



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Berkeley County First Steps:



3,324 children

were directly served in Berkeley County



3,331 parents & caregivers

received services and support to be their child's first and most important teacher



333 educators

participated in First Steps training and professional development, benefitting 500+ children

PROVEN RESULTS

A 2019 study found that children who received First Steps local partnership services were:



74% more likely

to score at the highest level on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment



34% less likely

to be chronically absent in kindergarten

THE NEED PERSISTS IN BERKELEY COUNTY

First Steps works but we need to expand our reach to ensure that all children are ready.

17,339

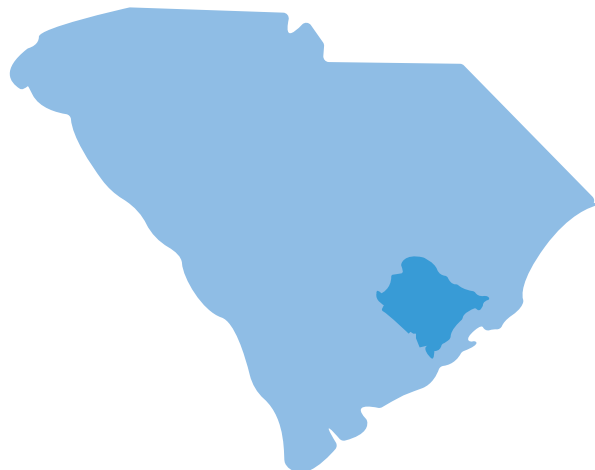
children under 6

37%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

60%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



OUR MISSION

The mission of Berkeley County First Steps is to improve the health and education of Berkeley County's youngest children so they can enter school ready to succeed and eager to learn.



Ivory Mitchell

Executive Director

As Executive Director of Berkeley County First Steps, I recognize the immense impact our organization has on early childhood development. We serve as a pivotal force, ensuring that children aged 0-5 receive the best possible start in life. Through programs such as Healthy Steps, Parents as Teachers, and Childcare Quality Enhancement, we promote health, safety, and education.

Our dedication to community partnerships and collaboration supports the foundation for lifelong learning, benefiting future generations. With grant funding from Save the Children, we successfully hosted two parent learning nights aimed at improving Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) scores by enhancing math and literacy skills at home. Additionally, a grant from Sisters of Charity enabled us to provide crucial crisis support to families. We believe that providing comprehensive wraparound services is crucial for our children's success. My team and I are excited about continuing this vital work in Berkeley County. Together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our mission.

Serving Berkeley County's children birth through age five.

"As a first-time mom, the support in my breastfeeding journey has been amazing. Despite initial struggles, after a few sessions with Simone, my baby girl latched properly and continues to do so. The advice on safety, nutrition, and self-care was invaluable. Parents As Teachers has been fantastic, offering age-specific activities that sparked her interest in books. I'm grateful to be part of this program."

Takia Snipes
Berkeley County First Steps parent



PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

Offers research-based curricula that help families raise children to be healthy, safe, learning, and ready for school.

44

children served

12

group meetings
and events

670

home visits

HEALTH

HealthySteps

A pediatric primary care program that supports early childhood development and effective parenting.

3,181

children served

2

clinics served

Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

80

children served

80

families served

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Child Care Scholarships

Eligible children receive tuition-free enrollment at quality child care centers.

7

children served

7

families served

6

providers served

Quality Enhancement

Promotes quality in child care by providing early educators with one-on-one coaching and support.

140

children served

6

providers served

196

technical
assistance hours

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

8,372

children served

6

providers served

196

training hours
offered

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



\$1 = \$1.60

Berkeley County First Steps leveraged \$376,572.47 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.60 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

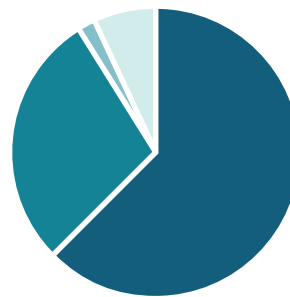
Total: \$1,176,713.19



- Parenting - \$245,770.41
- Early Care & Education - \$322,403.11
- Health - \$422,184.81
- Administrative - \$73,291.96
- Core Functions - \$113,062.90

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$1,008,587.47



- State Funding - \$632,015.00
- Federal Funding - \$287,465.06
- Private Funding - \$21,187.21
- In-kind Contributions - \$67,920.20

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal AmeriCorps Service Site
- Federal ESSER Funding**
- State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105

**American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Education Federal AmeriCorps funding awarded to SC First Steps from the SC Service Commission at the United Way Association of SC

Note: Revenue amounts may show a difference between allocations and revenue based on penalties imposed by the SC First Steps Board of Trustees for non-compliance with organizational policies. The figures provided are based on unaudited financial statements and, as such, are subject to change.



Leticia Urroz

Board Chair

Berkeley County First Steps had a very impactful year, ensuring that children and their families in Berkeley County are supported through the amazing programs that are offered. They are always mindful of the challenges parents face in raising strong children. BCFS has great collaborations with various organizations in the community, which strengthens the impact of their work. Berkeley County First Steps Board Members are pleased to continue supporting the wonderful work they do in our community each year.

Our Local Supporters

Save the Children
Sisters of Charity
Magnolia Foundaiton
Tiffany Jonas

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