### 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.
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
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:
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
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 though 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**

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**TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS**
**2018-2019**

76 total training attendance
46 child care teachers and directors served
6 number of training sessions offered

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

Latasha, Infant/Toddler Teacher
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.
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

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**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.
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
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

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

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
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

CCCD 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
### Financial Highlights

#### Our Investment in Quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Federal Funding</th>
<th>Private Funding</th>
<th>In Kind</th>
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<td>Early Steps</td>
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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.

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### Summary of Expenditures by Strategy

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LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chief John Holston, Board Chairman
Debbie Flickling, Vice Board Chairman
   Shelia Silon, Secretary
   Sara Wier, Member
   Ethel Williams, Member
   Kay Gooding, Member
   Ashley O’Berry, Member

   Catherine Mack, Member
   Tricia Gordon, Member
   Kimberly Richardson, Member
   Eryl Smalls, Member
   Garnette Alexander, Member

STAFF

Doris Mitchell, Executive Director
   Ja’Kera Harley, Program Assistant
   Cynthia Middleton, Data Coordinator
   Regina Baxley, Early Steps Coordinator

CONTACT US

11015 Ellenton Street Barnwell, SC 29812 | 803-621-2441 | scfirststeps.org/Barnwell