

RICHLAND COUNTY



Getting children ready for school



Parents as Teachers

Child Care Quality  
Enhancement

Child Care Training

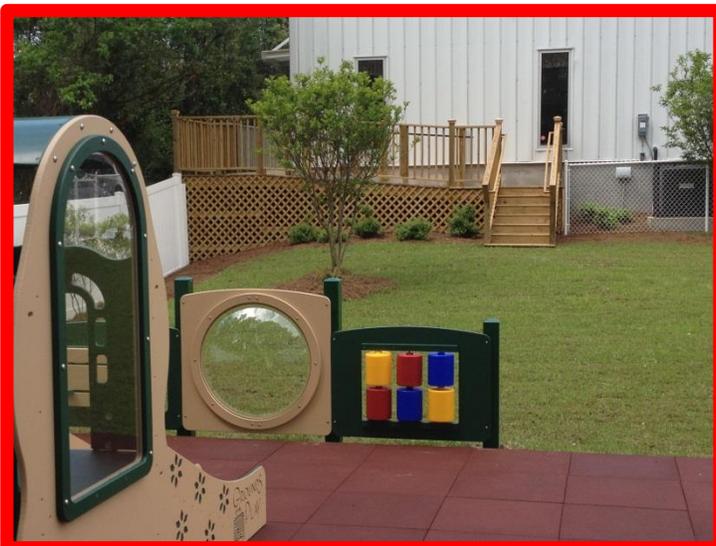
Early Head Start

Nurse Family Partnership

Nurse Consultant

# Annual Report

2012-2013



## OUR VISION:

Every child in Richland  
County will arrive at first  
grade healthy and  
ready to succeed in  
school.

*First Steps WORKS for the children of Richland County.*

### Who We Serve

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

Number of Richland County children under 6:

**29,300**

Number of Richland County children under 6 living in poverty:

**8,772**

Babies born each year in Richland County to a mother without a high school diploma:

**13.8%**

### Our Strategies

Parents as Teachers

Child Care Quality Enhancement

Child Care Training

Early Head Start

Nurse Family Partnership

Nurse Consultant

### Our Results

- ✓ 2,444+ children in Richland County served by our programs
- ✓ 7,438 hours of Technical Assistance Visits and/or Home Visits delivered
- ✓ Over 1,740 books distributed as part of our literacy program

### FIRST STEPS.... WORTH THE INVESTMENT?

Business icon **Lee Iacocca** has been quoted as saying:

*"In a completely rational society the best and brightest of us would be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something else."*

Think about it? *Think about it some more?*

*We are all teachers* to someone at many different points in our youth and adult lives. As parents we are our children's first and best teacher. As caregivers to children, in whatever capacity, we are all teachers, mentors, and role models.

**Richland County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership** (RCFS) was created in 1999 as an independent nonprofit organization. RCFS is one of 46 County Partnerships charged by the General Assembly with improving the school readiness of South Carolina's young children.

Why were we then and why are we still, needed? There is a simple answer: too many children, for whatever reasons, were, and still are, entering the schoolhouse doors unprepared physically, emotionally, and cognitively for kindergarten.

**Richland County First Steps** (RCFS), evidenced by its many efforts and responsibilities is essentially in the business of *teaching*. RCFS carries out its community obligations by providing/administering research and evidence-based programs proven to positively impact school readiness. *We train* parents and caregivers; *we build relationships* between parents and others who serve children. We concentrate our efforts on one of life's most critical periods - the first three of the early childhood years.

We are committed to improving the **Quality** of parenting, child health, early literacy and language, and child care in our community.

We are committed to improving the **Readiness** for all children to develop the skills to enter school and achieve their personal potential.

We are committed to improving the **Success** of all children in school, work and life.

**Board Chair**

Richelynn Douglas

**Chief Executive Officer**

Rick Noble

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### FIRST STEPS.... WORTH THE INVESTMENT?

#### CONTINUED

Some may question whether RCFS is worth the investment the community has made.

How might we determine that worth?

Measuring the impact of RCFS is challenging for a variety of reasons.

A universally accepted measurement of school readiness does not exist.

Assessing young children is an inexact art. It's not acceptable to test very young children and difficult to isolate specific impacts related to learning and readiness. There are many influences on children's development.

Children, of course, are under the influence and impact of many people and organizations.

No one person or group can claim full credit for a child's development.

However, there are **measurements** of the **impact** RCFS is having on parents, teachers, caregivers, as well as on the **environment** in which children live and learn. These measurements are **indicators** of positive changes and are reliable predictors of future readiness and success.

These examples, among many others, are worth noting:

- 1) Reduction in retention rates: retention rates in Richland County school districts today are half of what they were in 2000. We can measure student progress through **promotion**.
- 2) Thousands of caregivers working in our child care centers and homes have been trained and retrained. We can measure the improvement in specific areas of their knowledge and in their classroom environments. (ITERS/ECERS)
- 3) Hundreds of parents have been coached in simple parenting techniques to help their children develop to their potential. We can measure improvement in parent child interaction. (KIPS)
- 4) Community awareness of the importance of, and commitment of resources to, early education is at its highest level in history. We could tabulate the number of stories and column inches printed.
- 5) One of the easier and more popular **measurements of worth** is calculating how State and local dollars are being leveraged with Federal and private dollars. RCFS receives financial support from state and federal governments, and other private sources to develop strategies and collaborate with other groups to provide training and other services to parents/caregivers that will result in increased readiness. During the last 3 years RCFS has generated \$2 for every \$1 given to us by the state of South Carolina, effectively tripling the financial resources to benefit young children. \$1 becomes \$3.  
**Actually \$2 million became \$6 million.**

Have we answered the question first posed?

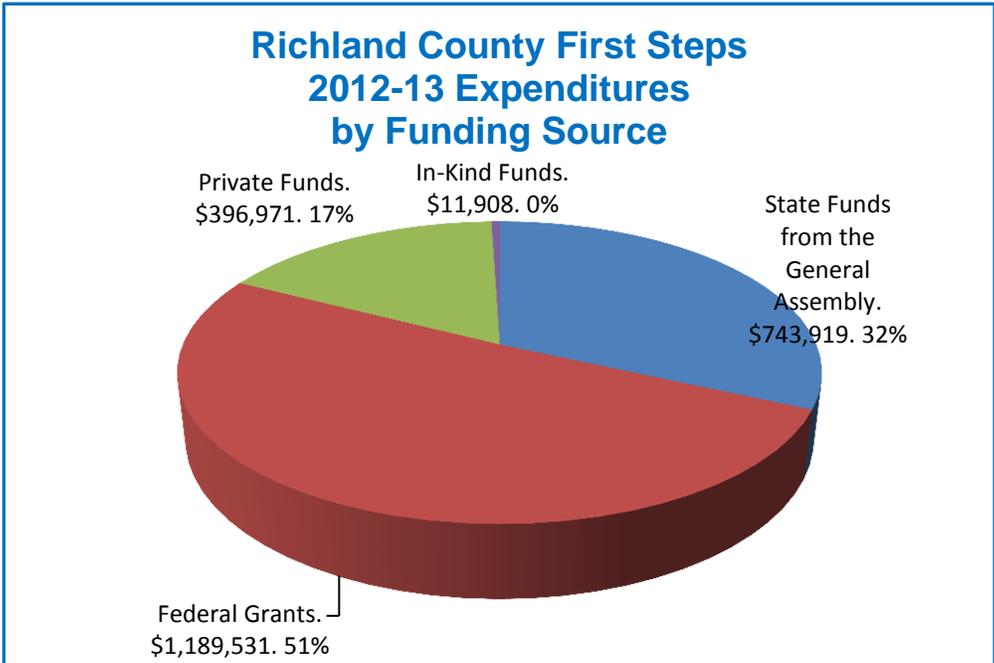
Perhaps there is a better/simpler question to ask.

If RCFS hadn't been created in 1999 would the young children of Richland County be **better or worse off**?

**Read our 2013 Annual Report. Think about it.**

Rick Noble, CEO

# Financial Overview



**Total 2012-13 Expenditures: \$2,342,330**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2012-13\*: 215%**

*\*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds*

**2012-13 Expenditures by Strategy**

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$ (reported)	Total \$	% of 2012-13 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$178,585	\$0	\$3,400	\$11,880	\$193,865	8%
Early Head Start	\$32,249	\$1,167,161	\$0	\$0	\$1,199,410	51%
Nurse Family Partnership	\$0	\$0	\$375,292	\$0	\$375,292	16%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$201,415	\$0	\$10,470	\$28	\$211,913	9%
Child Care Training	\$58,018	\$0	\$6,920	\$0	\$64,938	3%
Nurse Consulting	\$55,494	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$55,494	2%
Program Support (General)	\$115,921	\$12,307	\$706	\$0	\$128,934	6%
Administrative Support	\$102,237	\$10,063	\$183	\$0	\$112,482	5%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$743,919</b>	<b>\$1,189,531</b>	<b>\$396,971</b>	<b>\$11,908</b>	<b>\$2,342,330</b>	

*Since inception in 2000, Richland County First Steps has leveraged \$10,043,207 from sources outside of state government. That's \$78 for every state dollar!*

# Community Impact Example

## Mentoring Idea Leads to Grant Funded Initiative

Excellence in Care and Early Learning - Marcia Bacon, Director of Care and Early Learning

Our idea for this Mentoring Initiative started a few years ago. We had an infant classroom that had such poor child care practices that it was painful to watch during their ITERS pre-assessment. The room had three teachers and eight children and either it was silent because no one was talking or it was filled with crying children who had been left in swings and bouncy seats and their needs were not being met, even the basic need of adult attention. They scored a 1 out of 7 (the lowest score on an ITERS) in Room Arrangement, Helping children understand language, Helping children use language, Staff-child interactions and scored a 2 in Discipline.

Our TA was encouraging the teachers to take the children out of the swings and bouncy seats and lay them on the floor for tummy time and to help them develop their muscles to push themselves up and start to crawl. One teacher could not believe this was a good idea and said "I'd like to see a class where they do that."

We found a high-quality infant classroom where they could see teachers on the floor talking to children, giving them love and attention.

The RCFS ExCEL program received a grant from United Way of the Midlands for this new initiative. The Mentoring Initiative is based on best practices for early childhood classrooms and the need for teachers from Enhancement Team centers to "see" best practices in action. We believe that "seeing is believing" and wanted to give Enhancement Team teachers the opportunity to view what their ExCEL Technical Assistant (TA) was talking about each week so they could bring it back for implementation in their own classroom.

We focused on the ERS (Environment Rating Scale-ITERS or ECERS) areas of:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Staff-child interactions                          | Use of language in the classroom |
| Discipline (appropriate expectations of children) | Room arrangement                 |

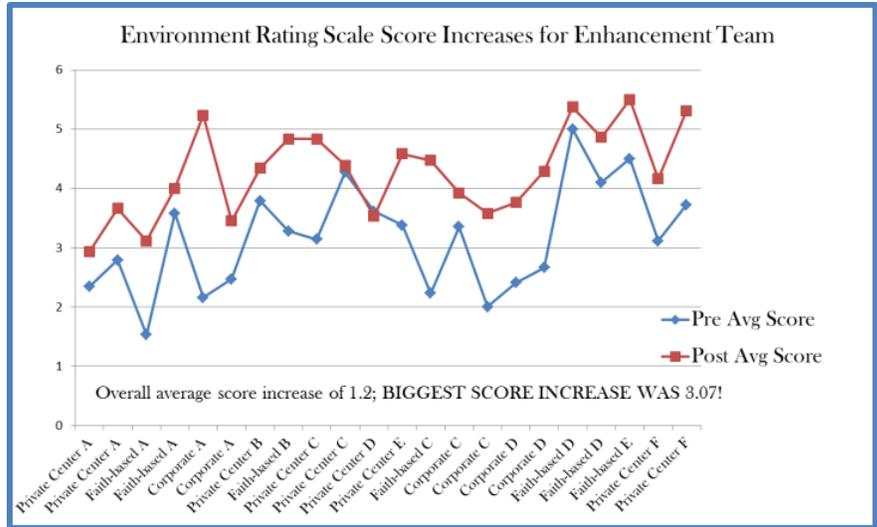
### GOALS FOR THE MENTORING INITIATIVE:

- For the participating Enhancement Team classroom teachers to see best practices in action in the Mentoring class and bring back ideas to improve the quality of care their children receive.
- To increase the ERS scores specifically in the areas of appropriate expectations of children, use of language, room arrangement, child-directed play and staff-child interactions by 50%.

### RESULTS:

Scores in the classes that were mentored had an overall increase in their ERS score of 1.6 and non-mentored classes increased by .8! The specific ERS indicators we focused on (staff-child interactions, language, discipline, and room arrangement) increased very well in most of the mentored classes; most all achieved the goal of a 50% increase - the biggest increase was 250%.

Upon review of the results of this pilot project, United Way has renewed our grant for three years with increased funding!



## Parent Educators tell us some wonderful participant stories

### Success by Perseverance

#### *The Mom committed to succeeding in all areas of life.*

Last fall I was supporting a mom and her three children, ages 8, 6, and 1 in the Richland County First Steps **Early Head Start** Program. This mom started in our program as unemployed and living with her sister and her two children. Eventually, she moved into housing through the Columbia Housing Authority and continued looking for work. Last summer she decided that she wanted to go back to school and get a certificate in medical assistance. She persevered and she continued to make weekly home visits and never missed one, but then she started her internship at the hospital and she wanted to continue receiving Early Head Start services so she came up with the goal of continuing weekly visits but asked if they could occur during her lunch break at the hospital. I met her every week and went over the activity and information with her, and each week she would tell me how she did the activity with her one year old son. She was very proud of herself in December when she had completed her internship and had met with me every week.

Porsche Knight



#### *Parents as Teachers Program in Eastover finds success in Group Meetings*

The **Parents As Teachers** Program in Eastover has had a number of success stories through our Parent Group Meetings, and we want to highlight these. In February and March, we talked about HIV/AIDS awareness. A team of Disease Intervention Specialists were on hand to do site testing. We had 100% of parents voluntarily take the HIV test and express how much they learned through these gatherings. In May, a motivational speaker talked to the parents about having the courage to change and mentioned the GED program at the Eastover Library. As a result we had several parents enroll in the GED program. One parent has graduated and gone on to enroll in phlebotomy school. We have also had a couple of parents working on getting expungements, and two have started new jobs. All the parents wrote what they wanted to change or work on to make their lives better, and most have achieved their goals. We have also had our families working together to help raise funds for the program's annual field trips to Riverbanks Zoo and EdVenture Museum. Our program has gained support in the local faith community who have donated meals, clothing, transportation and financial assistance to families. A new literacy initiative, Read To Me, continues to improve reading habits by asking parents to keep daily reading logs.

Deloris Flemming, Cheryl Osborne, and Nikiyah Spearman



# Community Impact Data

## Numbers Served by First Steps in Richland County: 2012-13

	Implementing Agency or Organization	Children 0-5 Served	Parents/Adult Family Members Served	Early Childhood Staff Who Received Training	Child Care Providers, Head Start Centers, and/or Schools Served	Technical Assistance Visits	Technical Assistance Hours	Group Training Hours
<b>Programs Funded by Richland County First Steps:</b>								
<b>Parents as Teachers:</b> Parenting/life skills education in the home with families prenatal-5 years.	Richland County First Steps	55	40	3.4	N/A	959	959	30
<b>Early Head Start:</b> Federally funded community-based program for low-income families with infants, toddlers and pregnant women.	Richland County First Steps	151	N/A	21.6	1	1709	2566	252
<b>Child Care Quality Enhancement:</b> Intensive on-site technical assistance and materials support to improve program quality.	Richland County First Steps	825	N/A	302	15	636	1432	See Child Care Training
<b>Child Care Training:</b> Group training and followup for local child care and early learning staff.	Richland County First Steps	755+	N/A	211	23	N/A	N/A	94.5
<b>Nurse Consultant:</b> Expanding access to health related issues and health training.	RCFS/DHEC	N/A	N/A	87	20	N/A	N/A	160
<b>Nurse-Family Partnership:</b> Home visits by registered nurses to low-income, first time moms starting in pregnancy until the child turns 2.	DHEC	N/A	131	6	N/A	1,654	2,481	N/A
<b>NUMBER SERVED BY RICHLAND FIRST STEPS:</b>		<b>1,766+</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>4,958</b>	<b>7,438</b>	<b>536.5</b>
<b>Other First Steps Programs in Richland County:</b>								
<b>BabyNet:</b> Early intervention for infants and toddlers with significant developmental delays or disabilities.	SC First Steps	678	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL NUMBER SERVED:</b>		<b>2,444+</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>4,958</b>	<b>7,438</b>	<b>536.5</b>

*Thank you to our partners!*

### In-Kind Support

Eau Claire Community Health Center  
 Richland County School District One at  
 Horrell Hill Elementary School

### Community Collaboration

Midlands Reading Consortium  
 Richland County Community Health Partners  
 Richland Library

### Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$746,063  
*(through South Carolina First Steps)*  
 Head Start, Administration of Children and Families: \$1,189,758  
 Nurse Family Partnership: \$373,200  
*(through The Duke Endowment)*  
 United Way of the Midlands: \$10,470

### Richland County First Steps

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Parents play a critical role in their children's development.

## Program Description

Serving the Lower Richland area (Eastover, Gadsden and Hopkins), three Parent Educators, certified through Parents As Teachers, serve 40 families of prenatal moms and those with children birth to age five. Parents As Teachers is an evidence-based early childhood parent education and family support program.

- 1. Personal Visits:** If a family has two or more risk factors, the Parent Educators meet with the families 60 minutes weekly and for the families with one risk factor, they meet 60 minutes, twice a month.
- 2. Group Connections:** The families also meet once a month for parent meetings. The meetings are designed so families and their children can interact with other families and children. Meeting topics included: Planting, Making Ice Cream, trips to the Zoo and Museum, Stranger Danger, Abuse and Neglect, Dental Health, Color Me Healthy, BabyNet, A Step Ahead Presenters, Vision and Hearing Screening, and Choosing Appropriate Toys.
- 3. Screening:** The Parent Educators use assessment tools appropriate for children: KIPS (Keys to Interactive Parenting), Ages and Stages-3(ASQ-3), Ages & Stages -SE, (ASQ-SE), ACIRI (Adult/Child Interactive Reading Inventory) and, new for 2012, the Life Skill Progression model. All Parent Educators are certified to administer above assessments.
- 4. Resource and Referral Network:** connects families to needed resources, strengthening protective factors and fostering positive change. The resources and referrals our families connect with are BabyNet, Richland County School District One (Gadsden, Horrell Hill & Webber Elementary), WIC, Harvest Hope, Eau Claire Community Health, Shelter for Battered Women, Magic Johnson's Center, and local churches.

### Risk Factor Profile:

% in Poverty	<b>92%</b>
% < HS Diploma (mother)	<b>35%</b>
% children with Developmental Delays (child)	<b>35%</b>
% Low Birth Weight (child)	<b>10%</b>
% Teenage Moms (parent)	<b>5%</b>

### Thank you to our partners!

Richland County School District One  
Bernice Scott Health Center  
Local Health and WIC Departments  
Department of Social Services  
Webber and Horrell Hill Elementary Schools

## PAT Works

Clients in First Steps home visitation programs, including PAT, saw **significant increases from their pre- to post-assessments**. Overall, **54%** of participants who scored at a low quality of parenting improved to a moderate quality of parenting, **44%** who had moderate parenting skills moved to high quality, and **11.9%** who had low quality parenting at pre-test increased their skills to high quality.

*First Steps Evaluation  
High Scope Educational Research Foundation, 2009*

*"My Parent Educator helped me form an attachment with my second child."*

PAT mother, 26 years old with two children.

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ Served 40 families (55 children) and conducted 959 home visits
- ✓ Increase of parenting skills as assessed through KIPS: 0.54 and ACRIC 0.46
- ✓ Delivered more than 444 books for children and families
- ✓ Participated in the MIECHV Continuous Quality Improvement Collaborative
- ✓ Parent Educators received certification as Child Passenger Safety Technicians

## PAT by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$156,647	\$178,585
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$2,396	\$3,400
In-Kind Funds	\$10,068	\$11,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$169,722</b>	<b>\$193,865</b>
<b>State \$ Leveraged</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9%</b>
Families Served	43	40
Cost per Family	\$3,647	\$4,847
Number of Visits	1,218	959
Cost per Visit	\$139	\$202

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**In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.**

## Program Description

For infants, toddlers and preschoolers, the quality of care they receive is crucial to their healthy development and eventual readiness for school. Child care providers strive to provide that type of quality care, but often lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

Richland County First Steps' Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) program called **ExCEL – Excellence in Care and Early Learning**, strives to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children. Participating child care providers must serve a significant percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

### Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly, most ExCEL classrooms have weekly TA.
2. Equipment and materials funding according to needs based on classroom assessments.
3. DSS certified training provided by ExCEL and other partners to the whole county and our ExCEL centers.
4. Workforce Development through emphasis on TEACH.
5. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS).

**Congratulations to some of ExCEL's most improved classrooms for 2012-2013!**

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
La Petite on Garners Ferry, 2s room	From 2.16 to 5.23!
St Michaels CDC, toddler room	From 2.23 to 4.47
Myers Nursery, 3-yr-old room	From 3.14 to 4.83
Sunshine House 43, 3-yr-old room	From 2.66 to 4.29
Wonderful Beginnings, 3/4s room	From 3.72 to 5.31

**Thank you to our partners!**

**Shandon Presbyterian Church**  
**DHEC Midlands Region for Nurse Consultant**  
**Northminster Presbyterian Church**  
**United Way of the Midlands**  
**Lizard's Thicket**

## QE Works

Universally, child care centers and providers who participated in First Steps Quality Enhancement strategies showed **significant increases in pre/post scores of assessed child care quality.**

*First Steps Evaluation  
 High Scope Educational Research Foundation, 2009*

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ **ExCEL served 25 classrooms in 15 centers.**
- ✓ **The average Environment Rating Scale increase of the classroom pre and post scores was 1.2! This is very significant.**
- ✓ **As a NAEYC Accreditation Facilitation Project, we are currently assisting a center who has applied for NAEYC accreditation.**
- ✓ **ExCEL's Nurse Consultant provided resource consultation, training and referrals to BabyNet.**

## QE by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$179,971	\$200,474
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$18,871	\$10,535
In-Kind Funds	\$0	\$28
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$194,294</b>	<b>\$211,037</b>
<b>State \$ Leveraged</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Providers Served	13	15
Cost per Provider	\$14,946	\$14,069
Number of Visits	750	636
Cost per Visit	\$259	\$332

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Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, affordable professional development.

## Program Description

Efforts to improve the quality of child care must include providing affordable, high quality training that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

Richland County First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training, but also follow-up with supported practice in the classroom.

The **RCFS ExCEL (Excellence in Care and Early Learning) program** offered many opportunities for certified trainings to child caregivers in Richland County and the state:

- All seven modules of the SC Infant-Toddler Guidelines and the Infant-Toddler Field Guide for the whole state; one per month from October to April 2013. We also offered sessions on the SC Early Learning Standards.
- Directors' Lunches - one hour trainings in Program Administration to our 15 centers directors five times during the year.
- A Saturday 6-hour ExCEL conference for our center staffs with classes focused on best practice and ERS related topics.

The ExCEL staff taught many of these trainings: our staff includes Certified Trainers, (two are Master Trainers) with the Center for Child Care Career Development and two who are trained on the Infant-Toddler Guidelines.

Our trainings are designed to meet the needs of our center staffs based on their ERS assessments. The goal is for the ERS scores to increase due to training and technical assistance. An improved ERS score is a reflection of the improvement of quality in the classroom.

## Thank you to our partners!

Shandon Presbyterian Church

DHEC Midlands Region for Nurse Consultant

Northminster Presbyterian Church

## Training Works

Research shows that well trained and educated individuals in the child care workforce are **key to ensuring that children are both safe and in a setting to promote their healthy development.**

*National Association of Child Care  
Resource and Referral Agencies*

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ ExCEL delivered 94.5 hours of certified DSS child care training to 687 participants (302 different people) in 36 training opportunities.
- ✓ The ExCEL Conference in February 2013 served 130 child care staff from our ExCEL centers. The keynote was about the importance of Play!
- ✓ Our SC Infant-Toddler Guidelines, Field Guide and Early Learning Standard trainings were very popular and served up to 75 teachers/directors one Monday night a month from October '12 to April '13.
- ✓ The ExCEL Nurse Consultant provided special trainings on safe and healthy environments.

## Training by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$58,653	\$60,731
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$0	\$6,920
In-Kind Funds	\$430	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$59,083</b>	<b>\$67,651</b>
<b>State \$ Leveraged</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>11%</b>
Child Care Staff Trained	766	687
Providers Represented	26	35
Number of Training Hours	97	94.5
Cost per Person Trained	\$77	\$98

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# Early Head Start

Children learn best in the context of relationships and through family engagement.

## Program Description

Early Head Start is a federally funded community-based program for low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women. Its mission is simple: to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women; to enhance the development of very young children; and to promote healthy family functioning.

The Richland County First Steps Early Head Start program serves families in the Richland County zip codes of 29203, 29204, 29206, 29210, 29212, 29016, 29036, 29045, 29063, 29223, and 29229.

Richland County First Steps serves the community through a variety of program options. Numbers indicate the children served through the option indicated:

Home Visitation (weekly 90 minute visits)	64
Quality Child Care (Monday-Friday)	32
Combination *	Up to 12
Expectant Families	as needed

\* Number included in home and center slots above.

### Risk Factor Profile:

% in Poverty	<b>96%</b>
% < HS Diploma	<b>48%</b>
% with Developmental Delays	<b>15%</b>

## Parent, Family and Community Engagement

In Early Head Start, parent, family and community engagement means building relationships with families that support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships and ongoing learning and development of parents and children alike. It refers to the beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, and activities of families that support their children's positive development from early childhood through young adulthood. Family engagement happens in the home, early childhood program, school and community and is a shared responsibility with all those who support children's learning.

Richland County First Steps supports this engagement through strong program foundations such as program leadership, continuous program improvement, and professional development. In addition, we strive for positive program environments and in creating strong community partnerships.

For additional program information and data, please visit the Early Head Start tab at [www.rcfirststeps.org](http://www.rcfirststeps.org).

## Measuring Progress

The program measures progress through:

- Initial Screening: Ages and Stages Questionnaires
- Pre/post assessments of parenting skills using the Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS)
- Ongoing family well-being through Life Skills Progression (LSP)
- Ongoing assessment through Creative Curriculum GOLD
- Classroom assessments using the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS).

## Program Results

Our program uses the Teaching Strategies /Creative Curriculum GOLD assessment tool. This tool is developmentally appropriate and is based on 38 research-based objectives that include predictors of school readiness. Use of this tool allows caregivers to understand the development of each child and use that understanding to scaffold the child's learning. In addition, it allows caregivers to recognize children who may need additional help or support.

Assessments are completed 3 times per year. The numbers below represent the children who met or exceeded the goals for the area given during the Winter 2013 period.

- ✓ Social and Emotional Development: 90%
- ✓ Language and Literacy Development: 82%
- ✓ Approaches to Learning: 90%
- ✓ Cognition and General Knowledge: 89%

## EHS by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$33,944	\$33,154
Federal Funds	\$1,526,397	\$1,167,388
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Funds	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,560,341</b>	<b>\$1,200,542</b>
<b>State \$ Leveraged</b>	<b>449%</b>	<b>352%</b>

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# Lexington-Richland 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) helps transform the lives of vulnerable first-time moms and their babies. Through ongoing home visits from registered nurses, low-income, first-time 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 the first-time moms, instilling confidence and empowering them to achieve a better life for their children – and themselves.

In Lexington-Richland Counties, Nurse-Family Partnership is implemented through DHEC-Midlands Region where four nurses carry a case load of 25 mothers or mothers to be.

### Risk Factor Profile:

% in Poverty	50%
% < HS Diploma (mother)	29%
% with Developmental Delays (child)	5%

## 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 2012-13

- ✓ 17 children have completed (aged out at 2 years) the program
- ✓ 148 books have been distributed to children under the Reach Out and Read partnership
- ✓ Several moms have graduated from high school and college.

## NFP by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$333,333	\$373,200
In-Kind Funds	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$333,333</b>	<b>\$373,200</b>
<b>State \$ Leveraged</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Families Served	100	131
Cost per Family	\$3,333	\$2,848
Number of Visits	1605	1,654
Cost per Visit	\$207	\$225

### Thank you to our partners!

The Duke Endowment  
 The SC Department of Health & Environmental Services  
 The Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina Foundation  
 The Children's Trust of South Carolina  
 Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office

### Richland County First Steps

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 (803) 256-7237

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# NURSE CONSULTANT

Providing parents and child care providers with health resources, screenings, referrals, and health and safety training.

## Program Description

The RCFS Nurse Consultant, secured under contract with SC DHEC, works in partnership with RCFS **ExCEL** staff working in child care programs to assure that the programs are receiving the services they need and are making progress towards the goals of safe and healthy children. The RCFS Nurse Consultant worked closely with **PAT and EHS** parent educators to ensure they receive the support they need to assure their children are adequately screened and their families are referred for any necessary services.

**Outcomes** for this program include:

- Increased linkages to services for young children among childcare providers and parents.
- Increased/enhanced health practices in child care centers.
- Increased health-related knowledge of child care directors and staff.

**Outputs** for the RCFS Nurse Consultant are measured by the following:

1. Number of referrals made
2. Number of parent workshops and staff trainings completed
3. Number of child care directors and providers successfully completing health and safety training

## Nurse Consulting Works

While emphasis on quality child care has continued to grow nationwide, child development experts, health care providers and policy makers have become increasingly aware of the importance of quality health and safety practices in the child care setting.

*Our Nurse Consultant retired in March.*

We are saddened by her leaving.

## Program Results 2012-13

- ✓ 58 Referrals made
- ✓ 16 Parent and Staff trainings completed
- ✓ 87 Child Care Directors and providers successfully completing health and safety training
- ✓ 6 Vision and Hearing screenings sessions completed for PAT and EHS programs

## Nurse Consultant by the Number\$

	2011-12	2012-13
State Funds	\$65,230	\$55,494
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Private Funds	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Funds	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$65,230</b>	<b>\$55,494</b>
<b>State \$ Leveraged</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Centers Served	8	20
Cost per Center	\$8,367	\$2,774
Number of Visits	157	147
Cost per Visit	\$415	\$377

*Thank you to our partners!*

The SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

BabyNet

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Getting children ready for school

# Financial Excellence Disclosures and Audits

Richland County First Steps to School Readiness Partnership			
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis			
For the years ended June 30,			
		2012	2011
<b>Temporarily restricted net asset:</b>			
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Grant Revenues - South Carolina Office of First Steps to School Readiness:			
	State Allocation	\$ 868,768	\$ 429,268
	Educational Improvement Act	\$ 59,915	\$ 52,217
	Federal Revenue	\$ 1,549,934	\$ 1,211,462
	Interest Income	\$ 38	\$ 565
	Contribution Income	\$ 345,890	\$ 529,566
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,824,545</b>	<b>\$ 2,223,078</b>
Net Assets released from temporarily restricted net assets		\$ (2,678,399)	\$ 2,115,944
Change in temporarily restricted net assets		\$ 146,146	\$ 107,134
<b>Unrestricted net assets:</b>			
Net assets released from temporary restriction		\$ 2,678,399	\$ 2,115,944
<b>Expenses:</b>			
	County Operations (Program and Administrative functions)	\$ 244,274	\$ 214,815
	Family Strengthening ( Parents As Teachers, Nurse Family Partnership)	\$ 506,085	\$ 166,229
	Early Education Programs (Early Head Start)	\$ 1,584,620	\$ 957,006
	Child care quality (ExCEL, Child Care Training)	\$ 278,190	\$ 206,471
	Healthy Start (Nurse Consultant)	\$ 65,230	\$ 571,423
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,678,399</b>	<b>\$ 2,115,944</b>
Change in unrestricted net assets		-	-
Change in net assets		\$ 146,146	\$ 107,134

2013 EHS Program Operations	T/TA	Non-Federal Share	EHS TOTAL
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	\$ 1,030,654	\$27,200	\$268,798	\$1,326,652
			<b>Program Operations</b>	<b>T/TA</b>
A.	Personnel		\$512,308	\$88,964
B.	Fringe Benefits		\$158,815	\$21,138
C.	Travel			\$9,200
E.	Supplies		\$30,450	\$6,000
F.	Contractual		\$264,137	\$124,598
H.	Other		\$64,944	\$18,000
				\$28,098

**NOTE:** There are no budgeted line items for D (Equipment), G

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## Board Engagement

Board Members support Richland County First Steps in many ways using grassroots advocacy

This year Board members formed a committee to engage local leaders in support of First Steps re-authorization Legislation. The Advocacy Committee supplied members with facts, tips and contact information to use in support of First Steps. Board Members sent over 49 letters, emails, op-eds, notes etc. Also, seven Board Members testified before the South Carolina Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children public hearings about the importance of early childhood education using evidence based programs. Our board is comprised of committed and diverse members of the community as shown below. Last year we had 10 board members who never missed a meeting and 12 board members who missed only one meeting. Board meeting attendance was never less than 75%.

## Richland County First Steps Partnership Board

2012-2013

Name	Position	Board Category
Helen Anderson	School District Five of Lexington/Richland Counties	School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties Appointee
Jamie Browder	Richland County School District One Center for Health Services & Policy Research, Arnold School of Public Health, USC	Pre-K/Primary
Garnell Cauley	Community Volunteer	Legislative Appointee
Mahalie Davies	Richland County School District Two	Legislative Appointee
Deborah DePaoli	Richland County School District Two	Family Education
Penny Dininny	Blue Cross, Blue Shield SC	Business/Finance/EHS
Tonya Dorsey	Family Services/One Stop	Business
Richelynn Douglas	School District Five of Lexington/Richland Counties	Non-Profit
Michael Harris	Duff, White & Turner, LLC	Family Education
Laura Hart	Retired	Business/Legal/EHS
Sally Huguley	Edward E. Taylor Elementary School	Early Childhood Education
Debbie Hunter	Richland County School District Two – Center for Inquiry	Early Childhood Education
Melissa Klosterman	Richland County School District One	Pre-K/Primary
Christine LeBlanc	Community Volunteer	Richland School District One Appointee
Dolores Long	Richland County School District Two	Faith
Marsha Moseley	DHEC Midlands Region	Richland School District Two Appointee
Suzanne Sanders Chiquita Singletary	Richland County Sheriff's Department	Richland County Public Health Department Appointee
Janet Tapp	SC Department of Health & Environmental Controls	Faith
Leslie Tetreault	Richland County Public Library	Health Care Provider
Penny Tolson	Retired Educator	RC Public Library Appointee
Missy Wall-Mitchell	School District Five of Lexington/Richland Counties	Early Childhood Education
William Witherspoon	US Department of Justice	Early Childhood Education
Jane Wyatt	Caughman Road Elementary School	Legislative Appointee
Vacant		Legislative Appointee
Vacant		GLEAMNS Head Start Appointee
Vacant		RC DSS Appointee

# Getting children ready for school.

## 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.

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

First Steps, statewide, 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](http://www.scfirststeps.org)

## Other First Steps Services in Richland County

### 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 Richland County.**

Qualifying children must live in eligible school districts in Richland County, 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)



## BabyNet

South Carolina’s Early Intervention System

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.

BabyNet in Richland County: (803) 734-0111

**Board Chair**  
Richelynn Douglas

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Rick Noble

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