



## THE NEED

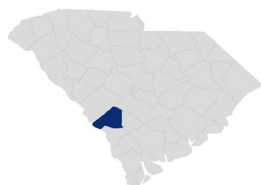
### IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

**42%**

of people live in a childcare desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots

**53%**

of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in nursery school or preschool



### IN BARNWELL COUNTY:

**1,278**

children under age 5

**70.7%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**67%**

of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide early childhood education programs designed to ensure that Barnwell County children arrive at First Grade healthy and ready to succeed.

## OUR APPROACH



High quality programs and services for children and families



Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers



Strategic partnerships and community education

## OUR IMPACT

**422**

number of children and adults served by Barnwell County First Steps in 2018-2019

## JOIN US

We rely on a community of partners, donors, and volunteers – **people like you** – who believe in a brighter future for children and families in our community.

11015 Ellenton Street Barnwell, SC 29812 | 803-621-2441 | [scfirststeps.org/Barnwell](http://scfirststeps.org/Barnwell)

Data provided by:



## OUR STORY

Many families in Barnwell County struggle to afford quality childcare, especially during a crisis. When a local mother died during complications from a childbirth, the baby's grandmother was suddenly left with the responsibility of raising an infant. Although she needed to work to support herself and her granddaughter, she could not afford the unexpected expense of childcare. LaTonya Joyner, Director at Heavenly Angels childcare center, reached out to Barnwell County First Steps for assistance. A childcare scholarship from Barnwell County First Steps provided Heavenly Angels with critical funding, the child with quality childcare, and the grandmother with the ability to return to work.

## OUR GOALS

Our partnership's work, in collaboration with state and local partners, is focused on advancing Barnwell County towards these strategic goals in support of the Profile of the Ready Kindergartner, South Carolina's description of school readiness:

- To increase the reach of BCFS programs and children/families served, BCFS will research, apply for, and obtain additional sources of funding with support from the state office of First Steps.
- To ensure continuity and quality of program implementation, BCFS will attract and retain qualified, quality staff.
- BCFS will bolster recruitment efforts to ensure programs are filled to fullest capacity.
- Improve efforts to support parents/families in advancing life skills to better enable them to raise children who will be prepared when they enter school.

I tell as many people I know about the scholarship program. It's a great program. You can't beat \$20 per week for two children. I know my baby is in good hands, and I can work and keep my job.

**Crystal B., parent**



# COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN



*an evidence-informed program*

Developed by South Carolina First Steps – and identified as a promising state practice by the National Governor’s Association in 2005 – Countdown to Kindergarten (CTK) is a home visitation program pairing the families of rising kindergartners with their future teachers during the summer before school entry. Teachers complete six visits with each family, establishing strong connections during the summer that facilitate classroom learning throughout the year.

## CTK BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

5

kindergarten teachers  
trained as home visitors

30

children served

180

total home and school  
visits



“What’s most important is this program helps to build relationships. They see that I’m on their side, and that I want them to succeed.”  
Quote from Meredith Wilson, CTK Home Visitor, and Kindergarten Teacher:





# CHILD CARE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT



*an evidence-based program*

Many private child care centers strive to provide high quality care but lack the resources often available to publicly-funded early childhood programs. Our Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) program aims to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children.

Our services include:



Rigorous quality assessments



On-site technical assistance at least twice monthly



Funding for equipment and materials



Training and workforce development



Coordination with community partners

## QE BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

3

child care providers served

48

number of TA visits provided

135

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms

The Quality Enhancement Program is providing support for our teachers with a variety of ideas and ways to develop different styles of teaching children of all cultures as well as strategic lesson planning.

**LaTonya Joyner, Director /Owner**



## CHILD CARE TRAINING



*an evidence-based program*

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce. Our training programs are certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Our 2018-2019 trainings included:

**Child Development at It's Best  
Descriptive and Questioning Moments  
Moments of Inclusion  
Introduction to Flip It  
System Management Approach to Ensure Program Safety  
Early Learning Standards 5 Hours Condensed Review**

### TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

**76**

total training attendance

**46**

child care teachers and  
directors served

**6**

number of training  
sessions offered

This trainer was very knowledgeable, and entertaining. The training was informative, even the least understanding person could comprehend

**Latasha, Infant/Toddler Teacher**



## CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS



*an evidence-based program*

For many families in Barnwell County, the cost of quality child care is out of reach. Our scholarship program makes payments to child care providers to care for children from low-income families so their parents can return to school or work.

Barnwell County First Steps offers scholarships to families enrolled in our Early Steps to School Success program, as well as income-eligible children whose parent attends school or works at least 20 hours per week.

### SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

**63**

number of children  
served

**3**

number of providers  
served

**52**

number of  
developmental  
screenings provided

**100% the money paid to child care providers  
goes back into our local economy to benefit the  
citizens of Barnwell County.**

# 4K

## FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN



*an evidence-based program*

South Carolina First Steps provides eligible children with free enrollment in full-day four-year-old kindergarten programs. In coordination with First Steps local partnerships and more than 200 private, faith- and community-based preschool providers, First Steps 4K expands access to quality child care across the state.



### ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for enrollment, a child must:

- ✓ Be 4 years old on or before September 1
- ✓ Qualify for Medicaid or a free or reduced-price lunch program
- ✓ Live in one of 64 qualifying school districts

### FIRST STEPS 4K IN BARNWELL COUNTY 2018-2019

# 29

children enrolled

# 2

participating classrooms

### 4K NEWS

In fiscal year 2019-2020, South Carolina First Steps is launching a pilot program to expand 4K enrollment within underserved communities. Age- and income-eligible children residing in any SC school district may qualify for a slot in a participating center that also serves students from eligible districts.





## RAISING a READER



*an evidence-based program*

The mission of Raising a Reader (RAR) is to engage families in a routine of daily “book-cuddling” with their children to foster healthy brain development, parent-child bonding, and early literacy skills critical for school success. It has been shown to be effective in increasing children’s oral language and print knowledge when implemented in conjunction with parent literacy training. Its intended audience is young children and their caregivers and early childhood educators. Its central organizing components are informal professional development for early childhood educators, a weekly book rotation, parent engagement, child-driven literacy experiences and library connections.

### RAISING A READER BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

3

child care providers  
served

20

number of children  
served

480

number of books  
distributed



“I like the Raising a Reader program because I got to read a variety of books to my child, which covered different subjects.” Nena J., parent



# EARLY STEPS TO SCHOOL SUCCESS



*an evidence-based program*

The Early Steps to School Success program lays a critical foundation of language and literacy skills for children from birth to 5 years old, so they can enter school ready to succeed. Through home visits, book exchange, parenting groups, and an emphasis on transitioning to school, Early Steps helps children with language, social and emotional development and equips parents and caregivers with the skills to successfully support children growth.

## Early Steps BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

**94**

families served

**1,681**

total home visits



"I like the home visiting program because it gives me one on one time with my son, and I am given new and fun helpful tips to teach him! Stacey P., parent



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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Addressing the needs of young children is a shared endeavor. In addition to providing services to families and support for child care providers, Barnwell County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Barnwell County begin school ready to succeed.

We serve as a:

### LOCAL PORTAL

connecting preschool children and  
their families to services

### CONVENER

of community stakeholders to develop an effective  
and comprehensive early childhood system

### CHAMPION

of the importance of school  
readiness to our children's future

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## OUR PARTNERSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

# 25

Collaboration  
Events



"I am grateful for the partnership that we have with Barnwell County First Steps. Whenever our senior citizens are having an event, we can count on them to support us"  
Earnestine G., - Health and Wellness Coach



## OUR SUPPORTERS

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Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Barnwell County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

### FUNDING SUPPORT

Darnell & Miriam Fund: \$134,950

Home Visitor Expansion Grant: \$36,853

Endowed Scholarships: \$9,494.00

CCCCD Grant: \$2,000

United Way: \$500

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority: \$140

### IN-KIND SUPPORT

District 19: \$7,033.54

District 29: \$7,500.00

District 45: \$7,219.03

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority: \$ 550

The Church of the Latter Day Saints:\$ 500

C.A.N. Community Action Network: \$50

## JOIN US

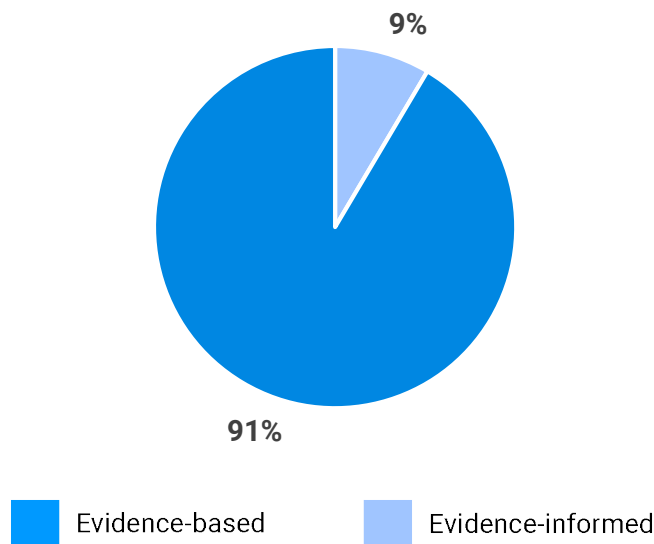
For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at  
**[scfirststeps.org/Barnwell](https://scfirststeps.org/Barnwell)**



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY

Expenditures by Program Type



### ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Barnwell County First Steps has leveraged **\$2,421,610** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.57** for every state dollar.

### SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In Kind	Total
Early Steps	\$23,999.99	\$	\$41,082.68		\$65,082.67
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$32,648.98	\$	\$		\$32,648.98
Child Care Training	\$27,655.15	\$	\$2,626.07	\$15.70	\$30,281.22
Scholarships	\$57,890.13	\$	\$132,184.26		\$190,074.39
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$16,381.53	\$3,340.00	\$		\$19,721.53
Raising a Reader	\$13,717.03	\$	\$	\$7,298.08	\$72,380.75
Core Functions	\$24,062.03	\$16,160.68	\$		\$40,222.71
Administrative Support	\$13,533.39	\$	\$		\$13,533.39
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$209,888.23</b>	<b>\$19,500.68</b>	<b>\$175,893.01</b>	<b>\$7,313.78</b>	<b>\$412,595.70</b>



## LEADERSHIP

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Regina Baxley, Early Steps Coordinator

## CONTACT US

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