



QualityCounts



Early Head Start

PROGRAMS

Early Head Start

Quality Counts

Nurse Family Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014



VISION:

*Every child in Spartanburg County
will enter school ready for success.*

First Steps WORKS for the children of Spartanburg County.



Spartanburg County First Steps

Annual Report 2013-2014

Who We Serve

First Steps serves children pre-birth to 5 years old who are at risk of not being ready for school.

Number of Spartanburg County children under 5:
19,507

Number of Spartanburg County children under 5 living in poverty:
2,887

Babies born each year in Spartanburg County to a mother without a high school diploma:
1,036

Eligible for SNAP/Free School Lunches (130% of poverty or below)
6,787

Our Programs

Early Head Start

Quality Counts

Nurse Family Partnership

Our Results

✓ Early Head Start #'s

2 parents completed college
6 graduated from high school
2 obtained their GED

✓ Quality Counts #'s

40% of early care and education programs in Spartanburg County are enrolled in Quality Counts

Over 2000 children benefit daily from quality care.

✓ Nurse Family Partnership #'s

Serving 200 first time pregnant moms and children

***Vision:** Every child in Spartanburg County will enter school ready to succeed.*

***Mission:** Spartanburg County First Steps will be the engine to drive collaboration, partnership, effective resource utilization and funding to prepare children to be ready for school.*

What Matters Most?our attention to the quality of the growth and development of the young children in Spartanburg County.

- **Early Head Start...**in the 2013-2014 program year, **174 children at 100% of poverty, 17 pregnant women, 155 families & 16 children with disabilities were served in First Steps Early Head Start** - Children birth to 3 and families are exposed to high quality care and interventions that result in positive outcomes.
- **Quality Counts ...** invested over **1900 hours** with participating child care centers working on quality improvement goals with approximately **2000 children** benefiting every Monday through Friday from quality enhanced learning environments supported by **400 directors and teachers** who are implementing goals from an individualized **Quality Improvement Plan**.
- **Nurse Family Partnership...** serving 200 moms and healthy babies: 91% full-term births (SC 85.7%) 88% normal weight (SC 82.5%) partnering with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and other community leaders, filling a gap of service to first time pregnant moms *Nurse weekly visits support quality outcomes of healthy pregnancy, mothers provide responsible and competent care for their children, and families become more economically self-sufficient.*

Sincerely,

Carolyn Brooks
Executive Director
Spartanburg County First Steps

Spartanburg County
First Steps

Board Chair
Elaine Sveen

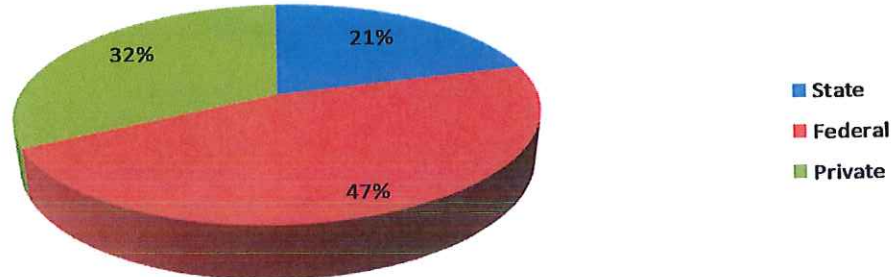
Executive Director
Carolyn Brooks

900 South Pine Street
Spartanburg S.C. 29302
864.327.4900
cbrooks@1steps.org

www.1steps.org

Financial Impact

Expenditures by Funding Source FY1314 (07/01/13 - 06/30/14)



Fiscal Year	State	Federal	Private	Total	
07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014	\$ 650,519	\$ 1,414,948	\$ 969,454	\$ 3,034,921.20	
State Leverage %:	367%				
Strategy	State	Federal	Private	Total	%
Administrative	\$ 196,026	\$ 18,852	\$ 9,433	\$ 224,312	7%
Programmatic	\$ 91,383	\$ -	\$ 10,367	\$ 101,750	3%
Quality Counts	\$ 318,297	\$ -	\$ 169,780	\$ 488,078	16%
**Early Head Start	\$ 44,813	\$ 1,396,096	\$ 116,776	\$ 1,557,685	51%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 663,097	\$ 663,097	22%
Total:	\$ 650,519	\$ 1,414,948	\$ 969,454	\$ 3,034,921	100%
	21%	47%	32%	100%	

Total 2013-2014 Expenditures \$3,034,921.20

Funds Leveraged 367%

**** EHS Federal Grant Analysis (Awarded vs. Expended) FY 13-14 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2014**

EHS Monthly Board Report - June 2014

Agency Name	Agency #
Spartanburg County First Steps - EHS	04CH4602
Program Year Begin Date	July 1

Section A - Budget Summary					Non-Federal		
Program Function / Activity	Federal Domestic Assistance Number	Federal Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	Required	Received	Shortage
3) PA-25	93.600	1,339,214	1,339,214	-	343,639	343,639	-
4) PA-1126	93.600	35,343	35,343	-	-	-	-
5) Totals	93.600	1,374,557	1,374,557	-	-	-	-

Section B - Budget Categories for Federal Funds										Notes	
Object Class Categories	Program Funds			Professional Development			Totals				
	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated	Awarded	Obligated / Expended	Unobligated		
A) Personnel	608,189	617,981	(9,792)	-	-	-	608,189	617,981	(9,792)		
B) Fringe Benefits	273,691	302,000	(28,309)	-	-	-	273,691	302,000	(28,309)		
C) Travel	-	-	-	12,025	12,025	-	12,025	12,025	-		
D) Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
E) Supplies	39,871	31,987	7,884	-	-	-	39,871	31,987	7,884		
F) Contractual	254,454	233,436	21,018	-	-	-	254,454	233,436	21,018		
G) Facilities/Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
H) Renovations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
I) Other	104,298	110,726	(6,428)	23,318	23,318	-	127,616	134,044	(6,428)		
J) Total (A-I)	1,280,503	1,296,130	(15,627)	35,343	35,343	-	1,315,846	1,331,473	(15,627)		
K) Indirect Charges	58,711	43,084	15,627	-	-	-	58,711	43,084	15,627		
L) Total (J-K)	1,339,214	1,339,214	-	35,343	35,343	-	1,374,557	1,374,557	-		

Notes

Worksheet for the period of 07/01/13 - 06/30/14
 A) Increase in expenses due to three staff changes during the fiscal year.
 B) Increase in expenses due to additional fringe cost for three staff changes.
 E) Agency was able to obtain more supplies from Gifts In Kind than planned.
 F) One contracted center did not have a qualified teacher so half a classroom was closed.
 I) Travel and family support expenses were higher than expected.

Spartanburg County First Steps

900 South Pine Street, Suite C | Spartanburg SC, 29302
 Phone- 864-327-4900
www.1steps.org

Early Head Start



Program Description

Early Head Start provides high quality, culturally sensitive child development and parent support in homes and centers.

Spartanburg County First Steps Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten.

- Spartanburg County First Steps Quality Counts works with 40% of the child care centers in the county to improve the quality of early education for young children in Spartanburg County.
- All seven school districts are represented on the First Steps Board.
- The School Readiness Community Team includes school district personnel.
- FS EHS has contracts with two school districts to provide Early Head Start services in their centers which also are family literacy sites.

Enrollment and Attendance	#
Funded Enrollment-	114
Percentage Average Monthly Enrollment	114
Number of Children Served	174
Number of Families Served	155
Percentage of Eligible Children Served	2
Percentage of Attendance for the Year	86.79
# of Pregnant Women Served	17
# of Children & Families on Waitlist	99



School Readiness

- ✓ Readiness does not happen at the same time or in the same way for all children
- ✓ 95% of Early Head Start children were developing typically based on GOLD Assessment- April 2014

EHS by the Number\$

Early Head Start

Funding Source	FY1213	FY1314
State Funding	\$ 50,360	\$ 44,813
<i>South Carolina First Steps</i>	\$ 50,360	\$ 44,813
Federal Funding	\$ 1,488,579	\$ 1,414,948
<i>Early Head Start</i>	\$ 1,449,060	\$ 1,374,557
* CACFP	\$ 36,636	\$ 35,355
* ABC	\$ 2,883	\$ 5,036
Private Funding	\$ 119,198	\$ 107,449
<i>School District 7</i>	\$ 107,968	\$ 104,729
<i>Parent Co-Pays</i>	\$ 11,230	\$ 2,720
Total:	\$ 1,658,137	\$ 1,567,210

* CACFP - Child and Adult Care Food Program

* ABC - ABC Childcare Program

Family Coals Achieved

Completed College/Degree	2
Enrolled in College	1
Completed High School	6
Graduated from GED	2
Obtained Employment	7
Obtained Permanent Housing	1
Became Physically Fit	1
Achieved Financial Independence	1

Health Services

% of Children Served With Disabilities	12
% of Children Served Who Received Medical Exams	82
% of Children Served Up to Date on Dental Screenings (N/A for SC)	63
% of Children Who received Dental Examinations	16
% of Pregnant Women Who Received Dental Services	47
% of Children Up to Date on Immunizations	86
% of Pregnant Women Who Received Post-Natal EHS Visit within 14 Days	100
# of Health Services Advisory Meetings	2

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Early Head Start



EHS Services

Parent Training Topics

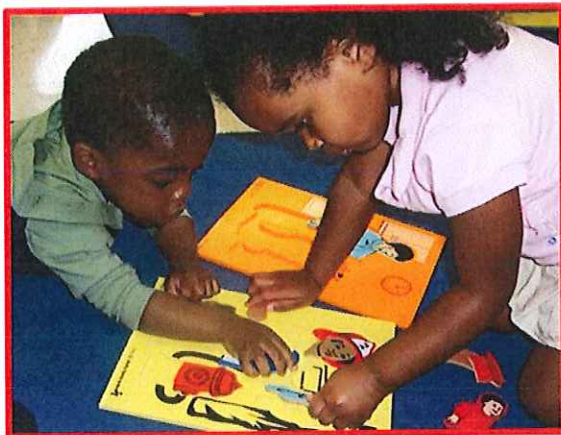
- ✚ Partnerships
- ✚ Transitions
- ✚ Family Cultures
- ✚ Car Seat Safety
- ✚ Food Storage
- ✚ Reading Logs
- ✚ Parenting Tips for Fathers
- ✚ Seat Belt Usage
- ✚ Early Childhood Development
- ✚ Age Appropriate Discipline
- ✚ School Readiness Results
- ✚ Child Health
- ✚ Space Heater Safety
- ✚ Anxiety/Child Well Being/Mental Health
- ✚ Tips for Looking for and Getting a Job
- ✚ Financial Literacy
- ✚ Summer Safety
- ✚ Pedestrian Safety

- Childcare
- Early Childhood Education
- Health & Nutrition
- Case Management
- Parenting
- Support in self-sufficiency goal attainment.

155 children and their families received these comprehensive services that promoted school readiness & family well-being

4 Family Service Specialists completed 1,226 home visits using Parents as Teachers Curriculum.

- *Visits averaged 1 ½ hours each*



Socialization Topics

- ✚ Feed the Ducks
- ✚ Reading at the Library
- ✚ Rocking Babies
- ✚ Block Play
- ✚ Holiday Keepsakes
- ✚ Kite Flying
- ✚ Puppet Show
- ✚ Family Night Out
- ✚ Yoga at your Library
- ✚ Finger Painting
- ✚ Water Play

CACFP – 30,877 nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks were served at FS EHS centers

Thirty-four families logged 1,636 reading hours with their children

Federal Requirements for Annual Report

Results of Audit – The A133 Single Audit of 2012-2013 was completed with no material findings and was filed with the Federal Clearinghouse in March 2013.

Results of Federal Review- The triennial review was held January 6-10, 2014. South Carolina First Steps to Spartanburg County (Spartanburg County First Steps) was found noncompliant for Part 1306- Head Start Staffing Requirements and Program Options- Grantees implementing a home-based program option must: maintain an average caseload of 10-12 families per home visitor with a maximum caseload of 12 families for any individual home visitor

The agency created a Home-Based Program Option Compliance Plan which addressed and corrected the staffing problem which was sent to Atlanta in April 2014. A letter was received from Ann Linehan, Acting Director, Office of Head Start in August stating that the information provided to ACF was sufficient to close the previously identified findings.

Playing is ...Learning!

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Did you know...

Quality Counts received private funding to pilot the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) in five classrooms.



Quality Counts Program Information

What is Quality Counts?

Quality Counts is a quality initiative that uses a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) framework to improve the quality in early care and education programs. Quality Counts began as a pilot in January 2012 and went to full implementation in July 2013.

What is the Goal of Quality Counts?

Quality Counts is a quality enhancement strategy designed to raise and sustain the level of quality in early care and education programs with the goal that all children will arrive at school better prepared for school success.

Who is Participating?

A total of 34 early care and education programs are currently enrolled in Quality Counts, representing 40% of the eligible programs in Spartanburg County. Our future goal is to move from 40% to 50% by June 2015.

Why Does Quality Counts Matter?

Quality Counts supports learning environments that promote healthy brain development for young children. **Healthy brain development helps children to arrive at school ready to learn and better prepared for future success.** Healthy, prosperous communities need a strong workforce and engaged citizens; preparing for the future means investing in our young children today.

Quality Counts Program Partners

Quality Counts is a partnership between the Mary Black Foundation and Spartanburg County First Steps. Public-private partnerships are essential to the success of Quality Counts. These partnerships support the credibility and visibility of Quality Counts in the community.

Funding Partners

- Mary Black Foundation
- Spartanburg County First Steps
- Spartanburg County Foundation

Community Partners

- Spartanburg Academic Movement
- Institute for Child Success
- Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce
- Spartanburg County Foundation
- Spartanburg Herald-Journal
- Spartanburg Regional Foundation
- Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
- Spartanburg County School Districts
- United Way of the Piedmont

"The addition of the Quality Counts signage in our community has been a plus. It has created conversation concerning quality that I think will only continue to improve. The conversations are positive and student-centered. We are definitely on the right track."

***Dr. Ron Garner, Superintendent,
Spartanburg School District One***

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Quality Counts Community Impact

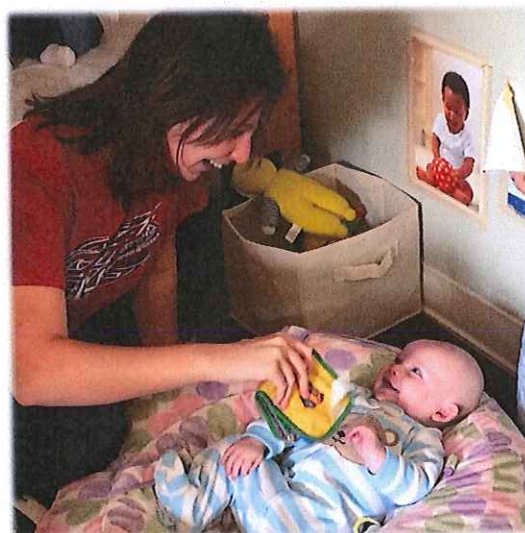


Quality Counts Supports *What Matters Most*

*In May 2014 Spartanburg County First Steps received a \$25,000.00 grant from the Spartanburg County Foundation for the implementation of the **What Matters Most** project. The grant supports a one year pilot to implement the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) tool to assess, guide, and improve the level of teacher-child interactions in five 3 year-old classrooms. More specifically, CLASS is an observational tool that provides a common lens and language focused on what matters most – the effectiveness of classroom interactions among teachers and children. These daily interactions between teachers and children are critical because they promote children's social and cognitive development. Recent research by Dr. Bob Pianta, Dean of The University of Virginia, Curry School of Education, supports the valuable role that the teacher – child interaction plays in learning. When teachers create nurturing, well-managed settings and provide frequent and engaging opportunities to learn – children thrive and are better prepared for school success.*

PROGRAM by the Number\$

Quality Counts		
Funding Source	FY1213	FY1314
State Funding	\$ 314,558	\$ 319,149
South Carolina First Steps	\$ 314,558	\$ 319,149
Federal Funding	\$ -	\$ -
Local Private	\$ 157,350	\$ 187,750
Mary Black Foundation	\$ 157,350	\$ 187,750
Total:	\$ 471,908	\$ 506,899



Quality Counts by the *Numbers*

- 40% of the eligible early care and education programs in Spartanburg County are enrolled in Quality Counts
- Quality Counts' Quality Coaches invested over 1900 hours with participating programs working on quality improvement goals
- Approximately 2000 children benefited every Monday-Friday from enhanced learning environments
- More than 400 directors and teachers are implementing goals from an individualized Quality Improvement Plan

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Nurse-Family Partnership



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

Program Description

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP (NFP) IN OUR COMMUNITY

Nurse-Family Partnership® (NFP) is an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through her child's second birthday. Independent research proves that communities benefit from this relationship — every dollar invested in NFP can yield more than five dollars in return.

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP GOALS

1. Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventive health practices, including thorough prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances;
2. Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care; and
3. Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.

Risk Factor Profile:

% Single Mothers	90.9
% < HS Diploma	54.3
% with Developmental Delays	3.5

In Spartanburg County, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Home Health Division and Spartanburg County First Steps serves as Fiscal Manager and hosts the Community Advisory Board.

Why NFP Works

NFP is supported by the most extensive research foundation of any maternal and child health program. Three randomized controlled trials in 1997, 1988 and 1994 - which are still being examined today for long-term impact - show consistently proven results in the areas of **improved prenatal health, fewer childhood injuries, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased intervals between births, increased maternal employment, and improved school readiness.**

Program Results 2013-14

Spartanburg County NFP by the Numbers

- ✓ 113 Clients
- ✓ 80 Babies Born
- ✓ 60 Clients Graduated from Program
- ✓ 3735 Total number of NFP home visits
- ✓ 53 Clients on Waiting List



Thank you to our partners!

Nurse Family Partnership

Funding Source	FY1213	FY1314
State Funding	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funding	\$ -	\$ -
Local Private	\$ 433,694	\$ 677,235
Duke Endowment	\$ 433,694	\$ 566,306
Children's Trust Fund of SC	\$ 92,957	\$ 88,629
United Way of the Piedmont	\$ 18,600	\$ 22,300
Total:	\$ 433,694	\$ 677,235

DHEC Region 2

Spartanburg Regional Hospital Systems
United Way of the Piedmont
Congregational Nursing Program
Spartanburg Regional Home Care
Spartanburg County First Steps
SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
The Duke Endowment
Children's Trust of South Carolina

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Getting Children Ready for School

Early Learning ... A Priority in Spartanburg

In collaboration to learn from each other and help change a community of learners, Spartanburg County School District Seven set as a priority an early learning center concept in the Park Hills community.

Principal Wanda Owens-Jackson said ... *"It will help us to get on one chord, as far as serving our early learners. We'll be able to pool our resources and make this a wonderful experience for our early learners."*

Over 20 partnerships were formed to make this early education effort possible including Spartanburg First Steps Early Head Start, the Mary Black Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, ReGenesis Community Health Center, Silver Hill United Methodist Church, Spartanburg County Adult Education Program, Spartanburg County Foundation, Spartanburg Housing Authority, Spartanburg Regional Foundation and others.

Spartanburg County First Steps Partnership Board

Name	Position	Board Category
Donna Anderson	Department of Social Services Support Provider	DSS
Kim Ashby	Spartanburg County School District Two	School District Representative
Terrill Banks	Former EHS Parent	Parent
Joan Blalock	Spartanburg County Library	Library
Laverne Byrd	Retired Teacher	Family Education, Training
Sabrina Coan	Childcare Director	Early Childhood Education
Tamara Cook	Spartanburg Regional Healthcare Nurse	Healthcare Provider
Wanda Fowler	Middle Tyger Community Center, Executive Director	School District Representative
Clarisa Giles	Nurse Family Partnership, Director	Healthcare Provider
Amy Goulding	Attorney – 7 th Circuit Solicitor's Office	Attorney
Ann Greene	Spartanburg County School District One	School District Representative
Ava Hughes	Arts Education Director/Chapman Cultural Center	Business
Karyn Lemon	McAbee, Talbot, Halliday (CPA)	Fiscal – Required by EHS
Sarah Love	Childcare, Early Childhood Development	Children, Early Childhood
Kim McAbee	Spartanburg County School District Four	School District Representative
Dr. Lindi Metcalf	Spartanburg County School District Six	School District Representative
Bob Page	Early Childhood Education	Retired Principal
Kay Phillips	Budweiser of Spartanburg/Business	Legislative Appointee
Terry Pruitt	Spartanburg County School District Seven	School District Representative
Cindy Snead	Spartanburg County School District Three	School District Representative
Catherine Voelker	Department of Health and Environmental Control	DHEC

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First Steps is the lead agency for BabyNet, South Carolina's early intervention system for children under 3. Parents of children 0-2 years old with disabilities or suspected developmental delays should contact their local BabyNet office to schedule an evaluation.

Local BabyNet Office: Serving Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union

Location:

S.C. School for the Deaf and Blind
355 Cedar Springs Road
Spartanburg, SC 29302

Lead Supervisor: Melissa Swann

Office: 864.591.8645

Cell: 864.360.4102

Main Telephone Line: 864-591-8641

BabyNet is South Carolina's interagency early intervention system for infants and toddlers under three years of age with developmental delays, or who have conditions associated with developmental delays.

BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have developmental delays with the professional resources available within the community. Services are provided in everyday routines, activities and places relevant to the life of the family. BabyNet is funded and regulated through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and managed through South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness.

Anyone (a parent, doctor, caregiver, teacher or friend) can make a referral by the number listed below. The earlier a baby or toddler receives help, the better!

To make a referral or to get more information call 1-877-621-0865 or send an email to babynet@scfirststeps.org for assistance



Getting children ready for school success

What is First Steps?

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness was created in 1999 by the South Carolina General Assembly for the purpose of **having every child in South Carolina arrive at kindergarten ready to learn**. Sadly, many South Carolina children possess one or more risk factors that put them at **high risk** (greater than a 1 in 3 chance) for “**early school failure**” – either being retained or scoring below grade level in reading or math – by third grade.

First Steps exists to bring together efforts in early childhood at the state and local level, public and private, to focus and intensify services and assure the most efficient use of all available resources to serve the needs of South Carolina’s young children and their families.

First Steps works to accomplish its mission through a state coordinating office and a network of county partnerships (46), each a private non-profit organization led by a board of early childhood stakeholders. With a modest recurring appropriation of state funding, First Steps leverages cash and in-kind resources at the federal, state and local level to improve services for young children in five strategy areas:

Family Strengthening

A parent is a child’s first and best teacher.

Healthy Start

Children’s development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health.

Quality Child Care

Access to high-quality care is a critical component of a child’s healthy development.

Early Education

Quality preschool opportunities set the stage for success in school.

School Transition

Preparing children and parents for a successful transition into kindergarten.

Each First Steps county partnership determines how to spend its funds based on an annual needs and resources assessment and collaboration with community partners to **fill gaps in local services** for young children and their families. First Steps has proven its impact through strong program and fiscal accountability and independent evaluations - a requirement of its enabling legislation.

All programs that receive First Steps funding - whether they are operated by a First Steps county partnership or a collaborating partner, such as a school district – must adhere to program standards that require programs to be research-based and operated with fidelity; staff who have appropriate qualifications, training, and supervision; services to be comprehensive and coordinated with available community resources; standard assessment instruments that document client outcomes; and programs that **target services to children most at risk** for not being developmentally ready for school.

Public 4K Expansion: CDEPP

Since 2006, First Steps has been the administrator of state Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP) funds to expand access of low-income children to full-day, four-year-old kindergarten within select rural and high poverty school districts, using community-based settings such as Head Start and private child care.

In 2013, the General Assembly appropriated funding to expand CDEPP eligibility to residents of Spartanburg County School District 7

Qualifying children must live in Scholl District Seven be four years old by September 1 of the current year, and qualify for free/reduced lunch or Medicaid.

Interested parents should contact one or more participating CDEPP providers to complete an application. Qualifying children may enroll at any participating CDEPP provider, regardless of their county of residence.

To view a list of participating CDEPP providers, go to:

www.scfirststeps.org/4K/

[2013-14SCFSAApprovedCDEPPProviders.pdf](http://www.scfirststeps.org/4K/2013-14SCFSAApprovedCDEPPProviders.pdf)

First Steps Works for the Children, Parents, and Taxpayers of South Carolina:

First Steps works with community partners to reduce first grade retention.

From 2001 to 2010, first grade retention dropped by 48% statewide, saving taxpayers \$21 million annually.

First Steps leverages resources for families of young children through public-private partnerships.

Since 1999, local partnerships have leveraged \$97 million in increased services, equal to an additional 46 cents for every state dollar invested.

First Steps has increased the quality of services available to young children and families, using research and data to improve programs.

First Steps is a national leader in state-local collaboration to benefit families and communities.

www.scfirststeps.org