Collaborating with other entities, First Steps helps families and caregivers in Beaufort County prepare their children for school success by maximizing public and private community resources to deliver, enhance and expand high-quality early childhood services.

**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 BEAUFORT COUNTY:**

9,662 children under age 5

48.8% of young children live in poverty or low-income households

66% of kindergartners are considered "not ready" for school

**OUR MISSION**

High quality programs and services for children and families

Intensive training, resources and support for childcare providers

Strategic partnerships and community education

**OUR IMPACT**

4,360 number of children and adults served by Beaufort 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.

703 Bladen St., Beaufort, SC 29902 | 843-379-7837 | www.beaufortfirststeps.com
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings!
I am proud to be a part of First Steps and the services that this agency works to provide to children and families in Beaufort County. First Steps’ vision is to provide opportunities and services that help children and families change their lives and become more self-reliant.

I want to recognize the commitment of the First Steps Board of Directors and a dedicated staff who believe in the mission and vision of our organization. Together, we are improving the lives of people in our community, embodying the spirit of hope and making our community a better place to live.

We look forward to another year as we strive, with your support, to ensure that every child in Beaufort County arrives to school ready to learn.

Our strategic goals set the direction for how Beaufort County prepares their children for school success:

- To increase the reach of Beaufort County First Steps program services for children and families throughout the community.
- To identify and recruit board members who are committed to the mission and vision of the organization.
- To increase the presence of the Beaufort County First Steps Partnership and services in the community as a local portal for early childhood services as measured by connections made to referral agencies and by tracking the number of clients making use of local resources.
- Continued efforts of being a Community Convener to ensure all programs funded through Beaufort County First Steps are working collaboratively toward a common goal; services to families and children.
- To locate additional resources to meet the needs of at-risk children and families served in our community.

BCFS Board applauds our staff for their passion and commitment to early childhood education and the community for their continued support as we strive toward the mission of ensuring every child arrives ready to succeed in kindergarten.

Julia Burnes, Board Chair
We want to understand children’s attitudes and interests towards play. We seek to understand what the children have to tell us through their play. Therefore, we must listen, observe, and reflect on what we are seeing happening in our classroom spaces.
Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

- **Personal visits from a parent educator at least twice monthly**
- **Monthly group connections with other PAT families**
- **Screenings and assessments to identify developmental concerns**
- **Connections to outside resources that families may need to succeed**

**Parents as Teachers**

**BEAUFORT COUNTY**

**2018-2019**

- **22 families served**
- **241 total home visits**

Beaufort County is the proud recipient of the national Blue Ribbon Award, which recognizes affiliates providing high quality services to families.

“Attending the monthly sessions helps me have a closer relationship with my kids. We learn new things I can do with my children and what I need to do to better my parenting skills. The program has helped in everything my family has needed.” - **Parent Participant**
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

- 7 child care providers served
- 146 number of TA visits provided
- 494 number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms

"First Steps of Beaufort County gave me the guidance to enhance a supportive and learning classroom environment. I learned how to implement the new SC Early Learning Standards and incorporate age appropriate practices and classroom skills."

Nyisha Mitchell, Teacher from The Children’s Center, Inc
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:

- First Aid/CPR/Bloodborne Pathogens
- Trauma Awareness
- Stress Management & Soothing Techniques for the Classroom
- Early Learning Standards: Intentional Teaching
- Intro to Holistic Health: Medication to Restoration
- Building the Immune System
- Enhancing Math in the Classroom
- Challenging Behaviors: Where Do We Begin?
- Mandated Reporter
- Provider 1st Response & Education
- Media Producer/Nerd Whisperer/Teller of Tales
- Creating Successful Environments: Dual Language Learners

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**TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS**

2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Training Attendance</th>
<th>Child Care Teachers and Directors Served</th>
<th>Number of Training Sessions Offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>601</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“This was one of the best training conferences I’ve attended in my 20+ years of teaching. I enjoyed everything and was well taken care of. The volunteers and the First Steps staff were wonderful. I had a great time and all the workshops were wonderful and very informative. I will apply all resources in my classroom. Thank you so much for the opportunity to attain the knowledge/experience to better myself.” - Child Care Professional
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 BEAUFORT COUNTY 2018-2019**

- 5 children enrolled
- 1 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.
PUBLIC AWARENESS

Network, coordinate, and convene local stakeholders to collaboratively build a system of care for early childhood.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION OUTREACH
BY THE NUMBERS
2018-2019

629 materials distributed
83 events held
2119 total event attendance

“When your child plays, they learn about them self and their surroundings. This includes how to coordinate their body movements, talk with friends, apply rules, and more. But the learning process is even broader than this. Play is more than you think; it is a way for your child to familiarize themselves with the world while exploring and testing their own limits. At the same time, they are engaged in an activity that provides them enjoyment and amusement”
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, Beaufort County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Beaufort 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

519 Children 0-5 served
1400 Materials distributed

Thank you for the work you do in our community. There is much wrong in our culture when we place little value in the people who work hard to care, nurture, and teach our children. However, your work through First Steps is certainly a “bright spot” and blessing to us. I’m grateful for your efforts.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Jeff Pethel, Associate Pastor in Family Ministries
Through partnerships and collaborations, as well as financial support from grants and contributions, Beaufort County First Steps leverages state dollars to enhance and expand services to children and families.

**FUNDING SUPPORT**

- SC First Steps, 365,994
- Beaufort Fund, $10,000
- Greenville Tech (CCCD), $2,000
- Miller Swamp Missionary Baptist, $100

**IN-KIND SUPPORT**

- Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services
- Baptist Church of Beaufort
- SC Child Care Resource & Referral
- SC PITC
- Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Beaufort Jasper EOC
- SC ABC Program
- Lady’s Island Yacht Club
- CrossFit Port Royal Sound (Barry & Erica Pepper)
- Welvista
- Black Chamber of Commerce
- Beaufort County Library
- First Choice by Select Health
- Sam’s Club 6582
- SCECA
- Lakeshore Early Learning
- Center for Child Care Career Dev. /T.E.A.C.H.
- Traci Lynn Jewelry
- The Sandbox Museum
- CAJD Apparel
- Beaufort Memorial Hospital
- Black Butterfly
- Burton Fire Department
- Lowcountry Food Bank
- Precious Jewel, LLC; Rose Dixon
- Nourishing Health
- Tutor Dr. Education Consulting

**JOIN US**

For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at [https://beaufortfirststeps.com](https://beaufortfirststeps.com).
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY
Expenditures by Program Type

ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Beaufort County First Steps has leveraged $4,346,198 from sources outside of state government.

That’s $0.44 for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Federal Funding</th>
<th>Private Funding</th>
<th>In-Kind Contributions</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$116,841</td>
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<td>$3,836</td>
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<td>Administrative Support</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$6,482</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,321</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,245</strong></td>
<td><strong>$399,596</strong></td>
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</table>
LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julia Burnes, Board Chair
Ashley Hutchison, Vice Chair
Nancy Priester
York Glover
Madie Orage-Green
Kathleen M. McTeer
Tonya Allen Jenkins

James Williams, Treasurer
Kelly Zytynski, Secretary
Ronald Manyin
Marilyn Jenkins
Ernestine Morris
Olandor Lewis

STAFF

Betty Washington, Executive Director
Lucette Brown, Parent Educator
Sheryl Newton, Early Child Educator
Solimar Abbott, Community Health Worker
Erin Mathews, Program Specialist

CONTACT US

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