



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Bamberg County First Steps:



57 children

were directly served in Bamberg County



41 parents & caregivers

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



30 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 BAMBERG COUNTY

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

818

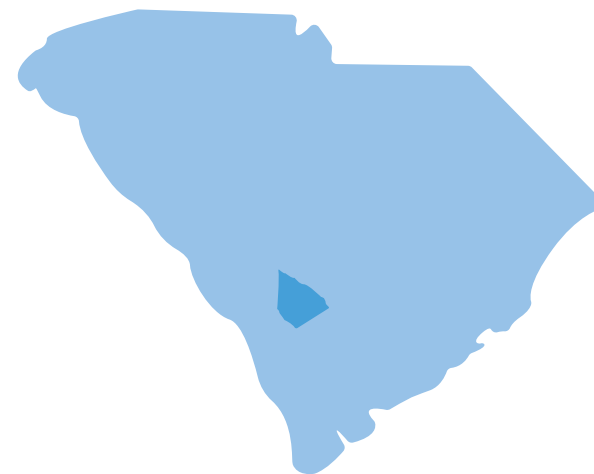
children under age 5

58.7%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

76%

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



Board of Directors

Tracy Golden
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Tarea Grimes
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Our Local Supporters

Bamberg County Recreation Grant \$1,394 | Bamberg Family Practice \$1,300 | Greenville Tech. College Training Grant/SC Endeavors \$2,500 | Bamberg County DSS \$64,940 | Tri-County Community Foundation \$500 | Bamberg Job Corps Center | Iwena Hurst | Cynthia Hurst | Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, inc. (Eta Nu Chapter) | Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, inc. (Nu Tau Omega Chapter) | Mary Jane School of Dance | Carolyn Watson | Brabham Oil Company | Enterprise Bank | Bamberg County Office on Aging | Bamberg County Police Department | Tracy Golden | City of Bamberg | Attorney Evert Comer | Lisa Thomas | Imagen Kinard | Home Federal Savings & Loan | Linda Fair | Vaughn Electronics | Amazing Grace Ministries | Aerospace UTC | Devon Blume | Pilgrim Baptist Church | Evelyn Smith-Smart | Latron Anderson, Connie Anderson | Bamberg County Public Works | Bamberg County Disabilities & Special Needs Biard | Eugene Hightower, Sr & Eugene Hightower, Jr. | Hickory Hill United Methodist Church | Richard Preacer | Talluezita Williams | Beverly Youmans | Xan Jennings | Kristine Autry



2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

CONTACT US

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OUR MISSION

To collaborate with community partners, empower local families and caregivers to prepare young children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to ensure that every child arrives at school prepared to learn.



Pauletta Plowden

Executive Director

Bamberg County First Steps, a “National Blue Ribbon”, Parents as Teachers Affiliates’ most important mission is to ensure that every child in our county arrives at the first grade healthy and ready to learn! We believe that our children are our greatest and most valuable resource! With 39.1% of households living below the poverty level, it is imperative, that our Partnership, in collaboration with key stakeholders, seek measures to ensure a higher quality of life for our youngest learners. Bamberg County First Steps is committed to excellence and continues to be the needle that pulls the thread to help young families realize the importance of quality early education. We provide comprehensive parenting services, daycare scholarships, and professional training and development to daycare providers. We would like to thank our state and local leaders for your many years of support to this important educational initiative. “Bamberg County’s children are our greatest and most valuable asset!



Tracy Golden

Board Chair

It’s an incredible honor to serve as Bamberg County First Steps Board Chair. Bamberg County First Steps has grown and matured while working to make sure every child is ready to learn. I have enjoyed being a part of all their activities in the community. I am always excited to see their impact on the children in our community. Our board has been successful because of all the hard work of its members and their commitment to ensure that the children in our county will be able to read by first grade. I’m so proud of First Steps ongoing commitment, dedication, and hard work for the families in Bamberg County.

Our board and the First Steps leadership team have created strong relationships with truly amazing people who all share a desire and passion for improving the lives of the children in our community. I am confident that we will continue to impact children’s lives for many more years to come.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

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

42 children served 12 group meetings and events 581 home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

802 children served 25 providers served 21 certified training hours

Child Care Scholarships

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

15 children served 4 providers served

Serving Bamberg County’s children birth through age five.

“Dear Bamberg County First Steps: Thank you so very much for the many years of love and support that you have provided to me and my family. Johleea is enrolled as a freshman at Clemson University. We are so proud of her achievements. Thank you Ms. Plowden, Ms. Smith and Ms. Burch. First Steps really WORKS!”

Mrs. Shemika Ellison
Bamberg County First Steps parent



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

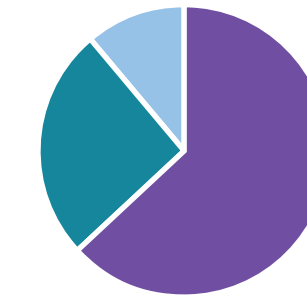


\$1 = \$1.35

Bamberg County First Steps leveraged \$287,589.14 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.35 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

Total: \$463,934.72



- Parenting - \$293,485.56
- Early Care & Education - \$119,042.38
- Administrative - \$51,406.78

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$487,589.14



- State Funding - \$200,000
- Federal Funding - \$50,846.66
- Private Funding - \$20,393.48
- In-kind Contributions - \$216,349

FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant 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
**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