



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Beaufort County First Steps:



1,259 children

were directly served in Beaufort County



1,625 parents & caregivers

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



724 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 BEAUFORT COUNTY

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

10,602

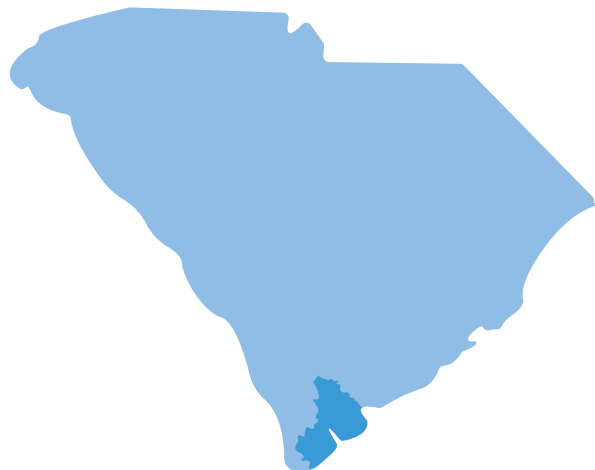
children under 6

46%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

62%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Serving Beaufort County's children birth through age five.

Our Local Supporters

Absolute Total Care
Baptist Church of Beaufort
Beaufort County Library
Beaufort County School
Beaufort Health Department
Beaufort Jasper EOC
Beaufort Yacht and Sailing
Beaufort, Hampton, Jasper Comprehensive Health Services
Born to Read
CAPA
Community Foundation of Lowcountry
Department of Social Services
Hargray
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Lakeshore Early Learning
Lowcountry Ministries
Palmetto Building
SC Endeavors (Greenville Tech)
SC First Steps
U.S. Toy Co / Constructive Playthings

Board of Directors

Anita Singleton	Carol Osborn
Tonya Allen-Jenkins	James Williams
Kelly Zytynski	Patricia Urriola
Amanda Dickman-Brewer	Luz Yaneth
Makita Fabian	Reyna-Coleman
Rebecca Stempel	LaChiana Hamilton

CONTACT US

703 Bladen Street, Beaufort, SC 29902 | 843-379-7837 | beaufortfirststeps.com



2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To ensure that children start school ready to learn by supporting the caring adults who touch their lives.



Betty Washington

Executive Director

Greetings,

As we build upon the partnerships we have established over the past 25 years, Beaufort County First Steps continues to provide high-quality programs in the community.

This fiscal year has been both an exciting and a challenging year; but we prevailed and are proud of the accomplishments that were made. The continued commitment of the First Steps Board of Directors, and a dedicated staff does not go unnoticed. Together, we are working to improve the lives of young children in our community.

First Steps aligns services to make school readiness a reality for children in Beaufort County. First Steps staff work with caregivers to provide the support they need to help their children grow and prepare for future success.

Thank you to our board, staff, community partners, parents, funders, and volunteers for your continued support.



Reverend Kelly Zytynski

Board Chair

Beaufort County First Steps (BCFS) has continued to serve the children and families of Beaufort County faithfully for 25 years to ensure that every child is ready to succeed in school. On behalf of the board of directors we acknowledge the BCFS staff led by Betty Washington for their passion and commitment to the programs provided and their continued collaboration with other agencies to help meet the needs of our community. They have served Beaufort County well and for that we are thankful.

We are appreciative of our local partners, because without them we could not operate as we do to achieve our goals. We look forward to this year with the anticipation of great success.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

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

10

children served

13

group meetings and events

118

home visits

Supporting Care Providers Through Visits

Site visits for home child care providers to encourage developmentally appropriate practices.

22

children served

4

providers served

82

provider visits

Reach Out and Read

Site visits for home child care providers to encourage developmentally appropriate practices.

714

children served

1,428

book distributed

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Quality Enhancement

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

367

children served

7

providers served

363

technical assistance hours

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

5,214

children served

182

providers served

81.5

certified training hours

HEALTH

PASOs Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

166

children served

227

families served

2,636

materials distributed



"I am a parent with Parent as Teachers program. The program helped me out when I needed two car seats and staff provided me with a service I needed at the time. The staff has also prepared me when I was becoming a new mom again, giving me the skills and resources to make sure my daughter was healthy and developmentally on track."

Beaufort County First Steps parent

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

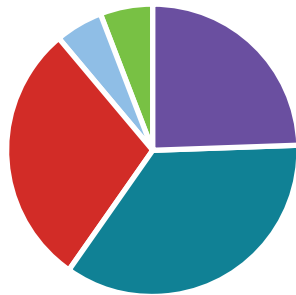


\$1 = \$1.43

Beaufort County First Steps leveraged \$442,408 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.43 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

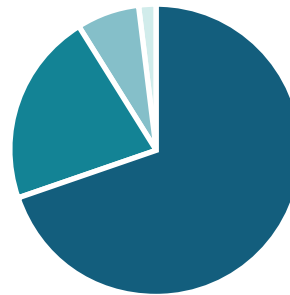
Total: \$657,122.79



- Parenting - \$161,101.81
- Early Care & Education - \$231,660.59
- Health - \$192,338.67
- Administrative - \$33,910.72
- Core Functions - \$38,111

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$633,411.17



- State Funding - \$442,408
- Federal Funding - \$135,323.98
- Private Funding - \$43,804.15
- In-kind Contributions - \$11,875.04

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
 State READY Funding*
 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

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.