrals  
Colleton Medical Center – Safe Kids

## Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our partnership's Child Care Scholarship strategy is considered **evidence-based** because it is connected to the following evidence-based programs:  
Parents as Teachers





**Total 2017-18 Expenditures: \$233,097**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2017-18\*: 23%**

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

## 2017-18 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2017-18 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$90,749	\$0	\$1,405	\$6,356	\$98,511	42%
Child Care Training	\$7,989	\$0	\$7,780	\$4,356	\$20,125	9%
Child Care Scholarships	\$38,500	\$0	\$0	\$7,000	\$45,500	20%
Program Support	\$28,452	\$0	\$1,709	\$5,858	\$36,019	15%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$6,219	\$6,607	\$486	\$1,000	\$14,312	6%
Administrative Support	\$17,343	\$0	\$0	\$1,286	\$18,629	8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$189,252</b>	<b>\$6,607</b>	<b>\$11,381</b>	<b>\$25,856</b>	<b>\$233,097</b>	

Since inception, Colleton County First Steps has leveraged \$1,840,416 from sources outside of state government. That's \$.52 cents for every state dollar.



# Thank you supporters!

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

The Beaufort Fund: \$15,000

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

## In-Kind Support

Colleton County School District

ABC Child Care

SC Department of Social Services

Bethel Presbyterian Church



Our children, families, and staff participated in a Pound Class! We had a great time!

## How your support helps children in Colleton County:

- ✓ Volunteer to help a child and their family have a good Christmas by adopting a needy family during the holiday season.
- ✓ Make a donation to allow needy children to have age appropriate books in their home.
- ✓ Make a donation to provide needed materials and supplies for our families in our Parents as Teachers Program.

**HOW TO GIVE:** Colleton County First Steps is an IRS designated 501(c)3 organization. Please make your check payable to Colleton County First Steps, 609 Colleton Loop, Walterboro, SC 29488.

## Save the Date!

Our annual Fill the Stocking Christmas Project will begin in October and run through December 12-13, 2018 when we distribute the gifts to children and families in our community. If you would like to make a donation or adopt a child, please contact Cindy Riley at 843-542-9494 or [criley@scfirststeps.org](mailto:criley@scfirststeps.org).

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

## Books In Every Home

Colleton County First Steps staff and board believe that all children should have books in their home available to them to read or to have someone read to them. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, we distributed over 6,900 books to our families in our PAT program and in the community. We distribute books through private citizens, public and private school classrooms, churches, the local library, department of Social Services, Back to School Bash, childcare trainings, daycare facilities, and any other community event that may request books. If we have available books, we will certainly share them with our community!

## Field Trips for our Families

We decided to use the summer months to take our children and their families out into our community to see some of the services and organizations our community offers. We took a local strawberry farm and learned about their operation. Each child and family picked a bucket of strawberries to take home. We also visited our local farmers market and museum and learned about the history in our county. We also participated in a local exercise class called "Pound." We all learned the benefits of exercise and how to stay healthy. We are proud to say that one of our parents continues to go to Pound class each week because she enjoyed it so much!



*The Colleton County Museum allowed our families to take a field trip and we learned about the history of our County and its resources.*

# First Steps Partnership Board

## Collaboration by Our Board Members

The Colleton County First Steps Board is always willing to step in and help when there is a need in our county. Several years ago, a local nonprofit in our community was eliminated and this organization had been providing gifts for Christmas to some of our most needy children. CCFS board was approached and agreed to take on this very worthwhile project. The board and staff of Colleton County First Steps worked with the entire community during the 2017 holiday season and provided gifts to over 500 children and 243 families. Our board members work with other non-profits such as Friends of the Colleton County Animal Shelter, the local homeless shelter, and other faith based organizations. Ensuring that every child in Colleton County has books in their home is another major project that our board endorses. Colleton county First Steps distributed over 6,500 books in our community last year through our Parents as Teachers program and other community events and organizations.

### Colleton County First Steps Partnership Board, 2017-18

Name	Position	Board Category
LaToya Lynah, Chair	Early Beginnings/Intervention Services	Colleton County Department of Special Needs
Debbie Skoland, Vice Chair	Retired Nurse/Early Childhood Education	Early Childhood Education/Community Volunteer
Susan Dodd, Treasurer	Case Supervisor/ Colleton Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
Ebone Edwards, Secretary	WIC Clinical Team Lead Nutritionist III	DHEC Representative
Carl Coffin	Colleton County Memorial Library Director	Library Representative
Alisha Fender	Nurse	Colleton Medical Center
Senekita Farmer	Family Coordinator	Head Start
Juliette Green	Intervention Specialist	Community Long Term Care
Tangela Green	Parent & Family Engagement/Federal Programs	Federal Programs
Martha Johnson	Retired Counselor	Faith Based
Brenda Hughes	Grant Coordinator	DHEC Representative
Barbara Kulisek	Principal, Black Street Early Childhood Center	Colleton County School District
Jessica F. Williams	Director of Early Childhood/Elementary Education	Colleton County School District
Janice M. Young	Retired Pre K Interventionist/Educator	Early Childhood Education

# What is First Steps?

**At the state level and in every county**, First Steps leverages state funding with other public and private resources to help South Carolina's children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. First Steps programs and services support families as their child's first and most important teacher and are customized to meet the unique needs of local communities, grounded in strong evidence, fueled by stakeholder collaboration, and accountable for results.

## First Steps Goals

- (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.

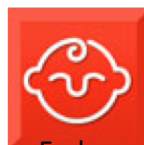
### First Steps Building Blocks of Quality Early Childhood Programs and Services



Healthy  
Start



Family  
Strengthening



Early  
Intervention



Quality  
Child Care



Early  
Education



School  
Transition

From Greenville to Charleston, Abbeville to York, First Steps local partnerships serve as ...

**Local portals** connecting preschool children and families to services

**Conveners** of community stakeholders to address the needs of young children and their families

**Champions** of the importance of school readiness to our children's future.



for South Carolina and to learn about First Steps 4K  
programs in your area:

**scfirststeps.org**

for Colleton County First Steps:  
**scfirststeps.org/colleton/**



[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.

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