

BEAUFORT COUNTY



Getting children ready for school.



**Parents as Teachers**

**Child Care Quality  
Enhancement**

**Child Care Training**

**Community Education**

# Annual Report

2015-16



**OUR VISION:**

**Every South Carolina child  
will arrive at kindergarten  
ready to succeed.**



## By The Numbers

Indicator	SC	Beaufort County
Children Under Five	289,990	10,040
Children In Poverty	26.4%	24.6%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders Below Standard in Reading	21.1%	22.5%
Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma	17.7%	14.7%

KIDS COUNT data provided by



- Since inception, Beaufort County First Steps has leveraged **\$1,915,887.69** from sources outside state government. **That's \$.29 for every dollar received.**
- **416 hours of support and guidance** were provided to 20 families in our Parents as Teachers Program.
- **Childcare professionals received 386.25 hours** of technical assistance for early care best practices.
- More than **400** Childcare professionals attended **59** training sessions.
- Improved parenting practices through **12 Group Connections Parent Workshops.**
- Total Children Served in PAT program FY16: **28**
- *Total children 0-5 years enrolled in Quality Enhancement facilities FY 16: **492***
- Total number of books given to children for homeownership: **4,341**

Beaufort County First Steps  
 2201 Boundary St., Suite 111  
 Beaufort, SC 29902

Phone: (843) 379-7837  
 Fax: (843) 379-7840

**Board Chair**  
 Ashley Hutchison  
 Ashley.hutchison@beaufort.k12.sc.us

Beaufort County First Steps  
**Betty Washington**  
 Executive Director

Since 1999, the Beaufort County First Steps Partnership has been charged with implementing high-quality, research-based early childhood education programs to ensure our children have a greater chance of reaching kindergarten ready to succeed. We are committed to that mission and have worked tirelessly over the past several years to maximize the resources made available to our agency. To date we have leveraged an additional \$1,915,888 of in-kind and resources to expand services for children in Beaufort County.

First Steps continues to thrive and grow as we make changes to our program delivery to ensure more positive outcomes for children and families being served. We know that during the early years, how a child learns and develops mentally, emotionally, and socially is critical to later success in life. There continues to be growing research on the positive effects of quality early-learning experiences on children's lives. As educators we also know how important it is to invest in early education to help deter and improve social issues.

We appreciate the help and support given by our community partners. We will continue to build awareness around the importance of early education and work towards ensuring our children's needs are being met. You can help us as we continue to move forward by sharing information, volunteering at community events or by writing a letter of support to our legislators. Your actions combined with the work of all of our community partners make a difference in the lives of young children.

As we look ahead, we need to continue discussions about the importance of early education. Our children are counting on us to be their voice and to ensure they have a bright future.

Thank you for all that you do!



Healthy Start



Family Strengthening



Early Intervention



Quality Child Care



Early Education



School Transition

### County Programs

- Parents as Teachers
- Child Care Training
- Child Care Quality Enhancement
- Community Education

### State Programs

- BabyNet
- First Steps 4K

Each of the six color blocks of the First Steps logo represents a core area of service, outlining our comprehensive strategy to prepare children for long-term school success.

With **measurable outcomes across each of its six school readiness strategy areas**, First Steps is getting results.



## Healthy Start

We begin with a focus on providing a healthy start to life. This includes prenatal and post-partum services for both mother and baby. In 2007, First Steps collaborated with key philanthropic and agency partners to bring Nurse-Family Partnership to SC having a significant impact on reducing premature births and Medicaid costs.



## Quality Childcare

Quality childcare starts with quality childcare providers. Our quality enhancement and training strategies lead to improved teacher-student interaction, which research shows has a significant impact on a child's development and success in school.



## Family Strengthening

Our home visitation strategies, such as Parents as Teachers, Parent-Child Home and Early Steps to School Success, are helping parents understand their responsibilities to care for and be positive models for their children. As a result of First Steps' intervention and parenting support, 66% of clients initially assessed at "low" levels of parenting have achieved moderate or high levels of parenting skill.



## Early Education

Private-public partnerships through First Steps 4K have led to significant cost efficiencies in the delivery of publicly funded 4K. One recent analysis suggests First Steps is achieving comparable results, without the need for costly capital construction, for 80 cents on the dollar.



## Early Intervention

According to recent federal evaluations, outcomes for clients participating in BabyNet early intervention programs are above national averages. BabyNet matches the special needs of infants and toddlers who have disabilities and/or developmental delays with customized, community-based resources.



## School Transition

Each of the corresponding blocks of services leads ultimately to the goal of transitioning children successfully to school. Programs like Countdown to Kindergarten and From Day One to Grade One are ultimately preparing children for school success.

**Based on the needs of our community, Beaufort County First Steps focuses its investments in...Family Strengthening and Quality Child Care.**

**Parents play a critical role in their child's development.**

## Program Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting program designed to build strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready to succeed. PAT services include:

1. **Personal Visits** at least twice monthly
2. **Monthly Group Connections** with other PAT families
3. **Screenings and Assessments** to identify developmental concerns
4. **Connections to Outside Resources** that families may need to succeed

**Beaufort First Steps serves families in greatest need. Among our PAT families:**

100% ... live in Federal poverty or below  
87% ... possess two or more risk factors  
70% ... single parent homes  
15% ...low maternal education less HS diploma

*My family and I love the ladies from the First Steps program. I want to thank them for all their knowledge and support. I am the mother of two and never knew that there were such caring people who are willing to help families in need.*

*Claudia Mitchell*

## PAT by the Numbers 2015-16

Families Served	20	
Children Served	28	
Total Home Visits	416	
Hours Spent Serving Families	527.17	
Average gain, Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (pre-to-post):	<b>KIPS</b>	<b>ACIRI</b>
	<b>Pre</b> 3.28	<b>Pre</b> Adult +1.86 Child +1.21
	<b>Post</b> 3.93	<b>Post</b> Adult +2.68 Child +1.71
	<b>Difference</b> +0.65	<b>Difference</b> Adult +0.82 Child +0.5

Early learning creates future leaders!



## This year, our Parents as Teachers program:

- ✓ Averaged 20.5 home visits per family
- ✓ Identified and addressed 2 potential developmental delays
- ✓ Improved parenting practices using Keys to Interactive Parenting (interaction between parent and child) by +0.65
- ✓ Improved literacy skills pre-to-post changes in ACIRI Adult +0.82; Child +0.5, 732 books given to children

Made 302 connections for families to service providers such as Beaufort Housing Authority, BabyNet, Hope Haven, CAPA, Legal Aid, Disabilities and Special Needs, Project Hope, Head Start, Beaufort County Schools, HELP of Beaufort, Salvation Army, Food Ministries, Love House Ministry (free oil change), Department of Social Services, DHEC, Health Link, Child Passenger Safety Program, Mental Health, Benefit Bank/SC Thrive, Well Care, Employment Agency, Technical College of Lowcountry, University of South Carolina, Blue Choice (Medicaid), Consumer Credit Counseling, Wright Direction Family Services, Donna Scott, (Insurance Professionals), Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department (fire safety information), Family Connection, SC Highway Patrol (car seat inspection), Beaufort Memorial Hospital, Born to Read, Absolute Total Care, Barry Pepper / CrossFit Port Royal Sound (adopted families for Christmas), Colleton River Club (adopted families for Christmas) ADR Taxi Service (Free cab rides for PAT families to attend Parent Group Meetings)

**Thank you to our partners!**

**Beaufort County First Steps**

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# Child Care Quality Enhancement

In order to thrive, children need nurturing, responsive relationships and a supportive learning environment, both within and outside the home.

## Program Description

The quality of care they received by young children is crucial to their healthy development and school readiness. Child care providers strive to provide high quality care, but may lack the resources that are commonly available to publicly-funded early childhood programs, such as educational materials, on-site professional development, and other support.

**First Steps' Child Care Quality Enhancement (QE) is intended to produce measurable improvements in the quality of care provided to young children.** Participating child care providers must serve a high percentage of at-risk children, and are selected through a competitive process that requires a strong level of commitment to the QE process.

### Program Components

1. On-site Technical Assistance (TA) at least twice monthly
2. Equipment and materials funding
3. Integration with locally available training, provided by First Steps and other partners
4. Workforce Development
5. Coordination with community partners
6. Pre/post assessments of the classroom environment and teacher-child interaction, using nationally-recognized observational tools for infant/toddler and preschool settings (ITERS, ECERS)

## QE by the Numbers, 2015-16

Child Care Providers Served	7 facilities
Number of TA Visits Provided	170
Number of Children 0-5 Enrolled in Provider Classrooms	492

### *Congratulations to our QE participants for 2015-16!*

Child Care Provider	Pre/Post Improvement
CB, toddler room	From 3.32 to 5.19
GHCCDC, infant room	From 3.12 to 5.51
KC, 2-yr-old room	From 3.31 to 5.62
CC, 3-yr-old room	From 3.56 to 5.49
CEC, toddler room	From 3.4 to 3.78
HPWL, toddler room	From 3.4 to 5.4
LHCES, toddler room	From 3.69 to 5.22

## This year, our Quality Enhancement program:

- ✓ Improved quality, on average, by 1.78 based on pre/post Environment Rating Scale assessments.
- ✓ Provided 386.25 hours of technical assistance to child care providers
- ✓ 170 total number of technical visits conducted in FY16
- ✓ Provided \$28,000 in materials grants to participating child care providers
- ✓ Provided 526 books to children for home ownership (Dr. Seuss Birthday)

## Thank you to our partners!

- Child Care Resource and Referral
- SC ABC Child Care Program
- SC Child Care Licensing
- Technical College of Lowcountry

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# Child Care Training

Those who care for young children need high-quality, accessible, and affordable professional development.

## Program Description

High-quality child care hinges on high-quality professional development that meets the needs of the local child care workforce.

First Steps-sponsored training is certified through the SC Center for Child Care Career Development and includes topics in the areas of nutrition, health and safety, curriculum, child guidance, professional development and program administration. Best practices in training include not only the training itself, but follow-up in the classroom.

Really enjoyed the conference! And I heard some great things from our folks about how motivated they felt afterwards. I think there was incredible positivity that ya'll achieved, so kudos!



**T**eachers **E**ducators **A**dvocates **M**entors  
 Together "We Can"

### Child Care Training Sponsored by Beaufort County First Steps, 2015-16

Topic:	Sessions:
Curriculum	three sessions
Child Growth Development	one session
Child Guidance	one session
Program Administration	one session
Cradling Literacy	five modules
Blood-Borne Pathogens	twenty-two sessions
T.E.A. M. Conference (all areas)	twenty-three sessions
Child Passenger Safety	three-day session

### Training by the Numbers, 2015-16

Total Training Attendance	586
Child Care Teachers and Directors Served	373
Number of Training Sessions Offered	59

**This year, our Training program provided:**

- ✓ 586 early childhood staff with high quality training
- ✓ 24 hours of certified training and 65 hours of registered training for staff to meet annual re-certification requirements
- ✓ 56 follow-up visits with training participants to help put training into practice
- ✓ 201 early childhood staff attended the eleventh annual T.E.A.M. Lowcountry Early Childhood Conference

### Thank you to our partners!

- Beaufort County School District
- Beaufort Jasper EOC Head Start
- First Steps Partnership; Hampton, Jasper, Allendale, Barnwell
- SC ABC Child Care Program
- Technical College of Lowcountry
- SC Child Care Resource and Referral

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# Community Education

Creating partnerships and providing services which enhance the quality of life for all learners.

## Program Description

Inclusive community approaches produce outcomes which address quality of life issues through educational initiatives. The community education program encompasses every aspect of early child development to include:

- School readiness
- Success in school for children of all abilities
- Higher quality of child care
- Healthier children, families, and communities
- Integration of schools and communities
- Enriched learning opportunities for all learners
- Higher levels of literacy
- Awareness and community support structures

*Thank you for the care and attention you give to families in our community.*

C. Smalls



Buckle Up! Helping keep our children safe on the highway.

## Community Education by the Numbers, 2015-16

Children 0-5 Served	495
Families Served	214
#Community Events	17

## This year, our Community Education program:

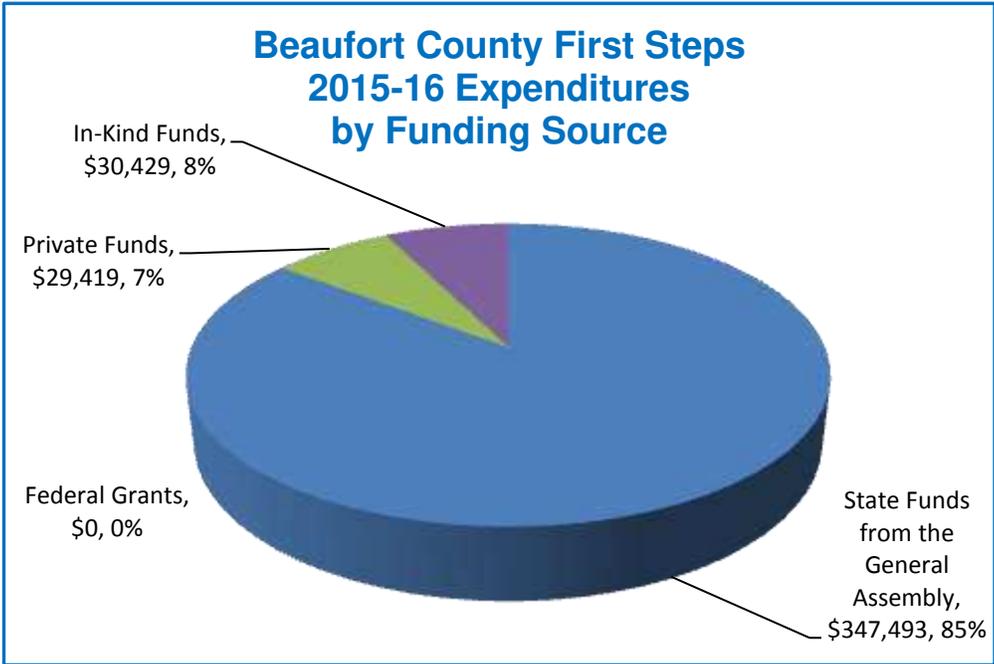
- ✓ Made it possible to provide 25 car seats designed to keep children safe; conducted safety seat checks on 45 vehicles.
- ✓ Provide materials to more than 300 individuals regarding nutrition and health needs for young children.
- ✓ Provide learning materials to over 600 children during Back-to-School Expos.
- ✓ Provided over 2000 books to children for home ownership to address issues of low literacy by encouraging reading.

## Thank you to our partners!

- SC Highway Patrol
- Well Care
- Beaufort County School District
- Children’s Trust of SC
- Scholastic
- First Books

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# Financial Impact



**Total 2015-16 Expenditures: \$407,341**

**State Funds Leveraged in 2015-16\*: 17.223%**

\*Percentage of state dollars matched by additional federal, private, and/or in-kind funds

## 2015-16 Expenditures by Strategy

	State \$	Federal \$	Private \$	In-Kind \$	Total \$	% of 2015-16 Expenditures
Parents as Teachers	\$85,653	\$0	\$4,835	\$3,974	\$94,462	23%
Child Care Quality Enhancement	\$119,733	\$0	\$1,896	\$9,174	\$130,803	32%
Child Care Training	\$69,160	\$0	\$21,626	\$9,785	\$100,571	25%
Community Education	\$9,831	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,831	2%
Program Support	\$33,215	\$0	\$337	\$5,622	\$39,174	10%
Administrative Support	\$29,901	\$0	\$725	\$1,874	\$32,500	8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$347,493</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$29,419</b>	<b>\$30,429</b>	<b>\$407,341</b>	

Unaudited numbers for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

**Since inception, Beaufort County First Steps has leveraged \$1,915,888 from sources outside of state government. That's .29 cents for every state dollar.**

# Community Impact

## You Make a Difference in Our Lives



Yes, I was discovered by First Steps. I'm now in Kindergarten and doing well!



Look me in the eyes and tell me No! Investments in early learning yield extraordinary returns to the work force and the economy.



I have brains and beauty! Mind in the making... the early years, especially the first three years of life, are very important to me!



Dream big, the "Skye" is the limit to what I deserve!



This is how I do it! Mouthing helps me learn all about different shapes and textures.



"We are family", strong community support helps to keep us together.



Creative thinking... if Picasso could, we can too!

## Board Engagement Makes a Difference in the Success of the Organization.

The Beaufort First Steps Partnership is pleased to have such a diverse and dedicated Board of Directors. They bring with them such a broad base of knowledge that lends itself well to the mission of the organization. They help to build relationships such as collaboration, partnerships, and alliances between public, private, and nonprofit organizations to meet the needs of children and families being served.

The First Steps Board of Directors is not just a body coming together to listen to reports but rather a hands-on group who work for the betterment of all. Several members were truly engaged in programmatic functions this past year, i.e. reading to families and children during group meeting, volunteering time and energy with the annual early childhood conference, attending state meetings to keep informed about policy changes, delving into reports and providing input regarding service delivery.

We will work to effectively engage our board members and understand that it takes an investment of time and commitment to the organization to bring about positive change. This year our board volunteered more than 150 hours for the benefit of the organization. Ultimately, having an engaged board of high performers will continue to have significant returns for our children.

As we move forward in FY17 and beyond, we are proud of what First Steps has accomplished and excited about the future. Our community is strong, and together we will continue our efforts to deliver programs that will get our children ready for school success and provide much needed resources to families in our community.

Name	Position	Board Category
<b>Ashley Hutchison, Chair</b>	Early Child Coordinator/Beaufort County School	County School Representative
<b>Julia Burnes, Vice-Chair</b>	Education Manager/Beaufort Jasper Head Start	Head Start Representative
<b>Nan Krueger, Secretary</b>	Nurse/Beaufort Pediatrics	Health Care Provider
<b>Leroy Gillard, Treasurer</b>	Executive Director/Beaufort Jasper EOC	Transportation Provider
<b>Tonya Allen-Jenkins</b>	Site Director/The Children Center Inc.	Child Care, ECD/ED Provider
<b>Ronald Manyin</b>	Arts in Schools Coordinator, Friends of Music	Non-Profit Organization
<b>Annette Drake-Smith</b>	County Department of Social Services	DSS Representative
<b>York Glover</b>	Retired/Clemson Extension	Faith Community
<b>Marilyn C. Jenkins</b>	Retired Educator/Administrator	Early Childhood Education
<b>Arriel Burns Young</b>	Educator /Beaufort County School	Parent of Preschool Child
<b>Kathleen M. McTeer</b>	Librarian/Beaufort County Library	County Library Representative
<b>Ernestine Morris</b>	Retired Educator/Administrator	Early Childhood Education
<b>Madie Orage-Green</b>	Program Coordinator	DHEC Representative
<b>Dr. Jean Murray</b>	Retired Educator	Family Ed., Training & Support
<b>Lauren Furman-Boggs</b>	Center Director/Life House Child Enrichment	Pre-K Primary Education
<b>Wanda Grant</b>	Educator, Beaufort County School	Business Community



# Getting children ready for school.

## The Goals of First Steps

- (1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want** to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
- (2) increase comprehensive services** so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
- (3) promote high-quality preschool programs** that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
- (4) provide services** so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to succeed; and
- (5) mobilize communities** to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to succeed.

-- Section 59-152-30



Interested parents can contact any participating 4K providers to complete an application. To view a list of participating First Steps 4K providers, visit:

<http://scfirststeps.org/4k>



**BabyNet**

South Carolina's Early Intervention System

BabyNet in Beaufort County:  
LOCAL SPOE PHONE # - (843) 379-7882

<http://scfirststeps.org/babynet/>

## Beaufort County First Steps Staff

Betty Washington, Executive Director

Betty Ford, Parent Educator/Program Assistant

Lucette Brown, Parent Educator

Sheryl Newton, Early Child Educator/Technical Assistant

# Thank you donors!

## Funding Support

State of South Carolina: \$347,533  
(through *South Carolina First Steps*)

Community Foundation of Lowcountry: \$10,000  
Center for Child Care Career Development: \$2,000

### T.E.A.M. Conference Funding

Miller Swamp Missionary Baptist Church; \$100  
South Carolina Early Childhood Association;  
\$250.00  
Sam's Store #6528; \$50.00 gift card  
First Steps Partnerships; Hampton, Jasper,  
Allendale



With your continued support I can learn through play & rest comfortably after a long day!

## In-Kind Support

Beaufort County School District  
Beaufort-Jasper EOC Head Start  
Center for Child Care Career Development  
First Steps Counties: Allendale, Barnwell, Hampton,  
Jasper  
Kaplan Early Learning Company  
Ridgeland Baptist Christian Child Care Ministry  
Sandbox Interactive Museum, Hilton Head, SC  
SC Child Care Resource and Referral Network  
SC DSS ABC Child Care Program  
SC Inclusion Collaborative  
South Carolina Early Childhood Association Technical  
College of Lowcountry  
Traci Lynn Fashion Jewelry  
Barry Pepper / CrossFit Port Royal Sound  
ADR Taxi Service  
Belk 325  
Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton Comprehensive Health  
Baptist Church of Beaufort, Child Enrichment Center

## How your support helps children in Beaufort County:

- ✓ \$33 provides a young child with a book per month for one year!
- ✓ \$50 feeds dinner to low-income families attending a parenting group meeting.
- ✓ \$60 helps provide a car seat to help keep children safe on the highway.

### HOW TO GIVE: Send check or money order to

Beaufort County First Steps  
2201 Boundary St., Suite  
Beaufort, SC 29902

## Save the Date!

**National Love Our Children Day** is observed annually on the first Saturday in April as part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This day honors all children and encourages us to develop loving, respectful relationships with our children.

**Support Beaufort First Steps today through a tax-deductible donation, or volunteer!**