



FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Beaufort County First Steps:

 **1,385 children**
were directly served in Beaufort County

 **1,470 parents & caregivers**
received services and support to be their child's first and most important teacher

 **1,080 educators**
participated in First Steps training and professional development, benefitting 500+ children

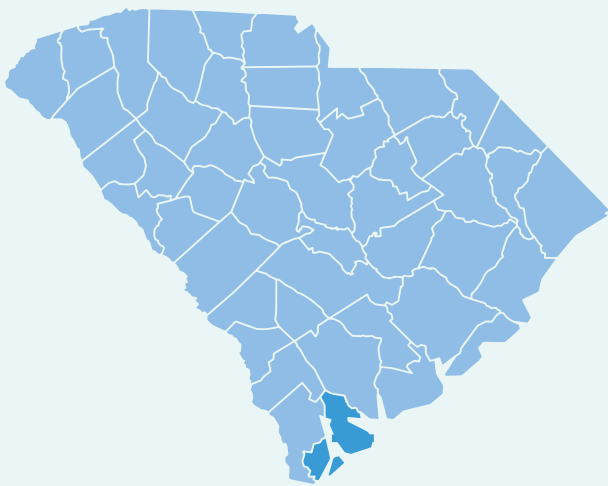
THE NEED PERSISTS IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

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

10,546
children birth to five

46%
of young children live in poverty or low-income households

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



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

Board of Directors

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Donor List

4-Imprint
Baptist Church of Beaufort
Beaufort County Library
Beaufort County School
Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comp. Health Services
Bluffton County Library
Beaufort Jasper EOC Head Start/Early Head Start
Beaufort Yacht and Sailing Club
Born to Read
Chelsea Medical Center
Child Abuse Prevention Association
CPM Federal Credit Union (Quinnett Williams)
Happy Art Studio
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Lakeshore Learning
Larry Scheper, Beaufort County Parks & Recreation
Palmetto Building
SC ABC Child Care
SC Endeavors/Technical College Greenville
SC Department of Public Health
SC First Steps
SC Resource and Referral
Sparklight formerly known as Hargray
Staples
Wayfair

CONTACT US

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ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



OUR MISSION

To help 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.



Betty Washington
Executive Director

It is my honor to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report for Beaufort County First Steps (BCFS).

Beaufort County First Steps leveraged public and private investments, to provide high-quality early care and education, family support, and health services to young children, ensuring they are healthy and ready for kindergarten.

In collaboration with partners from across the county, BCFS delivers services tailored to the needs of the families and providers in our community.

I invite you to read more about the impact we’ve made by implementing programs that continue to support children during the most critically important period of human development, birth-to-five.

The commitment of our staff, board, families and community partners has contributed to our success.

Thank you, I appreciate all that you do.



Rev. Kelly Zytynski
Board Chair

For 26 years, Beaufort County First Steps (BCFS) has faithfully served the children and families of Beaufort County, working to ensure every child enters school ready to succeed. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our sincere appreciation to the dedicated BCFS team, led by Betty Washington, for their unwavering passion and commitment. Their collaborative efforts with partner agencies continue to make a meaningful impact in our community.

We are especially grateful to our local partners—your support makes our work possible and strengthens our ability to reach shared goals. As we look ahead, we do so with optimism and excitement for the opportunities this year holds.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

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

11 children served 12 group meetings and events 124 home visits

Supporting Care Providers Through Visits

Site visits for home child care providers to encourage developmentally appropriate practices.

12 children served 2 providers served 30 provider visits

HEALTH

Reach Out and Read

Free, high-quality books provided by a child’s pediatric provider during doctor’s visits.

714 children served XX number missing book distributed

Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

149 children served 680 materials distributed

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

5,548 children served 346 providers served 22 certified training hours

Quality Counts

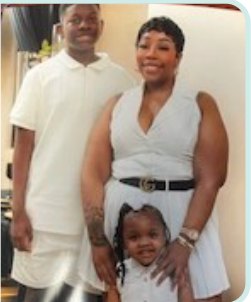
Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

363 children served 8 providers served 385 training hours provided

“

First Steps provided me with the skills needed to ensure my children hit their developmental milestones. I would highly recommend them to any parent.

Diana Brown



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

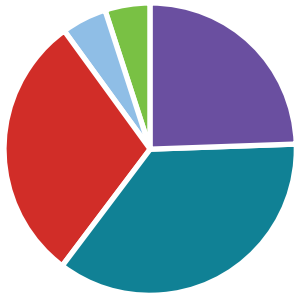


\$1 = \$1.09

Beaufort County First Steps leveraged \$57,338.04 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.09 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

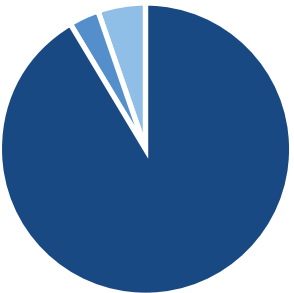
Total: \$687,027.15



- Parenting - \$169,629.86
- Early Care & Education - \$244,569.96
- Health - \$205,115.06
- Administrative - \$35,162.85
- Core Functions - \$32,549.42

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$691,896.83



- State Funding - \$634,558.79
- Private Funding - \$24,765.20
- In-kind Contributions - \$34,778.98

FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
State READY Funding*

State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.84