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Allendale County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report*

Summary

Numbers Served:

954 children; 750 adults/families; 4 child care facilities, with 113 children total at those facilities; 4 child care centers achieved a higher quality status, with 1 NAEYC Accredited; 8 higher adult education levels achieved; 177 home visits; 13 staff trained; 137 4K slots and 6,022 books distributed.

Total Budget:

\$342,244

Allendale County School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	939
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)*	89%
Average Per Capita Personal Income	\$17,991.00
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5)***	49%
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade**	31%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Reading **	30%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Math**	40%
Low Birth Weight Infants	14%
Births to Mothers With Less Than High School Education	32%
Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care	38.%

*Note: Data is for 2003 except where noted (*2005, **2004, ***1999).*

Profile Comments: In FY '07, Allendale County First Steps served 954 children ages 0-5 identified as meeting the poverty level. Allendale County has four ABC enhanced childcare centers and one NAEYC accredited center. Kids Count Data indicates that more than 63.6% of the county's children under the age of six have female parents in the workforce. More than 31.5% of parents in Allendale County have not completed high school. To increase children's readiness for school and respond to parents concerns and county needs, Allendale County partnership targeted its resources toward enhancing the quality of childcare, parenting, and family literacy in both the public and private sectors. Recognizing the importance of early literacy activities on children's success in school, the partnership continue to provide the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program. Allendale County First Steps continues to partner with Allendale County School District to provide a Parent Resource Center that provides take-home literacy kits, educational books and supplies and a computer for online access to parenting resources.

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES

Family Strengthening

Statewide Goal: South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness will work collaboratively with its agency partners, the faith community and private sector to support parents and families in their own efforts to maximize school readiness, well-being and long-term academic success of the state's young children.

FY 2007 Results

Partnership Goal: Increase the capacity of parents to be their child's best and most important teacher by expanding home visitation services.

- *Provided 400 books to children participating in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at no cost to the parent.*
- *Provided a Resource Center, located at the Adult Education Learning Center, to parents of children age 0–5 and early education teachers.*
- *20 families and their children participated in PAT program*
- *100% of families reported satisfaction with the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program*
- *Five parents received their GED*

Child Care

Statewide Goal South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes quality child care as a research-based determinant of school readiness. As such, First Steps will collaborate with parents, the child-care community and its agency and community partners to maximize child care quality throughout the state. Particular emphasis will be placed on assisting parents in their efforts to identify those settings most likely to maximize developmental outcomes, and assisting providers in their own efforts to maximize the learning environments they provide for young children.

FY 2007 Results

Partnership Goal: Improve the quality of child care by offering quality enhancement grants and assistance to child care providers.

- *Quality Enhancement grant was given to one childcare provider serving 28 children.*
- *13 childcare center staff participated in certified trainings on health and safety, child development, administration, and curriculum*

Healthy Start

Statewide Goal: South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes the importance of a healthy start in maximizing both school readiness and the long-term wellbeing of the state's children. The initiative will partner with families, the medical community and other stakeholders to leverage resources for – and increase awareness of – the healthcare, nutrition and early developmental needs of the state's young children.

FY 2007 Results

Partnership Goal: To link families with partnering agencies (Allendale County DHEC, Low Country Healthy Start and Low Country Health Care Systems) to ensure children are prepared to enter school healthy and ready to learn.

- *342 families attended health fairs on the importance of folic acid and multi-vitamins before and during pregnancy*
- *408 families received child health and school readiness information at community events, through PTO meetings at local schools and in the local apartment complexes.*

School Transition

Statewide Goal: South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes school entry as a pivotal transition point in each child's educational career. In an effort to ensure strong collaborative relationships between the state's families and schools, the initiative will develop strategies to maximize parents' understandings of state and local expectations and ensure a smooth and beneficial school transition for each child.

Partnership Goal: Ensure an educationally beneficial school transition by serving 40 at-risk children in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.

FY 2007 Results

- *40 identified children completed the Countdown program during summer 2006.*
 - *95% of the children received five or more home visits.*
- *15% of the children were placed in their Countdown home visitor's kindergarten class.*
- *89% of the children qualified for free lunch.*
- *0% of the children qualified for reduced lunch.*
- *Countdown to Kindergarten resulted in improvements in parent-child interactions, including:*
 - *There was a 16% improvement in families reading to their child daily.*

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2007-2008

The Allendale County Partnership will enhance its child care program by continuing to offer quality-workshops as well as technical assistance and quality enhancement funds to enhance the child care environment and early learning experiences of children. Allendale County First Steps will continue to sponsor community events to provide school readiness information to families in Allendale County. Four-hundred (400) children's lives will continue to be enriched by books through the community events and childcare centers. Forty (40) children and their families will attend kindergarten through our Countdown to Kindergarten school transition program. During FY 2007-08, Allendale County First Steps plan to intensively serve and expand private early education to 20 at-risk children through a high quality 4K program with a qualified private provider.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

D O L L A R S (budget only)							
State Appropriation	State-Private	In-kind	Local-Private	Lottery Appropriation	Federal	EIA Appropriation	TOTAL
\$141,246	\$0	\$42,389	\$26,213	\$71,540	\$0	\$60,856	\$342,244

NOTE: The above State and EIA appropriation amounts leveraged all state-private, in-kind, local-private, lottery and federal dollars.

READINESS STRATEGIES	EXPENSES
Parents as Teachers	\$34,244
Imagination Library	\$16,306
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$10,025
Facility Quality Enhancement	\$25,029
Center Staff Training and Development	\$10,854
Scholarship Initiatives	\$83,523
Public Health Promotion	\$12,684
County Administrative	\$26,253
TOTAL	\$249,174

NOTABLE DONORS

DONOR'S NAME	AMOUNT
Clariant Corporation	\$200
Coastal Community Foundation of SC	\$2,350
Greater Savannah River Foundation	\$1,000
March of Dimes	\$5,500
Wilson Income Tax Service	\$200
Verizon Foundation	\$2,000
United Way of Allendale County	\$350
Wal-Mart Stores	\$2,000
TOTAL	\$13,600

Local Match Percentage for 2007: 38% (at least 15% required)

BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 07, the Allendale County partnership board members volunteered 272 hours, including 22 hours preparing and participating in Allendale County First Steps Annual Meeting Program, 12 hours preparing and participating in Child Abuse Awareness Program, and 6 hours for participating in Sheriff Youth Day at the Park.

Value of Volunteer Time¹: \$18.77 X 272 = \$5,105.44

ALLENDALE COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Lee Harley-Fitts, Chair – Transportation Provider, Director Department of Social Services
Rev. James Brewton, Faith Community
Ms. April Capers, Parent of Pre-School Child
Mr. Tom Carter, Legislative Appointee
Mrs. Estella Cohen, Non-Profit Organization
Mr. DeWayne Ennis, Parent of Pre-School Child
Ms. Verona Grant, Kindergarten-Pre-School Educator
Mrs. Ruby Gray, Early Childhood Education
Mrs. Vernie Harney, Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Mrs. Paula Harris, Allendale County School District Superintendent
Mrs. Cindy Holyfield, Early Childhood Education
Mrs. Lotasha Polite, Early Childhood Education
Mrs. Lainey Reed, Allendale County Library
Mrs. Donella Robinson, Department of Social Services
Mrs. Janice Roberson, Legislative Appointee
Mrs. Catherine L. Russell, Family Education, Training and Support Provider
Mrs. Diana Smith, Kindergarten, Preschool Educator
Ms. Yvonda Speights, Allendale County Head Start
Mrs. Gwen Wall, Health Care Provider
Mr. Larry West, Business Community
Mrs. Edna Youmans, Childcare Provider

¹ http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html

SUCCESS STORIES

My name is Portereshice Brabham; I attend school full time and work part-time. I have three children ages 4, 2, and 1. All of my children attend an Allendale County First Steps Program. My four year old is currently in 4K and the other two are in childcare. My four year old was in childcare for a year before going to the 4K program. He has learned so much. Before entering 4K, he knew his colors, shapes, numbers, and some rhyming words. He has also learned how to recognize the letters in his name and how to write it. He's learned how to respect others and take turns at different activities. I know without childcare, he would not have learned as much as he has. Being in a structured environment has taught him how to follow rules and directions and how to get along with others. He is getting a head start on what is important to succeed in the future. Thanks for all your help in getting my children ready for school.

--Portereshice

I'm the director of Brian's Playhouse Childcare Center. Allendale County First Steps has been a tremendous asset to my center. Through mini grants, Allendale County First steps have assisted me with age appropriate materials for my classrooms and a best practice curriculum. They have also helped me develop plans/strategies to acquiring NAEYC accreditation. I have been in existence for 12 years and no one has helped me as much as Allendale County First Steps. To the Allendale County First Steps Staff, thanks for all you do to help me get children ready for the first grade.

--Mr. Murdaugh