

MARLBORO COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Training

Child Care Scholarships

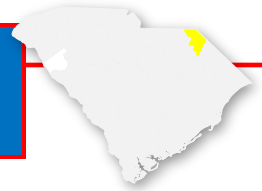
Annual Report

2015-16



OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Marlboro County
Children Under Five	289,990	1,468
Children In Poverty	26.4%	46.52
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	36.1%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	29.5%



KIDS COUNT data provided by

- Since inception, Marlboro County First Steps has leveraged \$808,632 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.30 for every dollar received.**
- **621 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 19 families in our Parents As Teachers Program.
- **MCFS collaborated with S.C. Child Care Resource & Referral Network to provide quality trainings for our Early Education providers**
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 44**

Marlboro County First Step

301 Jefferson Street, Room 105

Bennettsville, SC 29512

Phone: (843) 479-4200

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Board Chair:
Margaret Quick

Marlboro County First Steps

Randall S. Johnson
Executive Director

The Marlboro County First Steps Partnership continues to be a quality contributor to the Marlboro community. This can be noticed especially in terms of childcare and parenting. This past year we worked with 19 families who may not receive other parenting services. MCFS continues to be the lead county agency that works with childcare facilities throughout the community. We stress quality and efficient learning centers as opposed to babysitting.

Marlboro County First Steps increases the quality of services for children 0-5 and their families

Through our Parents As Teachers parenting program as well as through our childcare scholarship program we have been able to assure that some of the families with the greatest needs in Marlboro County receive help that they may otherwise not get. Also parents are required to be actively involved with their children.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

County Programs

Parents as Teachers
 Child Care Training
 Childcare Training

State Programs

Baby Net
 First Steps 4k

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.



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 Intervention

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in Baby Net early intervention programs are above national averages. Baby Net matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based resources.



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.



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.



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 and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Marlboro 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

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

91% ... live in poverty
1% ... didn't graduate from high school

“I have been involved in the Marlboro County First Steps PAT program for the past 6 years having 2 kids who have been a part of the program. One of the best programs for parents ever in Marlboro County.”

Parent, Nidra Ellison



PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	19	
Children Served	20	
Total Home Visits	410	
Hours Spent Serving Families	621	
Average gain, <i>Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale</i> (pre-to-post):	3.84/2.56	3.8/2.60

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 2 home visits per family
- ✓ Parent Educator conducted 410 Home visits to families in the program
- ✓ Improved parenting practices with a .4 change in pre – post KIPS scores.
- ✓ Improved literacy skills by providing over 190 books to children enrolled in our program

Thank you to our partners!

Marlboro County DSS
State ABC Child Care
Marian Wright Edelman Library

Marlboro County First Steps
301 Jefferson Street, Room 105
Bennettsville, SC 29512

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.

"As a family home child care provider inexpensive quality trainings really helps us to get hours"
Sharon Morrison, Morrison's Footprints



Childcare training, March 2016

Child Care Training Sponsored by Marlboro County First Steps, 2015-16

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Sessions:</u>
First Aid/CPR	One Session
Blood borne Pathogens	One Session
It's More Than a Business: Directors 411	One session
Learning the Childcare Business	One Session

Training by the Numbers, 2015-16

Total Training Attendance	24
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	12
Number of Training Sessions Offered	4

This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 12 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 12hours of certified training hours for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 5 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- Marlboro County School District
- SC-CCRR
- SC-CCCD
- Marian Wright Edelman Library

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Child Care Scholarships

Too many families in Marlboro 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, for those families income-eligible for child care assistance in South Carolina, only a small fraction receive assistance 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.

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

- 95% ... live in poverty
- 1% ... didn't graduate from high school
- 1% ... were teen parents
- 2% ... 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 children receiving scholarship and connects families to needed services within the community.

1. Each one of the participants in our program who receive a scholarship must also participate in the parenting program.
2. Every child who receives a scholarship also receives books

"I've been blessed to receive a voucher through Marlboro County First Steps, this has really helped me"

Angela Major, Parent



Scholarships by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children Served	12
Providers Served	6

This year, our Scholarship program:

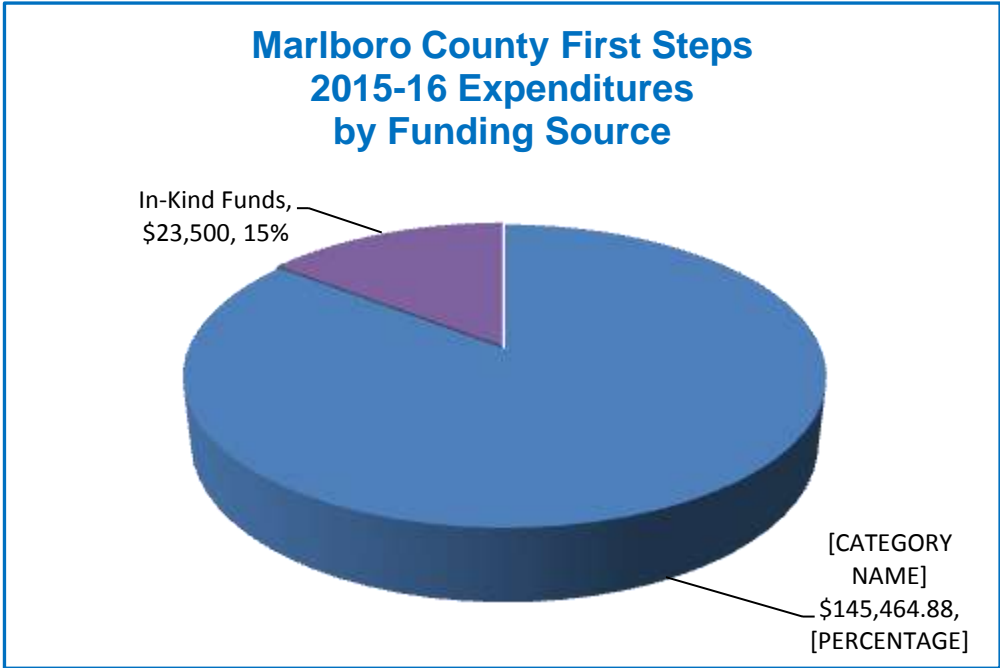
- ✓ Provided 12 children with scholarship assistance so their parents could work or attend school
- ✓ Identified and addressed 2 potential developmental delays among scholarship children
- ✓ All families who received childcare scholarships were also participants in the Parenting Program

Thank you to our partners!

- State ABC Child Care
- Marian Wright Edelman Library

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Financial Impact



Total 2015-

16

Expenditures: \$161,501

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*: 15%

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

2015-16 Expenditures by Strategy						
	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2015-16 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$8,796	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,796	27%
Child Care Training	\$1,213	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,213	4%
Child Care Scholarships	\$17,500	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$21,000	64%
Program Support	\$1,418	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,418	4%
Administrative Support	\$456	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$456	1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$29,383	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$32,883	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Since inception, Marlboro County First Steps has leveraged \$808,632 from sources outside of state government. That's 28.987% Leveraged for every state dollar.

Marlboro County Week of the Young Child Celebration

Marlboro County First Steps celebrated the Week of the Young Child by going out to read & deliver books to children in our childcare centers. We also hosted a few head start classes who came to our office.



Thank you to our partners!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$200,000
(through South Carolina First Steps)

In-Kind Support

Marlboro County School District
Marian Wright Edelman Library
Parkers Used Cars

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

Marlboro County First Steps Parent Group Meeting



First Steps Partnership Board

Marlboro County Family Day, Literacy & other events

Marlboro County First Steps, Marlboro County School District, and Marian Wright Edelman Library continue to collaborate for the benefit of children & families of Marlboro County by hosting events throughout the year.



MCFS Board Members

Marlboro County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-16

Name	Position	Board Category
Margaret Quick, Chair	Family Literacy Coordinator, Marlboro County School District	Family, Education, Training & Support
Shirley Jones, Vice Chair	Bennettsville/Cheraw Area Cooperative Ministries	Faith Community
Loretta Brown	Chesterfield-Marlboro EOC	Agency Designee
Nidra Ellison	Student FDTC	Parent of a Young Child
Tammy Elliott	Southeastern Community & Family Services	Non Profit
Kennita Graham	Teacher/Blenheim Head Start	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Bobbi Jo Grooms	Director, Marian Wright Edelman Library	Library Representative
Brenda McRae	Assistant Pastor, Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	Faith Community
Nichelle Nichols	Musician, Trinity United Methodist Church	Family, Education, Training & Support
Marlon Prince	Truancy, Marlboro County School District	School District Representative
Elaine Purvis	Director, Write At Home Daycare	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Robin Robertson	The Peterkin Group	Business Community
Geneice Stewart	Marlboro County DSS	Agency Designee
Renata Stubbs	Care South Carolina	Health Provider

Getting children ready for school.

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 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

Baby Net in Marlboro County:
LOCAL SPOE PHONE #843-634-6676

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