



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025





FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Barnwell County First Steps:



53 children

were directly served in Barnwell County



64 parents & caregivers

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



34 educators

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

THE NEED PERSISTS IN BARNWELL COUNTY

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

1,502

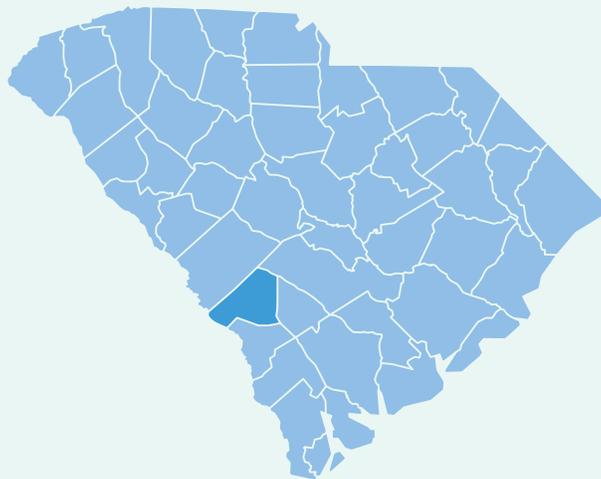
children birth to five

80%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

71%

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

PROGRAMS

PARENTING

Positive Parenting Program (TripleP)

A parenting and family support system designed to prevent – as well as treat – behavioral and emotional problems in children.

20

children served

19

families served

5

group meetings and events

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Free, high-quality books mailed to the home of children from birth until age five.

26

children served

3,268

books distributed

SCHOOL TRANSITION

Countdown to Kindergarten

Supports transitions into kindergarten by connecting incoming students, their families, and their teachers in a series of one-on-one sessions during the summer.

9

children served

1

schools served

54

home/school visits

Countdown to 4K

Supports transitions into pre-kindergarten by connecting incoming students, their families, and their teachers in a series of one-on-one sessions during the summer.

5

children served

1

schools served

6

home/school visits

EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Quality Enhancement

Promotes quality in child care by providing early educators with one-on-one coaching and support.

28

children served

3

providers served

Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

1

providers served

15

certified training hours

Early Education Program Operation

Providing families with early care and education by running an early childhood center.

19

children served

14

families served

Child Care Scholarships

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

18

children served

17

families served

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

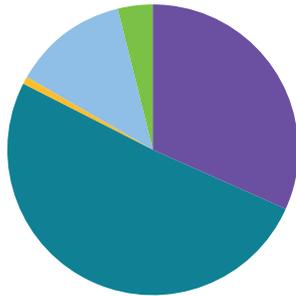


\$1 = \$1.17

Barnwell County First Steps leveraged \$334,605.29 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.17 for every state dollar invested.

EXPENDITURES

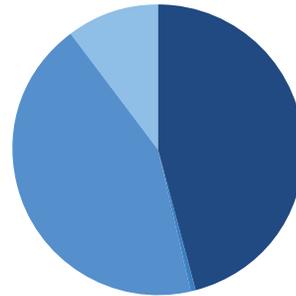
Total: \$690,245.67



- Parenting - \$219,529.10
- Early Care & Education - \$351,557.86
- School Transition - \$5,141.92
- Administrative - \$88,430.33
- Core Functions - \$25,586.46

FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$619,787.08



- State Funding - \$285,181.79
- Federal Funding - \$2,496.29
- Private Funding - \$268,956.20
- In-kind Contributions - \$63,152.80

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

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