



THE NEED

IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

42%

of people live in a childcare desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots

53%

of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in nursery school or preschool



IN OCONEE COUNTY:

3,871

children under age 5

57%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

70%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

"To collaborate with other partners, Oconee County First Steps helps Oconee 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

3,589

number of children and adults served by Oconee County First Steps in 2018-2019

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.

PO Box 1557 Seneca, SC 29679 | 864-985-3342 | www.oconeefirststeps.org

Data provided by:

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Monica Alles White
Executive Director
Oconee County First Steps

Oconee County First Steps (OCFS) saw many changes and improvements in its programming during the year. Our home visitation program changed to Healthy Families America. We linked our Child Care Scholarships with the Evidenced-Based program Triple P (Positive Parenting Program). There was expansion of our Child Care Training program with new Certified Trainers.

Palmetto Basics with 5 fun, simple and powerful ways that help foster brain growth in the first three years of life, was introduced to the community. Throughout the year, OCFS continued its vision of “All children in Oconee County will have the care they need to grow and develop to their full potential”. The agency continued long standing events and activities, and we concluded the year partnering with Oconee Pediatrics and Oconee County Public Library (OCPL) to provide books and tips to help families implement Palmetto Basics Tip 5: “Read and Discuss Stories”. The family gets a “Birthday” sticker after their well child visit, to redeem at the OCPL for a book (compliments of OCFS). We also purchased infant and toddler toothbrushes for area events as well as pens and insulated grocery bags. Look to get some of these at your next community event.

In closing, we were recognized as a 2018 United Way of Oconee County Outstanding Community Partnership recipient. We look forward to expanding our relationship with the Oconee County community in the coming year.

Monica Alles White, MS, RD, LD
OCFS Executive Director

OUR GOALS

Our partnership’s work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Oconee County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina’s description of school readiness:

- By 2020, Oconee County First Steps will have maintained, if not increased, its current investments and levels of success.
- By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have invested in Palmetto Basics.
- By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have worked with local childcare facilities to improve the existing quality of care available to young children.
- By 2020, as resources allow, Oconee County First Steps will have expanded or deepened its community partnerships.

“We are thrilled to continue working with Oconee County First Steps; they have a true passion for serving families and understands the value and need for collaboration. Working with the OCFS team allows Heath’s Haven to provide parent education to families in our community who value the opportunity to become the best parents they can be.”

LISA FIELDS, HEATH’S HAVEN DIRECTOR



HEALTHY FAMILIES AMERICA PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

Healthy Families America (HFA) is a program of Prevent Child Abuse America designed to support parents who may be experiencing a range of current or past challenges, including single parenthood, low income, a history of maltreatment, substance abuse, mental health concerns, or domestic violence. HFA is designed as a prevention program; thus, visits begin prenatally or within the first three months after a child's birth and continue until children are between 3 and 5 years old.

HEALTHY FAMILIES AMERICA BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

9

families served

145

total home visits

Children in the HFA program have very few areas of concern identified through developmental screening instruments; which further documents the preventive impact HFA program is having on these high-risk families!

HFA SUPERVISOR



TRIPLE P PARENTING PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

Triple P-Positive Parenting Program is a system of parent training programs designed for parents of children ages birth to 12 years. The main goals are increasing the knowledge, skills, and confidence of parents and reducing the prevalence of mental health, emotional, and behavioral problems in children and adolescents. Level 4 Triple P (intensive) is the acceptable version of the model for the purposes of offering evidence-based parent education.

TRIPLE P PARENTING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

20

families served

30

training sessions

I didn't realize until now that parents are also at different stages of development—not just their children!"

TRIPLE P PARENT

Instead of Lamaze classes, they need to be sending all 'new-to-be' parents to your Triple P parenting classes.

CHILD CARE DIRECTOR



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 the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Our 2018-2019 trainings included:

Help Me Eat Healthy
Physical Fitness 101
Goodness of Fit
Exploring Open-Ended Art
Bring the Outside In
Understanding How Little Ones Grow
Watch Me Grow: Ages and Stages 101
Blood Borne Pathogens
Filling Emotional Tanks: The Five Love Languages
Playground Safety

How to make a Happy Tummy
What is Palmetto Shared Service Alliance?
Happy Employees = Happy Child Care Program
Gardening with Young Children
Love & Logic for Child Care Providers
Making the Connection of the SCELIS to Your Lesson Plan
It Takes a Village. Troubled Parent-Child Interactions
Let's Get Moving

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

470

total training attendance

159

child care teachers and
directors served

19

number of training
sessions offered

“After 18 ½ years, I am finally going to retire. In all these years, I know I received some good information from all the speakers and was able to apply it to my home day care.”

Pat Rhudy, Tots & Toddlers



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

Access to quality childcare is essential for children while away from their primary caregiver. Yet, of those families eligible for childcare assistance in Oconee county, only a fraction receive it. For many families, the cost of quality childcare is out of reach. Our scholarship program makes payments to ABC Quality “B” or higher childcare providers to care for children so their parents can return to school or work. At least 1 developmental screening is provided each year, and families are connected to needed services within the community. In addition, parents must attend one, 5-class session of Triple P Positive Parenting program.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

30

number of children
served

5

number of providers
served

32

number of
developmental
screenings provided

“ Thank you for all your help. My family appreciates your help and I really enjoyed the classes. ”

CHILDCARE SCHOLARSHIP PARENT

4K

FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-based program

South Carolina First Steps provides eligible children with free enrollment in full-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. In coordination with First Steps local partnerships and more than 200 private, faith- and community-based preschool providers, First Steps 4K expands access to quality child care across the state.



ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for enrollment, a child must:

- ✓ Be 4 years old on or before September 1
- ✓ Qualify for Medicaid or a free or reduced-price lunch program
- ✓ Live in one of 64 qualifying school districts

FIRST STEPS 4K IN OCONEE COUNTY 2018-2019

21

children enrolled

2

participating classrooms

4K NEWS

In fiscal year 2019-2020, South Carolina First Steps is launching a pilot program to expand 4K enrollment within underserved communities. Age and income-eligible children residing in any SC school district may qualify for a slot in a participating center that also serves students from eligible districts.





PUBLIC AWARENESS



an evidence-informed program

Oconee County First Steps has many faces and partners in Community Education. We collaborate with both public and private 4K facilities providing bookbags for each child; we work with numerous organizations on collecting winter items (blankets/socks) for distribution with our Warm A Child program; and through Palmetto Basics we increase awareness of early learning opportunities for young children.

4K BOOKBAG PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

1730

bookbags and
toothbrushes
distributed

2

events held

11

total number of
facilities reached

WARM A CHILD FOR THE WINTER BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

714

blankets and
socks distributed

1

events held

16

total event
attendance

PALMETTO BASICS KICKOFF BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

6200

educational
materials
distributed

1

events held

31

total event
attendance

“My child was so thrilled to receive her bookbag when she started 4K this fall. She coveted that bookbag all year.”

4K PARENT



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for childcare providers, OCFS mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Oconee 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 2018-2019

17,566

Materials
distributed

United Way of Oconee County Certificate of Appreciation
presented to Oconee Co. First Steps in Recognition of
2018 Outstanding Community Partner Award.



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

Anonymous \$100

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Kathe Davis
Barbara Dyar
Suzanne Evans
Tina Kirby
Kendra Vincent
Tony Vincent
Tounga Williams
Janis Young
Karen Durham
Dept. of Social Services
Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Heath's Haven
The Parenting Place
Ralph's Trophy Shop
South Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral Network
The Journal, Oconee Publishing, Inc.
Borg Warner
Foothills Early Learning Center
Pennsylvania Children's Center
Oconee County Public Library

JOIN US

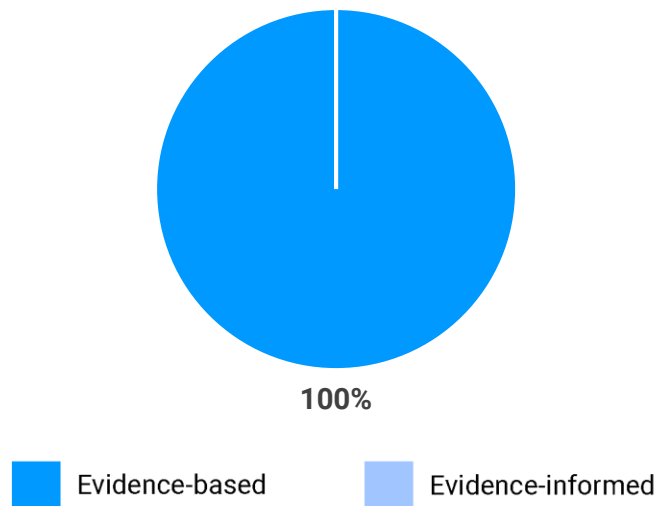
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at
oconeefirststeps.org



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Oconee County First Steps has leveraged **\$3,710,402.32** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.94** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Healthy Families America	\$62,091	\$0	\$0	\$11,925	\$74,016
Child Care Scholarships	\$84,699	\$0	\$0	\$ 806	\$85,506
Child Care Training	\$27,003	\$0	\$0	\$ 4,502	\$31,505
Triple P Positive Parenting	\$14,656	\$0	\$0	\$ 8,102	\$22,758
Core Functions	\$25,872	\$0	\$280	\$ 8,056	\$34,207
Administrative Support	\$28,033	\$0	\$497	\$ 5,155	\$33,685
Total Expenses	\$242,354	\$0	\$777	\$38,546	\$281,677



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kendra Vincent, Board Chair, Recreation Therapist
Misty Lee, Board Vice Chair, DHEC designee
Kathleen Davis, Board Secretary, Legislative Appointee
Annette Burney, Legislative Appointee
Katie Conlin, Retired Early Childhood Educator
Barbara Dyar, Local Government
Ann Douglas, SDOC Designee
Suzanne Evans, Retired Child Care Director
Stephanie Gentry, DSS Designee
Tina Kirby, Local Government
Shanon Lusk, SDOC Designee
Summer Mast, Non-Profit Organization
Molly Tannery, Legislative Appointee
Reg Tatum, Business
Kayla Hamilton, Library Designee
Tony Vincent, Faith
Alex Whitaker, Health
Tounga Williams, Head Start Designee
Janis Young, Child Care Center Director

STAFF

Monica Alles White, MS, RD, LD, Executive Director
Angela Ray, Program Specialist
Kindel Thomas, Social Media Consultant

CONTACT US

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CHILD CARE TRAINING



PALMETTO BASICS KICKOFF



PREVENT CHILD ABUSE



WARM A CHILD



4K BOOKBAG PROGRAM

