



## FIRST STEPS IS HERE

Last year, because of Beaufort County First Steps:



**1,688 children**

were directly served in Beaufort County



**815 parents & caregivers**

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



**354 educators**

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

### 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

### THE NEED PERSISTS IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

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

**11,038**

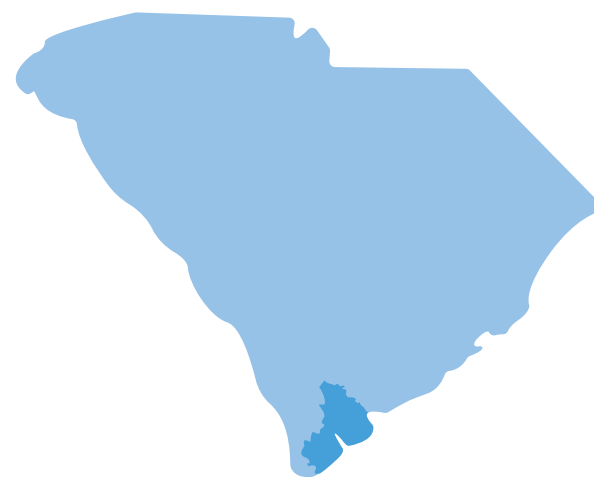
children under age 5

**45.2%**

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

**66%**

of kindergarteners are considered "not ready" for school



## Serving Beaufort County's children birth through age five.

### Our Local Supporters

Born to Read \$5,220  
 SC Endeavors/ Greenville Technical College \$2,500  
 4 Imprint \$500  
 Baptist Church of Beaufort \$9,425  
 Beaufort Yacht and Sailing Club \$8,321  
 Hargray \$639.90  
 Kaplan Early Learning Company \$1,938.60  
 DSS Child Care Licensing & ABC program (TEAM Conference) \$600  
 Betty Washington  
 Elementary and Secondary School  
 Andray Holmes  
 CAO Associates (TEAM Conference)  
 Lakeshore Learning  
 SC Inclusion (TEAM Conference)  
 SC Resource and Referral (TEAM Conference)  
 SCHIMA (TEAM Conference)  
 Wayfair \$624.40  
 CAPA (TEAM Conference)  
 Beaufort County Library Lobeco (TEAM Conference)

### Board of Directors

Anita Singleton	Carol Osborn
Tonya Allen-Jenkins	Alisa Johnson
Kelly Zytynski	James Williams
Amanda Dickman-Brewer	Yajaira Benet Uzcategui
Makita Fabian	James Simmons
Ashley Hutchison	Patricia Urriola
Olandor Lewis	Luz Yaneth Reyna-Colmenares
Nancy Pippins	LaChiana Hamilton

### CONTACT US

703 Bladen Street, Beaufort, SC 29902 | 843-379-7837 | beaufortfirststeps.com



# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# OUR MISSION

To ensure that children start school ready to learn by supporting the caring adults who touch their lives.



## Betty Washington

Executive Director

Permanent Authorization of SC First Steps, WOW, what a way the end the fiscal year!!!

"First Steps Is Here" to deliver outcomes by giving communities local control to determine the best approach to ensuring families with young children have the tools they need to thrive.

In this past fiscal year Beaufort County First Steps (BCFS) was able to sustain and strengthen its evidence-based programs i.e., Parents as Teachers, Early Intervention and Referral, Child Care Quality Enhancement, Early Child Training, and other program supports to meet the needs of our community. Serving more than 500 children this past year, BCFS staff and board have worked tirelessly to extend programs and service. The expansion of the PASOs program has been successful in reaching families that would likely have gone under the radar; over 160 families served this fiscal year through this program alone..

"First Steps Is Here" for children, families, childcare professionals, and our community.



## Anita Lynn Singleton

Board Chair

Since 1999, Beaufort County First Steps have been dedicated to providing services to children and families that will ultimately aid in closing the gap on students' readiness for success in our local schools. With the recent signing of Bill H. 4023 by Governor McMaster and the SC General Assembly we can be assured that our great state is committed to building a stronger early childhood education system.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I applaud the staff of Beaufort County First Steps for a job well done in the execution of programs which include Parents as Teachers, PASOs, Reach Back and Read, Health Services, Early Identification and Referral, Child Care Quality Enhancement, and TEAM Lowcountry- an annual Early Childhood Conference that brings together early childhood personnel for a day of professional development activities. We are also thankful for the support of our community partners.

Without you, we would not be able to accomplish our goals.

Thank you!!



The family immigrated from Guatemala with their 4 year old daughter. The family express themselves in their MAM dialect and have little knowledge of Spanish and no English. This has made communication very difficult, but, Karla was able to communicate with the family through drawings, phrases, and signs and referred family to Child Find and assisted with school enrollment. This mom feels so grateful, safe, and confident.

# PROGRAMS

## PARENTING

### Parents as Teachers

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

10

children served

13

group meetings and events

106

home visits

### Supporting Care Providers Through Visits

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

30

children served

3

providers served

81

provider visits

### Reach Out and Read

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

833

children served

1667

book distributed

## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

### Quality Enhancement

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

412

children served

6

providers served

408

technical assistance hours

### Training & Professional Development

Certified and registered training hours for the early childhood workforce.

3,091

children served

175

providers served

130

certified training hours

## HEALTH

### PASOs Early Identification & Referral

Providing developmental screenings and referrals to other services.

182

children served

167

families served

1,176

materials distributed

### WIC

Serves to safeguard the health of low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5

227

families served

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

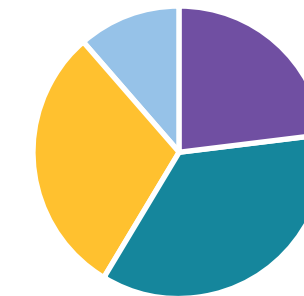


**\$1 = \$1.51**

Beaufort County First Steps leveraged \$206,834.16 from sources outside of state government, providing a match of \$0.51 for every state dollar invested.

## EXPENDITURES

Total: \$634,009.01



- Parenting - \$146,188.29
- Early Care & Education - \$225,536.15
- Health - \$191,605.82
- Administrative - \$70,678.75

## FUNDING SOURCES

Total: \$612,010.16



- State Funding - \$405,176
- Federal Funding - \$146,659.99
- Private Funding - \$35,513.9
- In-kind Contributions - \$24,660.27

## FUNDING SUPPORT BY SOUTH CAROLINA FIRST STEPS

- State Education Improvement Act (EIA) Funding
- State READY Funding\*
- Federal Preschool Development Grant Funding\*\*
- Federal ESSER Funding\*\*\*
- State Income Tax Check-off and Private Donations to SC First Steps

\*Resources for Early Acceleration and Development in Youth (READY) Proviso 1.105

\*\*Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0080-01-00 from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, awarded to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, Division of Early Care and Education

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