



# Greenville County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report*

**Board Chair:**  
Gary Ray  
**Executive Director:**  
David White  
**Contact Information:**  
24 Vardry St, Suite 303  
Greenville, SC 29601  
**Phone:** 864 467-3239  
**Fax:** 864 467-3241  
**Email:**  
1stepsgc@bellsouth.net

## Summary

### **Numbers Served:**

Improved parent involvement for 430 families, provided high quality K4 for 37 children, and increased quality at 19 childcare providers serving children most in need. Average expenditure per family/child/yr was \$1,700.

### **Total Budget:**

\$1,898,665 (all funding sources including in-kind of \$260,792)

## Greenville School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics <sup>1</sup>	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	33,168 (8%)
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)	39.0%
Average Per Capita Personal Income**	30,814
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5) ***	15%
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade**	19%
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Reading *	14%
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Math*	18%
Low Birth Weight Infants	9%
Births to Mothers with Less than High School Education	25%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	37%

*Note: Data is for 2005 except where noted (\*2007, \*\*2004, \*\*\*2000).*

**Profile Comments:** *Perhaps most disconcerting is the lack of school readiness for children in the free-reduced lunch category. Using the statistics above, of the 18% of all children performing below basic on 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade PACT Math, 68% are children receiving free/reduced lunch. 28% of children on free/reduced lunch score “below basic”, compared to all other children at 10% – the achievement gap based on family economics remains significant.*

*At Greenville County First Steps, we counteract the disparity by partnering to strengthen the learning environment for these children. We work with the children, parents, childcare and K4 programs, in addition to promoting community-wide support for a child’s learning.*

*The health statistics above also are troubling. Through partnerships, we train childcare professionals and parents about developmental delays and give them options to help their children.*

## SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES

### Early Education (K4)

**Statewide Goal** – South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness will leverage state, local and private resources to increase the quality of, and number of children participating in, developmentally appropriate pre-kindergarten programs in both the public and private sectors. Particular emphasis will be placed on *fidelity* to research-based instructional models and *targeting* of students at-risk of early school failure.

#### ***FY 2007 Results:***

**Partnership Goal** – Maintain financial and program support to two private K4 programs. Improve parental involvement component.

- *Each classroom hired a bachelor degreed teacher in early childhood having full knowledge of appropriate curriculums.*
- *Children participated based on school readiness risk factors.*
- *Parental involvement is critical to success; while there are a core group of active parents, we had difficulty engaging the most at-risk families. To that end, one of our childcare outreach consultants is engaged more intently in each program for the 2007/08 school year.*

### 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 the 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.

- *Through Parents as Teachers, we expanded a two-year pilot strategy of working with children, newborn-5 year old, and their families, where the siblings of the young children have already shown developmental delays in elementary school. This program is in partnership with Communities in Schools, United Way, and of course, Greenville County Schools. The program won the State PTA "Program of the Year" award in FY06.*
  - *The Parents as Teachers program has increased its focus on providing services to families chronic financial stress and has improved by partnering with other initiatives, whether they be K4, family learning and GED initiatives, or special ed.*
- *We partnered with 4 churches exhibiting a strong community outreach and a focus on families having economic hardship. Through church volunteers trained in early learning, we brought caregivers and children together weekly for literacy activities and support for the adult caregivers. In a survey of this pilot program, 2/3rds of the adults "strongly agree" the program "has helped me think of new ways to educate the child during the week".*

## **Child Care**

**Statewide Goal** – South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes quality childcare as a research-based determinant of school readiness. As such, First Steps will collaborate with parents, the childcare community and its agency and community partners to maximize childcare 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 childcare by offering quality enhancement grants and assistance to childcare providers.**

- *Weekly, on-site visitation and corresponding quality enhancement grants were offered to 13 centers and 6 home based providers. These providers serve a large percentage of low-income children (30% or more on free-reduced lunch). Through this effort:*
  - *One-half of the providers increased quality materially.*
    - *We engage the Director of each program; for providers not showing material improvements, the Director is often not ready to change. We stop work with these providers until change is possible.*
  - *We put a very large focus on professional development, providing financial incentives for staff to take courses in early childhood.*
- *We continued partnership with Hollingsworth Foundation and United Way, for funding. United Way provided support for two of our staff and Hollingsworth provided funding for an initiative called “the business of childcare”. Here, we engaged Directors of centers with administrative consulting, on-site and in a group setting, with a goal of improving the ability of the Directors to lead their organizations.*

## **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** – Provide education to childcare staff and to parents on developmental milestones of children, and provide referrals to community health care providers

- *Parenting educators and childcare consultants made over 100 referrals each month to medical and social service programs and trained parents and staff on developmental milestones.*

## **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 60 children at-risk of school failure in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.

### ***FY 2007 Results:***

- *60 identified children completed the Countdown program during summer 2007. This was in partnership with the Title 1 Cherrydale and Welcome elementary schools and through a funding partnership with Bi-Lo Charities.*
- *Outcome data is being studied. In FY05, 94.44 percent of teachers (statewide) participating in Countdown to Kindergarten reported that the program made a positive difference in childrens’ readiness for school. 100% of these same respondents agreed that the program strengthened their ability to help participating children meet state curriculum standards.*

## **SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2006-2007**

*Our constant focus is improvement of services to the community and expansion of our efforts. In Parents as Teachers, for example, we have extended our partnership with United Way, the School Improvement Council, and Greenville County Schools, to provide home visit services to children who have older siblings already struggling at the elementary level. We are also partnering with four churches – these churches provide weekly early learning and parent support meetings and refer families in need to our parents as teachers program.*

*In Child Care Outreach, we have strengthened our focus by helping child care directors improve their business acumen and their relationship with parents, in addition to maintaining intensive technical assistance with directors and staff.*

*In working with the K4 community, we are improving the quality of this critical year in the private childcare industry. We applaud Greenville County Schools as they lead the K4 effort for the county; we will continue to support private K4 programs as the need arises and funding becomes available.*

---

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

<b>D O L L A R S (budget only)</b>						
<b>State Appropriation</b>	<b>State-Private</b>	<b>In-kind</b>	<b>Local-Private</b>	<b>Lottery Appropriation</b>	<b>EIA Appropriation</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>\$1,131,086</b>	<b>\$106,602</b>	<b>\$260,792</b>	<b>\$222,616</b>	<b>\$41,599</b>	<b>\$135,970</b>	<b>\$1,898,665</b>

*NOTE: The above State Appropriation amount leveraged all state-private, in-kind, local-private, lottery and federal dollars.*

<b>READINESS STRATEGIES</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>
Early Education	\$191,373
Family Strengthening	\$756,303
Child Care	\$372,110
School Transition	\$15,420
County Programmatic	\$152,588
County Administrative	\$59,831
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,547,626</b>

Variation between budget and expenses is due to the following:

- \$90,702: in-kind not actualized (will be actualized in next fiscal year; still maintained Match of 30.14%).
- \$185,035: roll-over funds planned for such. (these funds were budgeted largely as “pending”, to be used as cash becomes tight in FY08 and FY09, due to salary increases and expanded programming).
- \$31,260: fund 10 unused cash that cannot roll-over to next fiscal year as these are state-allocated funds.
- \$44,042: Lottery funds unused in requisite time (will not roll-over). We had 4 lottery strategies. Three used full lottery appropriation. The fourth was a pilot program that is just now flourishing; we were conservative with the funds, deciding to shut down two sites that were not effective instead of spending the funds.

**NOTABLE DONORS**

<b>DONOR'S NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
United Way	\$151,022
Bi-Lo Charities	\$9,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$160,622</b>

**Local Match Percentage for 2007:** 30.14% (Match is through In-Kind and private contributions). The mandate from State Legislature is a 15% Match).

---

## BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 07, the Greenville County First Steps partnership board members volunteered 600 hours, which includes 6 Board Meetings, one half day retreat, and various separate meetings or work in the community.

Value of Volunteer Time: \$17.55 X 600 = \$10,530.

**Comment [sde1]:** Including 1,000 hours building the Town Community Center.

### GREENVILLE COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

#### Gary Ray – Chair

**Comment [sde2]:** Ms. Billie Holliday, chair, parent of a child served by First Steps

Karen Allen	Greenville County Library. Youth Services Manager
James Beard, M.D.	GHS Children's Hospital Outpatient Center. Physician
Linda Brees	GHS Children's Hospital. Director, Children's Advocacy/SAFE KIDS
Kenia Brockman	Legal Assistant & Parent of a pre-school child
Lorraine DeJong, PhD	Furman University. Professor, Early Childhood Education
James Friday	John Wesley UMC. Pastor
Lieshe Grady	YWCA of Greenville. Development Director
Lillie Hall	DHEC. Associate Director of Health Education
Veronica Inman	A Child's Haven. Executive Director
Phyllis Martin	YWCA of Greenville. Executive Director
Amanda Merchant, M.D.	GHS Children's Hospital. Pediatrics Fellow
Kevin Mertens	Investment Manager
Noelle Patrick	DSS, ABC Child Care. Program Coordinator
Kathryn Peters	Bi-Lo. Vice President, Brand Marketing
Mamie Reid	Shady Grove Baptist. Ministry Development Coordinator
Laurie Rovin	United Way. Nurturing Young Children Council Director
Katrice Seawright	DSS. Lead Clinical Staff
Midge Simpson	Sonshine Learning Center. Executive Director
Cynthia Sosebee	SHARE Head Start. Community Partnership Facilitator
Karen Sparkman, PhD	Greenville County Schools. Director, Early Childhood Education
Joni Thomas	Greenville County Schools. Director, Dunbar Child Development Center
Lisette Treanor	Greenville Tech. ESL Instructor
Daniel Varat, PhD	State Legislature. Legislative Aide
Jane Watkins	Community Volunteer

*This concludes the Greenville County First Steps Annual Report for FY07*