Our mission is to improve the health and education of Berkeley County's youngest children so they can enter school ready to succeed and eager to learn.

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:

895

number of children and adults served by Berkeley 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

We are excited to share the Berkeley County First Steps 2019 Annual Report that reflects our achievements vision and commitment to serve young children, parents and early educators in our community.

We have evolved since 1999, continuously impacting thousands of Berkeley children, parents and educators. We are building upon our strengths, which are providing quality home visiting and professional developments services, integrity in our governance and business practices and an innovative and collaborative approach to growth and expansion.

A key component to our success now and in the future aligns with our overarching strategic goals:

- Understand early learning in the context of the complex systems and stakeholders that affect the domains of whole child development from birth to age 8 and result in the SC Ready Kindergartener
- Value the critical importance of racial and cultural equity
- Expand and increase the usage of data indicators and outcomes in informing and supporting communication and collaboration in a traditionally fragmented field locally and statewide.

We’ve taken 2017 community and program needs assessments, consumer feedback surveys, BCSD and Cradle to Career data on reading and math scores in Kindergarten and 3rd grade, to help us establish and maintain our pathway forward.

We extend our thanks to all who have invested time, talent and funding this year and look towards continued growth and achievement in years to come.

OUR GOALS

Our agency leadership is working to create a common language and understanding of high quality early care and parenting supports while fostering collaboration, and investing in data-driven change to improve outcomes for all young children in Berkeley County.

Brenda Campbell, Chairperson,
Berkeley County First Steps
Our EI&R program:
- Is a collaboration with PASOs of South Carolina and Berkeley County First Steps and incorporates the PASOs Community Health Worker (Promotor) model to build trust and best meet the needs of the Latino Community.

More numbers:
- 249 books given
- 9 events attended and with outreach to 185 people
- 29 children identified with one or more potential delays
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

Families Served: 85
Children Served: 100
Personal Visits: 1,458
Group Connections: 62

PAT IN THE NEWS:

Berkeley County Parents as Teachers builds path for student success
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPg1W6CuNYM&t=3s

SCREENINGS:

100% Children Screened
40 Identified Delays/Concerns
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>child care providers served</td>
<td>number of TA visits provided</td>
<td>number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Being a Family Child Care Provider, I was so excited that my children was involved in the STEAM Program. I watched little lightbulbs go on in their minds. They were so interested in making airplanes and drones with Legos. We are still benefiting from ideas shared by Nicole and Starr (CML). I also enjoyed the teacher field trips and activities.

Denise Stanley Baker, Niecy’s Child Development Center
Mental health First Aid was an eye opener. Being in classrooms for 50 years, you see the challenges of the children and only recently did I realize that too often the actions of the children are based on symptoms exhibited by the adults with which they live or spend time. Mental Health First Aid gave me facts about conditions, encouraged me to care and gave me words to speak to those hurting. You opened my eyes.

Dr. Jerlean Holmes, House of Smiles
For many families in Berkeley 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.

Our partnership integrates scholarships with evidence-based home visitation programs such as PAT, and NFP. To be eligible, applicants must reside within Berkeley County, be employed or in school, and meet income standards. All children eligible for a scholarship receive health and developmental screenings. All participating families receive a class on how to select quality child care. Families must choose a center that is a Level B or higher.

### SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

- **17** number of children served
- **7** number of providers served
- **17** number of developmental screenings provided

100% the money paid to child care providers goes back into our local economy to benefit the citizens of Berkeley 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

**FIRST STEPS 4K IN ABC COUNTY 2018-2019**

- **62** children enrolled
- **6** 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 Berkeley Early Education and Care Collective (BEE Collective) is a community-based network that was formed to build an integrated mental health framework to improve the social-emotional development outcomes of children, prenatal to 6. The mission of the BEE Collective is to ensure that every child enters kindergarten socially and emotionally ready to learn, that every educator has positive well-being and the tools to handle challenging behaviors, that families are resilient and that our community reduces mental health stigma for all ages. Our vision is to build upon the assets of our hardest to reach children, parents and educators so that we can co-create beloved community in early education where everyone is treated with dignity. The BEE Collective uses a collective impact approach and builds on previous work and best practices that coalition partners and direct services providers have found successful to achieving community change.

BERKELEY EARLY EDUCATION & CARE COLLECTIVE
BY THE NUMBERS
2018-2019

<table>
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<th>220</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>191</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>materials distributed</td>
<td>events held</td>
<td>total event attendance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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, Berkeley County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Berkeley 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

192 Families served
137 Teachers, staff, and partner org staff served
6 Community Collaborations

Thank you for featuring the food from my country! I felt special and proud. No one would know how wonderful my food is unless they visited Peru. Now we need to have teachers do this because they work with our children and they need to know our children come from places that have good things going on.

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

**FUNDING SUPPORT**

- Boston Medical Center for the BEE&CC Collective - $70,000
- Children’s Trust of SC - $480
- Sisters of Charity - $3000
- Coastal Community Foundation (Charles Webb/Ed Croft) - $2500
- Magnolia Foundation - $1000
- The Joanna Foundation - $2500
- Coastal Community Foundation (HOME Telecom) - $3000
- Greenville Technical College (CCCCD) - $2000
- TSNE Mission Works - $1500
- Private donations - $1365

**IN-KIND SUPPORT**

- Berkeley County School District
- Department of Social Services
- Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry
- Birthing With A Purpose
- MUSC
- The AIO Group

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

- AccessAbility
- Berkeley Early Education & Care Collective (BEECC)
- Birthing with Purpose
- Charleston Area Justice Ministry
- Children’s Museum of the Lowcountry
- YWCA of Greater Charleston
- Nurse Family Partnership
- SC Thrive
- Trident Technical College
- BEECC Community Champion: R. Simone Lee
- BEECC Mental Health Consultant: Stacy Albarran
- BEECC Project Director: Alexa Stephens

**JOIN US**

For more information on partnership opportunities, or to make a donation, visit our website at [www.berkeleyfirststeps.com](http://www.berkeleyfirststeps.com).
Since inception, Berkeley County First Steps has leveraged $2,267,399 from sources outside of state government.

That’s $0.22 for every state dollar.

### SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>State Funding</th>
<th>Federal Funding</th>
<th>Private Funding</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parents as Teachers</td>
<td>$283,201</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$6051</td>
<td>$289,252</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Quality Enhancement</td>
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<td>Child Care Training</td>
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<td>Scholarship Initiatives</td>
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<td>Early Identification and Referral</td>
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<td>Early Head Start</td>
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<td>Partnerships &amp; Community Education</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$532,253</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6828</strong></td>
<td><strong>$47,594</strong></td>
<td><strong>$586,675</strong></td>
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LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Campbell, Chair
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STAFF and CONSULTANTS

Adrienne Troy-Frazier, Executive Director
Stephanie Cook-Olazabal, Program Coordinator
Abigail Santiago, Community Health Worker
Garin Williams, Inclusion Specialist
Alexa Stephens-Program Coordinator BEE Collective
Stacy Albarran. Mental Health Consultant

CONTACT US

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