



ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

THE NEED

IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

42%

of people live in a childcare desert, where there are more than three times as many children as licensed child care slots

53%

of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in nursery school or preschool



IN BEAUFORT COUNTY:

9,662

children under age 5

48.8%

of young children live in poverty or low-income households

66%

of kindergartners are considered “not ready” for school

OUR MISSION

Collaborating with other entities, First Steps helps 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.

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

4,360

number of children and adults served by Beaufort 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.

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

Data provided by:

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Betty Washington
Executive Director
Beaufort County First Steps

Greetings!

I am proud to be a part of First Steps and the services that this agency works to provide to children and families in Beaufort County. First Steps' vision is to provide opportunities and services that help children and families change their lives and become more self-reliant.

I want to recognize the commitment of the First Steps Board of Directors and a dedicated staff who believe in the mission and vision of our organization. Together, we are improving the lives of people in our community, embodying the spirit of hope and making our community a better place to live.

We look forward to another year as we strive, with your support, to ensure that every child in Beaufort County arrives to school ready to learn.

OUR GOALS

Our strategic goals set the direction for how Beaufort County prepares their children for school success:

- To increase the reach of Beaufort County First Steps program services for children and families throughout the community.
- To identify and recruit board members who are committed to the mission and vision of the organization.
- To increase the presence of the Beaufort County First Steps Partnership and services in the community as a local portal for early childhood services as measured by connections made to referral agencies and by tracking the number of clients making use of local resources.
- Continued efforts of being a Community Convener to ensure all programs funded through Beaufort County First Steps are working collaboratively toward a common goal; services to families and children.
- To locate additional resources to meet the needs of at-risk children and families served in our community.

BCFS Board applauds our staff for their passion and commitment to early childhood education and the community for their continued support as we strive toward the mission of ensuring every child arrives ready to succeed in kindergarten.

Julia Burnes, Board Chair



EARLY IDENTIFICATION & REFERRAL



an evidence-based program

First Steps' Early Identification and Referral (EI&R) programs serve families with young children with suspected delays in development, acting as a local portal to connect families to community-based services they may need or desire to ensure the school readiness of their children. EI&R services include:



Screenings for children ages 0-5 with suspected delays in development



Referrals, based on screening results, to appropriate resources and support services



Patient information including strategies to monitor growth and development

EI&R BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

49

children served

28

materials distributed

3

referrals to BabyNet or other local services



We want to understand children's attitudes and interests towards play. We seek to understand what the children have to tell us through their play. Therefore, we must listen, observe, and reflect on what we are seeing happening in our classroom spaces.

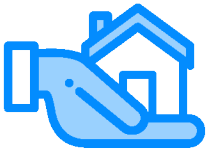


PARENTS AS TEACHERS



an evidence-based program

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

Parents As Teachers **IN**
BEAUFORT COUNTY
2018-2019
22 families served **241** total home visits



Beaufort County is the proud recipient of the national Blue Ribbon Award, which recognizes affiliates providing high quality services to families.

“Attending the monthly sessions helps me have a closer relationship with my kids. We learn new things I can do with my children and what I need to do to better my parenting skills. The program has helped in everything my family has needed.” - **Parent Participant**



Parents as Teachers.



CHILD CARE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT



an evidence-based program

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

7

child care providers served

146

number of TA visits provided

494

number of children 0-5 enrolled in provider classrooms



"First Steps of Beaufort County gave me the guidance to enhance a supportive and learning classroom environment. I learned how to implement the new SC Early Learning Standards and incorporate age appropriate practices and classroom skills."

Nyisha Mitchell, Teacher from The Children's Center, Inc



CHILD CARE TRAINING



an evidence-based program

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce. Our training programs are certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and include topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Our 2018-2019 trainings included:

- **First Aid/CPR/Bloodborne Pathogens**
- **Trauma Awareness**
- **Stress Management & Soothing Techniques for the Classroom**
- **Early Learning Standards: Intentional Teaching**
- **Intro to Holistic Health: Medication to Restoration**
- **Building the Immune System**
- **Enhancing Math in the Classroom**
- **Challenging Behaviors: Where Do We Begin?**
- **Mandated Reporter**
- **Provider 1st Response & Education**
- **Media Producer/Nerd Whisperer/Teller of Tales**
- **Creating Successful Environments: Dual Language Learners**

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

601

total training attendance

555

child care teachers and
directors served

28

number of training
sessions offered



"This was one of the best training conferences I've attended in my 20+ years of teaching. I enjoyed everything and was well taken care of. The volunteers and the First Steps staff were wonderful. I had a great time and all the workshops were wonderful and very informative. I will apply all resources in my classroom. Thank you so much for the opportunity to attain the knowledge/experience to better myself." - Child Care Professional

4K

FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN



an evidence-based program

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 BEAUFORT COUNTY 2018-2019

5

children enrolled

1

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.





PUBLIC AWARENESS



an evidence-informed program

Network, coordinate, and convene local stakeholders to collaboratively build a system of care for early childhood.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

629

materials
distributed

83

events held

2119

total event
attendance



“When your child plays, they learn about them self and their surroundings. This includes how to coordinate their body movements, talk with friends, apply rules, and more. But the learning process is even broader than this.

Play is more than you think; it is a way for your child to familiarize themselves with the world while exploring and testing their own limits. At the same time, they are engaged in an activity that provides them enjoyment and amusement”



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, Beaufort County First Steps mobilizes partners and community members to ensure all children in Beaufort 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

519

Children 0-5
served

1400

Materials
distributed

“Thank you for the work you do in our community. There is much wrong in our culture when we place little value in the people who work hard to care, nurture, and teach our children. However, your work through First Steps is certainly a “bright spot” and blessing to us. I’m grateful for your efforts.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Jeff Pethel, Associate Pastor in Family Ministries



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

FUNDING SUPPORT

SC First Steps, 365,994
Beaufort Fund, \$10,000
Greenville Tech (CCCCD), \$2,000
Miller Swamp Missionary Baptist, \$100

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Beaufort Jasper Hampton Comprehensive Health Services
Baptist Church of Beaufort
SC Child Care Resource & Referral
SC PITC
Kaplan Early Learning Company
Beaufort Jasper EOC
SC ABC Program
Lady's Island Yacht Club
CrossFit Port Royal Sound (Barry & Erica Pepper)
Welvista
Black Chamber of Commerce
Beaufort County Library
First Choice by Select Health
Sam's Club 6582
SCECA
Lakeshore Early Learning
Center for Child Care Career Dev. /T.E.A.C.H.
Traci Lynn Jewelry
The Sandbox Museum
CAJD Apparel
Beaufort Memorial Hospital
Black Butterfly
Burton Fire Department
Lowcountry Food Bank
Precious Jewel, LLC; Rose Dixon
Nourishing Health
Tutor Dr. Education Consulting

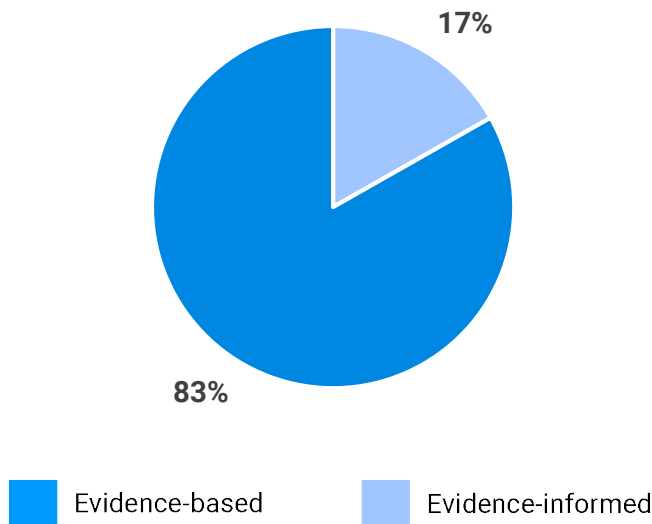
JOIN US

For more information on partnership opportunities, visit our website at
<https://beaufortfirststeps.com>.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

OUR INVESTMENT IN QUALITY Expenditures by Program Type



ESTIMATION OF COST SAVINGS

Since inception, Beaufort County First Steps has leveraged **\$4,346,198** from sources outside of state government.

That's **\$0.44** for every state dollar.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES BY STRATEGY

	State Funding	Federal Funding	Private Funding	In-Kind Contributions	Total
Parents as Teachers	\$116,841	\$	\$3,836	\$9,719	\$130,396
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$117,402	\$	\$1,032	\$13,021	\$131,455
Child Care Training	\$39,468	\$	\$15,203	\$6,534	\$61,205
Count Down to Kindergarten	\$342	\$3,636	\$	\$642	\$4,620
Early Identification	\$6,750	\$2,717	\$	\$	\$9,467
Partnerships & Community Education	\$34,185	\$129	\$23	\$126	\$34,463
Administrative Support	\$26,561	\$	\$226	\$1,203	\$27,990
Total Expenses	\$341,548	\$6,482	\$20,321	\$31,245	\$399,596



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tonya Allen Jenkins

STAFF

Betty Washington, Executive Director

Lucette Brown, Parent Educator

Sheryl Newton, Early Child Educator

Solimar Abbott, Community Health Worker

Erin Mathews, Program Specialist

CONTACT US

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