

ABBEVILLE COUNTY

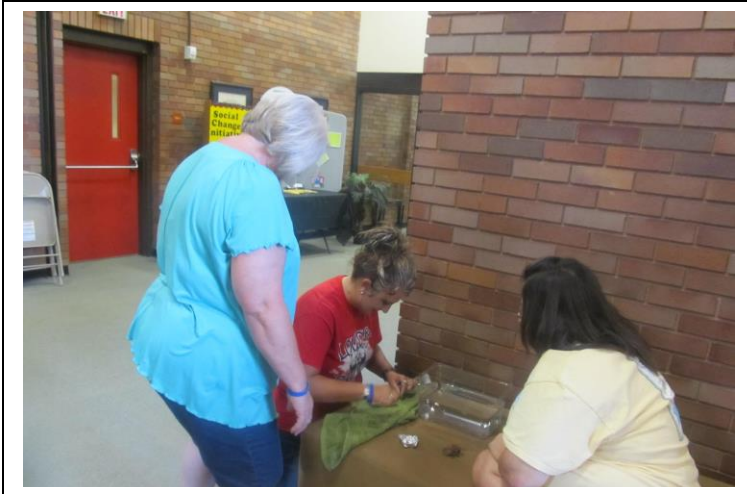


Getting children ready for school.

Parents as Teachers Home Visitation Program

Real Fathers are Dads Fatherhood Initiative

Quality Child Care Trainings



Annual Report

2015-16



OUR VISION:

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



By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Abbeville County
Children Under Five	289,990	1,344
Children In Poverty	26.4%	29.8%
3 rd Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	12.6%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	15.7%	14.9%



KIDS COUNT data provided by

- Since inception, Abbeville First Steps has leveraged \$1,066,362 from sources outside state government. **That's \$.34 for every dollar received.**
- **Served more than 55 parents in parenting programs during FY 16.**
- Made connections for **100% of families served** to needed supports such as adult education, financial counseling, housing assistance, employment referrals, etc.
- **Childcare professionals received 28.5 hours** of quality Early Childhood Trainings
- Achieved pre-to-post gains in parenting behaviors and literacy skills with families.
- **Total Children Served in FY16: 453**

Abbeville County First Steps
 Angela Pruitt
Executive Director

Our County Partnership has had a great year in 2016. Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps starting sharing office space in March 2011, and this Joint County Partnership has continued into 2016. By sharing administrative and programmatic resources across county lines, this joint venture has created a significant cost saving which can provide more for program services to children and families. We have continued to have great relationships with the Department of Social Services and the Guardian Ad Litem Programs. The *Real Fathers Are Dads* Fatherhood Initiative continues to grow and gain community support with participants, civic organizations, churches, and businesses. We also have a great relationship with The Social Change Initiative to ensure we have additional parenting services for our families. We have provided services to over 450 participants since the inception in 2008. The Fatherhood Initiative and Parents as Teachers Program work jointly to include the entire family. The father has been the missing component for many years with our programs, and we have found the missing component. By using the holistic approach and working with the entire family, we are starting to see change happen. Other agencies and partners in our community are starting to see change and want to be a part of this initiative. We also continue to partner with Lander University and Erskine College's Education Department to provide Early Childhood Conferences each year. We were able to provide quality child care trainings with approved Certified Trainers to 8 facilities, and 57 staff members serving more than 402 children. Community Partnerships are continuing to expand to provide services to the most at risk children in Abbeville County.



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

Abbeville County First Steps

1402C Highway 72 West
 Greenwood, SC 29649
 Phone: (864)388-4102
 Fax: (864) 388-4103

Board Chair
 Daniel Crawford

www.acfirststeps.org

County Programs

Parents as Teachers
 Child Care Training

State Programs

BabyNet

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 Intervention

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based 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 and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

Based on the needs of our community, Abbeville County First 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

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

92% ... live in poverty
 42% ... didn't graduate from high school
 92% ... are single parents



"The Parents as Teachers Program has really benefited my family."

Amy

PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	24	
Children Served	28	
Total Home Visits	272	
Hours Spent Serving Families	290.32	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	2.97	3.49

This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 11.33 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed at least 2 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices with an average gain of 2.97 to 3.49 with the Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale.
- ✓ Made 83.3% of connections for families to services such as the Housing Authority, Food Bank, and Benefits Bank Services.

Thank you to our partners!

Abbeville County School District
 Abbeville County Department of Social Services
 Greenwood County First Steps
 Abbeville Rotary Club
 The Social Change Initiative
 Local Churches and Businesses

Abbeville County First Steps

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Fatherhood

Why Fatherhood Works!

Program Description

The Real Fathers are Dads Fatherhood Initiative is researched and evidenced based. The Real Fathers are Dad Fatherhood Initiative was founded in January 2008 after receiving grant funding from The National Fatherhood Initiative. The program utilizes curricula such as 24/7 Dad, Doctor Dad, and also over 58 workshops with curriculum created to focus on clients' needs such as communication, relationship skills, budget/financial management, making appropriate choices, and parenting. Families are referred by the Department of Social Services, Abbeville County School District, Mental Health, local doctors' offices, The Social Change Initiative, and other community agencies.

Outcomes are measuring utilizing pre and post testing with the Protective Factors Surveys.

- ✓ Promote parenting knowledge and life skills through group and individualized sessions
- ✓ Assist with community resources and employment opportunities through goal planning
- ✓ Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect by utilizing the Protective Factors

Fatherhood Families:

% in Poverty	92%
% Single Parents	92%

"The Real Fathers Are Dads Fatherhood Initiative has made me a better Dad."

Johnny

Fatherhood by the Numbers 2015-16

Adults Served	26
Children Served	23
Hours-Individualized Sessions	53
Hours-Group Sessions	12



This year, our Fatherhood Initiative

- ✓ Made 100% connections for families to services such as adult education, employment, food assistance, housing assistance, utility assistance, and library resources.
- ✓ Provided over 65 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.

Thank you to our partners!

- Abbeville County School District
- Abbeville County Department of Social Services
- Greenwood County First Steps
- Abbeville Rotary Club
- The Social Change Initiative

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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 Classes were great, we had lots of fun!
Cathy

Child Care Training Sponsored by Abbeville First Steps, 2015-16

Topic:	Sessions:
Growth and Development	5
Curriculum	5
Child Guidance	4
Professional Development	3
Health & Safety	2
Special Needs	3
Nutrition	1
Program Administration	2
First Aid/CPR	2.5



Board Members and Staff having fun at the Early Childhood Conference at Lander University!

Training by the Numbers, 2015-16

Total Training Attendance	57
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	51
Number of Training Sessions Offered	28.5

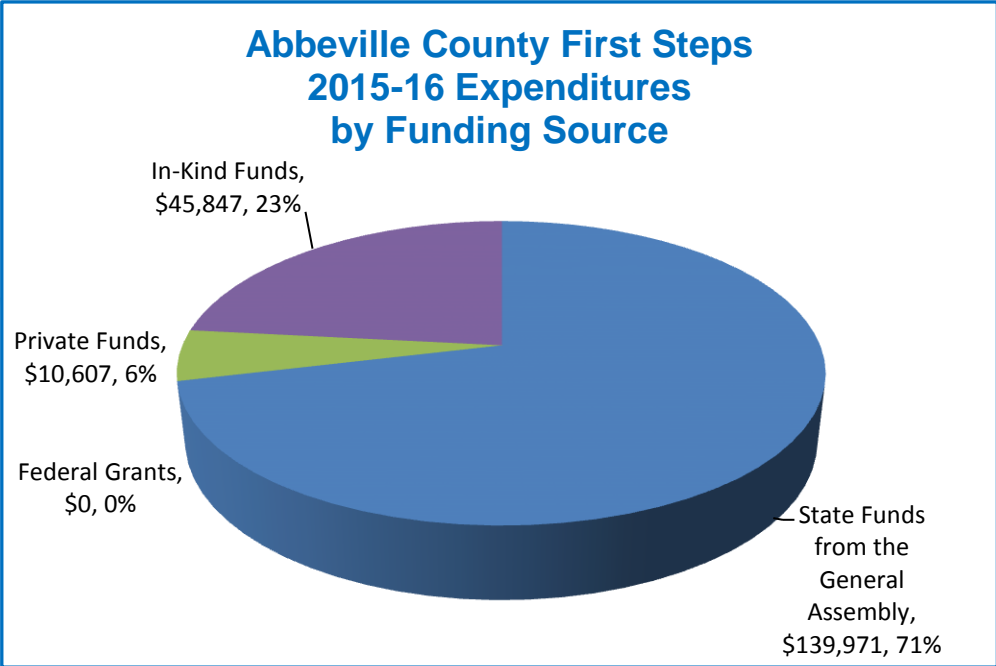
This year, our Training program provided:

- ✓ 51 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 8 hours of certified training and 20.5 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 57 follow-up contacts with training participants to help put training into practice

Thank you to our partners!

- Lander University
- Erskine College
- Greenwood County First Steps
- The Social Change Initiative

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Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$196,424

State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16*40: %

*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	\$57,212	\$0	\$346	\$9,962	\$67,520	34%
Fatherhood Initiative	\$40,998	\$0	\$9,971	\$5,977	\$56,946	29%
Child Care Training	\$6,679	\$0	\$0	\$11,977	\$18,656	9%
Program Support	\$17,975	\$0	\$0	\$13,946	\$31,921	16%
Administrative Support	\$17,106	\$0	\$290	\$3,985	\$21,382	11%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$139,971	\$0	\$10,607	\$45,847	\$196,424	

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

Abbeville First Steps has leveraged \$1,066,362 from sources outside of state government. That's .34 cents for every state dollar.

True Collaboration Makes a Difference!

Abbeville County First Steps in partnership with Greenwood 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 Abbeville and Greenwood 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.

Abbeville County First Steps also partners with another extremely successful agency, The Social Change Initiative. The Social Change Initiatives provides additional parenting services to ensure the entire family receives services. To add to this "perfect partnership" The Social Change Initiative also shares office space with Abbeville and Greenwood County First Steps! This one location is a hub for these amazing entities: Abbeville County First Steps, Greenwood County First Steps, and The Social Change Initiative. If that is not enough, Lander University's Early Childhood Department conducts classes at this location weekly, and the Lander University Early Childhood Department's professors' provide workshops for all of the Early Childhood Trainings! Lander students observe home visits by a parent educator, parents and children in an office setting as part of their Early Childhood experience. With First Steps serving as a local community portal with Benefits Bank Services, there are several other agencies who have also been a successful part of this collaborative partnership, as well. The agencies include the local Department of Social Services, the Guardian Ad Litem Program, and the Solicitor's Office. Through these partnerships, families with the highest needs are receiving services such as parenting for the entire family, anger management services, access to apply for SNAP Benefits, Medicaid, Family Independence, and assistance with going back to school.



First Steps Partnership Board

Abbeville County First Steps Partnership Board, 2015-16

Name	Position	Board Category
Daniel Crawford, Chair	First Baptist Church/Anderson School District	Parent of a Preschool Child
Henry Green, Vice Chair	The Press and Banner	Legislative Appointed Position
Mary Jane Trainor, Secretary	Lander University	Early Childhood Education
Dr. Charles Costner, Finance Committee Chair	Principal Long Cane Primary	Legislative Appointed Position
Jean Smith, Early Childhood Committee Chair	Abbeville County School District	School District Representative
Mary Stackhouse, Development Committee Chair	Abbeville County Health Department	DHEC Representative
Jane Agan	Christian United Ministries	Non-profit
Gail Johnson	Educator Cherokee Trail Elementary	Early Childhood Education
Ursula Best	Abbeville Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
Lee Logan	Stephenson Trusts	Philanthropic Community
Genista Hill-Lomax	Parent	Parent of a Preschool Child
Joe Bryson	Kingdom Life Training Center	Faith Community
Kelley Thrasher	Kids Unlimited	Child Care
Mary Lou Edens	Tracey Jackson Food Program	Non-profit
Connie Normand	United Christian Ministries Free Medical Clinic	Health Care
Janet Vandiver	Mental Health America	Health Care
Lee Matthews	Sage Automotive	Business Community
Rita Gamble	Educator LongCane Primary	Pre-K through Primary Educator
Amy Glover	GLEAMNS Head Start	Head Start Representative
Mary Elizabeth Land	Abbeville County Library	Library Representative
Abby Evans	Abbeville Civic Center	Local Government
Millie Ricketts	Principal LongCane Primary	Early Childhood Education

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

BabyNet in Abbeville County:
864-225-6465

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

Thank you donors!

Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$139,971
(through South Carolina First Steps)

Josephine Moffatt Stevenson Community
Charitable Trust: \$6,000

Abbeville Rotary Club: \$1975

Rotary Foundation: \$1475

In-Kind Support

Greenwood County First Steps

The Social Change Initiative

Abbeville County School District

Abbeville Civic Center

How your support helps children in Abbeville:

- ✓ \$30 provides a young child a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$100 feeds dinner to 20 families attending a parenting workshop per month

HOW TO GIVE: Donations can be sent to

Abbeville County First Steps, 1402C Highway 72 West, Greenwood, SC 29649

Support Abbeville First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!