



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Berkeley County First Steps:



2,682 children

were directly served in Berkeley County



696 parents & caregivers

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



228 educators

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



Michelle Green

Board Chair

Our Board of Directors played a pivotal role in crafting a new strategic plan for Berkeley County First Steps, rooted in our dedication to serving vulnerable young children and families. Collaborating closely with community partners and families, we developed a plan dedicated to addressing our community's pressing needs, reinforcing our unwavering commitment to a brighter future for Berkeley County.

Our vision focuses on three key pillars: Affordable, Quality Child Care, Housing Support, and Transportation Solutions. We recognize the pivotal role of affordable, high-quality child care in working families' lives and pledge to expand access, invest in provider training, and engage stakeholders. We actively seek partnerships to advocate for just housing policies and services. Identifying transportation as a significant barrier, we'll explore innovative solutions and forge tailored transportation programs.

Together, we'll create a vibrant future for all children in Berkeley County.

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.

17,131

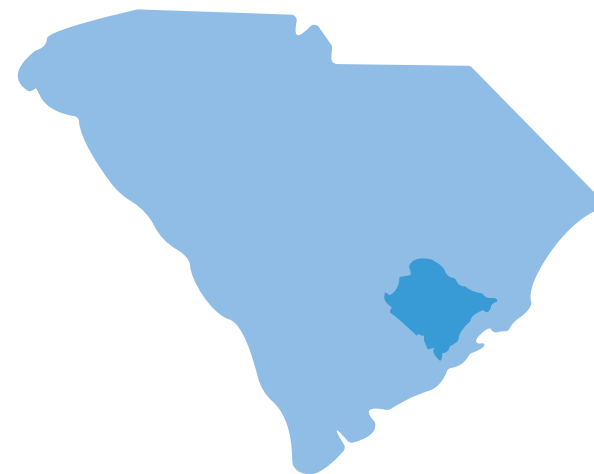
children under age 5

40.7%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

63%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Our Local Supporters

Coastal Community Fund \$11,475

Sisters of Charity \$5,000

Magnolia Foundation \$6,000

J D Hastie \$2,000

Tiffany Jonas

Board of Directors

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CONTACT US

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2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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.



Adrienne Troy Frazier Executive Director

In 2022, Berkeley County First Steps demonstrated unwavering resilience and adaptability in response to the global pandemic's challenges. Our commitment to the safety and well-being of Berkeley County's children, families, and child care providers remained paramount as we transitioned from remote to in-person services when possible.

Key Lessons

Adaptability: We learned to swiftly adapt, maintaining our core mission of supporting young children and their families despite unforeseen challenges.

Community Resilience: The pandemic showcased our community's remarkable resilience, reinforced by our unwavering support.

Collaboration: We strengthened partnerships with local allies, recognizing the urgent need for affordable, quality child care, housing, and transportation.

Looking ahead, we are committed to advocating for affordable child care, stable housing, and accessible transportation, building a brighter future for Berkeley County's families.

Serving Berkeley County's children birth through age five.

"Berkeley County First Steps has significantly impacted my family through the Parents As Teachers program. Ms. Renee's visits transformed my non-verbal son, and the child care voucher program allows my children to attend Ms. Kinlaw's child care program which provides my children with routine and structure. We're grateful for BCFS."

Kristine Tiller
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.

48 children served 32 group meetings and events 669 home visits

Nurturing Parenting

Designed to build nurturing parenting skills as an alternative to abusive and neglecting parenting and child-rearing practices.

21 children served 56 families served 642 home visits

Family Café

Parent discussion groups that promote social connections with other parents, support in times of need, learning about parenting and child development, and emotional awareness.

7 children served 6 families served 6 group meetings and events

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Child Care Scholarships

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

8 children served 7 families served 4 providers served

Quality Enhancement

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

120 children served 6 providers served 136 technical assistance hours

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

7,046 children served 135 providers served 27 training hours offered

SCHOOL TRANSITION

Healthy Steps

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

2,512 children served 127 total number of screenings

Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

86 children served 86 families served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

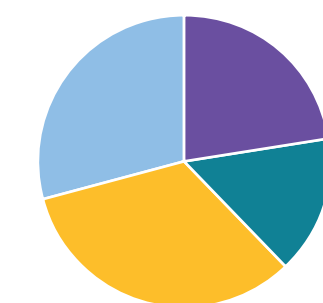


\$1 = \$2

Berkeley County First Steps leveraged \$493,889.40 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$1.00 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

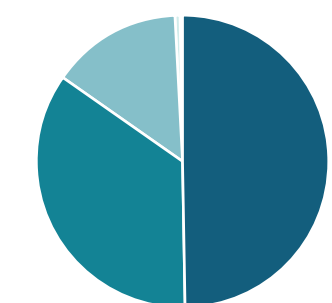
Total: \$1,034,801.15



- Parenting - \$234,255.66
- Early Care & Education - \$159,218.31
- School Transition - \$342,224.06
- Administrative - \$299,103.12

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$986,289.40



- State Funding - \$492,400
- Federal Funding - \$344,330.33
- Private Funding - \$143,518.68
- In-kind Contributions - \$6,040.39

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding**
- Federal ESSER Funding***
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation ROAD Forward Grant
- State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105
 **Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0080-01-00 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Division of Early Care and Education
 ***American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Education