



Annual Report

2020-2021



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 VALUES

We believe all children can learn and have potential for academic, social, emotional and physical greatness.

We believe family engagement is the glue to helping families grow and achieve.

We believe collaboration with agencies and other non-profits helps us deliver sustaining care to families and children at-risk for not being successful in school.

OUR APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education



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.

OUR OVERARCHING MEASURES OF SUCCESS

1. Increase the reach of First Steps services
2. Increase the number of children enrolled in high intensity programs funded by First Steps
3. Increase the availability of high-quality early care and education opportunities offered by First Steps

OUR OBJECTIVES

We will reach more eligible children in Allendale county.

We will increase the number of children receiving high-quality childcare.

We will increase funds to support the availability of early care and early education opportunities .

JOIN US



Gain valuable experience and give back to your community through service with First Steps AmeriCorps. Our AmeriCorps members **engage directly with families and communities**, helping to ensure that all children start school ready to reach their highest potential. Apply at scfirststeps.org/AmeriCorps.

First Steps successfully gets children ready for school.

South Carolina

341,977
children under age 6

46%
of young children live in poverty
or low-income households

Data Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey

In fall 2020, **27%** of entering
kindergartners were ready.

Data Source: 2020 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Results

Compared to their like peers, children
who received First Steps services
were...

34% less likely to be chronically
absent in kindergarten.

74% more likely to enter
kindergarten ready.

Data Source: 2019 External Evaluation of First Steps

Allendale County

480
children under age 6

79%
of young children live in poverty
or low-income households

Data Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey

In fall 2020, **10%** of entering kindergartners
in Allendale County were ready.

Data Source: 2020 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Results



909
children, adults, and workforce members were served
by Allendale County First Steps in FY20-21.

Since inception,
Allendale County First Steps
has leveraged
\$1,451,139.95
from sources outside of
state government.

That is
\$0.37
for every
state dollar.

School District	# of children <6	% of young children living in poverty or low-income households	# entering kindergartners tested	% ready
Allendale	480	79%	50	10%



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Patricia Hall
Executive Director
Allendale County First Steps

The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought severe changes in Allendale County. There was a decrease in the number of families participating in each of our programs. With adherence to the CDC guidelines and rules, community events were limited along with home and school visits.

Our Goal is to help keep families safe and healthy, while we continue to prepare children for school success. Allendale County First Steps Board of Directors, staff, and I will continue to 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.

On behalf of the Allendale County First Steps Board of Directors, and 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 VISION

Every child in Allendale County will have the resources they need to be prepared for school success.



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 2020-2021 trainings included:

Brain Stimulation for Infants

Schedules, Routines, Transition, Oh My!

What to do with a Plan, Cognitive Dev

What to do with a Plan, Mathematics..

Creating an Environment for Large/Small Group

Don't Look Away Series, The Roots of Social Justice

Should I or Shouldn't I Report, Understanding Mandating Reporting

Brain Stimulation for Toddlers

Approaches to Play and Learning

Just The Facts Maam'

Bloodborne Pathogen

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS

2020-2021

99

total training attendance

41

child care teachers and directors served

12

number of training sessions offered



We cannot always build the future for our youth,
but we can build our youth for the future



Ruby Gray, Retired Educator – Little New Steps Child Care Center



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

For many families in Allendale County, the cost of quality child care is out of reach. Our scholarship program makes payments to child care 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 Nurturing Parenting program, as well as income-eligible children whose parent attends school or works at least 30 hours per week.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2020-2021

9

number of children
served

1

number of providers
served

15

number of
developmental
screenings provided

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



NURTURING PARENTING PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

The Nurturing Parenting Program is designed to offer long term, more comprehensive parenting education. Parents & Their Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers participate in a Home Visitation Program that utilizes a parenting curriculum that allows more interactive time between parent and child.

Nurturing Parenting in Allendale County 2020-2021

12

families served

248

total home visits



Nurturing happens in a rush, it make take days, weeks, months, years; but be the best you are for the “little one”.



Torri Davis, Parent Educator



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care 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

OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2020-2021

35

Families served

445

Total Attendance
at community
events



We must prepare the child for the path,
not the path for the child you.



Mark Lott, Community Leader



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

South Carolina State Office First Steps

Private Donors

Scotsman Ice, Inc

Board/Staff Donations

IN-KIND SUPPORT

County of Allendale

Town of Allendale

Allendale County School District

Little New Steps Child Care Center

Department of Social Services ABC Scholarship Program

JOIN US

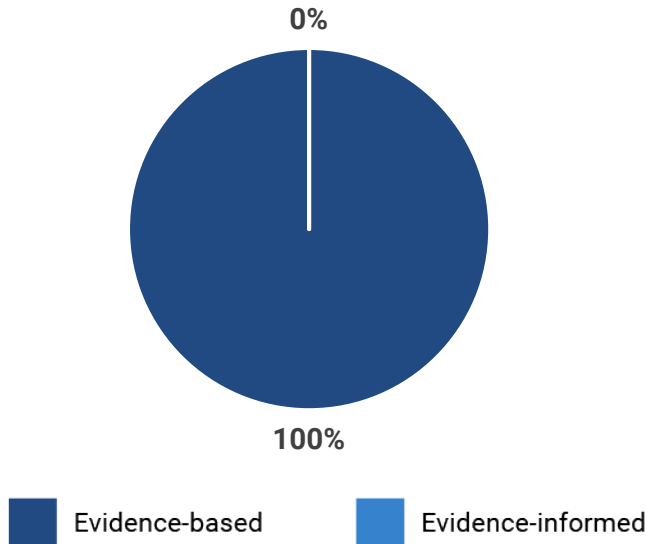
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at
scfirststeps.org/allendale



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 **\$1,451,139.95** 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
Nurturing Parenting (Home Visit)	\$77,214	\$	\$	\$23,700	\$100,914
Child Care Training	\$12,354	\$	\$	\$20,475	\$32,829
Scholarship Initiatives	\$43,427	\$	\$	\$15,455	\$58,882
Partnerships & Community Education	\$11,707	\$	\$	\$2,895	\$15,246
Administrative Support	\$14,961	\$	\$141.00	\$1,935	\$17,037
Total Expenses	\$159,663	\$	\$141	\$64,460	\$224,908



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lavonia Brodus	Jonathan Murdaugh
Margaret Gilmore	Sabb, Rachel
Dana Elmore	Gloria Smith
Christy Hurd	Evelyn Smith-Smart, Chair
Theresa Kennedy, Co-Chair	Shaquetta Wright
Shirley Klosterman, Secretary	Edna Youmans

STAFF

Patricia Hall, Executive Director
Alma Eady, Parent Educator
Torri Davis, Parent Educator

CONTACT US

649 Railroad Avenue E, Allendale SC 29810 | 803-702-9010 | scfirststeps.org/Allendale





Allendale County First Steps

PO Box 236 / 649 Railroad Ave. E
Allendale, SC
29810

(803) 702-9010

SCFIRSTSTEPS.ORG