



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

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 MCCORMICK COUNTY:

262

children under age 5

69.1%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

53%

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

OUR MISSION

To improve the healthy development and school readiness of preschool children and their families by fostering collaboration and supporting quality early childhood programs that meet the needs of our children and families.

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

800

number of children and adults served by McCormick 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.

OUR STORY



In this small rural community we have big plans for the preschool children we serve. We want them to be healthy, happy, and ready to succeed when they start school.

Our child care center is quality rated A+. Our Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) indicates that children in McCormick are better prepared, on average, for kindergarten than their peers across the state. In 2018, McCormick was one of only 14 districts to surpass the state average on every KRA domain.

These achievements have been made possible due to the dedication of our staff and their sincere concern for the children we serve.

OUR GOALS

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

- Increase the number of families with the capacity to support their child's healthy development, particularly among underserved populations.
- Ensure children's emotional, social, cognitive and physical development through high-quality programs and enrichment activities; and by engaging parents in inquiry based activities and by involving the business community in funding these programs to enrich their future workforce.
- Enhance leadership development and capacity building in child care providers and teachers to ensure we are prepared to meet the unique, individual needs of all students.

McCormick First Steps has been a critical partner to McCormick County School District in serving children 0-5 in our community. Our partnership has enabled us to provide for our community's most pressing needs, quality child care and parenting. We communicate regularly to ensure gaps are filled with scholarships and literacy based programs.

**Pamela Turman, Director of Early Learning & Student Services
McCormick School District**



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 IN THE NEWS

PAT recently received the highest rating from the federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse. This recognition validates the effectiveness of Parents as Teachers as a strategy for improving parenting practices, promoting early detection of developmental delays and health issues, preventing child abuse and neglect, and enhancing school readiness and success.

PAT IN MCCORMICK COUNTY 2018-2019

18

families served

427

total home visits

McCormick has received the Parents as Teacher's Blue Ribbon Affiliate Award by completing over 100 quality accomplishments.

100% of families surveyed were satisfied with this program and said that they would recommend this program to a friend.



Parents as Teachers.



NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP



an evidence-based program

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time mothers and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, moms receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, provide responsible and competent care for their children, and become more economically self-sufficient. From pregnancy until the child turns two years old, Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors form a much-needed, trusting relationship with their clients, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

3

children served

42

number of home
visits provided

I'm participating in this program to help me become a good parent since I'm a first time mom, and to get good advice about parenting skills. My nurse is absolutely amazing in helping me with all the problems and questions that I have for her. She's always giving me good advice.

Client of Nurse Family Partnership





IMAGINATION LIBRARY



an evidence-based program

As the local affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, we provide free, high-quality books to children from birth until age five, no matter their family's income.

Children enrolled in our Imagination Library program receive one book per month by mail. Each title is selected by a panel of early childhood literacy experts, who are responsible for choosing books that meet the age-specific developmental needs of young children.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

101

children served

845

books distributed

Books are 100% free to children in McCormick County because McCormick County First Steps secures the funds from Good Shepherd Catholic Church Men's Club, McCormick County Friends of the Library, and the McCormick Lions Club to cover the cost of books and shipping fees.





CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



an evidence-based program

For many families in McCormick 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.

All children who receive scholarships are enrolled in McCormick County School of Early Education, our A+ rated quality child care center. They also attend our Library Literacy Program. McCormick First Steps offers scholarships to families enrolled in our Nurse-Family Partnership program, our Parents as Teachers program as well as income-eligible children whose parent attends school or works at least 20 hours per week.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

19

number of children
served

1

number of providers
served

31

number of
developmental
screenings provided

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



EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM



an evidence-based program

This program provides quality child care for infants and toddlers. We focus on the most at-risk children, especially those children with multiple risk factors and developmental delays.

We use certified child care providers, who continually increase their knowledge of early childhood development through training each year.

We maintain an A+ quality rating through DSS-ABC Enhanced scoring and use Creative Curriculum for infants and toddlers.

EARLY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN UNDER FOUR BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

50

children served

1

providers served



Some of the happy, healthy children in our child care center.



LIBRARY LITERACY PROGRAM



an evidence-informed program

To improve our children's literacy skills, we provide story time twice each month. At each session each child receives a book to take home and keep. To further increase pre-reading skills, twice each month a music teacher provides music, songs, and rhymes. In addition art projects and special events are provided as part of this program.

LIBRARY LITERACY BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

95

families served

4

providers served

Literacy Results

Child Care Providers and Head Start teachers whose children were served by the Library Literacy program were surveyed.

- 100% said this was a valuable program and that the librarian and music teacher did well or very well in engaging the children's interest.
- 100% said that children enjoyed and benefited from this literacy program.
- 100% felt that this program improved the children's pre-reading skills
- On a scale of 1-5, children's listening skills improved from 2.5 to 3.4 this year



REACH OUT & READ



an evidence-based program

When families read aloud to their young children, they can give them a better start to life. With unparalleled access to families with young children, Reach Out and Read medical providers give books to children at more than 10 well-child visits from infancy until they start school. More importantly, they encourage families to read aloud and engage with their infants, toddlers and preschoolers every day.

REACH OUT & READ BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

20

families served

1

providers served

The effectiveness of the Reach Out and Read model is recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics in a policy statement that recommends early literacy promotion as an essential component of pediatric care. Our program is both cost-effective, and evidence-based: research shows that our program results in more frequent reading at home, accelerated vocabulary and critical brain stimulation.





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, McCormick County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in McCormick 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

46

Articles & notices published in local newspaper about First Steps events & programs

11

Community events, festivals or meetings attended to promote First Steps programs

I attribute the strength and success of First Steps in McCormick County to the many years of commitment by our executive director, Ruth Detrick. Our biggest challenge ahead will be working with a new director to make sure we maintain what Ruth has established.

Paul Brown, Board Chair



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

Lutheran Church by the Lake \$2725

Milliken Foundation \$1810

Sen. Floyd Nicholson \$1225

Good Shepherd Catholic Church \$1200

SC Art's Commission Grant \$600

Friends of the McCormick Library \$500

McCormick Lion's Club \$500

McCormick Garden Club \$200

First Steps Fund Raisers \$2365

IN-KIND SUPPORT

McCormick School District

Carolina Health Centers, Inc.

McCormick Lions Club

Lutheran Church by the Lake

JOIN US

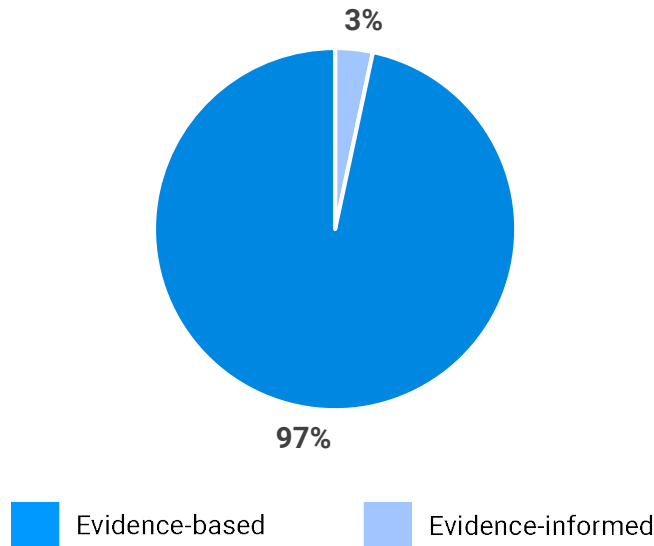
For more information about our partnership visit our web site:
www.mccormickcountyfirststeps.org



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures of State Funds by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, McCormick County First Steps has leveraged **\$2,576,419** from sources outside of state government.

That's **.79** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$26,740		\$691	\$24,994	\$52,425
Library Based Lit & Reach Out Read	\$6,863		\$2,499	\$1,140	\$10,803
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	\$1,784		\$650	\$120	\$2,554
Nurse Family Partnership	\$15,673			\$4,020	\$19,693
Early Education Children Under Four	\$117,574	\$1,500	\$2,389	\$101,030	\$224,493
Scholarships	\$36,217			\$1,140	\$37,357
Partnerships & Community Education	\$6,476	\$2,500	\$334	\$960	\$10,270
Administrative Support	\$12,699		\$109	\$1,980	\$14,788
Total Expenses	\$224,026	\$4,000	\$6,973	\$135,384	\$370,383



LEADERSHIP

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Ruth Detrick, Executive Director.

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