



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

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Summary

Numbers Served:

581 children; 98 adults/families; 10 child care facilities, with 332 children total at those facilities; 0 child care centers achieved a higher quality status; 3 higher adult education levels achieved; 266 health assessments and screenings; 1,198 home visits; 30 staff trained; 0 4-K slots and 10,896 books distributed.

Total Budget:

\$390,936.86 (includes all funding sources)

Greenwood School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	5,355 8 %
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)	52 %
Average Per Capita Personal Income**	24,935
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5)***	22 %
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade**	25 %
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Reading *	13 %
Children in Third Grade Performing below Basic on PACT Math*	19 %
Low Birth Weight Infants	14 %
Births to Mothers with Less than High School Education	29 %
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	33 %

*Note: Data is for 2005 except where noted (*2006, **2004, ***2000).*

Profile Comments:

In Greenwood County, there are 5,335 children under the age of six. These children represent 8.2% of the total population of the County. Of these children under six, many face socio-economic challenges, which place them at risk of failing to succeed in school:

- Nearly half of babies are born to mothers who are not married: 48.1% or 408 births in 2003 were to unmarried mothers.
- More than a quarter of babies (26% or 219) are born to mothers without a H.S. diploma:
- 33.6% births in 2003 were to mothers with a H.S. diploma.
- In 2003, an alarming number of babies are born to mothers who received inadequate prenatal care (263 or 31%): 27.3% or 151 Caucasian births were to mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care. 38% or 112 African American births were to mothers receiving inadequate prenatal care.

While Greenwood County faces economic and social challenges with loss of jobs and long-term results of low education levels of its population – the County is rich in human resources and committed to addressing the obstacles that prevent its youngest from succeeding in school.

Evidence of this commitment can be seen in the fact that county leadership has collaborated to ensure every Medicaid baby born will have a permanent medical home. A growing recognition that proactive collaboration works can be seen in the Home Visitation Task Force that is becoming more and more adept at ensuring families receive the appropriate intensity of home visitations. It is outstanding that Greenwood County has alternatives that do not duplicate efforts – but provide appropriate levels of assistance with these young families.

In short, the Greenwood First Steps Partnership has “fine-tuned” strategies and strengthened its resolve to collaborate so that scarce resources to address the pressing needs summarized below will be as effective as possible. If we only consider the 2800 children under the age of three in Greenwood County, see below several conservative estimates of those likely to benefit from First Steps interventions:

- In 2004, children under 5 qualifying for Medicaid = 3,286
- Children under 3 born to mothers without a H.S. diploma = 24%* or 672
- Children under 3 born to unmarried mothers = 43.3%* or 1212

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES

Early Education

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: The top needs identified by the Greenwood County First Steps Partnership Board were to encourage parents to be the first and most influential teacher in the development of their child. To provide developmentally appropriate information, materials and activities to the parents of children ages birth to 5 years and emphasize the importance of reading. This program is based upon the staff having Parents as Teachers training and use of the *Born to Learn*TM curriculum.

- ***82 families (totaling 88 children served) received Parents as Teachers (PAT) visits. Using the program model to differentiate intensity according to need, 46 of these families received three visits per month, 13 of these families received four visits per month, 4 of these families received five or more visits per month, and while the remaining 19 families received at least one home visit monthly.***
- ***A total of 308 home visits were delivered, providing parents with information and resources to strengthen their role as their child's most important teachers. (Outputs web site)***
- ***82 families received referrals for other resources.***
- ***All PAT educators completed training in the Born to Learn Curriculum.***
- ***All PAT educators have, at minimum, a Bachelor's level education (OFS Benchmarks)***
- ***Families reported an average of 4.75 satisfactions with this program (based on a 1 [poor] to 5 [excellent] point scales).***

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.

Partnership Goal –Improve the quality of child care by offering quality enhancement grants, free child care credit hours from certified child care trainers and assistance to child care providers. Work jointly with child care providers from neighboring counties (Abbeville and McCormick) to provide certified child care credits.

FY 2007 Results:

- *Quality enhancement grants were offered to 5 child care providers (three centers and three family childcare providers), serving 96 children. These facilities represent 23% of the childcare community for Greenwood County. Through intensive technical assistance the following program outcomes were achieved: (Outputs Web Site)*
 - *Through previous efforts of this program Greenwood Learning Center and North Hodges Learning Center reached NAEYC status*
 - *69 staff participated in on-going DSS certified training regarding Health and Safety, Child Development and Curriculum on average per training*
- *Over 1300 childcare staff received an average of 25 hours per person in support and assistance around setting up quality learning areas and how to maximize use of new materials.*

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 – Provide an educational focus service supporting the child’s readiness as well as supporting parent-interaction and child development. Ensure an educationally beneficial school transition by serving 20 at-risk children in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.

FY 2007 Results:

- *20 identified children completed the Countdown program during summer 2007.*
- *94.44 percent of teachers (statewide) participating in Countdown to Kindergarten reported that the program made a positive difference in students’ readiness for school. 100% of these same respondents agreed that the program strengthened their abilities to help participating students meet state curriculum standards.*
- *100% of the family being served received the maximum eight visits per family.*
- *100 percent of the children qualified for free or reduced lunch.*

SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2007-2008

The Greenwood County First Steps Partnership reevaluated our needs and resources assessment conducted in FY04 by undertaking a highly disciplined process (Steering Committees, Board Surveys, Parent Surveys, Child Care Provider Surveys, Statistical Trends Research, and Board Adoption of Priorities). This assessment provided us the information to obtain a clear understanding of the needs and resources required to prepare every child to succeed in school from our board and county experts.

The Greenwood County Partnership plans to offer quality enhancement grants for center accreditation, thus reducing the amount of money spent on this initiative in previous years and again focus primarily on a tri-county training initiative (Greenwood, Abbeville, and McCormick Counties) by offering quality childcare trainings and development to centers and family childcare providers. New in this fiscal year will be the introduction of a full-time technical assistant. Also, child care trainings will be conducted twice monthly and participants will receive Department of Social Services Child Care credit and a yearly Child Care Training Conference will be conducted.

The County Partnership will re-implement the ABC Child Care Voucher Scholarship initiative. This program is linked to parents that are currently in our Parents-As-Teachers program, in which, we will provide full and partial child care vouchers. During FY 08, the county plans to no longer outsource the Parents as Teachers program to four programs. These four partners (Districts 50 and 51, LEGACY, and Greenwood Community Children's Center will not be funded for the fourth year. We will serve 50 families and children and conduct our program in-house. This initiative will provide the partnership more fiscal control and accountable for programs.

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
\$294,643.97	\$0.00	\$61,677.05	\$12,705	\$229.84	\$0.00	\$21,681	\$390,936.86

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 (Private)	\$41,245
Parents-As-Teachers (Public)	\$81,245
Healthy Families (Private)	\$39,624
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$5,757
Childcare Quality Enhancement	\$61,756
Childcare Trng & Professional Dev	\$15,939
Scholarship Initiatives	\$33,000
Home-Based Services (Public)	\$4,000
County Programmatic	\$60,679
County Administrative	\$41,035
TOTAL	\$384,303

NOTABLE DONORS

DONOR'S NAME	AMOUNT
Ben and Pam Hunley	\$200
Greenville Technical College	\$1,000
Self Family Foundation	\$4,000
United Way Special Distribution Account	\$404.22
United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties	\$67.32
Workshop Fees	\$1,758
TOTAL	\$7429.54

Local Match Percentage for 2007: 20% (at least 15% required)

BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 07, the Greenwood County First Steps partnership board members volunteered 8,723 hours, including 1,112 hours distributing books, recruiting, and training initiatives.

Value of Volunteer Time¹: \$18.77 X 9,835 = \$184,603

GREENWOOD COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Greenwood County First Steps Partnership Board is Carolyn Robinson. Other Board members are charted below:

Category	Committee	Name
Pre-K-Primary Educator	Early Childhood Committee/Chair	Loretta Parker
Parent	Early Childhood Committee	Tita James
Library	Legislative Committee	Prudence Taylor
Faith	Early Childhood Committee	Darlene Saxon
Health Care	Early Childhood Committee	Lillian Thomas
Family Education Training Support	Budget Committee	Willie Williams
Early Childhood Education	Early Childhood Committee/VC	Sheila Marino
District 52	Early Childhood Committee	Doris Louden
District 51	Early Childhood Committee	Jenny Pitts
District 50	Budget Committee	Roger Richburg
DHEC	Legislative Committee	Sara Lights
Department of Social Services	Resource Committee	Janice Norman
Child Care	Early Childhood Committee	Ruth Boyd
Child Care	Early Childhood Committee	Willie Mae Caldwell
Head Start	Budget Committee	Rebecca Brown
Business	Legislative Committee	Sandra Anderson
Appointed	Budget Committee/Chair	Bobby Ligon
Appointed	Legislative Committee	Donald Burton
Appointed	Early Childhood Committee/BC	Carolyn Robinson

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

SUCCESS STORIES

Greenwood and Abbeville Counties has been working together the last three years providing childcare trainings for our two counties and McCormick County. We have collaborated to the point of reaching tremendous outcomes in our Childcare Strategy, moreover our joint initiative has allows us to build a strong rapport with our boards, clients, counties, and staff by rendering our talents across county lines when necessary that display a partnership that is second to none in the State of South Carolina. Our Board members have conducted joint board training and socials to show mutual support and gratitude. Also, we use our personal expertise to provide joint administrative and programmatic trainings to our staff. What our County Partnerships' Executive Directors has created is a instrumental model for like programs to follow. We work together to get any child ready for first-grade despite their county residence.

Angela Pruitt-Executive Director, Abbeville County

Michael K. Gaskin-Executive Director, Greenwood County

Again, we wanted to take the time to thank you for all that First Steps has done for Kid's Hotel. Since we received our grant from you, Kid's hotel is not only able to provide developmentally appropriate activities but we are also ranking higher on the environmental rating scale. First Steps grants and free trainings ensure our teachers are able to implement individual need based activities for the children in their class. Our kids are showing improvement in the areas of social and emotional development as well as their fine motor skills which is a necessity for kindergarten. Please continue the Quality Enhancement program. Toshema Mitchell-Kid's Hotel.

For the third year, I am writing this letter to say thank you for all you do and for the help you have given to me, my staff, and our Center. Since we are a fairly new Center, having your expertise and the grants we have received has really made a difference in our program. If it had not been for First Steps our children would not have many of the learning tools we now utilize. Because of the help you and First Steps have contributed to our center we now have a successful child development center, which has been recognized by others as being one of the best in Greenwood. We have not only benefited from the grants we received, but we have also greatly benefited from the training we were able to get through First Steps. My staff and I have been able to say that we have gain useful knowledge at each training session we have attended. Again we say thank you and may God bless and keep you and your staff. Katherina W. Bowyer, Director

I would like to thank First Steps and Mr. Gaskin for the Grant money I received to enhance my day care. I purchased many new books, blocks, puzzles, and other various toys to further enrich my children's development skills. My infants and toddlers have really enjoyed learning through play with the oversized soft blocks First Steps bought. With this grant money, I was able to purchase a dress up unit with dress clothes for dramatic play. I also bought materials to enhance their outside play. My parents also appreciate the good quality of learning materials and everything First Steps does for us. Joyce Todd's Family Day Care