



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Berkeley County First Steps:



3,976 children

were directly served in Berkeley County



3,827 parents & caregivers

received services and support to be their child's first and most important teacher



305 educators

participated in First Steps training and professional development, benefitting 500+ children

THE NEED PERSISTS IN BERKELEY COUNTY

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

17,476

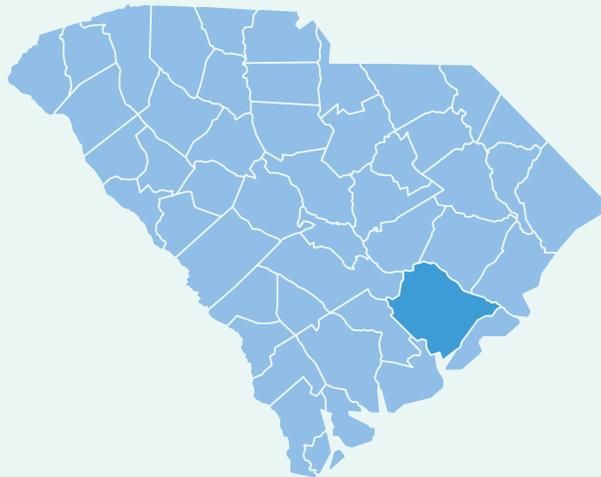
children birth to five

34%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

62%

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

OUR MISSION

The mission of Berkeley County First Steps 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.



Ivory Mitchell
Executive Director

As Executive Director of Berkeley County First Steps, I'm proud to share a year focused on children and families thriving. Through our trusted programs, we provide support, guidance, and care to families from the earliest days. Thanks to our private grant partners, vital wraparound services reach families, especially in rural communities. Funding from Save the Children strengthened kindergarten readiness at home, Sisters of Charity addressed urgent needs like housing and food insecurity, Roper St. Francis provided safe sleep education and lactation resources for Latinx families, and Coastal Community Foundation expanded our Parents as Teachers Doula Program, supporting mothers through pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. The work ahead is great, but so is our shared commitment. We will continue to listen, adapt, and respond to our community's needs. Thanks to our staff, board, and funders we're building a future where every Berkeley County child is safe, healthy, and ready to learn.



Leticia Urroz
Board Chair

As Board Chair, I've seen the powerful impact Berkeley County First Steps has on our community. The growth of its programs and the strength of its partnerships reflect a deep commitment to children and families. The organization's culture of collaboration and care shines through in every initiative. It's an honor to serve and support this mission.

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Parents as Teachers

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

61

children served

12

group meetings
and events

874

home visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

1,931

children served

137

providers served

30

certified training
hours

HEALTH

Healthy Steps

A pediatric primary care program that supports early childhood development and effective parenting.

3,744

children served

2

clinics served

Child Care Scholarships

Eligible children receive tuition-free enrollment at quality child care centers.

7

children served

7

families served

6

providers served

Quality Enhancement

Intensive support to child care centers and preschool classrooms to improve quality.

269

children served

9

providers served

190

training hours
provided

“

I'm thankful for Healthy Steps & Berkeley County First Steps for their support at the clinic. Abigail has been with us since my son was born & has been a constant help to both my children always ready to answer questions and share resources.

Seile R.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

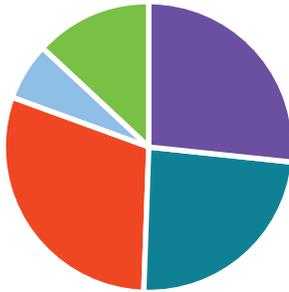


\$1 = \$1.51

Berkeley County First Steps leveraged \$374,450.33 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.51 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

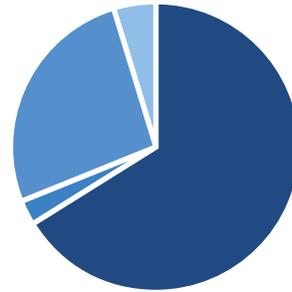
Total: \$1,31,140.65



- Parenting - \$304,569.76
- Early Care & Education - \$269,093.22
- Health - \$338,754.34
- Administrative - \$71,702.43
- Core Functions - \$147,020.90

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$1,105,940.37



- State Funding - \$731,490.04
- Federal Funding - \$33,330.68
- Private Funding - \$290,600.07
- In-kind Contributions - \$50,519.58

FUNDING SUPPORT

State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
State READY Funding*
State Dept. of Social Services and Dept. of Public Health Funding (Healthy Steps Program)
Federal ESSER Funding**
The Duke Endowment & Doris Duke Foundation
State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

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

**American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Education

Board of Directors

Leticia Urroz

Leeza Steward

Pathenia Scott

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Jessica McGill

Anna Williams

Kristen Smalls

Cynthia Bogan-Baber

Torie Brame

Gene Brunson

Donor List

SCSU- IMM

Sisters of Charity

Save the Children

Roper St Francis Community Investment

Coastal Community Foundation- Home Telecom

Coastal Community Foundation- Northern Lowcountry Region

Coastal Community Foundation- Blackbaud Fund

CONTACT US

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