

# Annual Report

2019-2020



## THE NEED

IN ALLENDALE COUNTY:

**408**

children under age 5

**76.7%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**72%**

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school



### THREE MOST COMMON RISK FACTORS:

1. Risk factor 1: Single Parent Home
2. Risk factor 2: SNAP/Free school lunches eligibility
3. Risk factor 3: Domestic Violence

## OUR MISSION

To collaborate with other entities, First Steps helps Allendale County families and caregivers prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.

## OUR APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education

## OUR IMPACT

**205**

number of children and adults served by Allendale County First Steps in 2019-2020

## JOIN US

We rely on a community of partners, donors, and volunteers – **people like you** – who believe in a brighter future for children and families in our community.

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**Patricia Hall**  
Executive Director  
Allendale County First Steps

The Allendale County First Steps Board of Directors, staff, and I take pride in providing parents with access to the support they seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their children. We do not take our goal to provide quality enhancing services to our constituents lightly. We ensure this happens by having qualified staff to provide mentoring and technical assistance, administering a quality parenting program, implementing researched-based curriculum, and on-going attendance at best practice trainings.

On behalf of the Allendale County First Steps Board of Directors, staff, I thank our partners for their involvement in ensuring our programs were successful in carrying out the initiatives of the organization. We thank you for your support in the past and look forward to having your continued support in the future. You are the lifeline of this organization and we appreciate all you do to support us.

*Patricia Hall*

# GETTING CHILDREN READY FOR SCHOOL

All children are ready to benefit from a quality kindergarten experience when they are five years old by September 1 of that school year. But kindergarten readiness—the critical stage at which children are prepared for learning and success—is more than a matter of age. For a strong start in school, children need positive relationships and supportive learning environments beginning at birth. At First Steps, we partner with families, caregivers, and communities to ensure that all children are prepared for success.

## South Carolina's Profile of the Ready Kindergartner

Developed by SC First Steps and the SC Department of Education, the state's description of school readiness includes 60 developmental milestones across 5 categories:



**Approaches to learning & inquiry**



**Emotional & social development**



**Physical development, self-help & motor skills**



**Mathematical thinking**



**Language & literacy development**



## OUR GOALS

In support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, our approach is focused on advancing Allendale County toward the following strategic goals:

- Goal 1: Expand the reach of programs and services of Allendale County First Steps
- Goal 2: Increase and improve access to early childhood services in the community to ensure children in need are enrolled in quality early education programs
- Goal 3: Increase public awareness of Allendale County First Steps and mobilize community to work in support of Allendale County First Steps' mission

# PIVOTING FOR COVID-19

When the coronavirus pandemic forced South Carolina to shut down in March 2020, Allendale County First Steps quickly pivoted to provide much-needed support to young children, their families, and childcare providers.

Our work has never been more critical. While children are at low risk for the serious health effects of the virus, the crisis is having a profound impact on their wellbeing and development. For children of color and low-income communities, these impacts are expected to be even more damaging. That is why Allendale County First Steps is enhancing our efforts to provide parents and caregivers with the services and resources they need to weather this storm.

## IMPACT ON ALLENDALE COUNTY

### HEALTH

Through June 30, Allendale County had a total of **51** confirmed COVID-19 cases and **3** COVID-19 deaths.

### JOB LOSS

**89.5%**

increase in unemployment, 2019-2020

### CHILD CARE

**0%**

children under 5 in Allendale County lived in a childcare desert\* before COVID-19

**91.9%**

children under 5 in Allendale County lived in a childcare desert as of May 28, 2020



Preschoolers  
Virtual Learning  
During COVID-19!

\*The Center for American Progress defines a childcare desert as a ZIP code with at least 30 children under the age of 5 and either no 5 childcare centers or so few centers that there are more than three times as many children under age 5 as there are spaces in centers.



# PARENTS AS TEACHERS



*an evidence-based program*

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:



Personal visits from a parent educator at least twice monthly



Monthly group connections with other PAT families



Screenings and assessments to identify developmental concerns



Connections to outside resources that families may need to succeed

## PAT GOES VIRTUAL

Due to COVID-19, Parents as Teachers (PAT) National provided guidance for affiliates to deliver virtual services via interactive video conferencing and phone calls. South Carolina PAT affiliates rose to the occasion by engaging families in creative and meaningful ways while continuing to meet the Essential Requirements of implementing a quality PAT program during the pandemic.

## PAT IN ALLENDALE COUNTY 2019-2020

**25**

families served

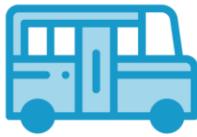
**462**

total home visits

Families that participate in our PAT program identify their strengths and set goals for their children and themselves.



Parents as Teachers®



# COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-informed program

Developed by South Carolina First Steps – and identified as a promising state practice by the National Governor’s Association in 2005 – Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a home visitation program pairing the families of rising kindergartners with their future teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, establishing strong connections during the summer that facilitate classroom learning throughout the year.

## CTK BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

2

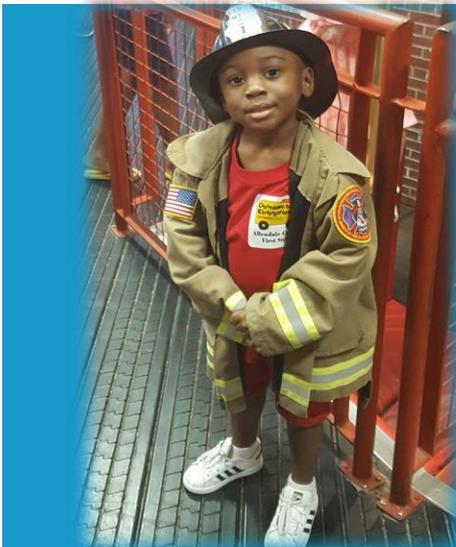
kindergarten teachers  
trained as home visitors

22

children served

132

total home and school  
visits



EdVenture Children Museum

Carter exploring the fire station!





# CHILD CARE TRAINING



*an evidence-based program*

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce. Our training programs are certified through SC Endeavors and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Our 2019-2020 trainings included:

**Does It Take A Village?**

**Be the Boss With Soul**

**Sage on the Stage Really?**

**Moovin & Groovin With Reading**

**Do You Know Where the Children Are?**

**Health & Physical Development**

**What Style Are You? Maximizing Teaching Style**

**Mary, Mary Quite Contrary Your How Does Your garden Grow?**

**Exploring Your Emotions & Social Development Standards**

## TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

**15**

total training attendance

**58**

child care teachers and directors served

**20**

number of training sessions offered



Building a strong foundation while children are young is imperative. They are our future leaders of tomorrow. So it is an honor for me to assist them on their journey in their early years of life as they travel to become productive citizens.



**Edna Youmans, Coordinator ~ Little New Steps Child Care Center**



## CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



*an evidence-based program*

For many families in Allendale County, the cost of quality childcare is out of reach. In partnership with the Department of Social Services ABC Child Care Voucher Program, Our scholarship program makes payments to childcare providers to care for children from low-income families so their parents can return to school or work.

Allendale County First Steps offers scholarships to families enrolled in our Parents as Teachers program, as well as income-eligible children whose parents attends school full-time or works at least 30 hours per week.

### SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

**19**

number of children served

**2**

number of providers served

**45**

number of developmental screenings provided

**100% of the money paid to childcare providers goes back into our local economy to benefit the citizens of Allendale County.**



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for childcare providers, Allendale County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Allendale County begin school ready to succeed. We serve as a:

### LOCAL PORTAL

connecting preschool children and their families to services

### CONVENER

of community stakeholders to develop an effective and comprehensive early childhood system

### CHAMPION

of the importance of school readiness to our children's future

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## OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2019-2020

**80**

Total for Convener Attendance

**952**

Total Community Education & Outreach Count for Families Served



As a mom, I'm all in ~ raising the future.  
We, parents, can't do it alone.  
Yes, we do need a village to help raise our children.  
**Shaquetta Wright, Board Member and Parent**



## OUR SUPPORTERS

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Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Allendale County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

### FUNDING SUPPORT

Private Donors: \$2,326

### IN-KIND SUPPORT

Allendale County School District

Little New Steps Child Care Center

Department of Social Service ABC Scholarship Program

County of Allendale

Town of Allendale

### JOIN US

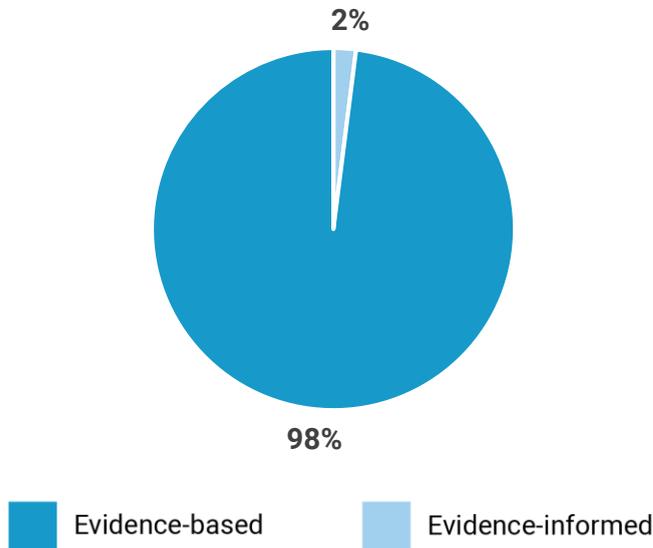
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at [scfirststeps.org/Allendale](https://scfirststeps.org/Allendale)



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



## ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Allendale County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,385,895** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.37** for every state dollar.

## SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Administrative Functions	\$10,454	\$	\$1,029	\$1,606	\$13,089
Core Functions	\$16,949	\$1,641	\$	\$3,194	\$21,784
Parents As Teachers	\$107,306	\$	\$1,668	\$27,149	\$136,123
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$3,257	\$	\$3,064	\$529	\$6,850
Child Care Training & Professional Dev	\$8,784	\$	\$	\$36,576	\$45,360
Child Care Scholarships	\$52,410	\$	\$	\$15,606	\$68,016
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$199,160</b>	<b>\$1,641</b>	<b>\$5,761</b>	<b>\$84,660</b>	<b>\$291,222</b>



## LEADERSHIP

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bianca Brodus	Mark Lott
Lavonia Brodus	Jonathan Murdaugh
Tom Carter	Donella Robinson
Margaret Gilmore	Gloria Smith
Dana Elmore	Evelyn Smith-Smart, Chair
Christy Hurd	Shaquetta Wright
Theresa Kennedy, Co-Chair	Edna Youmans
Shirley Klosterman, Secretary	

### STAFF

Patricia Hall, Executive Director  
Debra Robinson, Parent Educator  
Alma Eady, Parent Educator

## CONTACT US

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