

DORCHESTER COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Nurse Family Partnership

Early Identification & Referral

Parents as Teachers

Parent-Child Home

Early Literacy

Countdown to Kindergarten

Child Care Quality Enhancement

Child Care Training

Annual Report

2014-15

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness is the state's comprehensive early childhood education initiative, existing to ensure South Carolina's children are ready for school success. Each of South Carolina 46 counties is home to a First Steps Local Partnership which serves as a local portal connecting families of preschool children to community based services, a community convener around the needs of preschool children and their families, and a supporter of state-level school readiness priorities.

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.

Based on the needs of our community Dorchester County First Steps focuses its investments on **measurable outcomes across five of the six strategy areas.**

First Steps WORKS for the children of Dorchester County.

This Is How Dorchester County First Steps is Getting Results!



Healthy Start

Helping vulnerable first-time mothers empowers them to achieve a better life for themselves and their children.

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 2015, Dorchester County First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic partners, SC DHEC Lowcountry Region, Berkeley County First Steps and Charleston County First Steps to have a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid cost through the implementation of **Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)** in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties.



NFP by the Numbers, 2014-15

Families Served	21
Number of Home Visits	243



Early Intervention

Identifying and referring children with possible developmental delays can help assure school readiness.



EI&R by the Numbers 2014-15

Children Served	36
Materials Distributed	129
Children Referred to BabyNet, Local School, or Other Services	16

Dorchester County First Steps' **Early Identification and Referral (EI&R)** program serves families with young children with suspected delays in development access services and coordinates public awareness for BabyNet services, acting as a local portal to connect families to community-based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children.

This Is How Dorchester County First Steps is Getting Results!



Quality Childcare

Quality Counts is Dorchester County First Steps' quality improvement initiative dedicated to improving and promoting quality in early care and learning programs in Dorchester County.



Training by the Numbers, 2014-15

Total Training Attendance	562
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	201
Number of Training Sessions Offered	30

In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.



Quality Improvement by the Numbers, 2014-15

Child Care Providers Served	5
Number of TA Visits Provided	106
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	288

Those who care for young children need high quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

2014-2015 Quality Counts Centers
Emmanuel Baptist Blessed Generations Day Care
Good Shepherd School
Learning Experience Child Development Center
Little Fish Preschool Academy
St. Luke's Children's Center

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This is How Dorchester County First Steps is Getting Results!



Family Strengthening

Through the home visitation strategies, **Parents as Teachers** and **Parent-Child Home**, and **Every Child Ready to Read**, an early literacy awareness partnership with Dorchester county Library, Dorchester County First Steps provides parents with insight into their child’s development and support to strengthen their role in preparing their children to be lifelong learners.



Parents are their child’s first teacher.



School Transition

Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. **Count Down to Kindergarten**, a summertime home visitation program, aimed at creating a smooth transition to school for children and families as well as building strong family-school relationships in support of children’s life long learning.



Family Strengthening by the Numbers 2014-15

Families Served	109
Children Served	105
Total Home Visits	3753
Hours Spent Serving Families	2218
Books Given	819
Literacy Kits Lent	44

Parents play a critical role in their child’s development.



Bringing parents and teachers together as partners sets the foundation for success in school.

CTK by the Numbers, Summer 2014

Children Served	39
Families Served	39
Home/School Visits	234

**CTK program data is for June-August 2014, whereas CTK fiscal data includes expenditures from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.*

Who We Are

Dorchester County First Steps Partnership Board, 2014-15

Name	Position	Board Category
Jacquelyn Hill	Board Chair	Faith Community
Pamela McKnight	Secretary	Parent/Grandparent
Debbie Akos	Mandated Member	DSS: ABC
Elizabeth Brown Tina Chenoweth	Mandated Member	Dorchester County Library
Elaine Bryant	Member	Pre-K – Primary Education
Rebecca Denny	Mandated Member	Berkeley/Dorchester Head Start
Crystal Campbell	Member	Childcare/Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
Susan Gaston	Mandated Member	Dorchester County School District Two
Betty Harrison	Member	Childcare/Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
Rhonda Robinson	Mandated Member	Dorchester County School District Four
Mickey Styslinger	Member	Childcare/Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
Felecia Veasey	Mandate Member	SC DHEC Lowcountry

Dorchester County First Steps Staff, 2014-15

Karen Hill	Executive Director
Alicia Turner	Parent Education Specialist
Kristin Allan	Parent Educator
Jessica Zoltanski	Childcare Quality Improvement Specialist



Interested parents can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



BabyNet

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet in Dorchester County:
(843) 740-3193

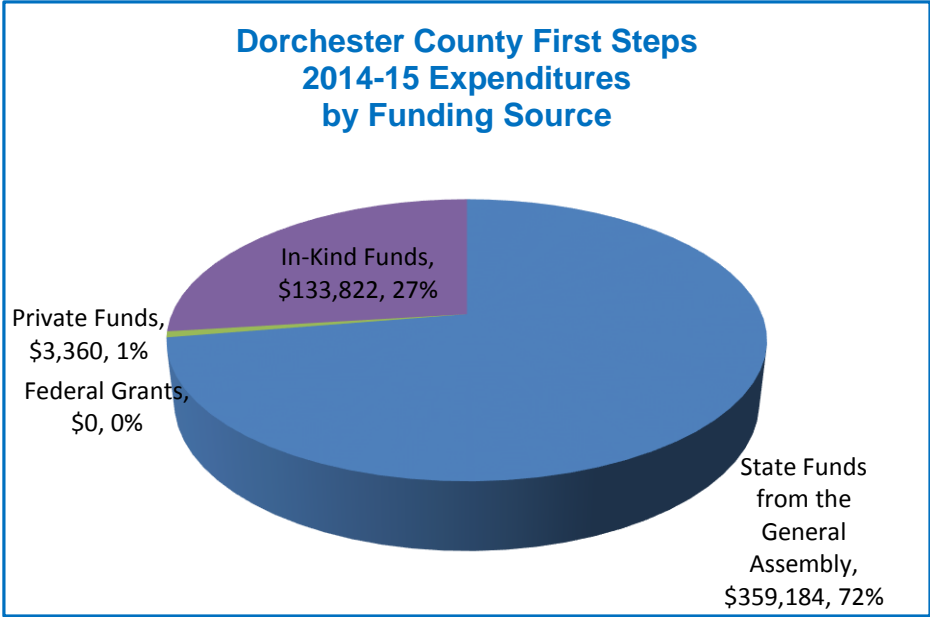
<http://scfirststeps.org/babynet/>



Each county in South Carolina is served by a First Steps Partnership responsible for meeting local needs and identifying collaborative opportunities to help our state's youngest learners. State level board and staff support statewide priorities, programs, and assist local partnerships in meeting the needs of families statewide. For more information visit:

<http://scfirststeps.com>

Financial Impact



Total 2014-15 Expenditures: \$496,365

State Funds Leveraged in 2014-15*: 38%

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

2014-15 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2014-15 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$104,830	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$104,830	21%
Parent-Child Home	\$55,706	\$0	\$0	\$133,822	\$189,528	38%
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$16,887	\$0	\$6	\$0	\$16,893	3%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$69,911	\$0	\$697	\$0	\$70,608	14%
Child Care Training	\$12,867	\$0	\$1,242	\$0	\$14,109	3%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$10,765	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,765	2%
Early Identification and Referrals	\$9,245	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,245	2%
Other Family Literacy	\$21,375	\$0	\$14	\$0	\$21,389	4%
Program Support	\$30,053	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,053	6%
Administrative Support	\$27,545	\$0	\$1,400	\$0	\$28,945	6%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$359,184	\$0	\$3,359	\$133,822	\$496,365	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Since inception, Dorchester County First Steps has leveraged \$1,359,158 from sources outside of state government. That's 30cents for every state dollar.