

GREENWOOD COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers



Child Care Training



Fatherhood Initiative
"Real Fathers are Dads"



Annual Report

2016-17



OUR VISION:

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

*First Steps WORKS for the children of
GREENWOOD County.*



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	GREENWOOD County
Children Under Five	291,026	4,399
Children In Poverty	24.4%	26.2%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	22.2%	Greenwood 50 -26.1% Greenwood 51 -17.1% Greenwood 52 -18.3%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.0%	19.8%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, GREENWOOD County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,797,602.91** from sources outside state government. **That's \$.43 for every dollar received.**
- **275 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 23 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 65 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- Improved parenting practices through **13 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- **Total Children Served and/or Impacted in FY17:**
 - **PAT – 28**
 - **Child Care Training – 2282**
 - **Fatherhood – 32**

Greenwood County First Steps

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 Greenwood, SC 29649
 Phone: (864) 388-4102
 Fax: (864) 388-4103

Board Chair
 Lark Coleman

GREENWOOD County First Steps
Michael K. Gaskin
 Executive Director

Greenwood County First Steps uses an innovative and creative approach to ensure every dollar received by the County Partnership is used to its maximum potential. Getting children ready to learn is an engagement that requires every agency within this County to understand the importance of being not just stakeholders, but passionate, dedicated, and committed stakeholders. The Greenwood County First Steps Full Partnership Board makes "high quality" the key word to determine why a program should continue to receive First Steps' funding. The service quality of Greenwood County First Steps' programs grew tremendously with the addition of great local and state partnerships. The Department of Social Services, Guardian Ad Litem Programs, and the local court systems are also great partners, to reach the most at risk children in the community and assist with preventing child abuse and neglect. Lander University's Education Department is another great partner. Greenwood and Abbeville County First Steps offer two Early Childhood Conferences a year at Lander University. Professors in the Education Department teach the classes as a part of their community outreach, and students assist as room monitors and with registration. These great partnerships are success stories displaying positive impacts in the communities of both Greenwood and Abbeville Counties. Through these successful partnerships, Greenwood County First Steps offer children and families comprehensive services for school success.

WE MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE BY BECOMING THE DIFFERENCE FOR GREENWOOD COUNTY CHILDREN!



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

Parents as Teachers
 Child Care Training
 Fatherhood Initiative

State Programs



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, GREENWOOD County First Steps focuses its investments in Family Strengthening, and Quality Childcare.

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

"I did not think I could be a great teacher to [for] my child!"

Bannerman

GREENWOOD First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:

91.3% ... live in poverty
13% ... didn't graduate from high school
0% ... were teen parents



PAT by the Numbers 2016-17

Families Served	23	
Children Served	28	
Total Home Visits	269	
Hours Spent Serving Families	274.83	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	3.16	3.68

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2.05 home visits per family, per month.
- ✓ Identified and addressed 8 potential developmental delays, and made 80% connections for families to services such as Hearing, Vision, Employment, BabyNet, Food, Housing, Benefits bank, and Fatherhood services.
- ✓ Enrolled 12 continuous months in the PAT program
- ✓ Unsuccessful visits - 0!

Thank you to our partners!

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lander University | Guardian Ad Litem |
| The Social Change Initiative | Greenwood School District #50 |
| Abbeville County First Steps | SC Family Corps |
| Erskine College | Mental Health America |
| Greenwood County DSS | |

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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.

The Lander University professors are great!
 V. Henry



Spring Early Childhood Conference

**Child Care Training Sponsored by
 GREENWOOD First Steps, 2016-17**

Topic Sessions:

Professional Development	2
Special Needs	2
Curriculum	4
Child Guidance	2
Program Administration	1
Growth and Development	4
CPR/First Aid	2

Training by the Numbers, 2016-17

Total Training Attendance	704
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	181
Number of Training Sessions Offered	25

Greenwood County First Steps has the best Confernces...I will continue attending for years to come!
 V. Durant

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ Provided 181 early childhood staff with high quality training.
- ✓ 2 hours of certified training and 13 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ Served over 65 Centers, which serves over 2,282 children!
- ✓ 98% of the instructors at our Joint County (Greenwood and Abbeville County) annual child care conferences (twice annually) were Lander University Early Childhood Education Professors!

Thank you to our partners!

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Lander University | Mental Health America |
| The Social Change Initiative | Greenwood County DSS |
| Abbeville County First Steps | |
| Erskine College | |

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Fatherhood Initiative

Why is this program important?

85% OF ALL YOUTHS SITTING IN PRISONS GREW UP IN A FATHERLESS HOME!

Program Description

The County Partnerships' Fatherhood Initiative was piloted in FY13 and the program acceptance was extremely promising. More than 15 clients appeared on a monthly basis and 30% still continued to participate after their compliance period was approved. The Fatherhood Initiative's current results and planned results are below. The Protective Factors Survey is utilized on all families to measure the pre and post results on concrete resources, family support, family resiliency, parent knowledge, and child development. In addition, the Parents As Teachers Parent Knowledge Survey is an additional tool utilized to measure parent knowledge for pre and post results. All surveys are administered at the initial meeting and then within 6 months of receiving program services.

1. Improve the receptive vocabulary skills of participating children
2. Enhance engagement in responsive, language experiences among participating parents.
3. Increase father involvement
4. Provide extended services for the Parents-As-Teachers Curriculum
5. Reduce abuse and neglect

GREENWOOD First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our Fatherhood families:

46% ... live in poverty
 8% ... didn't graduate high school
 50% ... single parent home

Thank you to our partners!

- The Social Change Initiative
- Lander University
- Abbeville County First Steps
- Department of Social Services
- Mental Health America
- Guardian ad Litem

This program has taught me how to have a better relationship with my children and how to make better choices and decisions. Thanks
 P. Smrz

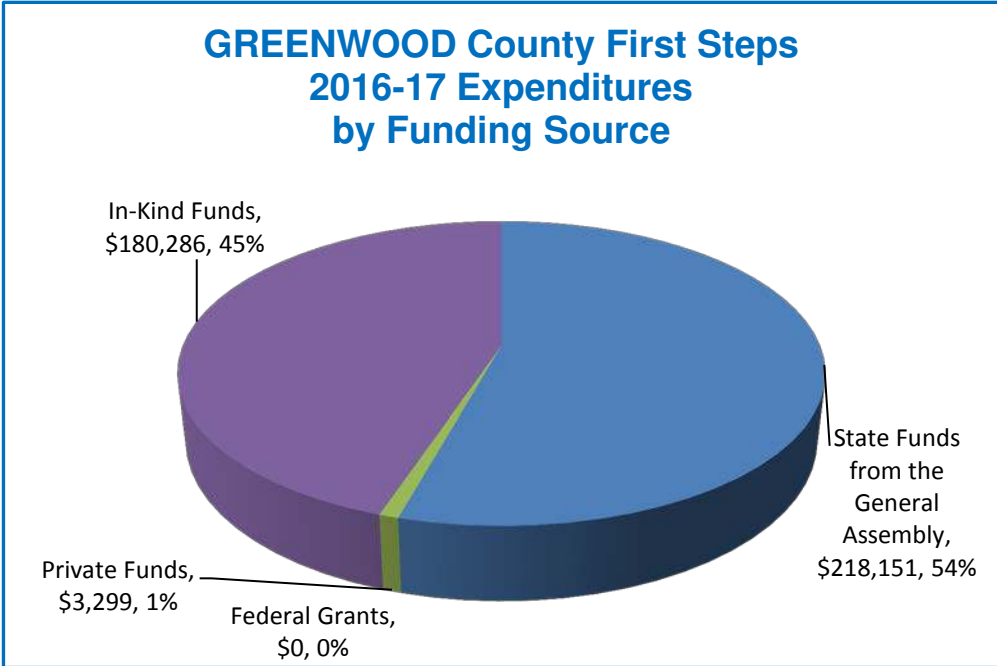
Real Fathers are Dads by the Numbers, 2016-17

Families Served	24
Children Served	32
One-on-One Clients Visits	37
One-on-One Clients Hours	57.35
Total Number of Group Meetings	79
Group Meeting Attendance	534
Total Number of Sessions	116

- This year, our Fatherhood Initiative program:**
- ✓ Made 100% connections for families to services such as adult education, employment, food assistance, housing assistance, utility assistance, and library resources.
 - ✓ Provided over 100 hours of services to families with group and individualized sessions.
 - ✓ Provided nutritious meals to families.
 - ✓ Provided sessions to 100% of families on budget and financial management.
 - ✓ Provided sessions to 100% of Treatment cases referred by the Department of Social Services.

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Financial Impact



Total 2016-17 Expenditures: \$401,736

State Funds Leveraged in 2016-17*: 84%

*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
Parents as Teachers	\$100,546	\$0	\$5	\$47,955	\$148,506	37%
Child Care Training	\$44,579	\$0	\$3,044	\$0	\$47,623	12%
Fatherhood Initiative	\$18,137	\$0	\$0	\$132,331	\$150,468	37%
Program Support	\$27,384	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$27,384	7%
Administrative Support	\$27,505	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$27,755	7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$218,151	\$0	\$3,299	\$180,286	\$401,736	

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

Since inception, GREENWOOD County First Steps has leveraged \$1,307,106 from sources outside of state government. That's 43 cents for every state dollar.

Community Impact

Numbers Served by First Steps in GREENWOOD County: 2016-17

Implementing Agency or Organization	Children Served	Parents/Adult Family Members Served	Early Childhood Staff Who Received Training	Child Care Providers, Head Start Centers, and/or Schools Served	Technical Assistance Visits	Technical Assistance Hours	Group Training Hours
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Programs Funded by GREENWOOD County First Steps:

Parents as Teachers: Parenting/life skills education in the home with families' prenatal-5 years.	GREENWOOD First Steps	28	25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13
Child Care Training: Group training and follow up for local child care and early learning staff.	GREENWOOD First Steps	2282	N/A	181	65	65	65	72
Fatherhood Initiative: Group and individualized workshops	GREENWOOD First Steps	32	31	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	79

NUMBER SERVED BY GREENWOOD FIRST STEPS:	2342	56	181	65	65	65	164.0
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Overcoming Barriers!

Mary Norris has been in our program for over a year. Mary came into the program pregnant with a son, two daughters (ages 2 & 3), and an older son. Mary had a challenging background history and lack of resources. In our first few sessions, we quickly identified a need for monetary resources to purchase food and needed items for the soon to be newborn. Through our community partners we were able to assist the family with a stroller, car seat, clothing, and food. This made Mary decrease her stress and anxiety levels to a point where she could be there for her children and practice better parenting skills. To this day Mary has more knowledge of community resources and is better able to put her newly learned parenting skills to work. Moreover, Mary and Logan (a participant in our Fatherhood Initiative) were recently married!

"The fact that no matter what it is that my family may need, everyone involved in the program always does whatever they can to help or direct us to others who can."
 Nikki



Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

The Social Change Initiative
 Lander University
 South Carolina State Government

In-Kind Support

The Social Change Initiative
 Lander University
 Mental Health America

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

First Steps Partnership Board

True Collaboration Makes the Difference

Greenwood County First Steps in partnership with Abbeville County First Steps has had many success stories in the community. Great partnerships have been formed across county lines to save costs administratively, and to serve more families and children in the community. The Greenwood and Abbeville County First Steps Boards have supported the two agencies with sharing office space to saving administrative costs to direct more funding into programs to serve families and children. This successful partnership has had tremendous cost savings for both agencies and became a model to share with other agencies.

Greenwood County First Steps was offered to partner with a new extremely successful venture, the Social Change Initiative (SCI). This collaboration has provided the two entities the opportunity to serve entire families instead of just families with children 0-5 years of age. More than 42% of the families served by Greenwood County First Steps alone are in both programs. Moreover, the Social Change Initiative is partnering with Greenwood County First Steps to incorporate a fatherhood initiative, Real Fathers are Dads in Greenwood County. The cost to the County Partner....\$50! Yes! Fifty Dollars!

To add the alamo to a "perfect partnership" GCFS and SCI combined office space! This one location is a hub for these amazing entities: Greenwood County First Steps, Abbeville County First Steps, the Social Change Initiative, and BabyNet. If that is not enough, Lander University's Early Childhood Department conducts classes at this location weekly, and the Lander University EC professors' provide FREE workshops at our Joint Child Care Conferences! Students learn from an actual Parents-As-Teachers Home Visit by parents and children in the County Partnership's program!

What will the Greenwood County First Steps Full Partnership Board do next? Well, wait until you read what they have planned for FY18!

GREENWOOD County First Steps Partnership Board, 2016-17

Name	Position	Board Category
Lark Coleman, Chair	Social Security Administration	Local Government
Lillian Thomas, Vice Chair	National Health Care	Healthcare
Vallery Smith, Secretary	Retired Educator/PT District 50 Home-Based Tutor	Family, Education, Support
Shirley Parks, Assistant Secretary	Retired Educator/PT District 50 Home-Based Tutor	Family, Education, Support
Carolyn Robinson, Resource Committee Chair	Retired	Appointed - Senator Nicholson
Monica Foster, Budget Committee Chair	GLEAMNS HRC - Head Start	Child Care
Loretta Parker, EC Committee Chair	Greenwood School District 50-Retired	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Doris Louden	Ninety Six School District 52	Appointed - School District 52
Reginald White	Security	Faith
Willie Mae Caldwell	Granny's Doll Babies Day Care	Child Care
Johnny Ledford	East Teak Fine Hardwoods	Parent of Preschool Child
Rosella Quarles	Retired	Faith
Deborah Parks	United Center for Community Care	Non-Profit
Robin Smith	Greenwood County DSS - Director	Appointed - DSS
Shanikue Blackwell	Greenwood County Health Department	Appointed - DHEC
Duane Jones	Capsugel	Business Community
Anita S. Baylor	Greenwood County Sheriff's Office	Local Government
Kayla Starnes	Patrick B. Harris	Family, Education, Support
Lillian Lee	Fairfield Inn Marriot	Business

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.

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