

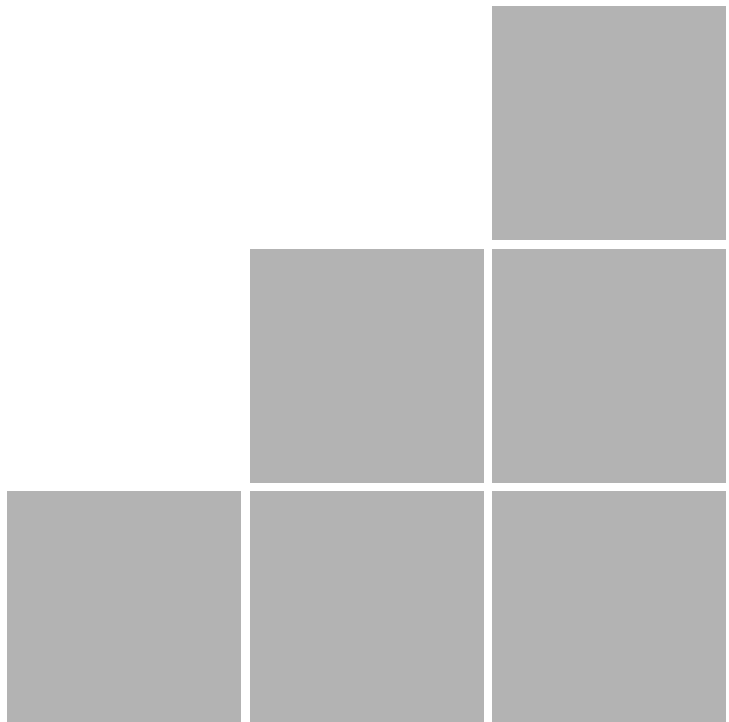
First Steps and Further Steps

Early Outcomes and Lessons Learned from
South Carolina's School Readiness Initiative

1999-2002 Program Evaluation Report
County Profiles



Produced by



Introduction

In this report we present profiles of each of South Carolina's 46 counties. Each profile includes descriptive statistics about the county's children and families, information on the county's First Steps-funded strategies in fiscal year 2001-02, and First Steps' related accomplishments and highlights provided by each county's Executive Director. In this introductory section, we will briefly describe the information contained in the profiles, as well as the sources of our information. It should be noted that the county profiles are not evaluations of the programs implemented by the County Partnerships; the profiles simply provide a picture of the activities undertaken. For evaluative information about the programs implemented across the state, please refer to the full 1999-2002 evaluation report.

Profile of the County's Children

The profile of each county begins with basic statistics about the county's young children and their families. This includes the number of young children in the county, the race/ethnicity of children under age six, the number of families with children under age six, the percentage of children under age six with all parents in the labor force, and the percentage of young children in four-year-old kindergarten programs. Information about at-risk children includes poverty, Medicaid eligibility, immunization status, and risk factors at birth, including births to teenage mothers, births to mothers without high school diplomas, births to unmarried mothers, and low birthweight births. The data for this section come from Decennial Census 2000, South Carolina Kids Count, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

First Steps Strategies in the County

The profile next provides a summary table of the strategies implemented by the County Partnership in fiscal year 2001-02, as noted in Program Effectiveness Reports (PERs; see below for a description). A checkmark indicates that a particular strategy was implemented in the county. The strategies include four-year-old kindergartens (4K), summer readiness programs, child care, parenting/family strengthening, health, and "other." Some of the headings are broken into more detailed program types. The table distinguishes between full-day and part-day 4K; the different child care strategies, including quality enhancement, caregiver training, and child care scholarships; several different parenting/family strengthening programs; and different health strategies.

Fiscal Information

We also provide fiscal information for each county, including the total First Steps budget, the proportion of funding spent on the different program areas, the proportion spent on administrative functions, the amount spent per child, and the amount spent per child living in poor families. The fiscal information was provided to Child Trends by the Office of First Steps through their Universal Management System.¹ We note that there are occasional instances in which a program may have been categorized in the Universal Management System in a different way than the category in a Program Effectiveness Report.

Program Profiles

The profile then provides summaries of the programs adopted by the County Partnership in fiscal year 2001-02. The information in this section of the profile comes from the Program Effectiveness Reports (PERs), completed for each First Steps-funded program in the county. Who completed the PERs varied by county; they were either completed by the Executive Director, the vendor with whom the County Partnership contracted to administer the program, or by the county's Planning, Implementation and Evaluation Consultant (from the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina). Each PER was supposed to be verified by the county's Executive Director, and the PERs represent Child Trends' best source of information on the programs implemented by the County Partnerships. The information we present in each county's profile varies slightly by program type, and includes such things as the program's start date, the number of participants,² the key activities undertaken, whether or not it was a new or extended program, and plans for the future.³

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

The profile concludes with "County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future." The information in this section comes from telephone interviews conducted by Child Trends with each county's Executive Director during the summer of 2002. The highlights we present come from the Executive Director's answers to questions about his or her county's biggest First Steps-related accomplishment thus far and plans for the future.

¹ The fiscal information contained in this report may be slightly different from that in counties' Annual Reports due to the fact that the Office of First Steps generated the information at two different points in time.

² The number of participants was, in some instances, drawn from the First Steps 2002 Annual Report to the General Assembly rather than the PERs.

³ Some PERs lacked some information, so we left out the subheadings for those particular pieces of information. Therefore, the program

Abbeville County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	1,077
Under age 6	2,105
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	62.4%
Black only, non-Hispanic	33.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.1%
Hispanic	1.8%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	1,585
Married couple family	62.8%
Single householder	37.2%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	63.1%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	31.9%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	18.4%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	7.6%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	47.1%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	12.0%
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	336
Nonmarital births	42.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	24.4%
Births to mothers < age 18	6.0%
Nonmarital and no diploma	18.2%
Low birthweight	8.9%
Inadequate prenatal care	28.3%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

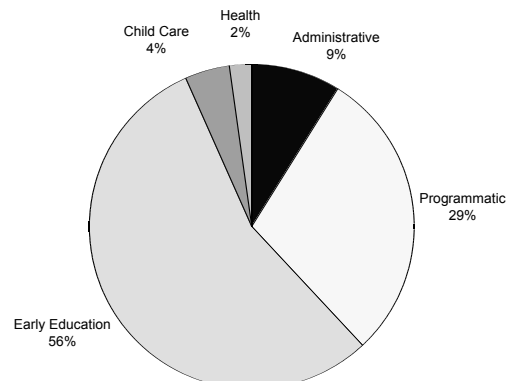
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

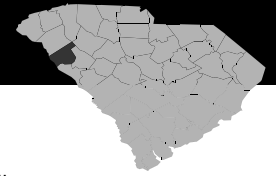
First Steps Strategies in Abbeville County Based on PERs

4K Half Day ✓ Full Day Other	Child Care Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other	Health ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness Any Program	Family Strengthening ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies	Other Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$310,664, the Abbeville County Partnership spent 56 percent on early education and 29 percent on programmatic tasks performed by County Partnership staff. The Partnership spent 9 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions and exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$148 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$820 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Within an existing 4K program, the Abbeville County School District opened one new full-day classroom and extended three half-day classes to full-day. **Start date.** The classrooms began in August 2001.

Number of children. First Steps funding enabled 84 children to enroll in the 4K classrooms. **Population served.** The target population was children with low developmental assessment (DIAL-3) scores and other characteristics that put them at risk of not being ready for school (e.g., identified disabilities, developmental delays, low language levels, poverty, parents with low educational levels). **Program model.** The 4K classrooms all used the High/Scope model. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include providing more staff training on the High/Scope model and the use of assessment tools appropriate for tracking change across the school year.

■ Child Care

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to 13 children from 12 families beginning in April 2002.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Step funding was used to establish a new Parents as Teachers (PAT) program in Abbeville County. Three Parent Educators and one Program Administrator were hired. **Start date.** This program began in January 2002. **Number of families.** First Steps funding was used to serve 50 families. **Population served.** Even though the program was open to anyone who was interested in participating, teen parents, parents in low income housing, parents with low educational attainment, single parents, unemployed or under-employed parents, parents with multiple children, foster parents, and ESL families were mainly served. **Key activities.** Parent educators visited homes for 45 minutes to one hour twice a month to help parents to strengthen their parenting skills, to increase their knowledge of child development, and to prepare children for school using the Born to Learn Curriculum. Group meetings were also held once a month to discuss topics chosen by the participating families.

■ Health

Home Visitation

Extended or new program? This program was an extension of DHEC's postpartum/newborn home visitation program and the county hospital's post partum home visitation program. **Start date.** This program began in May 2002.

Number of families. The program was still in the planning stages during fiscal year 2002, therefore no clients were

seen. **Population served.** The program will serve new mothers without Medicaid or other insurance for a first and possibly second visit. **Key activities.** Planned program activities include home visits to assess the health status of the mother and her newborn, as well as to evaluate the nutritional, developmental, environmental, and educational needs of the family.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Abbeville County's Executive Director, one of their greatest accomplishments was the level of collaboration with other services and agencies. In addition, through their programs, they have effectively served the county's children and families. In the future, the County Partnership would like to implement a child care quality enhancement initiative.

Aiken County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	5,677
Under age 6	11,468
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	61.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	31.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.7%
Hispanic	3.6%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	8,540
Married couple family	67.5%
Single householder	32.5%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	61.1%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	38.3%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	21.5%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	9.3%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	50.6%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	10.0%
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	1,852
Nonmarital births	40.7%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	19.9%
Births to mothers < age 18	5.6%
Nonmarital and no diploma	14.0%
Low birthweight	9.9%
Inadequate prenatal care	32.7%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

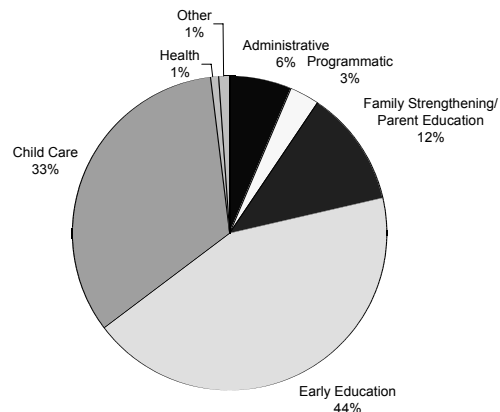
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

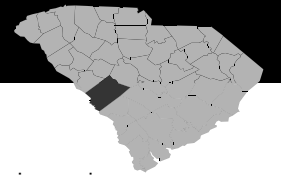
First Steps Strategies in Aiken County Based on PERs

4K Half Day ✓ Full Day Other	Child Care Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other	Health ✓ Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies
Summer Readiness ✓ Any Program	Family Strengthening Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies	Other Transportation ✓ Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$1,576,545, the Aiken County Partnership spent 44 percent on early education and 33 percent on child care. The Partnership spent 8 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$137 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$663 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? The Aiken County School District used First Steps funding for eight 4K classrooms. **Start date.** The classrooms began in August 2001. **Number of children.** First Steps funding permitted 160 children to participate in the 4K programs. **Population served.** The programs served at-risk children with multiple risk factors, such as low Rapid DIAL scores, evidence of delayed development in any school readiness dimension, low language level, identified disabilities, and familial risk factors (e.g., family poverty, siblings performing poorly in school). **Program model.** The classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. A four-week summer readiness program that began on June 3, 2002 was implemented in Aiken County. **Number of children.** The program served 243 children at 15 sites. **Population served.** Participating children were generally children living in poverty, children with siblings performing poorly in school, children with parents of low educational levels, and children with poor results on the South Carolina Readiness Assessment during 5K. **Program model.** The classrooms used several different curriculum models, such as High/Scope, AIMS, Creative Curriculum, the Basal Reading Program, and Inquiry.

■ Child Care

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were provided for 93 children in Aiken County.

■ Family Strengthening

Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to extend an existing Parent Child Home (PCH) program so that it could serve additional families. **Start date.** The program began in September 2001. **Number of families.** First Steps funds allowed 30 families to participate in the program. **Population served.** The program served an at-risk population, specifically low-income families, under-educated parents, single parents, non-English speaking families, and single parents. **Key activities.** Activities include two 30-minute home visits per week. During the home visits, the home visitor demonstrated parenting techniques. Each family was also provided with a new book or age-appropriate toy each week.

Teen Parent/Grandparent Program

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to establish a new parenting program targeted to teen parents in Aiken County. **Start date.** The program began in October 2001. **Number of families.** Ten teen parents and the children's grandparents (the parents of the teen parents) participated in this program. **Population served.** This program served teen parents who were below the poverty level, who were not attending high school or a GED program, and teens living with their parents. The program also included the teen parents' parents (that is, the

children's grandparent). **Key activities.** The major service offered to the teen parents and the grandparents were parenting classes. The teens and the grandparents had separate class times, however the two classes merged for relationship-building exercises and for outings to the movies. The classes took place twice a month for nine months. Each class lasted one and a half hours.

■ Health

Health Voucher Program

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to establish a new health voucher program in Aiken County. **Start date.** The program began in November 2001. **Number of families.** The program served 64 clients who were enrolled and receiving services through First Smiles. **Population served.** The program was targeted to uninsured, non-Medicaid eligible pregnant women and families with children through age five. **Key activities.** The program covered well-child or well-baby screenings, preventive dental visits, and prenatal care and delivery.

Nurse Case Management

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to establish a new nurse case management program. **Start date.** The program began in February 2002. **Number of families.** A total of 14 women enrolled. **Population served.** The program was targeted to uninsured, non-Medicaid eligible pregnant women with incomes at or below 250 percent of Federal poverty guidelines. All of the pregnant women who entered the program were Spanish-speaking. **Key activities.** Two part-time registered nurses conducted monthly home health visits through the first year of the infant's life.

■ Other

Public Awareness

Start date. A public awareness program called Community 101 began in January 2002. **Number of participants.** The program offered seven workshops; 204 individuals attended the workshops. **Population served.** Community 101 was designed for anyone who works in a job that touches children and families in Aiken County. **Key activities.** Meetings were organized to familiarize participants with resources available to children and families in the county so that they could make better referrals. Aiken County First Steps also provided funds and technical support in establishing the "aiken211.org" resource and referral center, launched in June 2002.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Aiken County's Executive Director, the county's First Steps programs have helped young children and their families. In particular, the Parent Child Home program was highly successful in teaching parents to recognize potential health problems in their children. In the future, the County Partnership will determine what programs have been effective, build upon accomplishments, and address challenges.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	455
Under age 6	939
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	16.7%
Black only, non-Hispanic	80.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.0%
Hispanic	1.5%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	677
Married couple family	39.9%
Single householder	60.1%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	53.2%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	67.9%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	48.8%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	28.4%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	84.6%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	9.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	174
Nonmarital births	70.1%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	26.4%
Births to mothers < age 18	9.2%
Nonmarital and no diploma	24.1%
Low birthweight	11.5%
Inadequate prenatal care	44.8%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

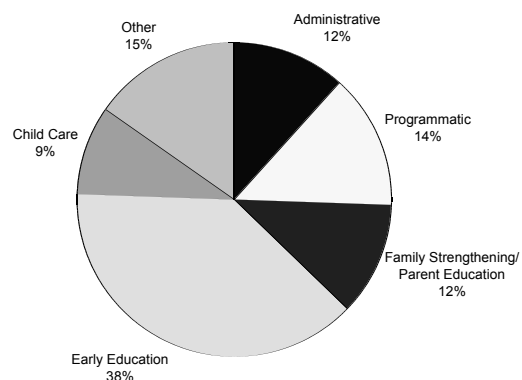
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

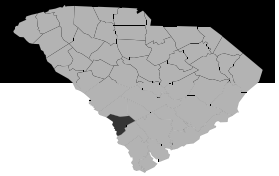
First Steps Strategies in Allendale County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day ✓ Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program ✓ Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$349,182, the Allendale County Partnership spent 38 percent on early education strategies. The Partnership spent 10 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$372 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$756 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

3-5K

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to purchase materials for a new, additional Montessori classroom in the Allendale School District. **Start date.** The classroom began in August 2001. **Number of children.** A total of 20 children participated; three-year-olds attended half day programs, while four- and five-year-olds attended full day programs. **Population served.** The target population was children from families with multiple risk factors (e.g., low parent education or literacy, poverty, single parent, unreliable transportation, health issues, emotional traumas).

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend 4K classrooms from part-day to full-day. **Start date.** The full-day classrooms began in August 2001. **Number of children.** A total of 44 students participated. **Population served.** The target population was children from families with multiple risk factors (e.g., low parent education or literacy, poverty, single parent, unreliable transportation, health issues, emotional traumas). **Program model.** The classroom used the High/Scope curriculum.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. A four-week, half-day Summer Readiness program that began on June 5, 2002 was implemented in Allendale County. **Number of children.** The program served 24 children. **Population served.** Students were targeted and selected using three criteria: low scores on the South Carolina Readiness Assessment during 5K, delayed development in any area of school readiness, and behavior problems. **Program model.** The program used the Montessori model.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement/Child Care Scholarships

Start date. The child care strategy in Allendale County involved two components—child care scholarships and quality enhancement grants of \$1,000 for the child care providers who served the scholarship children. The program began in November 2001. **Number of participants.** Eighty-seven children received child care scholarships; four child care providers served the children and received quality enhancement grants. **Key activities.** Grants were used to purchase materials and supplies and to pay NAEYC accreditation fees. Grantees were also trained to implement the High/Scope curriculum.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to extend an existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) program by adding one parent educator. **Start date.** The parent educator began working with families in October 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 28 families were served. **Population served.** The population served included families with low income levels, rural families, parents with limited English proficiency, and families living in poor housing. **Key activities.** The program planned to provide one two-hour home visit per month, referrals to services, and one two-hour group meeting per week (to teach parents computer skills and about child development issues).

Family Service Coordination

Extended or new program? First Steps funds enabled Allendale County to establish a new family service coordination program. **Start date.** The program began in October 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 42 families participated. **Population served.** The population served was at-risk families with children between the ages of zero and five. **Key activities.** Families received one to two hours of service per month. They were helped to identify their needs, create plans to meet those needs, and access appropriate services.

Neighborhood Van

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to stock a van with medical and educational materials. This was a new program. **Start date.** The program began in September 2001. **Number of families.** Over 500 families received information and/or referrals. **Population served.** The target population was families (with children ages four and younger) who had only sporadic contact with government and private service agencies. **Key activities.** Staff took the van to various community sites (e.g., parks, churches) for scheduled community events; at these times, parents were engaged in parent education activities, information was provided about services, and children were enrolled in child care facilities.

■ Other

Clinic Child Care

Start date. Beginning in October 2001, First Steps funding was used to extend a program that offered child care while parents visited the Low Country Health Care System. **Number of participants.** Child care was provided for 716 children. **Population served.** Child care was provided for children between the ages of zero and five while their parents received health care. **Key activities.** The child care staff member provided activities designed to stimulate child development (e.g., puzzles, blocks, musical games), and provided materials to parents about the county's PAT program.

Library Program

Start date. A program designed to increase child care providers' access to books began in November 2001. **Number of participants.** The program served seven preschool and child care sites. **Key activities.** Program activities included bookmobile services and story times.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

The biggest accomplishment in Allendale County was getting the County Partnership Board to work together and implement programs early. An important priority for the future is to build on the current collaborations and accomplish more for children. Another priority is to identify the children who are not currently being reached by programs. It is important for the county to reach and connect these other children to appropriate services that prepare them for school.

Anderson County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	6,592
Under age 6	13,315
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	74.4%
Black only, non-Hispanic	20.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.2%
Hispanic	1.8%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	10,081
Married couple family	69.5%
Single householder	30.5%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	61.3%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	26.6%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	18.7%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	8.7%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	43.3%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	19.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	2,217
Nonmarital births	37.5%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	24.8%
Births to mothers < age 18	7.1%
Nonmarital and no diploma	16.6%
Low birthweight	8.3%
Inadequate prenatal care	14.9%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

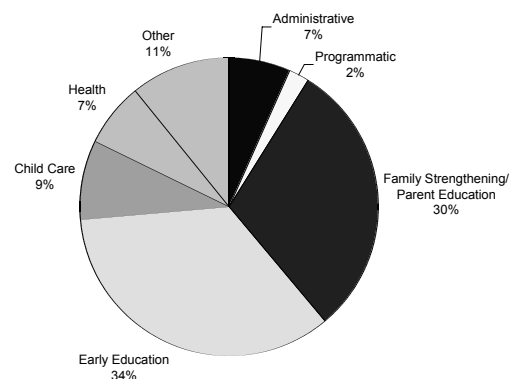
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

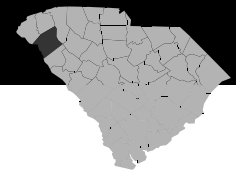
First Steps Strategies in Anderson County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training Scholarships ✓ Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home ✓ Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$1,576,719, the Anderson County Partnership spent 34 percent on early education strategies and 30 percent on family strengthening/parent education. The Partnership spent 7 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions and exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$117 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$642 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to open four new half-day 4K classrooms in School District 1 and to extend two half-day classrooms to full-day in School District 5.

Number of children. The classrooms in District 1 served 77 children; the classrooms in District 5 served 40 children. **Population served.** Children with low developmental assessment (DIAL R) scores and other school readiness risk factors were served.

Program model. All of the classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. Half-day Summer Readiness programs that lasted four weeks were implemented in School Districts 2 and 4. The program in District 2 began on May 27, 2002; the program in District 4 began on June 3, 2002. **Population served.**

Children were selected to participate based on delayed development in any school readiness dimension, educational level of parents, and/or identified disabilities.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were first awarded in March 2001. **Number of grantees.** Grants were awarded to 11 child care providers. **Key activities.** Trained consultants visited grantees to evaluate their quality and needs; the consultants then conducted five site visits per grantee to help them improve their environments and materials.

Caregiver Training

Start date. First Steps funding was used to expand Department of Social Services training. Training was expanded from two School Districts to five School Districts. The sessions began in July 2001. **Number of sessions.** Training sessions were held monthly; three or four three-hour workshops were offered during each session. **Topics.** The four content areas of training were health, nutrition, and safety; child development; curriculum; and professional development.

Other Programs

Start date. A technical assistance component began in October 2001; other components began in July 2001.

Description. As part of their fieldwork, four Anderson County college students studying early education provided technical assistance site visits to eight child care providers. Additionally, a referral guide was developed for community resources such as health and human service agencies, and a child care coalition was established.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to expand four Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs in Anderson County. **Start date.** School District 2's program began in March 2001; School District 3's program began in January 2002; School District 4's began in August 2001; and School District 5's began in July 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 160 families were served. **Population served.** The programs were open to all families in their respective school districts, however most of the

families were at-risk. **Key activities.** Home visits were conducted, but the dosage varied by school districts, from one one-hour visit per month to one one-hour visit per week. Group meetings and parenting workshops were also provided.

Family Literacy

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to establish a new Family Literacy program in Anderson County.

Start date. The program began in November 2001. **Number of families.** Thirteen families participated. **Population served.** The program served parents without a high school degree. **Key activities.** The program provided adult education two days per week (for a total of four hours each week), as well as parenting classes and child care.

Multiple Strategies

Extended or new program? A new program called Reading Enriches a Child (REACH) was implemented in Anderson County. The program coordinated the efforts of four existing book distribution programs (Reach Out and Read, Appalachian 1 Public Health District, Success by 6, and Books, Babies, and Beyond).

Start date. The program began in November 2001. **Key activities.** REACH activities included bi-monthly networking meetings of the four programs. First Steps funds were also used to purchase books and videos.

■ Health

Home Based Health Services

Extended or new program? A new Home Based Health Services program was implemented. **Start date.** The program began in December 2001. **Population served.** The program was targeted to children (up to first grade) and their families; participating children were underinsured and had a health risk. **Key activities.** The program activities were designed to address various needs of families (e.g., food security, access to health care).

Community Nurse

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend an existing community nurse program. **Start date.** The program began in January 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 402 families were served. **Population served.** The program served expectant mothers and parents of children up to age five, who were not covered by Medicaid or private insurance. **Key activities.** The program provided workshops on child development and health care.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Anderson County's Executive Director, the County Partnership's greatest accomplishment was fully implementing all of their planned programs in a timely manner. Participating parents reported that they were very satisfied with the programs. In addition, a coalition of child care providers was established to assess how to better serve children in child care programs. In the future, the County Partnership would like to see more collaboration and to provide more opportunities for child care providers to obtain training and professional development. They plan to continue with and grow from the programs they have implemented.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	624
Under age 6	1,261
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	31.5%
Black only, non-Hispanic	66.0%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.7%
Hispanic	0.9%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	961
Married couple family	54.7%
Single householder	45.3%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	64.8%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	53.4%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	39.5%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	17.1%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	70.2%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	12.0%
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	233
Nonmarital births	53.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	24.5%
Births to mothers < age 18	5.2%
Nonmarital and no diploma	15.5%
Low birthweight	9.9%
Inadequate prenatal care	27.5%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

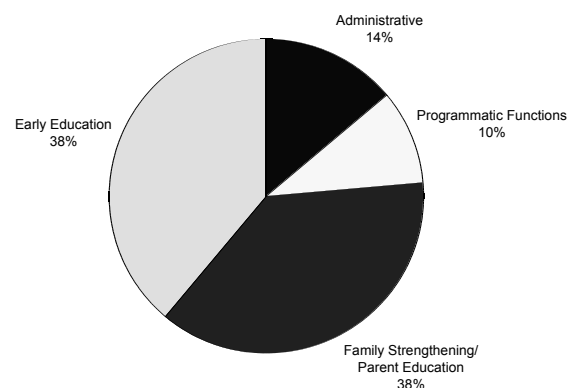
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

First Steps Strategies in Bamberg County Based on PERs

4K Half Day ✓ Full Day Other	Child Care Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships ✓ Other	Health Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness ✓ Any Program	Family Strengthening ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies	Other Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$372,164, the Bamberg County Partnership spent 38 percent on early education and 38 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 10 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$295 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$730 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Two new full-day 4K classrooms were opened in an existing 4K program in Bamberg County. **Start date.** The classrooms began in August 2001. **Number of children.** A total of 40 full-day slots were available, 37 of which were filled. **Population served.** The target population was four-year-old children with low scores on the DIAL 3 developmental screening instrument. **Program model.** The classrooms used the High/Scope and High Reach curricula. **Next steps.** Plans are to continue the classes in the coming school year, and possibly to provide additional funding for the program.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. Summer Readiness programs were implemented in School Districts 1 and 2. In School District 1, two 10-day sessions were offered; in School District 2, a four-week session was offered. Each were half-day programs that began on June 3, 2002. **Number of children.** In District 1, 20 children were served in the first session and 19 children were served in the second session. In District 2, a total of 31 children were served in two classrooms. **Program model.** District 1's curriculum—written by the teachers and the coordinator of the Family Childhood Program—provided appropriate learning opportunities in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, physical development, the arts, and social skills. District 2's program used the High/Scope curriculum.

■ Child Care

Curriculum Implementation

Start date. The child care strategy adopted in Bamberg County was to help child care providers implement the High Reach Curriculum, currently used in 4K classrooms in School District 1. The program began in December 2001. **Number of participants.** Fifteen child care providers participated. **Key activities.** The Executive Director visited each child care provider to deliver and explain the High Reach Curriculum materials. The Executive Director also provided instruction on various topics (e.g., assessing child development, organizing parent-teacher conferences). After this initial meeting, the child care directors were responsible for implementing the curriculum and training caregivers. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include monitoring data from newly implemented child assessment systems.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? Two existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs were extended in Bamberg County using First Steps funds. In School District 1, two additional Parent Educators and one Parent Educator Coordinator were hired. In School District 2, two additional Parent Educators were hired. **Start date.** District 1's program began in March 2002; District 2's program began in October 2001. **Number of families.** First Steps funded staff served a total of 67 families in Districts 1 and 2. **Population served.** The District 1 program provided services for any families with children between the ages of zero

and three who were interested in participating; many participants were at-risk due to referrals from agencies such as Even Start. District 2 served at-risk families with children ages two and three. **Key activities.** During two home visits per month, District 1's parent educators worked to improve parenting and other skills in families. In District 2, parent educators used PAT's Born to Learn curriculum in order to help parents strengthen their parenting skills, to increase their knowledge of child development, and to prepare children for school through developmentally appropriate interactive learning activities and the provision of learning materials, books, and toys. Additionally, monthly group meetings were held for the parents in both School Districts.

■ Other

Home Lending Library

Start date. Starting in May 2002, Bamberg County had a home lending library program designed to serve all pre-kindergarten children and their parents. **Number of children served.** The program was utilized by 506 children and eight Head Start teachers. **Key activities.** Bags containing age-appropriate books and other materials were available for families to borrow. The program purchased 1,500 books and seven computers.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Bamberg County's Executive Director, the biggest accomplishment was implementing all of their programs. Specifically, opening new 4K classrooms allowed more young children to be in a school environment with certified teachers. Priorities for the future include ensuring that all programs continue and to further enhance programs for parents.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>
Under age 3	Poor children < age 6 (1999)
Under age 6	Very poor children < age 6 (1999)
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>
White only, non-Hispanic	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)
Black only, non-Hispanic	
Other, non-Hispanic	<u>Immunization</u>
Hispanic	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	<u>Birth-Risk</u>
Total number of families	Total number of births
Married couple family	Nonmarital births
Single householder	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas
	Births to mothers < age 18
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	Nonmarital and no diploma
	Low birthweight
<u>4K Participation</u>	Inadequate prenatal care
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

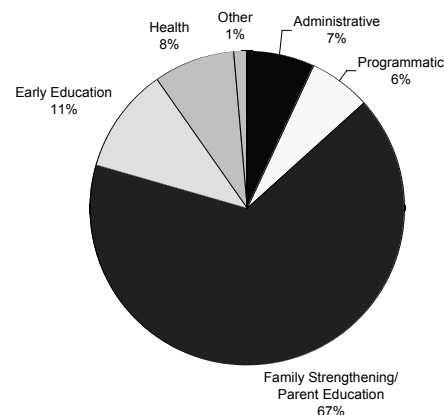
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

First Steps Strategies in Barnwell County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home ✓ Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$554,751, the Barnwell County Partnership spent 67 percent on family strengthening and 11 percent on early education. The Partnership spent 8 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$276 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$984 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Barnwell County School District 19 used First Steps funding to open additional classrooms in an existing 4K program. **Start date.** The classrooms began in October 2001. **Number of children.** First Steps funds were used to serve 40 children in half-day classrooms. **Population served.** The classes served children with high needs, such as delayed development, low language levels, low screening measure (DIAL-R) scores, behavior problems, identified disabilities, and family risk factors, including low income, single parent household, young parents, parents with low educational levels, and family functioning problems. **Program model.** This classrooms used the High/Scope model.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers & Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend existing programs in School Districts 19, 29, and 45 that each used a combination of the Parents as Teachers (PAT) and Parent Child Home (PCH) models. Using First Steps funding, two additional parent educators and one parent education coordinator were hired in District 29; the parenting program coordinator and home visitors in District 19 were extended from part time to full time; and two full time parent educators were hired in District 45. **Start date.** School District 19's program began in September 2001; School District 29's program began in October 2001; School District 45's program began in September 2000. **Population served.** Each program served at-risk parents; risk factors included low income, single status, unemployment, low educational attainment, and multiple children. Families had at least one child between the ages of two and three. **Key activities.** In School District 19, services included home visits to address parenting skills, monthly group meetings for parents, and a Parent Resource Center (e.g., lending library of toys/books; books/videos for parents; informal drop-in times to see a parent educator). In School District 29, home visits were provided once per week for an hour. Workshops and group discussions were held on topics of parents' choice, including health and insurance issues, safety, and child development. In School District 45, parent educators visited each family for half an hour twice per week to model appropriate ways for parents to interact with their children.

Family Literacy

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend an existing Family Literacy program by hiring an early childhood education coordinator. **Start date.** This program began in January 2002. **Number of families.** The program was not fully implemented in fiscal year 2001-02; therefore they did not serve any families. **Population served.** The target population will be at-risk families with children between the ages of three and five. Risk factors will include low family income; single parent household; multiple births; low birth weight children; parents with low education levels; teen parents; siblings testing not ready for school; poor, inadequate, or no prenatal care; children with disabilities or chronic conditions; and families living in substandard housing. **Key activities.** Implementation activi-

ties were undertaken, including training activities for the director; obtaining toys, books, and other materials; setting up a new Developmental Library; and arranging and furnishing a space.

Volunteer Reader Program

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend an existing volunteer reader home visitation program through the addition of one coordinator and one outreach worker. **Start date.** This program began in October 2000. **Population served.** The population served was low income families with children ages zero to five who were receiving some sort of state aid and/or were at or below the poverty level. **Key activities.** A volunteer reader visited children and parents at home to read for about 30 minutes per week for 30 weeks. Parents observed the sessions to learn techniques for reading and involving their child in reading activities.

■ Health

Health/Medical Outreach

Extended or new program? An existing health home visitation program was extended using First Steps funds. **Start date.** The program began in July 2001. **Number of families.** The program served a total of 204 families with 163 children. **Population served.** The population served included children ages zero to two who had a history of missing screenings, check-ups, and immunization appointments. **Key activities.** The main program activities included a single one-hour home visit by an outreach worker, and follow-up visits, if necessary. Outreach workers helped the families schedule well baby check-up, screening, and immunization appointments.

■ Other

Library Program

Start date. A library program was implemented in Barnwell County in January 2001. **Population served.** The program served children between the ages of three and five. **Number of children.** The program served 67 at-risk children. **Key activities.** The program provided weekly story hours in libraries and other locations throughout the county, and taught children and their families how to use the library and its services. In addition, story time visits were made to 12 child care centers, two Head Start centers, and two churches.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Barnwell County's Executive Director, a major accomplishment was achieving a high level of collaboration within the county. In particular, there was a great deal of collaboration within the Parenting Advisory Board, as well as among community members to get the Partnership Board formed. Other collaborators included the State Department of Education's Office of Early Education and the Barnwell County Career Center (which informed child care providers about developmentally appropriate practices). In the future, the County Partnership would like to provide more quality programs to children and foster greater parent involvement.

Beaufort County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>
Under age 3	Poor children < age 6 (1999)
Under age 6	Very poor children < age 6 (1999)
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>
White only, non-Hispanic	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)
Black only, non-Hispanic	
Other, non-Hispanic	<u>Immunization</u>
Hispanic	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	<u>Birth-Risk</u>
Total number of families	Total number of births
Married couple family	Nonmarital births
Single householder	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas
	Births to mothers < age 18
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	Nonmarital and no diploma
	Low birthweight
<u>4K Participation</u>	Inadequate prenatal care
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

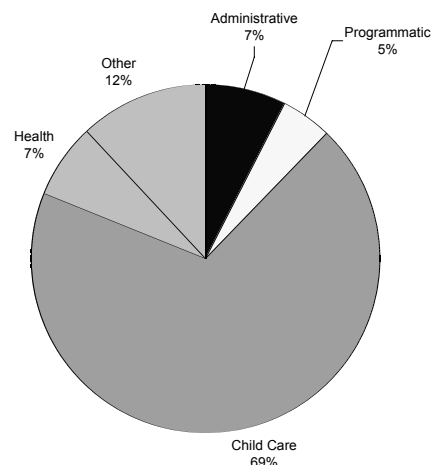
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

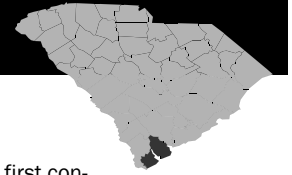
First Steps Strategies in Beaufort County Based on PERs

4K	Child Care	Health
Half Day	✓ Quality Enhancement Grants	Postpartum Home Visits
Full Day	Caregiver Training	✓ Other Strategies
Other	Scholarships	
	Other	
Summer Readiness	Family Strengthening	Other
Any Program	Parents as Teachers	Transportation
	Parent Child Home	Public Awareness
	Family Literacy	Library Program
	ESL	Other Strategies
	✓ Other or Multiple Strategies	

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$1,324,199, the Beaufort County Partnership spent 69 percent on their child care strategy. The Partnership spent 9 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$137 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$902 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were first awarded in October 2001. **Number of grantees.** Grants were awarded to 52 child care providers. Grants ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000. **Key activities.** Each grantee received a baseline assessment and three site visits in order to help them develop quality improvement plans. Through phone calls and additional visits, mentors worked with the providers to help them achieve their goals. The majority of the child care providers were involved in professional development, equipment purchases, and improvements in safety. **Next steps.** Future plans include expanding the mentor program and training opportunities for child care providers.

■ Family Strengthening

Multiple Strategies

Extended or new program? A new Healthy Families America (HFA) program that incorporated elements of Parents as Teachers (PAT) was implemented in Beaufort County. **Start date.** The program began in April 2002. **Population served.** The program served at-risk families with children under age five who resided in two high risk and underserved geographic areas. **Key activities.** The program used HFA as the core model for delivering services to at-risk families, but used the PAT curriculum for the parenting components. Four family support workers initially conducted weekly home visits lasting one and a half to two hours; as the program progressed, the frequency of home visits was reduced according to families' schedules and levels of self-sufficiency. Group meetings were also held; their frequency was reduced from a monthly to a quarterly basis.

Family Learning Connections

Extended or new program? A new program called Family Learning Connections, designed to bring together existing service providers and improve families' access to supports and services, was implemented. **Start date.** The program began in September 2001. **Population served.** The target participants were families with children ages zero to five who lived in communities deemed "at-risk" due to children's low Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB) scores, a high percentage of students qualifying for free lunches, and/or limited resources. **Key activities.** Staff from agencies that provide family support and education services met every other week to create joint assessments for families, to participate in joint individual or family treatment staffing, to consult, to train, and to create consolidated accountability reports. **Next steps.** In the future, the Partnership Board is looking to grow in the direction of joint funding opportunities, expanded membership and collaborations, and social marketing/public awareness.

■ Health

Child Health Consultants Program

Extended or new program? A new program called the Child Health Consultants program worked with the county's child care providers as well as directly with families and children.

Start date. The program began in stages. The first consultant was hired in November 2001, and the second in February 2002. **Key activities.** There were three planned components of the program: 1) working with child care quality enhancement grantees; 2) working directly with families and children to link them with health education and related resources; and 3) providing free car seats and instruction on how to install them properly. **Number of participants.** Consultants worked with each of the 52 quality enhancement grantees to create customized health and safety plans. In addition, a total of 276 car seats and instructions on proper installation were distributed to families. **Next steps.** In the future, the program will fully implement all components of the program, including hands-on training for child care workers, and direct interaction with families to provide health and safety information and to identify families in need of medical and dental services.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

In Beaufort County, the biggest accomplishment was working with 52 child care providers to enhance their learning environments. Through this strategy, First Steps was able to reach a total of 2,400 children. A priority for the future is to provide services for even more families than are currently being served.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	6,214
Under age 6	12,323
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	63.2%
Black only, non-Hispanic	28.3%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.9%
Hispanic	3.6%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	9,348
Married couple family	71.9%
Single householder	28.1%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	62.2%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	40.7%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	16.1%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	7.5%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	46.5%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	8.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	2,114
Nonmarital births	33.5%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	15.7%
Births to mothers < age 18	4.0%
Nonmarital and no diploma	10.2%
Low birthweight	8.1%
Inadequate prenatal care	13.0%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

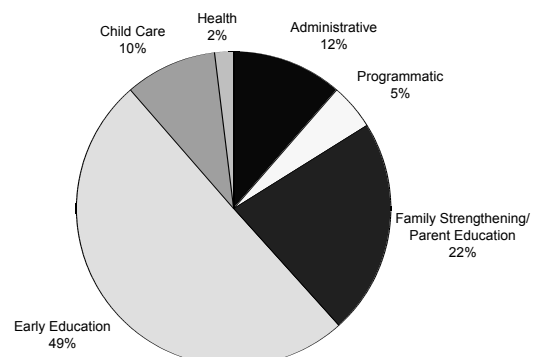
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

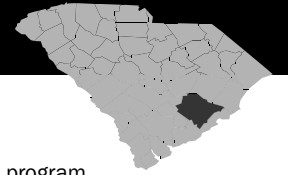
First Steps Strategies in Berkeley County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day ✓ Full Day Other 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
<p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$1,506,385, the County Partnership spent 49 percent on early education and 22 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 10 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$122 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$801 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Berkeley County School District extended one half-day 4K classroom to a full-day classroom, and also added full-day 4K classrooms to existing programs in five other schools. In addition, two new half-day 4K classrooms were added at another elementary school. **Start date.** All except one of the First Steps funded 4K classrooms began operating in August 2001. The other classroom began in January 2002. **Number of children.** A total of 108 children were served in the six full-day 4K classrooms. Thirty-eight children were enrolled in the two half-day classrooms. **Population served.** The seven schools were selected to participate because of large numbers of children testing not ready for school in 2001, and because they had other risk factors including high percentages of children qualifying for free or reduced price lunches and children eligible for Medicaid. **Program model.** Five of the full-day classrooms and both of the half-day classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum. The other full-day classroom used Creative Curriculum. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include reducing class sizes to a maximum of 15 to 17 students. High/Scope curriculum training will be required again due to changes in staffing.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The Summer Readiness program in Berkeley County lasted for three weeks in June 2002. **Number of children.** A total of 387 children attended the program. **Population served.** The program served children with delays in any area of their development, children in poverty, children with siblings performing poorly in school, and children of parents with a low level of educational attainment. **Program model.** The High/Scope curriculum was used in the Summer Readiness classrooms. All children received developmental needs assessments to better identify instructional priorities. Transportation and meals were provided for children.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were first awarded in January 2002 in Berkeley County. **Number of grantees.** Grants ranging from \$3,753 to \$10,000 were awarded to 13 child care providers (four private center-based providers, six family-based providers, and three Head Start providers). **Key activities.** Grantees received an average of three technical assistance site visits. Grantees purchased equipment and supplies and made improvements in safety. **Next steps.** A mentoring component will be added to the program.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to establish a new Parents as Teachers (PAT) program in Berkeley County. **Start date.** Families were first seen in December 2001. **Number of families.** The program served 180 families;

46 families dropped out before completing the program.

Population served. The PAT program served at-risk families with children between the ages of zero and 47 months. **Key activities.** The program included bi-weekly home visits, monthly group meetings, developmental screening of children, and referrals to social services and community resources. **Next steps.** Future plans include working with health care providers and hospitals for recruitment of new families. In addition, a bilingual home visitor will be hired to address the needs of Spanish-speaking families.

■ Health Home Visitation

Extended or new program? A new health home visitation program modeled on the Child Health Maintenance Services provided by DHEC staff was implemented in Berkeley County. **Start date.** The program began in March 2002. **Number of families.** The program served 78 families. **Population served.** This program served uninsured or non-Medicaid eligible families with children ages zero to five living in areas with low school readiness scores. Also targeted were Medicaid eligible children in need of First Steps interventions for which Medicaid does not pay. **Key activities.** The unit of service was one one-hour home visit a month per family by a registered nurse. On average, each of the 78 families received three home visits between March and June. The content covered during home visits included parent education, nutrition, health habits, and injury prevention. Services also included linking families to primary care providers.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

Berkeley County's greatest First Steps-related accomplishment thus far has been implementing the programs and meeting the needs of many families throughout the county. A major goal during the past year was to incorporate literacy elements into each of the different strategies. A high priority for the future of the county's First Steps is to raise awareness of First Steps in the general public.

Calhoun County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	572
Under age 6	1,147
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	40.4%
Black only, non-Hispanic	55.3%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.7%
Hispanic	2.6%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	884
Married couple family	65.6%
Single householder	34.4%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	63.4%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	68.8%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	18.6%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	9.1%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	54.1%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	2.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	193
Nonmarital births	44.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	21.8%
Births to mothers < age 18	7.8%
Nonmarital and no diploma	17.6%
Low birthweight	7.8%
Inadequate prenatal care	35.2%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

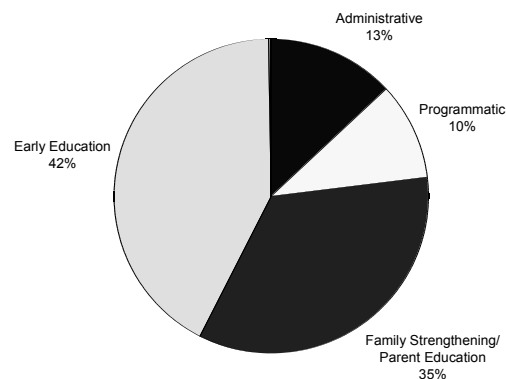
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

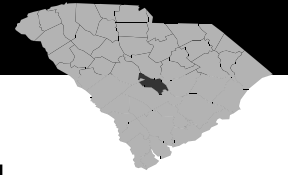
First Steps Strategies in Calhoun County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$281,394, the County Partnership spent 42 percent on early education. The Partnership spent 9 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$245 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$1,340 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Two new full-day 4K classrooms were opened in Calhoun County. **Number of children.** There were 40 classroom slots available, 36 of which were filled.

Population served. The population served by this program was at-risk children. Risk factors were based on low family income, parents' marital status, parents' education level, parents' age, family functioning problems, identified disabilities, delayed development in any area of school readiness, and DIAL-R scores. **Program model.** The two classrooms incorporated elements of High/Scope and other curricula.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. Calhoun County had a three-week summer readiness program. **Number of children.** The program served 38 children in three half-day classrooms. **Population served.** The program served at-risk students entering first grade.

Program model. The program used the High/Scope curriculum.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Calhoun County's child care quality enhancement program was implemented in January 2002. The program was a mini-grants initiative designed for child care providers to improve their quality and licensure status through on-site technical assistance and the funding of training or materials.

Number of grantees. One child care provider applied for the \$500 grant, but dropped out. Therefore, no grants were awarded. **Next steps.** An information forum was held in June 2002 to invite churches to become child care providers and to encourage family-based providers to become involved in the T.E.A.C.H. program. The County Partnership Board's Child Care Committee is in the process of making plans for next year.

■ Family Strengthening

Multiple Strategies

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to hire three additional parent educators for an existing home visiting program. The program used the Family Oriented Structured Preschool Activity (FOSPA) model, plus the Motherhead curriculum to encourage parent and child literacy.

Start date. The three new parent educators began working with families in October 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 62 families were served by the First Steps funded parent educators. **Population served.** The program targeted parents of children ages zero to five in at-risk categories, such as parents who were teenagers, low literacy, single, low income, involved with social services, or who had a developmentally delayed child. **Key activities.** Home visits were to be conducted weekly for one hour. During the home visits, staff provided FOSPA activity kits and reading classes. There was also a monthly group meeting featuring workshops on various topics. **Next steps.** There is a need to serve more Hispanic families.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Calhoun County's Executive Director, the county's biggest accomplishment was implementing their home visitation program. They set a goal to work with a certain number of families and were able to reach that goal. A priority for the future of Calhoun County First Steps is to successfully recruit child care providers through their quality enhancement initiative so that more of the county's child care will be ABC Enhanced.

Charleston County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	12,253
Under age 6	23,657
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	52.0%
Black only, non-Hispanic	40.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.9%
Hispanic	3.5%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	17,794
Married couple family	62.9%
Single householder	37.1%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	60.8%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	34.9%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	23.6%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	12.0%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	50.2%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	21.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	4,586
Nonmarital births	41.7%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	18.6%
Births to mothers < age 18	4.8%
Nonmarital and no diploma	15.0%
Low birthweight	10.0%
Inadequate prenatal care	18.4%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

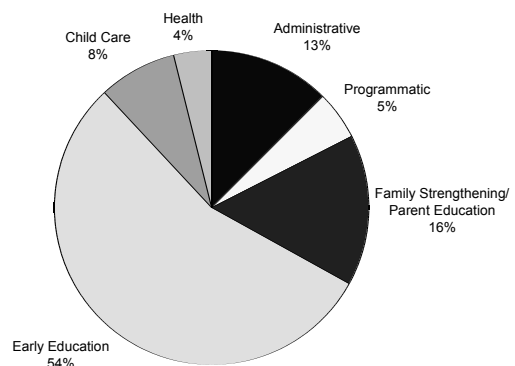
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

First Steps Strategies in Charleston County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home ✓ Family Literacy ✓ ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$1,828,662, the Charleston County Partnership spent 54 percent on early education and 16 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 15 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$77 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$326 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to add ten full-day classrooms to existing 4K programs. **Start date.** The classrooms began in August 2001. **Number of children.** The ten full-day classrooms had the capacity to serve 200 children; a total of 219 children were served throughout the year (this number is greater than 200 because a number of children dropped out and were replaced by other children). **Population served.** The target population was children with high needs, particularly low screening (DIAL 3) scores. **Program model.** The program used the High/Scope curriculum.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The Summer Readiness program in Charleston County began on June 17, 2002 and lasted four weeks. **Number of children.** Two hundred, seventy children enrolled in the program. **Population served.** Children with delayed development in any area of school readiness were selected to participate. **Program model.** This was a half-day program, offered four days per week. The program used a modification of the High/Scope curriculum.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were first awarded in February 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants averaging \$3,300 were given to 24 child care providers. **Key activities.** Every grantee received an initial assessment, technical assistance, and the opportunity to participate in three training sessions. Grantees used the funds awarded to them to purchase materials.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child Care scholarships were provided for 44 children from 36 families in 2002.

■ Family Strengthening

Family Literacy

Extended or new program? A new component was added to an existing program in Charleston County. The Motherread/Fatheread program was added to 15 School District "Preschool Clubs." **Start date.** The program began in January 2002. **Number of families.** The programs served 255 families. **Population served.** Preschool Clubs were open to all families with children between the ages of zero and six. **Key activities.** The Motherread/Fatheread program teaches literacy skills to both adults and children. The program was provided once per month for two hours. Families received books to take home.

ESL

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to extend four existing ESL programs targeted to parents. **Start date.** Start dates ranged from December 2001 to February 2002. **Number of families.** A total of 53 families were served

by three of the four programs; the fourth program was unable to recruit parents and had to close. **Population served.** The programs served adults whose primary language was not English and who were the parents or primary caregivers of children ages zero to five. **Key activities.** ESL classes were provided for parents for between nine and 12 weeks.

Home Visitation

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to support an existing home visitation program that served at-risk single mothers of infants and toddlers. **Start date.** First Steps-funded families were first seen in December 2001. **Number of families.** The program served 35 families. **Population served.** The program served single mothers (many of whom were teen mothers) who were at risk for child abuse and neglect. **Key activities.** During a one-hour home visit, mother-child interactions were videotaped and then reviewed and discussed by the mother and home visitor to provide feedback to the mother on appropriate parent-child interactions. In addition, referrals were made to adult education programs (e.g., GED classes, literacy classes) and child services, as needed. **Next steps.** The program will not seek First Steps funding for fiscal year 2002-2003.

■ Health

Home Visitation

Extended or new program? Two new home health visitation programs were implemented in Charleston County. **Start date.** The first program began in January 2002; the second began in April 2002. **Number of families.** The first program served 246 families; the second served five families. **Population served.** Both programs served families with children between the ages of zero and five who were uninsured and not eligible for Medicaid services. **Key activities.** Program activities included providing parent education during nurse home visits (which were provided once per month for one hour) and linking families to health resources.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Charleston County's Executive Director, the county's biggest First Steps related accomplishment was implementing so many programs. They have taken a "whole child" approach by adopting many disparate strategies. Their highest priority is to successfully recruit the families most in need of services. It is oftentimes necessary to use creative means to ensure that the families who need services the most are actually participating.

Cherokee County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	2,300
Under age 6	4,472
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	69.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	24.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.3%
Hispanic	3.7%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	3,384
Married couple family	64.5%
Single householder	35.5%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	66.9%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	44.9%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	15.4%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	6.9%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	52.0%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	11.0%
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	784
Nonmarital births	38.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	31.3%
Births to mothers < age 18	9.7%
Nonmarital and no diploma	16.8%
Low birthweight	11.9%
Inadequate prenatal care	21.0%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

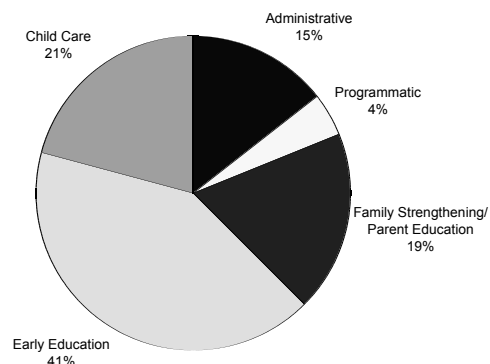
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

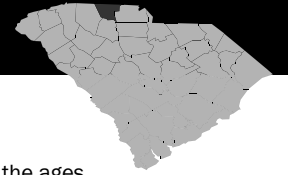
First Steps Strategies in Cherokee County Based on PERs

4K	Child Care	Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day Full Day Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships ✓ Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	Family Strengthening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$632,671, the Cherokee County Partnership spent 41 percent on early education and 19 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 10 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$141 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$922 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Four new half-day 4K classes were opened in existing programs in two schools in the Cherokee County School District. **Start date.** The classes began in August 2001. **Number of children.** Seventy-one children were enrolled in the four classrooms. **Population served.** The programs served children with characteristics that put them at risk of not being ready for school, particularly low developmental assessment (DIAL 3) scores, identified disabilities, or speech and language delays. Family risk factors were taken into consideration, including poverty, or living with a parent who is single, young, or has a low level of education. **Program model.** The programs began with the High/Scope curriculum but transitioned to Creative Curriculum during the spring. **Next steps.** Plans include implementing 4K programs in two child care centers, extending classes from half-day to full-day, and hiring a Hispanic parent liaison.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The Summer Readiness program in Cherokee County began on May 28, 2002 and lasted for six weeks. Two classes were provided at each of four schools. **Population served.** The target population was 5K students not ready for first grade. **Program model.** This was a half-day program that used the Creative Curriculum. **Next steps.** This Summer Readiness program will not be funded next year.

■ Child Care

Technical Assistance and Caregiver Training

Start date. Cherokee County First Steps implemented a child care quality enhancement program involving technical assistance and training in March 2002. **Number of participants.** Nineteen child care providers participated in the initiative. **Key activities.** Participating child care providers received technical assistance site visits from a child care specialist, who completed assessments of their environments and helped them develop plans for improving health and safety. In addition, a mandatory training session lasting two and a half hours was provided on relationships and interactions between caregivers and children. **Next steps.** Plans for the future of the program include attempting to recruit the county's other child care providers so that 100 percent eventually will participate.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were provided for ten children from eight families.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? An existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) program was extended in Cherokee County. First Steps funds were used to hire three PAT educators. **Start date.** First Steps-funded PAT educators began working with families in October 2001. **Population served.** The program was open to

any family in the county with children between the ages of zero and five. **Key activities.** Families received home visits every two weeks. **Next steps.** The program will continue with the addition of a Hispanic liaison.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Cherokee County's Executive Director, a big accomplishment was establishing a resource and lending library for parents to obtain books for their children, as well as information on child development, parenting, etc. A priority for the future is to provide services for the growing Hispanic, non-English speaking population. Another priority is to continue to engage child care providers in the quality enhancement initiative in order to help them pursue a higher level of quality.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	1,397
Under age 6	2,778
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	52.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	43.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.8%
Hispanic	1.2%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	2,082
Married couple family	60.0%
Single householder	40.0%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	68.9%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	40.2%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	24.0%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	15.9%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	56.7%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	3.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	514
Nonmarital births	54.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	25.1%
Births to mothers < age 18	8.6%
Nonmarital and no diploma	19.5%
Low birthweight	10.1%
Inadequate prenatal care	30.7%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

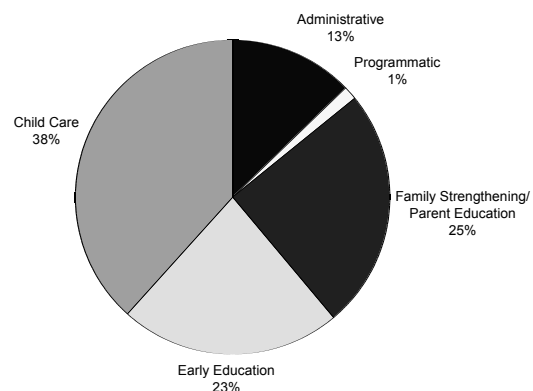
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

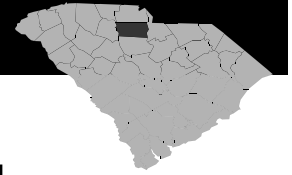
First Steps Strategies in Chester County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$307,459, the Chester County Partnership spent 38 percent on child care and 25 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 12 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$111 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$466 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The Summer Readiness program in Chester County lasted four weeks in June 2002. **Number of children.** One hundred and four children were served. **Population served.** Students determined not ready for first grade were targeted. **Program model.** The program was implemented in three elementary schools for three hours each day. The classrooms used Creative Curriculum.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in May 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants were awarded to 13 child care providers. Grants ranged from \$2,500 to nearly \$10,000. **Key activities.** Grants were given in the form of credit to order books, music, supplies, and rugs from a catalogue. Some grantees received site visits. **Next Steps.** Chester County First Steps plans to implement a more developed quality enhancement program in fiscal year 2002-03. Grantees will be required to develop Individual Improvement Plans, and technical assistance will be provided in a systematic way.

Caregiver Training

Start date. Chester County First Steps contracted with the Chester County School District Adult Education Child Care Training Team to expand a training program for child care providers. The training sessions began in September 2001. **Number of sessions.** Classes were held on five Saturdays over the course of the program year. Five different three-hour courses were offered on each of the five Saturdays; each course was taught twice each day. The courses were designed to help child care providers fulfill the requirements necessary for continued licensure. **Attendance.** The total attendance was 1,027; 109 caregivers received a total of 12 hours or more of training. **Next steps.** Chester County First Steps will not renew the contract with the school district. Instead, First Steps staff will operate the program.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend an existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) program. Funds were used to hire and train four additional home visitors. **Start date.** The First Steps-funded home visitors began working with families in April 2002. **Number of families.** Thirty-one families were served. **Key activities.** The program consisted of two home visits per month plus monthly group meetings for parents. The model used included a focus on child development, literacy for children and parents, and referrals to other services.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Chester County's Executive Director, the county's Summer Readiness program was highly successful because they were able to serve a large number of children using quality programming. Their child care quality enhancement initiative was also successful; the initiative will be improved next year with the addition of a mentoring component. An additional plan for the future is to think about implementing a 4K program.

Chesterfield County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	1,716
Under age 6	3,522
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	54.9%
Black only, non-Hispanic	38.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.9%
Hispanic	3.6%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	2,654
Married couple family	63.3%
Single householder	36.7%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	63.1%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	43.9%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	28.4%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	15.4%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	62.9%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	3.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	619
Nonmarital births	48.0%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	29.1%
Births to mothers < age 18	9.5%
Nonmarital and no diploma	21.3%
Low birthweight	13.7%
Inadequate prenatal care	32.6%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

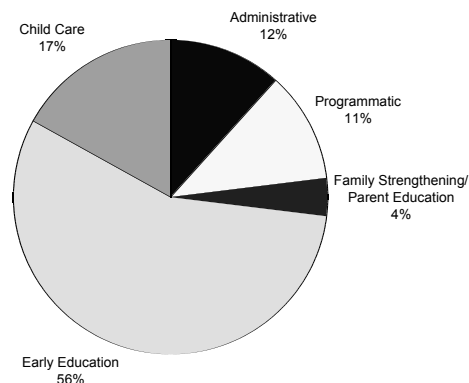
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

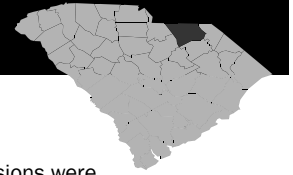
First Steps Strategies in Chesterfield County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day Full Day ✓ Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$529,246, the Chesterfield County Partnership spent 56 percent on early education and 17 percent on child care strategies. The Partnership spent 13 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$150 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$557 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Chesterfield County School District opened three new half-day 4K classrooms in an existing 4K program. **Start date.** The classrooms began at the beginning of the 2001-02 school year. **Number of children.** A total of 46 children were served. **Population served.** The program was targeted to at-risk children, especially children with delayed development in any school readiness dimension (as determined by using the DIAL-R screening assessment). **Next steps.** Plans for the future of the program include exploring the possibility of expanding to full-day programming, implementing an established, developmentally appropriate curriculum, providing appropriate training for teachers if an established curriculum is adopted, and introducing a First Steps liaison position to coordinate implementation and evaluation duties.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. Beginning on June 3, 2002, a Summer Readiness program was held four days per week for four weeks. **Number of children.** The program provided services to 61 children in seven classrooms. **Population served.** The program was targeted to an at-risk population; a rating scale was used to assess needs and risks. **Program model.** The program used the High/Scope curriculum in full-day classrooms. **Next steps.** The School District is considering providing training for teachers on the High/Scope curriculum.

5K Home Visitation

Extended or new program? An existing kindergarten (5K) home visitation program was expanded from one elementary school to all elementary schools in the school district. **Start date.** Home visits were conducted in July and August 2001. **Population served.** All families with children enrolled in kindergarten were targeted. **Key activities.** Teachers conducted home visits to provide families with packets of materials, including school and craft supplies and suggestions about how parents could help their children become ready for school. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include additional efforts to have parents register their children for kindergarten early and to provide parents with children in 4K and other programs with information about the home visits earlier in the year.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in January 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants were provided to nine child care providers in order to help them improve their quality and pursue the next highest level of licensure/accreditation. Grants averaged about \$7,000 each. **Key activities.** Grants were used to purchase materials and supplies. **Next steps.** In the future, environmental rating scales will be used as pre/post measures of program quality. In addition, incentives will be provided for grantees to get involved in staff training.

Caregiver Training

Start date. Training sessions were offered beginning in January

2002. **Number of sessions.** Four training sessions were held over a four-month period. **Attendance.** In total, 165 caregivers attended the training sessions. **Topics.** The topics of the sessions were checking children's growth and development, limit setting, early literacy, and creating effective learning centers. **Next steps.** In the future, a session will provide guidance on teaching problem solving skills and conflict management to children.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

New or extended program? A new Parents as Teachers (PAT) program with an incentive component was implemented in Chesterfield County. **Start date.** The program began in April 2002. **Number of families.** The program served 20 families. **Population served.** At-risk families were served; in particular, parents had one or more risk factors such as being first-time parents, single parents, teen parents, or parents on public assistance. Families in Chesterfield and Pageland townships were prioritized over other areas of the county because those areas had the lowest CSAB scores. **Key activities.** In addition to the home visitation component of the program, an incentive system was created. Parents received "baby bucks" when they kept their home visitation appointments or took part in other activities (e.g., taking part in WIC, making and keeping doctor's appointments). The "baby bucks" could be used to purchase toys and other supplies from the home visitors. The program also held two workshops for adolescent mothers.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Chesterfield County's Executive Director, the county's major accomplishment was implementing their programs. The Executive Director feels that more children are ready for school as a result of participating in the programs. There has also been positive feedback from parents and the community. In addition, nine child care centers became ABC Enhanced by participating in the quality enhancement initiative, therefore First Steps has raised the county's child care quality standard. In the future, the County Partnership would like for more children and families to have access to quality programs.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	1,161
Under age 6	2,407
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	37.7%
Black only, non-Hispanic	57.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.5%
Hispanic	3.2%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	1,830
Married couple family	56.8%
Single householder	43.2%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	61.4%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	59.2%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	31.7%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	16.5%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	76.8%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	5.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	440
Nonmarital births	54.5%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	24.8%
Births to mothers < age 18	7.0%
Nonmarital and no diploma	17.3%
Low birthweight	10.7%
Inadequate prenatal care	34.3%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

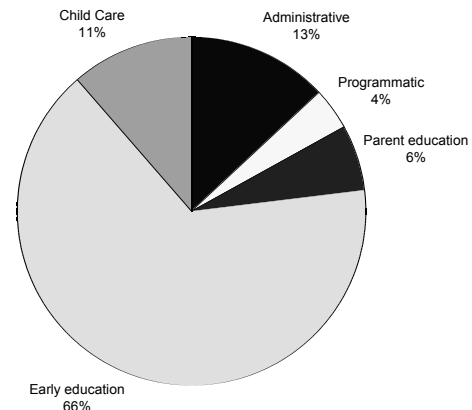
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

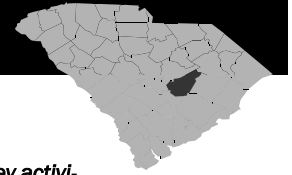
First Steps Strategies in Clarendon County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$448,130, the Clarendon County Partnership spent 66 percent on early education and 11 percent on child care. The Partnership spent 11 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$186 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$596 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? New full-day classrooms were added to existing 4K programs in School Districts 1, 2, and 3. First Steps funds were used for two classrooms in District 1, two in District 2, and one in District 3. **Start date.** In Districts 1 and 3, the programs began in August 2001. In District 2, the program began in October 2001. **Number of children.** Across the three programs, 90 children were served. **Population served.** The District 1 and 2 programs targeted children already registered for part-day 4K programs who were identified as at risk of being not ready for school (based on low DIAL 3 scores, single caretaker, and caretaker with low educational attainment). The District 3 program had planned to target children at risk of being not ready for school; actual participant characteristics were not recorded. **Program model.** The classrooms in District 1 used Creative Curriculum. The classrooms in Districts 2 and 3 incorporated elements of High/Scope and other curricula. **Next steps.** In future years, Districts 1 and 2 plan to employ the High/Scope curriculum. District 2 plans to integrate full-day 4K programs for at-risk children with half-day programs for children with lower risk levels (each classroom will accommodate 10 full-day children and 20 half-day children each day). In District 3, family involvement activities slated to have been implemented during the first year will be incorporated in subsequent years.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were first awarded in March 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants in the amount of \$5,000 were awarded to five child care providers to help them achieve a higher level of licensure/accreditation. **Key activities.** The full dosage of services was considered to be baseline and follow-up assessments using an environmental rating scale, technical assistance in developing an improvement plan, two two-hour technical assistance site visits over the course of the three months that the program was in operation, and CPR/first aid training. The grantees purchased materials and supplies, and made improvements in health and safety. Some staff members also became involved in the T.E.A.C.H. program.

■ Family Strengthening

Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? Three existing Parent Child Home (PCH) programs were extended in Clarendon County—one each in School Districts 1, 2, and 3. Two parent educators were hired using First Steps funds in School District 1; four were hired in School District 2; one was hired in School District 3. **Start date.** District 1's program began in May 2002; the programs in Districts 2 and 3 began in April 2002. **Number of families.** Across the three programs, 62 families were served by the First Steps-funded parent educators. **Population served.** Target participants for all three programs were at-risk parents and families with children ages zero to five who exhibited risk of not being ready for first grade. The program in District 1 gave special attention to targeting parents without a high

school diploma and to single teen mothers. **Key activities.** The goals of the programs were to enhance children's school readiness, family literacy, parenting skills, parents' job skills, and parents' life skills (budgeting, nutrition, job-seeking, etc.). The programs consisted of biweekly 30-minute home visits by trained home visitors.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

An important part of Clarendon County's efforts was raising public awareness about First Steps so that community members were actively involved in making decisions about the best ways to promote children's school readiness. A priority for the future is to continue to raise public awareness and to educate community members about First Steps. Another priority is to operate programs of the highest quality possible.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	1,583
Under age 6	3,186
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	47.6%
Black only, non-Hispanic	47.9%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.7%
Hispanic	1.8%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	2,366
Married couple family	62.1%
Single householder	37.9%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	56.2%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	47.9%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	29.7%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	20.0%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	70.1%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	10.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	589
Nonmarital births	45.8%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	24.1%
Births to mothers < age 18	5.9%
Nonmarital and no diploma	15.6%
Low birthweight	7.8%
Inadequate prenatal care	18.0%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

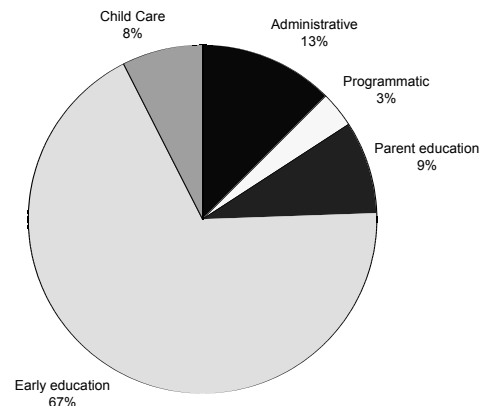
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

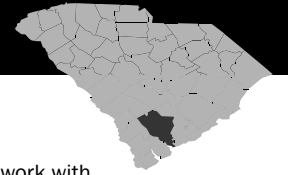
First Steps Strategies in Colleton County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$639,461, the Colleton County Partnership spent 67 percent on early education and 9 percent on parent education. The Partnership spent 17 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$201 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$668 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used in two 4K programs in Colleton County. The Colleton County School District extended six half-day 4K classrooms to full-day classrooms; the Colleton County Literacy Council extended one half-day 3-4K classroom from three days a week to five days a week. **Start date.** The programs began in August 2001.

Number of children. A total of 112 children were served in the six Colleton County School District full-day classrooms. Twenty children were served in the Literacy Council's 3-4K half-day classroom. **Program model.** Each of the classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum. **Next steps.** In the future, vision and hearing screenings will be conducted in all of the classrooms with the assistance of local agencies. In addition, the Literacy Council's 3-4K classroom will increase its program day by one hour.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. A Summer Readiness program that was offered five days per week for three weeks began on June 5, 2002. **Number of children.** The program served 51 children. **Population served.** At-risk children were identified based on delayed development in any school readiness dimension, South Carolina Readiness Assessment results during 5K, and having an identified disability. **Program model.** The program incorporated multiple models, including High/Scope, Building Blocks, and the Metro Early Reading program.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in February 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants averaging \$1,985 were awarded to six child care providers (two private center-based providers and four family-based providers). **Key activities.** The grantees purchased needed materials and supplies.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to nine children from six families in Colleton County in 2002.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to expand an existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) program through the addition of two parent educators. **Start date.** The First Steps funded parent educators began working with families in November 2001. **Number of families.** With First Steps funds, the program served 42 families. **Population served.** The target population was families with children between the ages of zero and five at risk of school failure; parents were either first-time parents, single parents, teen parents, parents with low literacy skills, or low-income. **Key activities.** Families received a home visit lasting one hour each week and could attend group meetings or field trips. **Next steps.** In the future, the program will focus on tracking outcomes, improving recruitment and links to

other services, and increasing staff's ability to work with children with special needs.

■ Health

Home Visitation

Extended or new program? A new health home visitation program was planned in Colleton County; however, no families were seen during fiscal year 2001-02. **Number of families.** The program planned to serve 15 families. **Population served.** The planned target population was non-Medicaid eligible, uninsured, or under-insured families with children ages zero to five. **Key activities.** The planned program activity was home visits by a nurse, who was to provide parent education and case management and link families to health resources.

■ Other

Library Program

Start date. A library program began in May 2002. **Population served.** Children between the ages of zero and 12 who live in the county or were visiting family and friends in the county were eligible to participate. (However, based on the program activities, children in the youngest age groups most likely did not participate.) **Key activities.** Each participant was required to write book reviews on one biography, three nonfiction books, five fiction books, two magazines, and six additional books.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Colleton County's Executive Director, the county's major accomplishments were their parenting and 4K programs. Parents were very satisfied with the programs, especially the full-day 4K program. Because the 4K classrooms were full-day, more children were able to participate since parents were able to pick their children up after work, or have their children's older siblings pick them up at the end of the school day. In addition, the County Partnership was able to work collaboratively with the school district to open 4K classrooms in rural areas. A priority for the future is to continue to offer full-day 4K programs.

Darlington County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>
Under age 3	Poor children < age 6 (1999)
Under age 6	Very poor children < age 6 (1999)
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>
White only, non-Hispanic	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)
Black only, non-Hispanic	
Other, non-Hispanic	<u>Immunization</u>
Hispanic	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	<u>Birth-Risk</u>
Married couple family	Total number of births
Single householder	Nonmarital births
	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	Births to mothers < age 18
	Nonmarital and no diploma
<u>4K Participation</u>	Low birthweight
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	Inadequate prenatal care

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

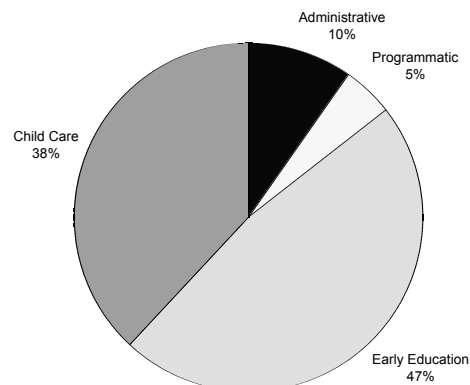
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

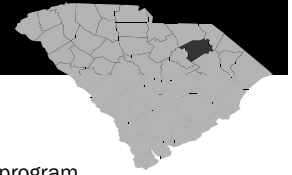
First Steps Strategies in Darlington County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$523,522, the Darlington County Partnership spent 47 percent on early education strategies and 38 percent on child care. The Partnership spent 12 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$93 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$367 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to add three classrooms to existing 4K programs. Two of the programs were located in schools; one was run by Darlington County Head Start. **Start date.** The classes began in January 2002. **Number of children.** First Steps funds were used to serve a total of 69 children. **Population served.** The programs served children who were at risk; risk factors included low family income, the number of children in the family, single parent family, traumatic experiences in the past, referral from another agency, and education level of parents. **Program model.** One classroom was full-day, while the other two classrooms were half-day. The classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum. Teachers also conducted developmentally appropriate assessments and encouraged parent involvement. **Next steps.** The plan is to continue the program and to expand it if space and staff can be found.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. Darlington County's Summer Readiness programs lasted four weeks in June 2002. **Number of children.** Programs were designed both for children entering five-year-old kindergarten and children entering first grade. A total of 176 children were served. **Population served.** The Summer Readiness program for entering kindergartners was targeted to children who had not participated in 4K programs or Head Start. Selection factors for entering first graders included South Carolina Readiness Assessment scores, report cards, and kindergarten teacher recommendations. **Program model.** The programs offered five full-day classrooms and seven half-day classrooms. No particular curriculum was used; staff designed developmentally appropriate learning activities for each child.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in February 2002. **Number of grantees.** Twenty-six child care providers were awarded grants. **Key activities.** Grantees used the funds awarded to them to acquire needed materials and supplies.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child Care scholarships were provided for seven children from three families in 2002.

children, implementing a Parents as Teachers program, reaching more child care providers through quality enhancement grants, and successfully implementing a health initiative. In addition, the Executive Director would like to increase collaboration with the faith community and work to address the county's transportation issues.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

Darlington County's Executive Director reported that the county's biggest accomplishment was actually getting their programs up and running. First Steps-related goals for the county include expanding the 4K program so that it can serve more

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	1,341
Under age 6	2,797
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	37.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	54.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	5.0%
Hispanic	2.9%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	2,014
Married couple family	51.9%
Single householder	48.1%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	62.7%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	46.3%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	40.5%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	21.2%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	75.9%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	7.0%
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	519
Nonmarital births	57.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	33.3%
Births to mothers < age 18	9.2%
Nonmarital and no diploma	24.7%
Low birthweight	12.3%
Inadequate prenatal care	23.9%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

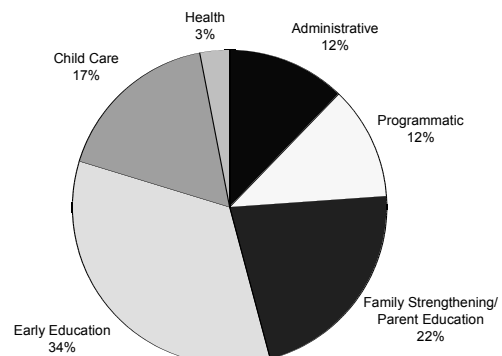
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

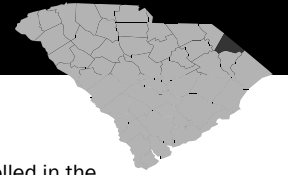
First Steps Strategies in Dillon County Based on PERs

4K Half Day <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Day Other	Child Care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scholarships Other	Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness Any Program	Family Strengthening Parents as Teachers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies	Other Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$461,912, the Dillon County Partnership spent 34 percent on early education and 22 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 11 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$165 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$421 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to open three new full-day 4K classrooms in existing programs (two classrooms were school-based, one was in a Head Start program). In addition, an existing school-based half-day classroom was extended to a full-day classroom. **Start date.** The new school-based full-day classrooms got underway in August 2001; the new Head Start full-day classroom got underway in September 2002. The extension of the half-day classroom in District 3 occurred in January 2002. **Number of children.** A total of 60 children were served in the three school-based classrooms. Seventeen children were enrolled in the Head Start classroom. **Population served.** The school-based classrooms served children demonstrating low performance levels on a measure of motor, conceptual, and language abilities (the DIAL-R). For the Head Start classroom, priority was given to children with the greatest needs, based on individual and family characteristics (e.g., disabilities, foster child, single parent household, family living in poverty, referral from other agencies). **Program model.** The school-based classrooms used their own 4K curriculum designed to meet state standards in language arts and mathematics. The Head Start program used a modified High/Scope curriculum. **Next steps.** Future plans for the school-based classrooms include using additional assessments of the classrooms and making curriculum modifications based on the assessments. Future plans in the Head Start program include allocating funds to address children's special needs.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. The child care quality enhancement program in Dillon County began in March 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants in the amount of \$1,000 to \$2,000 were awarded to 17 child care providers. **Key activities.** Funds were disseminated in the form of reimbursement for the purchase of materials and equipment. Guidance in making purchases was provided by a company that sells educational materials and supplies (from whom the grantees made purchases). In addition, grantees were monitored informally by members of the Partnership Board's child care committee and the county's Executive Director. **Next Steps.** Plans for the next program year include using the media to encourage parents to seek ABC Enhanced child care in order to increase the demand for quality child care.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to six children from five families in Dillon County in 2002.

■ Family Strengthening

Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? Three new Parent Child Home (PCH) programs were implemented in School Districts 1, 2, and 3. **Start date.** The programs began in December 2001.

Number of families. A total of 62 families enrolled in the three programs. **Population served.** The programs served at-risk families with children between the ages of two and three. **Key activities.** The planned amount of service was two 30-minute home visits per week for each family. Families were also given books and toys. The goals of the home visits were to increase verbal interaction between parents and children; increase parent knowledge about child development and effective parenting behaviors; increase educational play behavior initiated by parents with children; and promote school readiness among participating children. **Next steps.** Attempts will be made in one school district to increase enrollment as that district had trouble recruiting families.

■ Health

Health Care Referrals

Extended or new program? A new program was implemented in Dillon County to help at-risk parents access health care services for their children. **Start date.** The program began in May 2002. **Number of families.** Thirty families received in-home assessments. **Population served.** The program served families who were uninsured or underinsured with parents who were either young or single with a child between the ages of zero and five. **Key activities.** The program consisted of one in-home assessment to identify the specific needs of families plus referrals to appropriate health care resources in the community. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include expanding recruitment strategies and considering initiating services during the prenatal period.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

Dillon County's Executive Director reported that all of the First Steps programs in the county have been very successful. The Executive Director would like to organize an annual ceremony for all of the families who have participated in First Steps programs as well as the programs' vendors. The ceremony would be an opportunity for everyone involved to recognize their accomplishments and to build enthusiasm for First Steps.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>
Under age 3	Poor children < age 6 (1999)
Under age 6	Very poor children < age 6 (1999)
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>
White only, non-Hispanic	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)
Black only, non-Hispanic	
Other, non-Hispanic	<u>Immunization</u>
Hispanic	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	<u>Birth-Risk</u>
Total number of families	Total number of births
Married couple family	Nonmarital births
Single householder	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas
	Births to mothers < age 18
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	Nonmarital and no diploma
	Low birthweight
<u>4K Participation</u>	Inadequate prenatal care
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

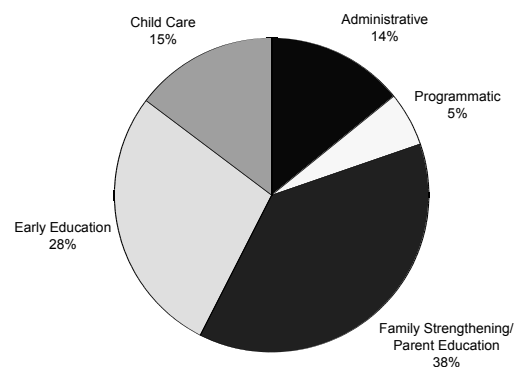
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

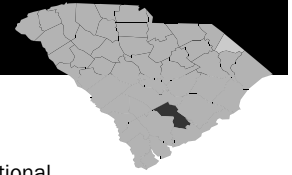
First Steps Strategies in Dorchester County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$484,690, the Dorchester County Partnership spent 38 percent on family strengthening and 28 percent on early education. The Partnership spent 16 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$61 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$524 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Dorchester County School District 2 and Dorchester County Head Start used First Steps funds to extend existing 4K classrooms in School District 2 and Head Start 3-4K classrooms to full-day. **Start date.** School District 2's 4K classroom began in August 2002; the Head Start classrooms began in January 2002. **Population served.** School District 2's program served four-year-old children who had previously registered for the half-day program. Risk factors included low screening measure (DIAL-R) scores and/or recommendation by a screening committee that used additional criteria, including low English proficiency levels, having a single caretaker, or having a caretaker with low educational attainment. The Head Start program served children already enrolled in half-day Head Start classes, all of whom had at least one school readiness risk factor (e.g., low income family, low birth weight, parents' low educational attainment, single parent, teen parent, parents for whom English is a second language). **Program model.** Each of the classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The summer readiness program in Dorchester County lasted four weeks. **Number of children.** The program served a total of 40 children. **Population served.** The children in the program were at-risk; risk factors included delayed development on any school readiness dimension, low screening measure (DIAL R) scores, familial poverty, siblings performing poorly in school, and parents' low education level. **Program model.** The classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were first awarded in January 2002. **Number of grantees.** Nine grants were awarded to child care providers. Seven of the grantees were ABC Enhanced private child care providers; two were family-based providers. The average amount of grants was \$8,333. **Key activities.** Participating child care providers used the grants awarded to them to purchase materials and equipment. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include implementing new recruitment methods, including printing articles in newspapers about grantees' successes. In addition, Dorchester County First Steps will create a mentoring system so that child care providers who wish to improve their quality can be paired with "model centers" to get ideas and suggestions.

■ Family Strengthening

Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend an existing Parent Child Home (PCH) program by hiring four additional parent educators. **Start date.** The program began in September 2001. **Population served.** The program was targeted to at-risk families with children ages zero to two (risk factors included first-time parents, teen parents, single

parents, parents with low literacy or low educational attainment, and/or low incomes). **Key activities.** Activities included bi-weekly, 30-minute home visits during which literacy and other parent-child interactions were encouraged. Books, toys, and other educational materials were provided to the families, and referrals to other resources to enhance parents' job readiness were made. **Next steps.** In the future, the program will continue to serve the same families and will also conduct outreach to recruit additional at-risk families. In particular, the program will try to recruit more Hispanic families.

■ Other

Library Program

Start date. A library program was implemented in March 2002. **Number of participants.** The program served 346 children by providing training for 14 child care providers, 78 preschool teachers, and 34 parents. **Population served.** Child care, Head Start, and other pre-kindergarten programs, as well as parents of preschool children, were the populations served through this program. **Key activities.** Program activities included teaching Bright Beginnings preschool literacy to participating pre-school settings, offering parent training, encouraging parents to get library cards, and making literacy kits available to check out.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

A major accomplishment in Dorchester County was getting programs implemented and established. The Executive Director also felt that establishing communication between the Partnership Board and vendors was a major accomplishment. In addition, the training workshop for the county's child care providers, offered by the county's First Steps, was particularly successful because child care providers received information on developmentally appropriate practices and literacy development. In the future, the County Partnership would like for more of the county's child care providers to become NAEYC accredited. They would also like for more private child care centers to house 4K programs

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	896
Under age 6	1,791
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	54.9%
Black only, non-Hispanic	40.4%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.7%
Hispanic	3.0%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	1,346
Married couple family	69.2%
Single householder	30.8%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	55.4%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	56.8%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	21.9%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	11.3%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	49.0%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	5.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	288
Nonmarital births	44.4%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	21.2%
Births to mothers < age 18	5.6%
Nonmarital and no diploma	12.8%
Low birthweight	9.7%
Inadequate prenatal care	30.2%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

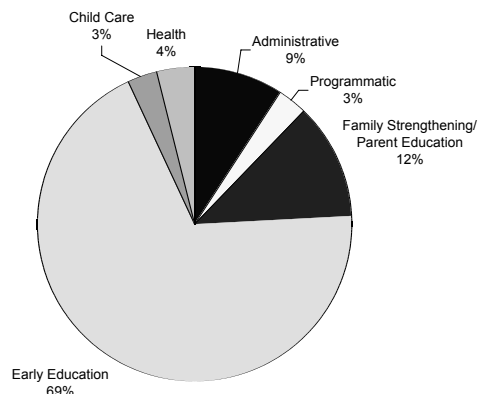
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

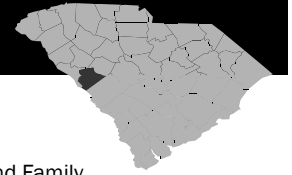
First Steps Strategies in Edgefield County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$352,862, the Edgefield County Partnership spent 69 percent on early education strategies and 12 percent on family strengthening/parenting. The Partnership spent 9 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions and exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$197 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$943 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Edgefield County School District extended one half-day 4K classroom to full-day at Douglas Elementary School and opened two new half-day classrooms in an existing 4K program at Merriwether Elementary School.

Start date. The programs began in August 2001. **Number of children.** Over the course of the school year, 21 children were served in Douglas' program, and 40 in Merriwether's.

Population served. The classrooms served high needs children (based primarily on identified disabilities, behavior problems, low scores on the DIAL-R developmental screening instrument, and certain family characteristics, such as parent(s) with low education level, single parent household, or non-English speaking household). **Program model.** Merriwether teachers employed Saxon Math and Saxon Phonics materials. **Next steps.** The Douglas program plans to continue the full-day program if funds remain available, and to provide High/Scope curriculum training for the teacher and assistant.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. A four-week summer readiness program was implemented in Edgefield County in June 2002. **Number of children.** The program served 60 children for five days per week in three classrooms. **Population served.** Target participants were identified using three criteria—delayed development in any readiness dimension, identified disability, and results on the South Carolina Readiness Assessment during 5K.

Program model. The program employed the High/Scope curriculum. **Next steps.** The teachers would like to make children's participation in the program contingent on parental participation in program orientation.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement/Child Care Scholarships

Start date. The child care strategy in Edgefield County included two components—child care scholarships for families, plus quality enhancement grants for the four child care providers who served them. The program began in October 2001.

Number of scholarships. In all, 48 children received scholarships that covered 50 percent of their weekly child care fees.

Number of grantees. The four child care providers also received grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$2,870. **Key activities.** Grantee child care providers used the funds awarded to them to purchase materials/supplies, playground equipment, or office equipment, and to improve their facilities. In addition, a technical college provided four one-and-a-half-hour training sessions that focused on growth/development, curriculum, health/safety, and nutrition. **Next steps.** In the coming program year, all four providers plan to adjust their curriculum so that it is more compatible with that of the school district, thereby helping children as they transition into school.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new? First Steps funds were used to extend

Edgefield County School District's Parenting and Family Literacy Program through the addition of one parent educator. **Start date.** The First Steps parent educator began working with families in October 2001. **Number of families.** The parent educator worked with 40 families. **Population served.** The program served at-risk families with children ages zero to five. **Key activities.** The parent educator carried out roughly one home visit per family per month. She also administered developmental screenings, provided families with referrals to appropriate services, and made available roughly eight hours of group meeting time, during which she educated parents on child development and parenting skills. **Next steps.** The available group meeting time will be increased to roughly 30 hours.

■ Health

Nutrition Education

Extended or new? First Steps and Clemson Extension hired a full-time nutritionist to extend an existing nutrition education program. **Start date.** The nutritionist began in December 2001. **Number of participants.** A total of 40 families received home visitation counseling. **Population served.** The planned target population included high needs families (e.g., low income, low parent literacy levels, etc.) with children ages 5 and younger, as well as child care and child development staff. **Key activities.** Services included one-on-one home-based nutritional counseling tailored to children's individual needs, as well as interaction with staff and children in child care and early education settings, group meetings, and community events.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

The Executive Director reported that the biggest First Steps-related accomplishments in Edgefield County have been actually implementing programs and reaching families. The highest priority is to ensure that the county's children are ready for school. Another priority is to develop a strategy to recruit the hardest to reach families, who may be the families most in need of First Steps' services.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	946
Under age 6	1,927
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	29.5%
Black only, non-Hispanic	66.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.3%
Hispanic	1.4%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	1,474
Married couple family	56.2%
Single householder	43.8%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	67.5%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	39.3%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	28.4%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	11.1%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	58.5%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	4.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	342
Nonmarital births	54.1%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	20.5%
Births to mothers < age 18	6.7%
Nonmarital and no diploma	17.5%
Low birthweight	12.6%
Inadequate prenatal care	30.7%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

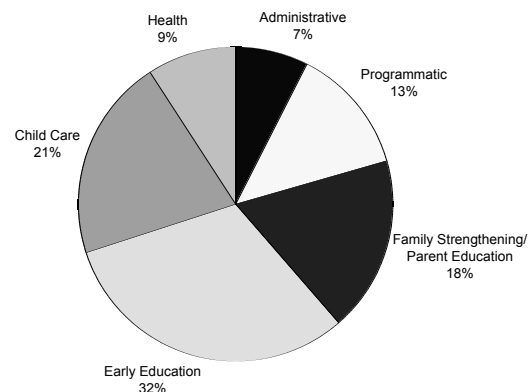
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

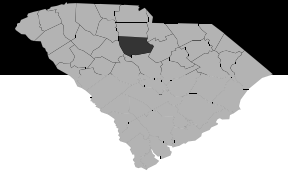
First Steps Strategies in Fairfield County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day ✓ Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$489,632, the Fairfield County Partnership spent 32 percent on early education strategies and 21 percent on child care. The Partnership spent 9 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$254 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$995 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Fairfield County First Steps initiated two 4K programs. One program provided scholarships for children from low-income families to attend 3K or 4K. In addition, First Steps funds were used to open a Head Start classroom in a rural elementary school. **Start date.** Both programs began in August 2001. **Number of children.** Thirty-two children received scholarships to attend 3K or 4K. Twenty children were enrolled in the Head Start classroom. **Population served.** Scholarships were provided for children whose DIAL 3 scores were above the threshold for free services and whose parents could not afford to pay for 3K or 4K. The Head Start program was targeted to children from low-income families in the Greenbriar area. **Program model.** The Head Start classroom used a combination of the High/Scope curriculum and Creative Curriculum.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were first awarded to child care providers in November 2001. **Number of grantees.** Grants were awarded to ten child care providers (four center-based providers and six family-based providers). The center-based child care providers received up to \$11,500; the family-based providers received up to \$3,000. **Key activities.** Grantees purchased materials and supplies. In addition, each child care provider received a baseline assessment and technical assistance site visits, participated in training workshops, and received T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for caregivers. Two grantees achieved ABC Enhanced status.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child Care scholarships were provided for 37 children from 25 families. **Next steps.** Fairfield County First Steps plans to partner with the ABC voucher system in the future to increase the number of available child care scholarships.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to serve families who had previously been served by a Parents as Teachers (PAT) program run by the United Way of the Midlands. **Start date.** The First Steps funded PAT program began in October 2001. **Number of families.** The program served 64 families. **Population served.** The program was targeted to families with children between the ages of zero and five; any family could apply to receive services on a first come, first served basis. **Key activities.** Families received at least one home visit per month that lasted one hour. Parents also attended one two-hour group meeting per month. In addition, families were referred to community resources, children's books were distributed to families, and transportation was offered to families who needed it.

Reach Out and Read

Extended or new program? An existing Reach Out and Read (ROR) program was extended using First Steps funds. **Start date.** The program was extended in December 2001. **Number of families.** The program served 596 families. **Population served.** The target population was families with children between the ages of zero and five who attend the practices of participating pediatricians. **Key activities.** First Steps provided funding to expand ROR from two pediatricians' offices to a third pediatrician's office and to enhance one of the ongoing programs by providing books. Under the ROR model, at each well-child visit, the doctor "prescribes" that parents read to their children and gives them an age-appropriate book. In addition, a trained volunteer models book-related activities in the waiting room.

Fathers Program

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to add one intervention specialist to an existing program called Fathers Matter. **Start date.** The intervention specialist began in September 2001. **Number of families.** Twenty-six fathers enrolled in the program, and three completed the intended dosage of six months. **Population served.** The target population was at-risk fathers between the ages of 18 and 35 with preschool children. **Key activities.** The goal of the program was to help fathers engage better with their children. The activities included weekly group meetings, individual counseling, opportunities to spend time with children (such as attending special events), and increasing fathers' knowledge of child development.

■ Health

Nutrition Education

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend an existing multicomponent nutrition education program provided by Clemson University Cooperative Service. **Start date.** The program was extended in November 2001. **Number of families/Number of workshops.** The program trained 14 child providers, conducted five parent group presentations, and presented nutrition lessons to 343 children. **Population served.** The program targeted children ages zero to five, their parents, and their child care providers. Families at risk for nutritional deficits were also targeted. **Key activities.** Through the program, child care providers, parents, and children were educated about nutrition.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to the Executive Director in Fairfield County, a major accomplishment was the development of a good working relationship among the Partnership Board members. Board members work well together as a team, providing a strong basis for implementing programs that can help the county's children. Another accomplishment was collaboration and integration among various agencies that provide services for pre-school children. Priorities for the future include building a child care facility in western Fairfield County, making sure that programs are effective, and ensuring that programs are serving the most at-risk children.

Florence County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	5,040
Under age 6	9,920
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	50.2%
Black only, non-Hispanic	45.5%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.6%
Hispanic	1.8%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	7,492
Married couple family	64.0%
Single householder	36.0%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	60.9%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	35.6%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	24.6%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	14.7%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	60.1%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	6.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	1,866
Nonmarital births	47.1%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	20.4%
Births to mothers < age 18	6.2%
Nonmarital and no diploma	15.6%
Low birthweight	11.5%
Inadequate prenatal care	26.5%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

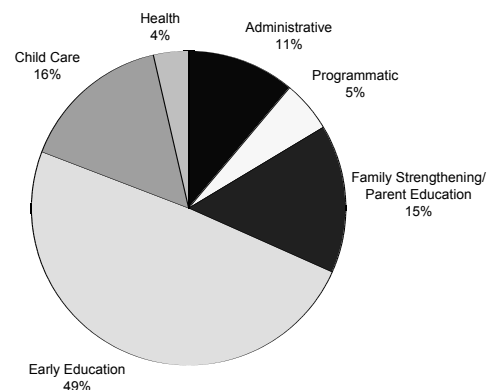
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

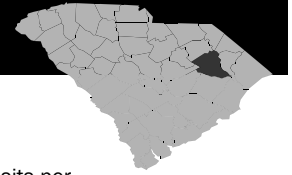
First Steps Strategies in Florence County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$985,032, the County Partnership spent 49 percent on early education. The Partnership spent 14 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$99 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$418 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to extend 4K programs in five school districts. **Start date.** The First Steps funded classrooms got underway at the beginning of the school year in Districts 1 and 5; in October in District 2; in December in District 3; and in January 2002 in District 4. **Number of children.** In District 1, two half-day classrooms were extended to full-day classrooms, and a total of 40 slots were funded by First Steps. Each of the other four school districts added one new full day classroom for 20 children. **Population served.** The programs served children at risk of not being ready for school. Risk factors varied by district, and included mother's level of education, number of parents in the home, low birth weight, and low DIAL 3 scores. **Program model.** The 4K program in District 1 used Creative Curriculum, supplemented with activities designed to meet state standards. The other four districts used the High/Scope curriculum.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. Summer Readiness programs lasting about three weeks were offered in five school districts in Florence County. **Number of children.** A total of 249 children were served across the five districts. **Population served.** Factors used to select children to participate included language level, poverty, kindergarten performance, results on the South Carolina Readiness Assessment, and delayed development. **Program model.** District 1 used the Fontas and Pinnell literacy curriculum; District 5 used the State Department of Education's 5K standards.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Child care quality enhancement grants were first awarded in May 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants were awarded to 38 child care providers and ranged from \$2,300 to \$3,000. **Next steps.** A mentoring component will be added to the county's child care quality enhancement program.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to 20 children from 15 families in Florence County in 2002.

■ Family Strengthening

Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend existing Parent Child Home programs in School Districts 1 and 3. **Start dates.** First Steps funded families were first seen in December 2001 in District 3 and in January 2002 in District 1. **Population served.** In District 3, the program served families with children between the ages of 18 months and 3 years. Through an eligibility checklist, children were identified as being at risk of entering school unprepared. **Key activities.** In both school districts, the full dosage of services was consid-

ered to be 23 weeks of two 30-minute home visits per week. In District 3, parents learned appropriate interaction with their children, parenting techniques, and educational play using educational materials and toys provided by the program.

Multiple Strategies

Extended or new program? A new home visitation program was implemented in School District 5; the program combined elements of the Parents as Teachers and Parent Child Home models. **Start date.** The first home visits were conducted in March 2002. **Population served.** The target population for this program included Medicaid-eligible parents of children ages zero to 36 months with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty level. Additional risk factors included teen parenthood, single parenthood, unemployment, and/or limited English proficiency. **Key activities.** Parents and children received one 60-minute home visit each week for three and a half months. The program included initial developmental screenings of children and referrals to community resources. **Next steps.** The program will get started at the beginning of the school year so that services can be provided to more clients.

■ Health

Health Home Visitation

Extended or new program? A new post-partum home visitation program was implemented in Florence County. **Start date.** The program began in January 2002. **Number of families.** Seventy-five families received home visits. **Population served.** The program served expectant mothers and parents of newborns, infants, and children up to age five not covered by Medicaid or private health insurance. **Key activities.** The full dosage was considered to be a single one-hour home visit. The program was designed to facilitate access to needed health services through referrals.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Florence County's Executive Director, the county's biggest First Steps-related accomplishment was working with school districts to implement high quality 4K programs. It has also been very rewarding to see the progress that children in the Parent Child Home program have made, in addition to parents' gratitude for the program.

Priorities for the future of First Steps in the county include improving the quality of child care, providing more child care scholarships, and working with the school districts to help them implement additional 4K classrooms. The Executive Director hopes that these efforts will improve children's readiness for school.

Georgetown County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	2,115
Under age 6	4,223
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	49.5%
Black only, non-Hispanic	46.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.5%
Hispanic	2.3%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	3,211
Married couple family	64.7%
Single householder	35.3%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	69.1%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	50.9%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	23.9%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	9.8%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	62.6%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	12.0%
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	770
Nonmarital births	47.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	18.6%
Births to mothers < age 18	6.9%
Nonmarital and no diploma	13.1%
Low birthweight	12.2%
Inadequate prenatal care	33.6%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

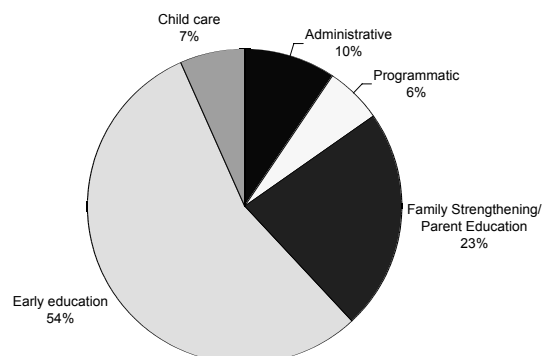
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

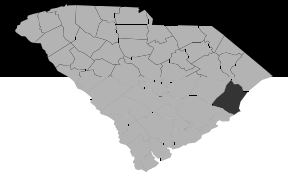
First Steps Strategies in Georgetown County Based on PERs

4K Half Day ✓ Full Day Other	Child Care Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships ✓ Other	Health Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness Any Program	Family Strengthening ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies	Other Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$458,170, the Georgetown County Partnership spent 54 percent on early education and 23 percent on family strengthening/parent education. The Partnership spent 10 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions and exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$108 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$473 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? The Georgetown County School District was funded to expand half-day 4K classrooms to full-day classrooms at three schools. **Start date.** The programs began in August 2002. **Number of children.** The programs served 60 children. **Population served.** The children served were at risk of school failure, with priority given to children already enrolled in half-day programs. **Program model.** The program used the High/Scope curriculum.

■ Child Care Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Last year, Georgetown County provided child care scholarships to families contingent upon parents' participation in parenting workshops. Beginning in April 2002, scholarships were provided to 76 children between the ages of zero and five. **Next steps.** Families will continue to receive assistance for one year, provided that parent(s) continue to attend parent meetings. Plans for the future include starting year two with a good system for collecting data on participants.

Training for Family-Based Child Care Providers

Start date. As one part of their child care strategy, Georgetown County First Steps provided a training opportunity for family-based child care providers. The program began in December 2001. **Number of sessions.** This program consisted of 12 two-and-a-half-hour training sessions, taught by an instructor from a local technical college, over the course of four months. Each participant was to receive five site visits after the completion of the series of training sessions. **Attendance.** Six family-based providers applied, and all of them were accepted into the program; one dropped out after the first training session. All five of the remaining participants completed the 30 hours of training and received a baseline assessment. Two of the participants completed all five of the site visits. **Next steps.** The program will continue next year. In the future, it will be made clear to participants that the program entails site visits in addition to training sessions. Site visits to providers will be carried out at the same time as the training sessions.

Gross Motor Development Training

Start date. All registered child care providers in Georgetown County were given the opportunity to take part in Start Smart training. Start Smart is a program designed to develop children's gross motor development. Training was offered in two blocks—the first began in November 2001; the second began in March 2002. **Topics.** Child care providers were trained on motor skills activities. Instructors provided on-site instruction and monitoring of the application of the activities with children. Providers were given equipment to use with children. **Attendance.** In all, 29 providers who served 256 children took part in the program. **Next steps.** Plans are in place to set up a better system for keeping records in Year Two.

■ Family Strengthening Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? A new program called the Very Informed Parents (VIP) program, a parent education program based on the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program model, was implemented in Georgetown County. **Start date.** The program began conducting home visits in April 2002. **Number of families.** The program served nine families. **Population served.** Program participants were young African-American women; the program prioritized serving at-risk mothers. **Key activities.** VIP's activities included the following: one or more home visits by a parent educator each month; roughly four group meetings per month; screenings for participants' needs; and referrals to services and resources to help the participants meet these needs. **Next steps.** For the second year of the program, PAT data collection and a client-tracking system will be in place.

■ Other Library Program

Start date. A library program that offered services for child care providers began in January 2001. The program was designed to promote higher quality child care by providing age-appropriate books to child care facilities and literacy instruction to caregivers. **Number of participants.** Children at 40 different county child care programs were served. **Key activities.** Every child care provider received at least 12 visits from program staff.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

The biggest accomplishment in Georgetown County was actually implementing the programs and ensuring that they were successful. An important priority for the future is to provide children with access to quality child care and full-day 4K programs. Another priority is to engage the child care community in professional development and other structured activities, such as library programs. First Steps has the potential to affect the lives of many children by improving the quality of the county's child care.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	15,445
Under age 6	30,787
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	69.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	21.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.0%
Hispanic	5.1%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	23,117
Married couple family	73.0%
Single householder	27.0%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	57.8%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	27.3%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	14.6%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	8.0%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	39.3%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	-
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	5,388
Nonmarital births	31.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	20.6%
Births to mothers < age 18	4.8%
Nonmarital and no diploma	13.2%
Low birthweight	8.6%
Inadequate prenatal care	26.0%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

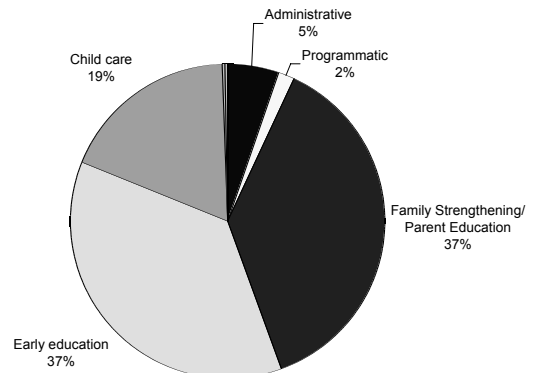
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

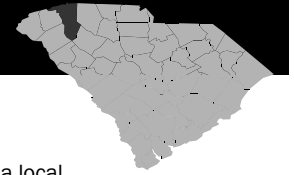
First Steps Strategies in Greenville County Based on PERs

4K <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other 	Child Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships ✓ Other 	Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	Family Strengthening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home ✓ Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$3,221,952, the Greenville County Partnership spent 37 percent on early education and 37 percent on family strengthening/parent education. The Partnership spent 5 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions and met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$105 per child ages zero to five and residing in the county or \$733 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to add two new full-day classrooms in existing 4K programs. In addition, six half-day classrooms were extended to full-day. **Number of children.** The eight classrooms served a total of 160 children. **Population served.** The programs served at-risk children. Risk factors included low screening measure (DIAL-3) scores and eligibility for free or reduced price lunch programs. **Program model.** The High/Scope model was used in all of the classrooms.

Summer Readiness

Length of programs. Greenville County was home to two summer readiness programs. One program was implemented in multiple elementary schools and lasted four or five weeks (depending on the location). The other program was implemented by child care providers and lasted four weeks. **Number of children.** A total of 771 children were served in the school-based classrooms. **Population served.** The school-based program was targeted to at-risk children. Risk level was determined based on South Carolina Readiness Assessment scores in 5K and language level. **Program model.** All of the classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded to child care classrooms in April 2002. **Number of grantees.** Forty-four classrooms were awarded grants averaging \$2,500. **Key activities.** Child care directors were provided with guidance in selecting materials to purchase for classrooms using the grant money.

Caregiver Training

Start date. Monthly training sessions were provided for caregivers and child care directors' forums were held beginning in July 2001. **Topics.** Topics included growth/development, health/safety, and curriculum.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to eight children from seven families in Greenville County in 2002.

Other Strategies

Start date. Other child care strategies were implemented in Greenville County beginning in July 2001. The strategies included on-site technical assistance, a referral system, and a resource center. **Number of participants.** All of the county's 240 child care providers were visited to make them aware of the technical assistance opportunity. About 100 sought technical assistance. **Key activities.** Topics of technical assistance included room arrangement, classroom activities, and curriculum. In addition, a referral system was set up for child care providers to obtain information on and referrals to existing

resources (e.g., ABC Enhancement, T.E.A.C.H., a local technical college). A resource center was created for the county's child care providers to obtain or make materials to use in their classrooms.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to increase the number of parent educators in an existing Parents As Teachers (PAT) home visitation program. Out of a total of 25 parent educators, First Steps funded 14. **Start date.** This program began in August 2000. **Number of families.** First Steps funding was used to serve 516 families. **Population served.** The program was targeted to parents with children between the ages of zero and three; families were served on a first come, first served basis. **Key activities.** Through home visits, parent meetings, family activities and developmental screenings, parent educators provided information on child development and helped parents prepare their children for school success. Families successfully completed the program if they participated in 18+ hours, including one, one-hour home visit per month for nine months, six parent meetings, and three family activities.

Family Literacy

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend an existing Family Learning/GED Program. The program incorporated several models, including the South Carolina Family Literacy model, a modified Kenan model, the National Institute for Family Literacy's Equipped for the Future framework, High/Scope Key Experiences, and Motherhead. **Start date.** The program began in August 2000. **Number of families.** The program served 148 families. **Population served.** The program was targeted to an at-risk population, including parents with low literacy levels and teen parents. **Key activities.** Activities included parent-child interactive literacy activities and training for parents, designed to lead to economic self-sufficiency (e.g., GED, high school diploma).

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Greenville County's Executive Director, developing, launching, and implementing the summer readiness program was the county's biggest accomplishment. Seventy-one percent of the children participating in the summer readiness program tested ready for first grade. In addition, the Executive Director said that being the first county to receive First Steps funding was a big accomplishment because Greenville County was instrumental in laying the foundation for other counties' efforts. In the future, the County Partnership would like to continue to deliver high quality services to all of the county's young children and their parents.

Greenwood County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	2,775
Under age 6	5,551
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	54.9%
Black only, non-Hispanic	37.9%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.6%
Hispanic	4.7%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	4,094
Married couple family	62.7%
Single householder	37.3%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	71.6%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	44.8%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	22.2%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	11.0%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	49.3%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	6.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	954
Nonmarital births	46.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	20.8%
Births to mothers < age 18	5.9%
Nonmarital and no diploma	14.7%
Low birthweight	10.1%
Inadequate prenatal care	32.8%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

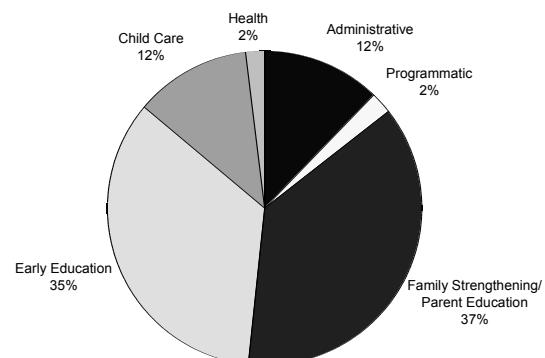
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

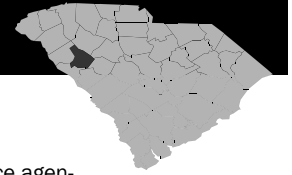
First Steps Strategies in Greenwood County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$508,657, the Greenwood County Partnership spent 37 percent on family strengthening/parent education and 35 percent on early education. The Partnership spent 12 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions and met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$92 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$416 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Two new full-day 4K classrooms were funded in Greenwood County. **Start date.** The program began in August 2001. **Number of children.** Forty children were enrolled in the two classrooms. **Population served.** Children in the program had low screening measure (DIAL 3) scores and came from multiple-risk families (e.g., low parent education, low family income, mother who was very young at child's birth, geographic isolation, single parent family, health concerns during the child's infancy). **Program model.** One of the classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum. In addition to the classroom activities, the program included home visits, parent/child workshops, child assessments, free and reduced meals, and vision, hearing, and speech screenings. (Information was not available for the other 4K classroom.)

Summer Readiness

Length of program. Summer Readiness programs were implemented in three school districts in Greenwood County (Districts 50, 51, and 52). All three programs ran for four weeks in June 2002. **Number of children.** In School District 50, 129 children were served; in School District 51, 24 children were served; in School District 52, 30 children were served. **Population served.** The programs targeted children with low scores on the South Carolina Readiness Assessment (SCRA) or who were referred by their kindergarten teachers. Additional risk factors included low language levels, familial poverty, siblings performing poorly in school, and low levels of parental education attainment. **Program model.** All three school districts offered half-day Summer Readiness programs. The classrooms did not use a particular curriculum model, but instruction focused on early literacy, oral language development, and mathematics skills. The programs also tried to foster parental involvement.

■ Child Care

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Thirty-six child care scholarships were provided for children from 30 families.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to extend three Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs in three school districts in Greenwood County—Districts 50, 51, and 52. (Service areas were not defined as a single school district; two of the three programs served families in more than one school district.) A total of four parent educators were hired using First Steps funds. **Start date.** All three programs began in December 2001. **Population served.** One of the programs was designed for first-time teenage mothers. The second program served high-risk families with children ages zero to two. The third program served high-risk families with children ages zero to five. High-risk families were defined as having teenage mothers, single mothers, parents with low education levels, unemployed parents, parents with chemical dependencies, or

involvement with mental health or social service agencies. **Key activities.** The three programs offered two home visits per month, as well as monthly group meetings for parents.

Health

Home Visitation Programs

Extended or new program? Two existing health home visitation programs were extended through First Steps funding. The two programs were Healthy Families and a DHEC program. **Start date.** First Steps' additions to Healthy Families began in October 2001; their support of the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) program began in May 2002. **Number of families.** First Steps funds were used to serve 48 families through Healthy Families and eight families through the DHEC program. **Population served.** The Healthy Families program served teen and single parents with newborns. Families were below 185 percent of the poverty level and parents had less than a high school education. The DHEC program served new mothers without Medicaid or other insurance, whose infants were discharged from a neonatal intensive care unit. **Key activities.** The Healthy Families program included home visits and parent group meetings. Families participated for nine months, but the intensity of the services they received depended on the severity of their needs. The DHEC program provided a single home visit to assess the health status of the mother and newborn. Referrals were given as needed.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Greenwood County's Executive Director, the County Partnership's biggest accomplishment in fiscal year 2001-2002 was implementing their child care scholarship program so that more families would be able to afford child care. A high priority is to establish a child care resource and referral agency. By establishing such an agency, child care providers will have access to the information they need to improve their quality of care.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	862
Under age 6	1,715
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	34.8%
Black only, non-Hispanic	62.4%
Other, non-Hispanic	0.8%
Hispanic	2.0%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	1,248
Married couple family	59.1%
Single householder	40.9%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	57.7%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	73.6%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	29.1%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	16.0%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	67.5%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	10.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	302
Nonmarital births	56.0%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	32.1%
Births to mothers < age 18	8.3%
Nonmarital and no diploma	21.5%
Low birthweight	9.3%
Inadequate prenatal care	47.7%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

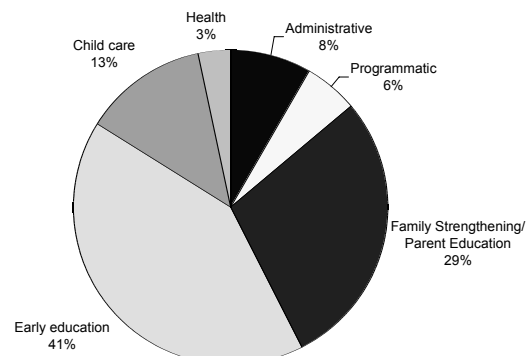
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

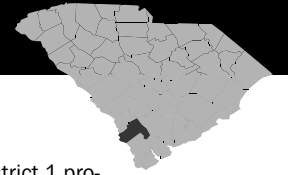
First Steps Strategies in Hampton County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$371,129, the Hampton County Partnership spent 41 percent on early education and 29 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 10 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$216 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$764 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? In School District 1, one half-day 4K classroom was extended to a full-day classroom. In School District 2, a full-day classroom was opened in an existing 4K program. **Number of children.** A total of 41 children were served in the two classrooms. **Population served.** The target population for District 1 was children of high-risk parents (single caretakers with low educational attainment, income, and mental stability) who were already registered in part-day programs, and who had low screening measure (DIAL-R) scores. District 2 targeted all children already registered in part-day programs. **Program model.** The classroom in District 1 used the High/Scope curriculum, while the classroom in District 2 used elements of Creative Curriculum.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. School Districts 1 and 2 each offered half-day Summer Readiness programs. In District 1, the program began on June 10, 2002 and lasted three weeks; in District 2, the program began on June 13, 2002 and lasted four weeks.

Number of children. Twenty-five children were served in District 1 and 23 children were served in District 2. **Population served.** District 1 participants were targeted based on their MAT7 scores, their SCRA scores during 5K, and delayed development in any area of school readiness. District 2 participants were targeted based on SCRA results, delayed development in school readiness, and low language level. **Program model.** The District 1 program was based on Creative Curriculum, while the District 2 program was grounded in High/Scope, Pat Cunningham, and Everyday Math curricula.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were first awarded in December 2001. **Number of grantees.** Grants of up to \$5,000 were awarded to eight child care providers in order to help them improve their licensure status. **Key activities.** Each grantee received a baseline assessment as well as an average of four technical assistance site visits over the course of the program. The grantees bought materials and equipment, and they engaged in staff training/development, including participation in the T.E.A.C.H. program.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Hampton County First Steps provided partial child care scholarships to 30 children between the ages of zero and five. Families at 150-175 percent of the poverty level who were not eligible for ABC vouchers were targeted. **Next steps.** The program will be administered by DHHS in the coming year.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? Two new Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs were implemented—one in School District 1 and one

in School District 2. **Start date.** The School District 1 program began in November 2001; the School District 2 program began in October 2001. **Number of families.** Across the two districts, 94 families were served. **Population served.** Participants in both programs were at-risk parents and children who were recruited through referrals and information sessions; the majority of families were African American and headed by a single mother. **Key activities.** Both programs focused on, among other things, employing developmentally and age-appropriate educational activities, group parent meetings, a book/toy-lending library, and disseminating informative materials. Parent educators were to make at least one one-hour home visit to each family per month.

■ Health

Well Baby Plus

Extended or new program? Hampton County First Steps contracted with Harrison Peoples Healthcare Center to implement a new program entitled Well Baby Plus. **Start date.** The program enrolled its first families in March 2002. **Number of families.** Eleven families and children were served. **Population served.** Families who were underinsured, without health care, or otherwise at-risk, with infants between the ages of zero and 12 months, were targeted. **Key activities.** The program involved five two-hour family group sessions during which well baby care and health and safety education were provided by a licensed health care professional. **Next steps.** Future efforts will include additional work to recruit and engage collaborative partners for the program, additional advertising through radio talk shows and speaking at community events, engaging advocates such as successful enrollees who can serve as role models to recruit high risk families, home visits for initial registration of families, providing “take-away” incentives for attendance at sessions, and increased collection and reporting of data from participating families.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

The biggest accomplishment in Hampton County was actually implementing their chosen strategies. Another accomplishment was establishing access to professional development opportunities for child care providers; that was an important step because the county does not have its own technical college. Priorities for the future are to continue to work with the child care providers with whom they established relationships this year, and to recruit additional child care providers. Another priority is to strengthen the health strategy.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	6,823
Under age 6	13,563
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	70.5%
Black only, non-Hispanic	21.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.3%
Hispanic	3.4%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	10,409
Married couple family	67.9%
Single householder	32.1%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	62.9%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	24.4%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	19.3%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	8.0%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	60.8%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	10.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	2,569
Nonmarital births	42.5%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	21.4%
Births to mothers < age 18	5.1%
Nonmarital and no diploma	15.2%
Low birthweight	8.4%
Inadequate prenatal care	28.7%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

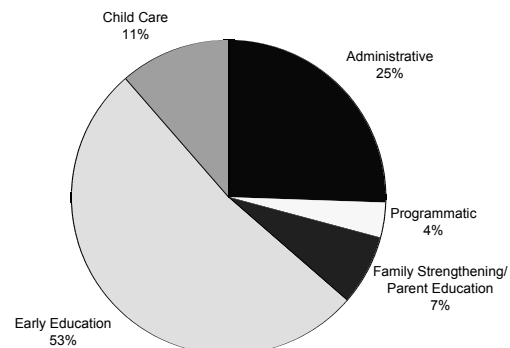
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

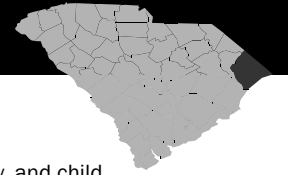
First Steps Strategies in Horry County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$1,042,930, the Horry County Partnership spent 53 percent on early education and 11 percent on child care strategies. The Partnership spent 16 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$77 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$416 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Two new classrooms were added to an existing 4K program in Horry County. **Start date.** The classrooms started in September 2001. **Number of children.** A total of 40 children were served in two full-day classrooms. **Population served.** The target population was children at risk of not being ready for school (based on DIAL-R scores, mother's educational status, mother's age, number of parents in the home, family income, and guardian status). **Program model.** The classrooms incorporated elements of the High/Scope curriculum as well as the Early Literacy Curriculum. **Next steps.** Future plans include increasing recruitment efforts by using First Steps publicity, referrals from community agencies, advertisements in local businesses, school staff and teachers, notes/fliers sent home with older children, and physician referrals.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The Summer Readiness program in Horry County began on June 12, 2002 and lasted three weeks. **Number of children.** Ninety-three children were served. **Population served.** The program was designed to serve children who were not ready for first grade, which was determined from 5K South Carolina Readiness Assessment scores and teacher recommendations. **Program model.** This was a half-day program.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in June 2002; the program will continue into Fiscal Year 2003. **Number of grantees.** Grants were awarded to 12 child care providers. Grants averaged around \$5,000. **Key activities.** Grantees received technical assistance in determining their needs and deciding how to go about improving their quality. They formulated plans to purchase materials or equipment and to engage in professional development activities.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were provided for six children from four families.

■ Family Strengthening

Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? A new Parent Child Home (PCH) program was implemented in Horry County. First Steps funding was used to hire five parent educators. **Start date.** The program began in April 2002. **Number of families.** The program served 54 families. **Population served.** The goal was to reach at-risk families, especially first-time parents with children ages 16 months to three years in the Loris and Conway areas. **Key activities.** Bi-weekly 30-minute home visits were conducted in which the home visitor modeled appropriate caregiver-child interaction and provided books and toys to the families. Additional features of this program included referrals to family

literacy and job skills services, a lending library, and child care provided to those participating in PCH and adult education activities; all of these additional services were provided at the Loris Learning Center. **Next steps.** In the future, the program will include other areas of Horry County besides Loris and Conway. In addition, it will not only target first-time parents but all at-risk parents of two- and three-year-old children.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

Horry County's Executive Director reported that the county's biggest First Steps-related accomplishment so far has been developing a relationship with the county's child care community. The relationship has reached the stage at which child care providers feel comfortable enough with First Steps to call and ask for information. The County Partnership will continue to work with child care providers in an effort to improve the quality of child care that children receive between the ages of zero and four. In addition, they will try to address a gap in health care services for children.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	852
Under age 6	1,825
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	36.7%
Black only, non-Hispanic	52.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.6%
Hispanic	9.0%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	1,334
Married couple family	60.3%
Single householder	39.7%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	57.1%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	45.4%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	27.3%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	15.4%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	66.6%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	5.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	284
Nonmarital births	56.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	31.0%
Births to mothers < age 18	8.5%
Nonmarital and no diploma	21.8%
Low birthweight	8.5%
Inadequate prenatal care	58.8%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

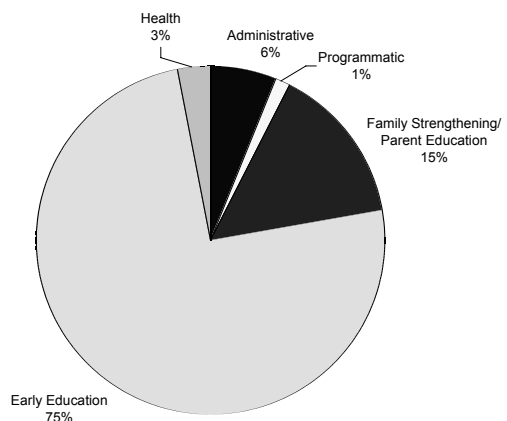
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

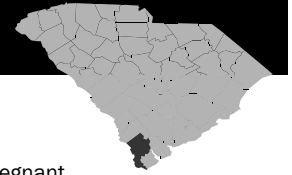
First Steps Strategies in Jasper County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day ✓ Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$392,133, the Jasper County Partnership spent 75 percent on early education and 15 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 5 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$215 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$815 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funding enabled for the addition of seven full-day classrooms to existing 4K programs.

Start date. The classrooms began in August 2002. **Number of children.** A total of 140 full-day classroom slots were filled.

Population served. The target population was children with high needs—particularly low screening measure (DIAL 3) scores and low family income. **Program model.** The classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum and the Jasper County School District Pre-School Curriculum. **Next steps.** Future plans include collaborating with other school districts to provide High/Scope training, and including support for professional development in the First Steps budget.

4K ESL

Extended or new program? Jasper County used First Steps funds to create one full-day 4K ESL classroom in an existing program. **Start date.** The classroom began in August 2001.

Number of children. Twenty children were served. **Population served.** The target population was children from non-English speaking homes with high needs (e.g., teen parents, single parent household, and low family income). **Program model.** The classroom used the High/Scope curriculum and the Jasper County School District Pre-School Curriculum. **Next steps.** In the future, ESL children may receive services within regular 4K classrooms.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers & Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to hire four parent educators to expand the county's Parents as Teachers (PAT)/Parent Child Home (PCH) program and provide home visits to families with children enrolled in the 4K program. **Start date.** First Steps' additions to the program began in September 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 167 families were served. **Population served.** The program targeted first-time, low-income, low-literacy, and mostly single and teen parents; some alternative caregivers participated as well. **Key activities.** The program offered weekly hour-long visits designed to improve interaction between parents and children, to foster literacy activities in the home and refer parents to literacy classes, and to provide parents with monthly meetings on various topics. **Next steps.** The program will add training from the State Department of Education's High/Scope Pre-School Lead Teacher Training Program.

■ Health

Post Partum Home Visitation

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used by an existing home health visitation program to employ a registered nurse to conduct post partum home visits. **Start date.** The First Steps-funded nurse began working with families in February 2002. **Number of families.** Through June 2002, nine mothers had received home visits and 31 had been referred to prenatal classes. **Population served.** The target population

included non-Medicaid, under- or uninsured pregnant women, and mothers at high risk of health problems (HIV, perinatal Hepatitis B, etc.) **Key activities.** Program activities included pre-natal classes, referrals for health care and parenting education, and at least one home visit (follow-ups were made, if necessary). **Next steps.** Plans for the future include making better connections with DHHS Medicaid workers in order to identify families in need of the service.

Screening Program

Extended or new program? A new program was designed to educate child care providers, agencies, and parents about the importance of early screening of, and subsequent intervention in, children's speech, hearing, vision, developmental, and motor abilities. **Start date.** The program began in February 2002. **Number of participants.** By the end of the program year, five children had been referred for services and 50 service providers or agencies had participated in educational workshops. **Population served.** The target groups were parents of young children (ages zero to five), and agencies or providers who work with them. **Key activities.** The program distributed 490 brochures on how to identify children with special needs, and referred families to appropriate services.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

The Executive Director in Jasper County reported that the county's biggest accomplishment was implementing full-day 4K classrooms. The program has provided a tremendous opportunity for families who cannot afford quality, formal child care, as well as families who cannot feasibly enroll their children in half-day 4K classrooms because parents have to work all day. Priorities for the future of First Steps programs in Jasper County include continuing and strengthening the 4K program and implementing a child care quality enhancement initiative.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>
Under age 3	Poor children < age 6 (1999)
Under age 6	Very poor children < age 6 (1999)
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>
White only, non-Hispanic	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)
Black only, non-Hispanic	
Other, non-Hispanic	<u>Immunization</u>
Hispanic	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	<u>Birth-Risk</u>
Total number of families	Total number of births
Married couple family	Nonmarital births
Single householder	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas
	Births to mothers < age 18
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	Nonmarital and no diploma
	Low birthweight
<u>4K Participation</u>	Inadequate prenatal care
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

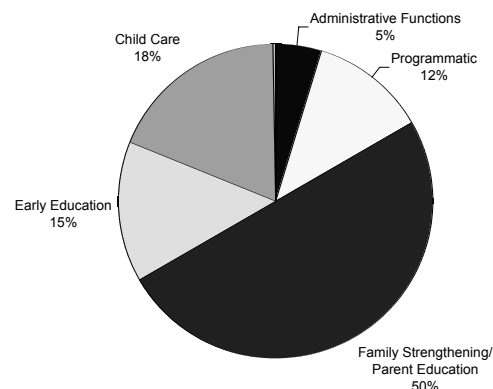
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

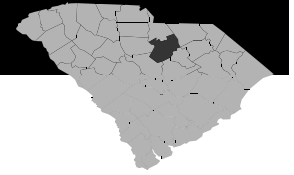
First Steps Strategies in Kershaw County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home ✓ Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$823,587, the Kershaw County Partnership spent 50 percent on family strengthening and 15 percent on early education. The Partnership spent 7 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$199 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$1,113 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to add one full-day classroom to an existing Head Start program. **Start date.** The program began in August 2001. **Number of children.** A total of 20 children were served in the full-day classroom. **Population served.** The target population was children from low income families. **Program model.** A teacher, a classroom assistant, and a caseworker provided services, including five full days of developmentally appropriate programming per week using the High/Scope curriculum. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include expanding into other areas of the county and adding a transportation system that will assist clients in accessing program services.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement & Child Care Scholarships

Start date. The County Partnership selected child care providers to receive quality enhancement grants for each child they enrolled with a scholarship worth 75 percent of tuition. The program began in October 2001. **Number of grantees.** Five child care providers were selected to receive \$6,000 to be used for quality enhancement for each child they enrolled with a scholarship of 75 percent of tuition. **Number of scholarships.** Child care scholarships were awarded by the grantees to a total of 21 children from families at 175 percent of the poverty level. **Key activities.** Grantees received baseline assessments to help them formulate quality improvement plans, as well as technical assistance as needed. Grantees engaged in equipment purchases, improvements in health and safety, and improvements in staff interaction with children. In addition, caregivers sought professional development—seven staff members enrolled in T.E.A.C.H. and two enrolled in Montessori certification. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include providing 15 hours of training workshops to grantees. In addition, child care scholarships will be administered through the DHHS ABC voucher program and will not be attached to the quality enhancement grants.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to expand an existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) program through the addition of two staff members. **Number of families.** First Steps funds were used to serve 14 families. **Population served.** The program targeted high-risk families with the goal of teaching parenting skills and preventing child maltreatment. **Key activities.** Families received one home visit per week and attended one group session per month. For half of the home visits each month, the PAT curriculum was used; for the two remaining visits, staff and families practiced the skills from the previous sessions. Families were evaluated for referral services during intake, and parent educators contacted agencies and assisted in making appointments as needed. **Next steps.** A more pro-active recruitment plan will be implemented in the coming year to encourage enrollment. Also, a better system of transportation will be established.

Family Literacy

Extended or new program? The Adult Education Program in Kershaw County used First Steps funds to add parenting components to existing GED and ESL programs. **Start date.** Classes began in August 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 11 families participated. **Population served.** Participants were parents with children between the ages of zero and six. **Key activities.** In addition to parents' participation in GED and ESL classes, staff provided hour-long parenting education sessions two times per week based on the Parents as Teachers curriculum. During the first half of the class (30 minutes), parents learned about parenting skills and child development, and observed the teacher modeling how to use activities/materials to encourage cognitive stimulation in, and warmth and nurturing with, their children. During the second half, parents were given time with their children to practice the parenting skills they had learned. On-site child care and a translator were provided.

Fatherhood Program

Extended or new program? A new fatherhood program was implemented in Kershaw County. The program used several models, including the Sisters of Charity Model, the Foundations of Fatherhood curriculum, and Reaching Out to Adolescent Dads. **Start date.** The program began in August 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 22 families participated in the program. **Population served.** The target population was young fathers with children under the age of five, however fathers of all ages and incomes were served. **Key activities.** Program activities included assessing fathers' needs, weekly two-and-a-half-hour meetings, referrals, counseling, and parenting education.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

The biggest accomplishment in Kershaw County was providing child care scholarships; through that strategy, the County Partnership was able to reach a large number of families. In the future, the County Partnership would like to expand their child care initiative through collaboration within the county. They would also like to expand their parenting strategies and, in particular, reach more fathers. Other priorities for the future are to improve the county's transportation and to create a link between 4K programs and 5K programs in order to create a smooth transition for children as they enter 5K.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	2,457
Under age 6	4,876
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	65.0%
Black only, non-Hispanic	29.9%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.8%
Hispanic	2.3%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	3,706
Married couple family	63.2%
Single householder	36.8%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	69.9%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	26.5%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	17.0%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	11.3%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	50.4%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	2.0%
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	830
Nonmarital births	44.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	26.1%
Births to mothers < age 18	6.9%
Nonmarital and no diploma	21.8%
Low birthweight	12.2%
Inadequate prenatal care	26.9%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

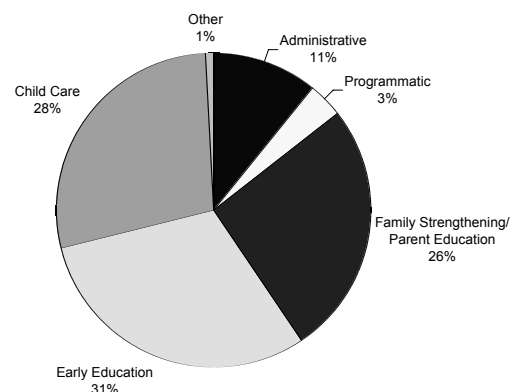
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

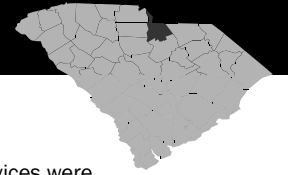
First Steps Strategies in Lancaster County Based on PERs

4K Half Day Full Day ✓ Other	Child Care ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships ✓ Other	Health Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness ✓ Any Program	Family Strengthening Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies	Other Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$934,852, the Lancaster County Partnership spent 31 percent on early education and 26 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 8 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$192 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$1,197 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

Early Head Start

Extended or new program? First Steps funded the expansion of an existing Early Head Start program by adding a full-day classroom and by providing home-based services for children and their families. **Number of children.** Twenty-four children and their families were served. **Population served.** The target population was children ages zero to three from low income families. **Program model.** The program provided five full days per week of High/Scope-based programming, comprehensive health services for participating children, and other additional services for participating families.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. Lancaster County was home to a four week Summer Readiness program that began on May 15, 2002. **Number of children.** The program served 258 children.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded beginning in May 2001. **Number of grantees.** Grants of up to \$20,000 were awarded to nine child care providers. **Key activities.** Consultants provided pre- and post-assessments, technical assistance, mentoring, and training. Nine of the grantees became ABC Enhanced and two became NAEYC accredited.

Network of “Master Teachers”

Start date. Another child care strategy in Lancaster County involved the development of a network of ten “master teachers” who mentored and trained child care providers. The program began in the fall of 2001. **Number of participants.** The master teachers worked with a total of 20 center-based child care providers serving children from ages three to five. **Key activities.** The master teachers provided training sessions for child care staff and weekly on-site visits. During the weekly visits, the master teachers addressed staff interaction with children and the quality of early learning experiences. Participating child care providers were given activity kits; master teachers provided guidance in the use of the materials (e.g., blocks, manipulatives, sand/water).

■ Family Strengthening

Multiple Strategies

Extended or new program? A new program called the Best Practice Parenting Program was implemented in Lancaster County. The program utilized several models, including Effective Black Parenting, Confident Parenting, and Los Niños. **Start date.** The program began in October 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 702 families were served. **Population served.** Priority for participation was given to DSS-referred and at-risk families (e.g., single parent households, families with limited resources). **Key activities.** Program instructors provided two-hour sessions for parents of children ages zero to five at churches, child care centers, and community centers. For each session, the curriculum was customized according to participants’ cultural and demographic make-up. All sessions included child care, meals, transportation, and incentives (e.g., cer-

tificates) for attending. Referrals for other services were provided if needed.

Multiple Strategies

Extended or new program? A new home visitation program was created based on the Parent Child Home model, as well as other programs and models. **Start date.** The program began in January 2002. **Number of families.** In all, 58 families participated. **Population served.** Targeted participants were families with children ages zero to five who tested not ready for school. **Key activities.** Parent educators conducted 30- to 45-minute home visits twice a week with families. Children’s needs were assessed using “Ages and Stages” within the first three home visits, and individual education plans were developed accordingly. During the visits, the parent educators modeled verbal interactions and educational play for parents. Families also participated in monthly group meetings.

Reach Out and Read

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to hire one staff member to implement a new Reach Out and Read (ROR) program. **Start date.** The program began in November 2001. **Number of children.** The program served 380 children. **Population served.** The target population was children between the ages of zero and five served by pediatric practices with primarily low-income patients. **Key activities.** ROR-trained pediatricians provided children with books during each well-baby visit to their office. In addition, nurses explained to parents the importance of early literacy and ways to work with children, and volunteers modeled reading to children in the waiting room.

■ Other

Library Program

Start date. A program designed to enrich the literacy experiences of children in child care centers was initiated in October 2001. The program was modeled after Story Time Express, a program in Charlotte, NC. **Number of participants.** The program served about 1,300 children. **Population served.** Target participants were child care centers serving children between the ages of zero and five. **Key activities.** Services included training and mentoring child care providers, and visiting child care centers to model developmentally appropriate literacy behaviors.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

In Lancaster County, First Steps’ biggest accomplishment was fostering community engagement. Another accomplishment was developing their child care initiatives; Lancaster County has been identified as a leader in child care training. The biggest priorities for the future are to assist child care providers in improving their quality and becoming ABC Enhanced. Another priority is to reach more of the Hispanic population through home visitation.

Laurens County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	2,763
Under age 6	5,486
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	65.9%
Black only, non-Hispanic	29.2%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.9%
Hispanic	3.0%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	4,153
Married couple family	63.5%
Single householder	36.5%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	64.7%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	55.4%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	23.6%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	11.9%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	46.8%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	5.0%
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	823
Nonmarital births	45.8%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	31.5%
Births to mothers < age 18	6.7%
Nonmarital and no diploma	21.3%
Low birthweight	9.2%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

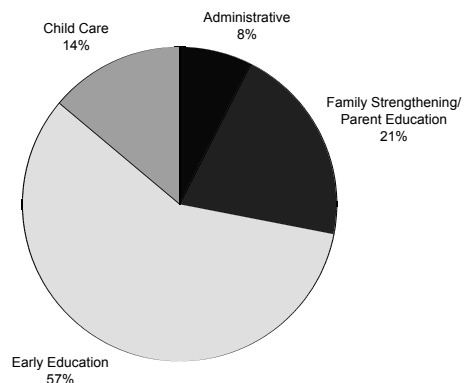
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

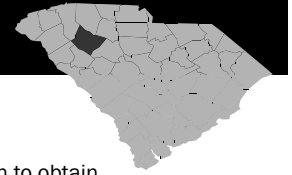
First Steps Strategies in Laurens County Based on PERs

4K Half Day ✓ Full Day Other	Child Care Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training Scholarships Other	Health Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness Any Program	Family Strengthening ✓ Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies	Other Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$831,194, the Laurens County Partnership spent 57 percent on early education and 21 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 5 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$152 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$639 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Half-day 4K classrooms were extended to full-day in two school districts in Laurens County. In School District 55, six classrooms were extended to full-day; in School District 56, four classrooms were extended to full-day.

Start date. All of the classrooms began in August 2001.

Number of children. In total, 174 children were served.

Population served. The classrooms served at-risk children, based particularly on low language levels, delayed development in any school readiness dimension, family characteristics (e.g., poverty, siblings performing poorly in school, parents with low educational levels), referrals from service providers, and low screening measure (DIAL-R) scores. **Program model.** In School District 55, Creative Curriculum was used; in School District 56, the High/Scope curriculum was used.

■ Child Care

Caregiver Training

Number of sessions. A child care training initiative was implemented in Laurens County. Two training sessions were offered to caregivers to be used as part of the 15 hours required for DSS licensure. **Attendance.** Thirty caregivers attended the first session; 80 attended the second. **Topics.** One session was on “Ages and Stages” (a developmental assessment) and the other was on curriculum development. **Next steps.** The County Partnership plans to provide quality enhancement grants to child care facilities where caregivers have completed 15 hours of training.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers & Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to serve additional families in an existing home visitation program that used a combination of the Parents as Teachers (PAT) and Parent Child Home (PCH) models. **Start date.** First Steps funded families began participating in March 2001. **Population served.** This program served single parents, first time parents, teen parents, low income parents, and parents who did not complete high school, with children between the ages of zero and five. **Key activities.** Parent educators conducted one-hour visits every two weeks to provide PAT lessons for families. Half-hour visits were also made between those weeks. A phone contact was made occasionally for follow-up and to remind families of upcoming monthly group meetings. The program also modified the PAT and PCH models by focusing on life skills training for adults instead of literacy, and by offering field trips instead of providing PACT time.

Specifically, they were able to work with Verizon to obtain telephones for needy families, and were also able to work with the Laurens County Rotary Club to secure funds for books for children. Although they feel that 4K is already a strong program in the county, the County Partnership believes that with more teacher training, 4K can make a greater difference in children’s lives. In the future, the County Partnership would like to implement more parenting programs and enhance the quality of the county’s child care.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Laurens County’s Executive Director, the county’s greatest accomplishments happened because the County Partnership Board was able to reach consensus quickly.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>
Under age 3 814	Poor children < age 6 (1999) 26.6%
Under age 6 1,543	Very poor children < age 6 (1999) 8.5%
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>
White only, non-Hispanic 25.2%	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001) 78.5%
Black only, non-Hispanic 71.4%	<u>Immunization</u>
Other, non-Hispanic 1.4%	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized 6.0%
Hispanic 1.9%	<u>Birth-Risk</u>
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	Total number of births 264
Total number of families 1,155	Nonmarital births 59.8%
Married couple family 51.2%	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas 25.0%
Single householder 48.8%	Births to mothers < age 18 7.6%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force 66.0%	Nonmarital and no diploma 21.2%
<u>4K Participation</u>	Low birthweight 13.6%
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ² 49.6%	Inadequate prenatal care 28.4%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

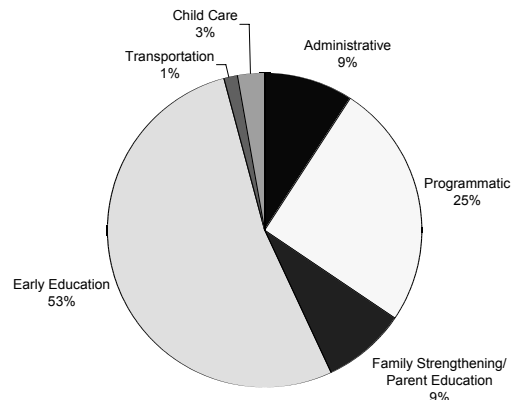
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

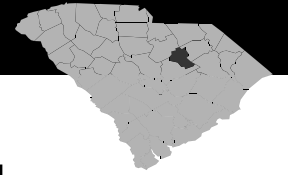
First Steps Strategies in Lee County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships ✓ Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$507,665, the Lee County Partnership spent 53 percent on early education. The Partnership spent 10 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$329 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$1,247 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Lee County School District extended six half-day 4K classrooms to full-day. **Start date.** The classrooms began in August 2001. **Number of children.** A total of 115 children were enrolled. **Population served.** The target population was four-year-old children with low developmental assessment (DIAL 3) scores, with a referral from another agency, or with other characteristics that put them at risk of not being ready for school, such as living with a parent who is single, young, or who has a low level of education. **Program model.** The classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum. **Next steps.** Recommendations for the future include an expanded role for the State Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood Education, and the development of policies and a practice framework for addressing curriculum, personnel, and resource needs.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in January 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants were awarded to eight child care providers. **Key activities.** Grantees purchased needed materials and supplies. **Next steps.** Plans for the coming year include conducting pre- and post-assessments using environmental rating scales, requiring grantees to participate in training, and fostering the networking of child care providers that began this year as a result of the program.

Extended Hours

Start date. Lee County created a grants program for child care providers to provide extended hours of care. Grants were awarded in March 2002. **Number of grantees.** Four child care providers received grants. **Key activities.** Twenty-eight children were served through the increased availability of extended care.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funding facilitated the expansion of Lee County's Parents as Teachers (PAT) program. Two additional parent educators were hired. **Number of families.** A total of 31 families were served. **Population served.** One of the First Steps-funded parent educators focused exclusively on teen mothers. **Key activities.** Bi-monthly home visits were conducted, as well as group meetings. Developmental assessments were performed using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire and the PAT Parent Knowledge Survey.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Lee County's Executive Director, the county's biggest First Steps related accomplishment has been the creation of a collaborative spirit among child care providers, public schools, and private schools. The three sectors have learned that they can help each other in the interest of the county's children. The highest priorities in the county include addressing the quality and availability of child care, the health needs of the county's children, and transportation issues. Another priority is attempting to reach the hardest to reach families, who might be the most in need of First Steps programs.

Lexington County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	8,856
Under age 6	17,831
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	75.8%
Black only, non-Hispanic	17.4%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.8%
Hispanic	2.9%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	13,434
Married couple family	74.6%
Single householder	25.4%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	61.4%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	38.4%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	13.5%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	6.7%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	38.2%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	14.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	2,999
Nonmarital births	29.0%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	15.2%
Births to mothers < age 18	3.9%
Nonmarital and no diploma	10.0%
Low birthweight	7.2%
Inadequate prenatal care	19.1%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

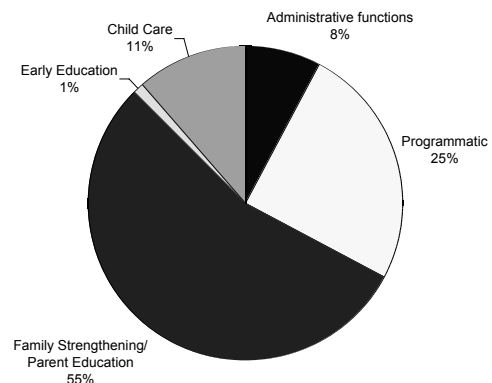
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

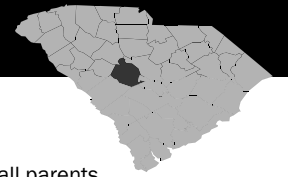
First Steps Strategies in Lexington County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$1,974,025, the Lexington County Partnership spent 55 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 9 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$111 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$820 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The Summer Readiness program in Lexington County lasted four weeks in June 2002. **Population served.** The children who participated in the program were not ready for first grade as evidenced by South Carolina Readiness Assessment scores, teacher observations, or literacy skills. **Program model.** The program included three classrooms that met four days per week for four hours each day. The program combined several curriculum models and was designed to develop oral language and print concepts; student phonemic awareness; letter/sound recognition; interest in reading and writing; and gross motor and rhythm skills. It also had a strong emphasis on parental involvement. **Next steps.** The Summer Readiness program will not be offered during the summer of 2003.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Number of grantees. Forty-two child care providers received quality enhancement grants. **Key activities.** Grantees used funds for improvements needed to achieve licensure or ABC enhancement, including staff development, facilities improvements, or purchasing materials. In addition, the program included a mentoring component—eight of the grantees who were NAEYC accredited or in the process of becoming accredited served as mentors to some of the other grantees. **Next Steps.** The program will continue with its current 42 grantees plus an additional ten. Lexington County First Steps will hire an Early Childhood Specialist to provide consultation and technical assistance to grantees. In addition, Lexington County First Steps plans to work with a local technical college to provide 60 hours of training during the next program year.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? Existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs were expanded in five school districts in Lexington County by hiring additional parent educators. **Start date.** The programs began in August 2001 in School District 3; in November 2001 in School Districts 2, 4, and 5; and in January 2002 in School District 1. **Number of families.** The First Steps funded parent educators provided services to a total of 395 families. **Population served.** The PAT programs had no criteria for eligibility, therefore families were served on a first come, first served basis. **Key activities.** The two core activities in the PAT programs were home visits (either once or twice per month) and monthly parent meetings.

■ Health

Information for Parents of Newborns

Extended or new program? A program to distribute bags with information and materials to the parents of newborns is still in the planning stages in Lexington County. This is an extension of a Success by 6 program, which no longer has funding. **Number of families.** The plan is to distribute 5,000 bags.

Population served. Bags will be distributed to all parents of newborns in all of Lexington County's hospitals. **Key activities.** The bags will contain many items, including a bath safety card, a parenting book, SIDS information, information about First Steps, and information on five parenting centers. The program also plans to provide referrals.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Lexington County's Executive Director, getting five parenting programs up and running in nine months was the county's biggest accomplishment. Priorities for the future include expanding the parenting program and the child care quality enhancement initiative.

Marion County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	1,463
Under age 6	3,002
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	31.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	65.0%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.9%
Hispanic	2.0%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	2,233
Married couple family	52.2%
Single householder	47.8%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	65.5%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	56.7%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	36.8%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	20.2%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	76.0%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	6.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	527
Nonmarital births	57.1%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	26.0%
Births to mothers < age 18	9.7%
Nonmarital and no diploma	19.5%
Low birthweight	12.3%
Inadequate prenatal care	21.6%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

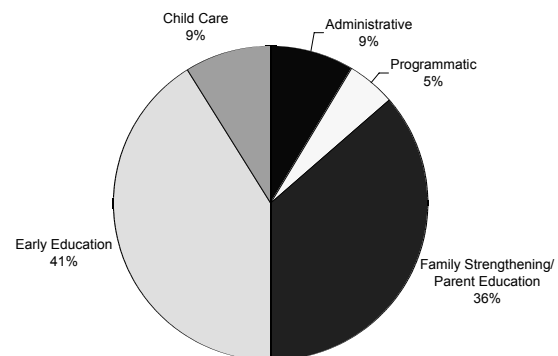
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

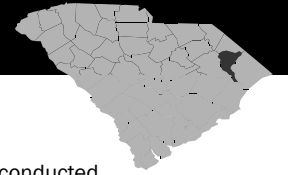
First Steps Strategies in Marion County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day ✓ Full Day Other 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
<p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$567,039, the Marion County Partnership spent 41 percent on early education strategies and 36 percent on family strengthening/parent education. The Partnership spent 9 percent on administrative functions and met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$189 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$532 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend 4K programs in School Districts 1, 2, and 7. Two half-day classrooms were opened in District 1, one full-day classroom was opened in District 2, and two full-day classrooms were opened in District 7. **Start date.** The classrooms in District 1 began in September 2001; the classrooms in Districts 2 and 7 began in August 2001. **Number of children.** Over the course of the school year, 44 children were served in District 1's half-day classrooms; Districts 2 and 7 served a total of 54 in their full-day classrooms. **Population served.** The target population was children with one or more of various school readiness risk factors. **Program model.** The two half-day classrooms in District 1 used the High/Scope curriculum. The full-day classroom in District 2 did not use a particular curriculum. The two full-day classrooms in District 7 used Creative Curriculum. **Next steps.** All districts reported that more or expanded resources and services are needed (especially for additional full-day classrooms, teacher training, and field trips and other activities), as is increased communication between the county First Steps office and the school district.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in April 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants of up to \$3,000 were awarded to 18 child care providers. **Key activities.** The grants were to be used to improve the quality of care and to begin the process of advancing in licensure/accreditation; information sessions were provided to grantees on the levels of licensure/accreditation. All of the grantees used their funds to purchase materials and supplies. **Next steps.** Next year, more support in grant writing will be provided to applicants, the mentoring component will be expanded, and the program will make an effort to identify and recruit the county's child care providers that are most in need of improvement.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to eight children from six families in Marion County in 2002.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers & Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? Three programs that combined the Parents as Teachers (PAT) and Parent Child Home (PCH) models were implemented in Marion County School Districts 1, 2, and 7. **Start date.** The programs in Districts 1 and 7 began in January 2002; the program in District 2 began in February 2002. **Number of families.** Across the three programs, 100 families were served. **Population served.** Targeted participants in all districts were families who lived at or below 200 percent of the poverty level, who received aid through DSS/DHEC, and who had high rates of several other risk factors. District 7 targeted young Hispanic mothers in particular. **Key activities.** In District 1, parent educators conducted two home visits per

month. In Districts 2 and 7, parent educators conducted biweekly, 30-minute home visits. In all three districts, staff also conducted developmental screenings and made referrals to local services or resources. **Next steps.** Districts 1 and 2 hope to expand so that other unserved, eligible families can participate. District 7 suggested that home visitors should receive more training on how to make referrals for clients.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

The biggest accomplishment in Marion County was actually implementing the strategies. Priorities for the future are to improve the quality of child care and to foster cooperation between the child care community and schools. Another priority is to address the issues of the poor economy and joblessness in Marion County. One way to do that is to help more families be able to afford child care. Another way is to increase the quality of child care and other early childhood programming, which might, in the long run, attract more industry to the area.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹	
<u>Number of Children</u>		
Under age 3	1,200	
Under age 6	2,311	
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>		
White only, non-Hispanic	38.3%	
Black only, non-Hispanic	54.5%	
Other, non-Hispanic	6.2%	
Hispanic	1.0%	
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>		
Total number of families	1,732	
Married couple family	50.6%	
Single householder	49.4%	
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	66.4%	
<u>4K Participation</u>		
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	43.9%	
	Poor children < age 6 (1999)	33.9%
	Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	17.7%
	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	77.9%
	<u>Immunization</u>	
	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	2.0%
	<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
	Total number of births	434
	Nonmarital births	56.5%
	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	30.6%
	Births to mothers < age 18	8.5%
	Nonmarital and no diploma	24.4%
	Low birthweight	13.4%
	Inadequate prenatal care	34.6%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

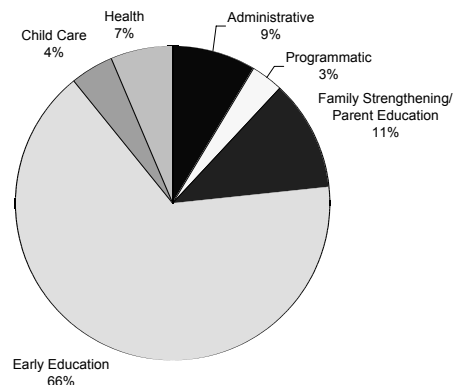
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

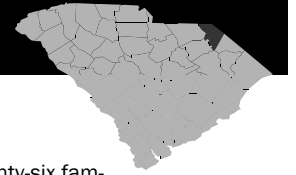
First Steps Strategies in Marlboro County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$497,253, the Marlboro County Partnership spent 66 percent on early education and 11 percent on family strengthening/parent education. The Partnership spent 9 percent on administrative functions and met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$215 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$637 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funds enabled the Marlboro County School District to open one new full-day 4K classroom, while maintaining four full-day classrooms that would otherwise have been reduced to half-day due to budget cuts. **Start date.** The classrooms began in August 2001. **Number of children.** A total of 107 children were served. **Population served.** The classrooms served at-risk children; risk factors included low screening measure (DIAL-R) scores and identified disabilities. **Program model.** The classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum. **Next steps.** Future plans include maintaining current classrooms, adding one additional full-day classroom, strengthening linkages with local child care providers and Head Start, adding and improving age-appropriate playground equipment, and working toward implementing child assessments that complement the goals and objectives of the program.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. A Summer Readiness program lasting four weeks began on June 2, 2002. **Number of children.** A total of 60 children were served in four classrooms. **Population served.** This program served at-risk children. Children were assessed and referred by their kindergarten teachers using 22 criteria, such as receiving free or reduced lunch, having a speech problem, and exhibiting behavioral problems. **Next steps.** In the future, the program will try to enhance parent involvement.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start Date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded beginning in March 2002. **Number of grantees.** Seven grants were awarded in the amount of \$3,000 each. Five of the grantees were private child care providers and two were Head Start centers; four were licensed and three were ABC Enhanced. **Key activities.** Four grantees used their grants to engage in professional development, two purchased playground equipment, and four purchased computers. **Next steps.** In the future, the program will be promoted well in advance of the application deadline, more time will be allowed for submitting applications, and applicants will be provided with more assistance in completing the applications. Additionally, program planners will place a greater emphasis on staff development, rather than simply purchasing materials.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to two children from two families in Marlboro County in 2002.

■ Family Strengthening

Parenting Skills Home Visitation

Extended or new program? A new home visitation program that used the Effective Black Parenting Program model was implemented in Marlboro County. **Start date.** The program

began in May 2002. **Number of families.** Twenty-six families enrolled in the program. **Population served.** The program served single parents, teen parents, and/or first-time parents. **Key activities.** Two 30-minute home visits that focused on parenting skills were scheduled with each family every month. The first several visits were used to build rapport, have permission letters signed, and administer a developmental assessment of the children.

■ Health

Postpartum Assessment

Extended or new program? A new program through which postpartum mothers and their infants were assessed was implemented in Marlboro County. **Number of families.** Six families participated. **Population served.** The program served postpartum mothers and their infants. **Key activities.** The program consisted of a single visit to assess mothers' and infants' needs.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Marlboro County's Executive Director, a major accomplishment was the amount of support for the local school district that First Steps funds allowed. The funding allowed the County Partnership to enhance the quality of the county's early education. In the future, the Partnership plans to further enhance the 4K and Summer Readiness programs. They also plan to focus on children's early literacy and to foster parent involvement.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>
Under age 3 252	Poor children < age 6 (1999) 32.3%
Under age 6 498	Very poor children < age 6 (1999) 15.3%
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>
White only, non-Hispanic 25.9%	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001) 71.5%
Black only, non-Hispanic 69.7%	<u>Immunization</u>
Other, non-Hispanic 3.2%	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized 3.0%
Hispanic 1.2%	<u>Birth-Risk</u>
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	Total number of births 96
Total number of families 377	Nonmarital births 54.2%
Married couple family 55.4%	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas 18.8%
Single householder 44.6%	Births to mothers < age 18 6.3%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force 72.5%	Nonmarital and no diploma 16.7%
<u>4K Participation</u>	Low birthweight 16.7%
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ² 51.7%	Inadequate prenatal care 35.4%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

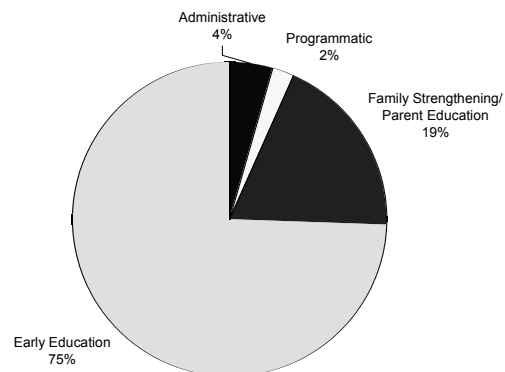
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

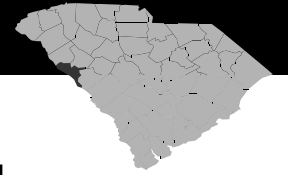
First Steps Strategies in McCormick County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships ✓ Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$350,427, the McCormick County Partnership spent 75 percent on early education and 19 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 5 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$704 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$2,276 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

3-4K

Extended or new program? A new 3-4K program was implemented in McCormick County. **Start date.** The classroom began in August 2001, but 2001-2002 was the second year of the program's operation. **Number of children.** Eleven children were served in one full-day classroom. **Population served.** The program served three- and four-year-old children with low screening measure (DIAL-R/DIAL-3) scores, delayed development in any area of school readiness, low language levels, identified disabilities, or referrals from collaborating agencies. The children came from homes experiencing poverty, low parent education, unemployment, high stress and family functioning problems including violence or poor parenting skills.

Program model. The full-day classroom used the High/Scope curriculum.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The Summer Readiness program in McCormick County lasted six weeks. **Number of children.** The program served 11 children; they were the same children enrolled in the year-long 3-4K program (see above). **Program model.** The High/Scope curriculum was used in one full-day classroom.

■ Child Care

Funding to Hire Caregivers

Start date. The only child care center in McCormick County was built prior to the receipt of First Steps funding, but due to a lack of funding, the program never got started. In February 2001, First Steps funds were used to hire four certified caregivers. **Number of children.** Nine infants and ten toddlers were served.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to enhance an existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) program in McCormick County. A coordinator, an outreach parent educator, and two home visitors were hired. **Number of families.** A total of 95 families were served. **Population served.** Families with children between the ages of zero and five received home visits. **Key activities.** The strategy combined a home visitation program that used the PAT model with a mobile classroom containing adult education materials, as well as a library story hour for young children.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to McCormick County's Executive Director, the County Partnership's biggest accomplishment so far has been increasing the amount of collaboration among the counties' agencies. Collaboration existed before First Steps, but since the initiative's implementation, collaboration has been more effective and smooth. Priorities for the future of First Steps in the county include extending programs to outlying rural areas, as well as expanding the availability of child care.

Newberry County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>
Under age 3	Poor children < age 6 (1999)
Under age 6	Very poor children < age 6 (1999)
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>
White only, non-Hispanic	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)
Black only, non-Hispanic	
Other, non-Hispanic	<u>Immunization</u>
Hispanic	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	<u>Birth-Risk</u>
Total number of families	Total number of births
Married couple family	Nonmarital births
Single householder	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas
	Births to mothers < age 18
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	Nonmarital and no diploma
	Low birthweight
<u>4K Participation</u>	Inadequate prenatal care
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

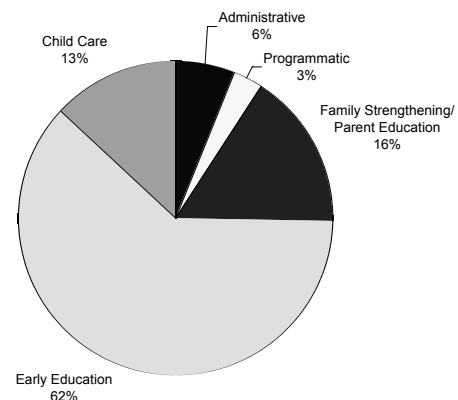
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

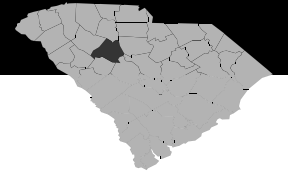
First Steps Strategies in Newberry County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$511,457, the Newberry County Partnership spent 62 percent on early education and 16 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 7 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$184 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$655 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Three new full-day classrooms were added to existing 4K programs in Newberry County. **Start date.** The classrooms began in August 2001. **Number of children.** The classrooms served a total of 63 children. **Population served.** The program served children with low screening measure (DIAL-3) scores and other characteristics that put them at risk of not being ready for school (e.g., disabilities; behavior problems; developmental delays; family characteristics such as poverty, living with a parent who is single, young, or has a low level of education; or referral from another agency). **Program model.** All three classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum. **Next Steps.** Plans for the future are to continue the existing classes, explore the possibility of obtaining outside funding for one additional class, and to provide additional High/Scope training for classroom staff in order to maintain quality.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. A four-week summer readiness program began on June 3, 2002. **Number of children.** The program served 65 children in seven half-day classrooms. **Population served.** Children who were not ready for first grade were targeted, based on South Carolina Readiness Assessment (SCRA) scores and their 5K teachers' judgment. Many of the students were eligible for free or reduced lunch, and some were ESL students. **Program model.** The program used multiple models, such as Saxon Phonics, Saxon Math, and the High/Scope curriculum.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in July 2001. **Number of grantees.** Eighteen child care providers were accepted to receive \$3,500 grants; however, two grantees dropped out before receiving the full grant amount. **Key activities.** Grants were awarded in the form of equipment or materials that the child care providers chose from a catalog. **Next steps.** The plan for the future of the program is to recruit an additional five child care providers in the county who did not choose to become involved during the program's first year.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funds enabled an existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) program to hire three full-time and two part-time parent educators, as well as a Spanish translator. **Start date.** The program began in September 2001. **Number of families.** First Steps funds allowed 128 families to be served. **Population served.** Any family with a child between the ages of zero and three was eligible for the program. **Key activities.** Each family received a one-hour home visit per month. Monthly group meetings were also held.

■ Other

Library Program

Start date. A library program began in September 2001. **Number of children.** The program served 342 children in 22 child care centers. **Population served.** The program was designed to serve all four-year-old children in child care in Newberry County. **Key activities.** The program consisted of two 30-minute visits by a children's librarian to each of 22 child care providers. The librarian helped child care providers conduct story times, utilizing developmentally appropriate interactive reading techniques.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

Newberry County's Executive Director said that a major accomplishment was the implementation of the library program. Through the program, over 300 children were served and 3,150 books were given away to families. The Library Program also received the 2002 Early Childhood Advocate First Steps award. In addition, the Executive Director deemed the 4K program and the child care quality enhancement initiative to be equally successful. In the future, the County Partnership would like to establish a postpartum health program and to create a strategic plan for the improvement of child care.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	2,339
Under age 6	4,801
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	81.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	11.3%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.9%
Hispanic	4.7%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	3,634
Married couple family	71.9%
Single householder	28.1%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	63.1%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	38.3%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	17.6%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	7.1%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	46.8%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	8.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	768
Nonmarital births	30.5%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	26.8%
Births to mothers < age 18	5.7%
Nonmarital and no diploma	14.6%
Low birthweight	8.1%
Inadequate prenatal care	25.8%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

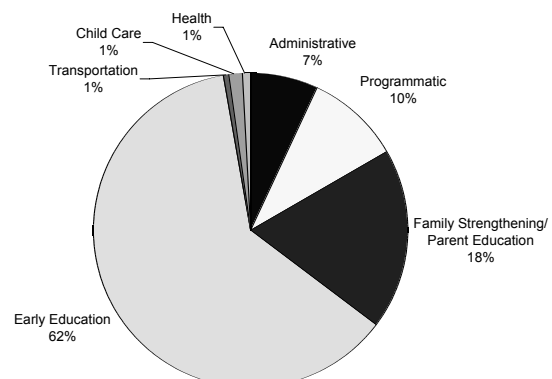
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

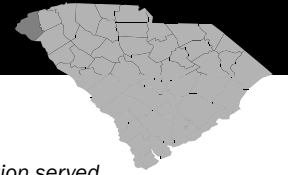
First Steps Strategies in Oconee County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$592,510, the Oconee County Partnership spent 62 percent on early education and 18 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 10 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership exceeded its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$123 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$707 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to implement new 4K programs in three schools. **Start date.** The programs began in August 2001. **Number of children.** A total of 63 children were enrolled in three full-day classrooms.

Program model. The classrooms used either the High/Scope Curriculum or Creative Curriculum. **Next steps.** A major goal of the initiative is to have all 4K classrooms achieve NAEYC accreditation. Plans for the future include collaborating with Head Start to provide appropriate services for children, increasing collaboration with First Steps-supported nurses, and changing screening criteria to consider multiple risk factors, particularly ones that arose frequently in screening during the first year (e.g., ESL and being raised by grandparents).

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The Oconee County ESL Summer Readiness program began on May 29, 2002 and ran for a four-week period. **Number of children.** The program served ten children. The program planned to enroll 20 children but did not reach that goal due to time constraints. **Population served.** The program served four- and five-year-old Hispanic children with low levels of English language proficiency. **Program model.** One half-day classroom met for four days per week. The program used Creative Curriculum, and the goal was to provide a language-rich preschool taught by Spanish-speaking teachers.

■ Child Care

Caregiver Training

Start date. Oconee County First Steps worked with the School District to open their existing early childhood training program to the child care community. The program began in June 2001. **Number of sessions.** Five sessions were offered each quarter, with an additional session in June 2002. The sessions lasted six hours and were offered on weeknights or weekends. **Attendance.** The total attendance across all five sessions was 170 caregivers (this count is duplicated—some of the caregivers attended more than one session, so fewer than 170 caregivers attended the sessions). **Topics.** The training sessions were based on the Creative Curriculum model and included sessions on brain development, infant and toddler development, and classroom management. The South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) certified the training so that child care providers could more easily attain their DSS-mandated child care training hours. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include developing a child care strategy for Oconee County that includes additional components.

■ Family Strengthening

Multiple Strategies

Extended or new program? A new home visitation program called Principles of Parenting Successfully (POPS) was implemented by the Oconee Department of Social Services. **Start date.** The program began in January 2002. **Number of fami-**

lies. The program served 53 families. **Population served.** The program served at-risk families with children between the ages of zero and five. **Key activities.** Two curricula were incorporated into the program—Parents as Teachers (PAT) and Systematic Training of Parents (STEP). Program activities included at least one home visit per week (number based on families' needs), referrals to other resources/agencies, transportation to health care services, respite child care, and group field trips.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Oconee County's Executive Director, a great accomplishment has been the Partnership Board's ability to engage the community and build collaborations within the county from the very beginning of their efforts. Because they started the right way—by engaging the community and collaborating with other agencies—the right programs were chosen and they were implemented well. The highest priority for the coming years is to reach as many children as possible to ensure that they are prepared for first grade.

Orangeburg County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	3,596
Under age 6	7,147
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	30.0%
Black only, non-Hispanic	66.1%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.4%
Hispanic	1.4%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	5,417
Married couple family	54.6%
Single householder	45.4%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	62.5%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	49.1%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	32.3%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	17.6%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	68.6%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	7.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	1,310
Nonmarital births	52.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	19.9%
Births to mothers < age 18	6.9%
Nonmarital and no diploma	15.3%
Low birthweight	14.3%
Inadequate prenatal care	35.6%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

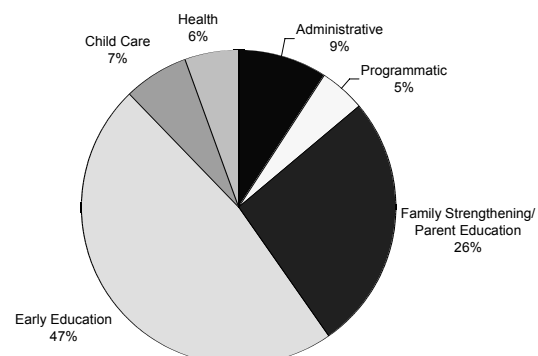
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

First Steps Strategies in Orangeburg County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$692,766, the Orangeburg County Partnership spent 47 percent on early education and 26 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 8 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$97 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$303 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? In School District 3, two half-day 4K classrooms were extended to full-day. In addition, existing programs in Districts 4 and 5 each added one full-day classroom. **Start date.** The classrooms in Districts 4 and 5 began in September 2001; the classrooms in District 3 began in October 2001. **Number of children.** Across the three districts, a total of 80 children were enrolled in full-day classrooms. **Population served.** For all districts, the target population was children already enrolled in half-day classes with low developmental assessment (DIAL R) scores, and/or other risk factors for not being ready for school. **Program model.** The four classrooms all used the High/Scope curriculum. **Next steps.** District 3's program will attempt to open more full-day classrooms, increase contact with parents, and implement assessments to measure child development over the school year. District 4's program may make changes to parent workshop activities according to parent input. In District 5, modifications will include additional staff development in literacy activities.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in March 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants of approximately \$3,000 were awarded to 15 child care providers to begin the process of becoming ABC Enhanced or NAEYC accredited. **Key activities.** Grantees purchased equipment and materials, made improvements in health and safety, and learned about and applied for ABC Enhancement or NAEYC accreditation. Two training sessions were held for the child care directors—one on how to best use First Steps money to improve their centers, the other on how to move their centers to the next level of licensure/accreditation. **Next steps.** In the future, the Executive Director will seek guidance from experts in the field of child care. In addition, meetings will be held for grantees to discuss their concerns and successes.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to 25 children from 17 families in Orangeburg County in 2002.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to expand existing PAT programs in School Districts 3, 4, and 5. **Start date.** First Steps funded parent educators began working with families in November 2001 in District 3; in January 2002 in District 4; and in December 2001 in District 5. **Key activities.** All of the programs offered developmental screenings, referrals, monthly group meetings, and home visits. Using literacy kits, handouts, and videotapes, the parent educators helped parents strengthen their parenting skills, increase their knowledge of child development, and enhance family literacy. In Districts 3 and 4, home visits lasted half an hour to 45 minutes; in District 5, visits lasted one hour.

Modified Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? A new program designed to deliver visits to mothers of newborns while still in the hospital was implemented in Orangeburg County. **Start date.** The program began in April 2002. **Population served.** All first-time parents were eligible for the service at the Regional Medical Center; most births in Orangeburg County are to single mothers. **Key activities.** New mothers received a single hospital visit. During the visit, the Parents as Teachers coordinator showed the new parent(s) the video "Making all the Difference," distributed "welcome baby" bags, informed parent(s) about their school district's parenting program (e.g., First Steps PAT programs in School Districts 3, 4, and 5), and emphasized the importance of the parents' role as their child's first teachers.

■ Health

Health Home Visits

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend an existing postpartum home visitation program. **Start date.** First Steps funded families were first served in March 2002. **Population served.** The families served were non-Medicaid and underinsured. **Key activities.** Families received a single home visit lasting between one and three hours. During the visit, the home visitor evaluated the mother and infant and made referrals for services.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

A major accomplishment in Orangeburg County was helping child care providers achieve a higher level of licensure/accreditation. In addition, the 4K and PAT programs were very successful in providing services to children, however the County Partnership would like to improve parental involvement. An important priority for the future is to focus on child care quality enhancement because First Steps funds can affect many children ages zero through five by improving the county's child care.

Pickens County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹	
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>	
Under age 3	Poor children < age 6 (1999)	14.0%
Under age 6	Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	6.2%
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	36.0%
Black only, non-Hispanic		
Other, non-Hispanic	<u>Immunization</u>	
Hispanic	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	-
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of families	Total number of births	1,329
Married couple family	Nonmarital births	25.3%
Single householder	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	23.3%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	Births to mothers < age 18	5.1%
<u>4K Participation</u>	Nonmarital and no diploma	11.4%
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	Low birthweight	7.1%
	Inadequate prenatal care	19.1%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

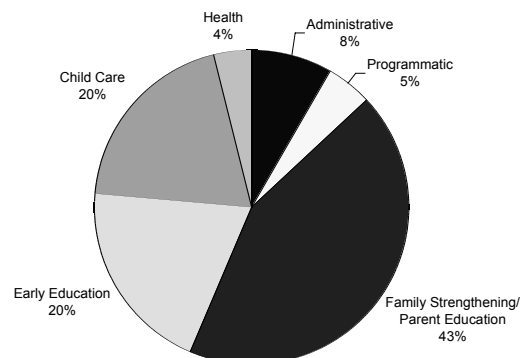
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

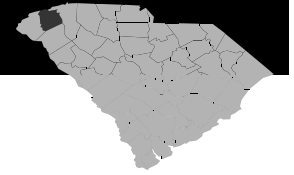
First Steps Strategies in Pickens County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home ✓ Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$1,113,455, the Pickens County Partnership spent 43 percent on family strengthening/parent education and 20 percent on early education. The Partnership spent 8 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions and met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$139 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$977 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? A new 4K program was implemented; one full-day classroom was opened. **Start date.** The program began in August 2001. **Number of children.** Twenty children were served. **Population served.** The children in the class were determined to be at-risk based on low screening measure (DIAL 3) scores, low parent education levels, and having young or single parents. **Program model.** The classroom used the High/Scope curriculum.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The Summer Readiness program in Pickens County lasted for two weeks during the summer of 2002.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in April 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants were awarded to four child care providers. Grants averaged around \$3,500. **Key activities.** Grants were used to pay NAEYC fees and purchase materials and equipment. The county's First Steps staff met with the grantees on several occasions to prioritize needs, approve items to be purchased, and provide guidance in moving to the next level of quality.

Caregiver Training

Start date. Pickens County First Steps contracted with Clemson University to develop a Child Care Leadership and Training Institute (CCLTI) to improve child care providers' access to training and professional development. Courses began in January 2002. **Number of sessions.** CCLTI worked with T.E.A.C.H. and Tri-County Technical College to set up two ECD 101 classes, as well as a Level 2 class for caregivers to obtain continuing education credits. **Attendance.** A total of 34 caregivers completed an ECD 101 class (which consisted of 16 weekly sessions lasting three hours each). Twenty-three caregivers completed the Level 2 class (which consisted of four six-hour sessions).

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? A new Parents as Teachers (PAT) program was implemented in Pickens County. **Start date.** The program began in June 2001. **Population served.** The program served teen parents with children between the ages of zero and six. Parents were in need of a GED or a High School diploma and were below 200 percent of the poverty level. **Key activities.** One parent educator visited each family for about an hour every week. One-hour workshops were also provided every week to cover topics such as car seats, first aid, CPR, and child care options.

Family Literacy

Extended or new program? A new Family Literacy Center was opened in Pickens County using First Steps funding. **Start date.** The Family Literacy Center opened in April 2002. **Number of families.** About 20 parents participated in classes at the Center. **Key activities.** The Center provided ESL and GED classes for parents as well as parenting classes. Three-hour adult education classes were provided three times per week. The parenting classes were offered for three hours per week. Child care was provided on site while adults attended the classes.

Multiple Strategies

Extended or new program? The Parents as Teacher (PAT) program was added to an existing Even Start family literacy program in Pickens County. **Start date.** The program started in August 2001. **Population served.** The program served families in poverty with children between the ages of zero and five. **Key activities.** Each family received one home visit per week that lasted about an hour. Workshops were also provided.

■ Health

Free Prescriptions

Extended or new program? A new program that provided free prescription medications to families was implemented in Pickens County. **Start date.** The program began in April 2002. **Number of families.** Five families were served. **Population served.** Families served were at or below 250 percent of the poverty level and were ineligible for Medicaid. **Key activities.** The program purchased and stocked medications, which were distributed via the Free Clinic. Area doctors were informed of the program and asked to make appropriate referrals.

Distribution of Parenting/Health Manuals

Extended or new program? A new program that distributed parenting/health manuals was implemented in Pickens County. **Population served.** The program was targeted to all families with children ages five and younger. **Key activities.** 1,200 copies of *Caring for Your Baby and Young Child: Birth to Age 5* were purchased; books are being distributed to parents at three sites: Easley Pediatrics, Clemson Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, and Pickens County Health Department.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to the Executive Director in Pickens County, First Steps has been able to meet the needs of four- and five-year-olds directly by offering 4K and Summer Readiness programs. It will be important in the future to stay focused on the long-term goal of improving the school readiness of the county's children. In addition, they will continue to improve their efforts to engage the hardest to reach families in the county.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
Number of Children	
Under age 3	12,190
Under age 6	24,424
Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6	
White only, non-Hispanic	39.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	52.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.4%
Hispanic	3.4%
Families with children < Age 6	
Total number of families	18,426
Married couple family	63.5%
Single householder	36.5%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	66.3%
4K Participation	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	29.5%
Poverty	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	19.6%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	10.0%
Medicaid Eligibility	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	46.0%
Immunization	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	10.0%
Birth-Risk	
Total number of births	4,460
Nonmarital births	40.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	13.8%
Births to mothers < age 18	4.1%
Nonmarital and no diploma	11.1%
Low birthweight	10.9%
Inadequate prenatal care	24.2%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

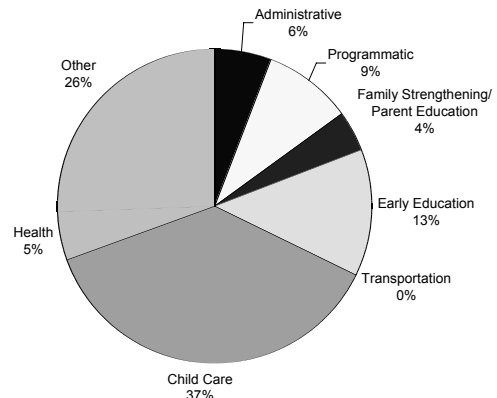
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

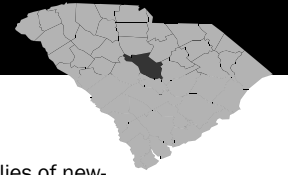
First Steps Strategies in Richland County Based on PERs

4K	Child Care	Health
Half Day	Quality Enhancement Grants	Postpartum Home Visits
Full Day	✓ Caregiver Training	✓ Other Strategies
Other	✓ Scholarships	
	✓ Other	
Summer Readiness	Family Strengthening	Other
Any Program	(✓) Parents as Teachers	Transportation
	Parent Child Home	Public Awareness
	Family Literacy	✓ Library Program
	ESL	✓ Other Strategies
	Other or Multiple Strategies	

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$2,590,048, the Richland County Partnership spent 37 percent on child care strategies. The Partnership spent 6 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions and met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$106 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$556 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Child Care

Caregiver Training

Start date. A child care training program began in April 2002. **Number of sessions.** One session was provided. **Attendance.** A total of 143 caregivers attended the session. **Topics.** The session provided an overview of the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS).

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to seven children from six families in Richland County in 2002.

Technical Assistance

Start date. A child care technical assistance program began in August 2001. The strategy included technical assistance site visits, information sessions, and the purchase of materials. **Number of participants.** Forty-three center-based child care providers and 11 family-based providers took part in the program. **Key activities.** Five technical assistants (TAs) hired using First Steps funds and five consultants from Interfaith Child Care Resource and Referral conducted weekly site visits to participating child care providers. The visits lasted one to two hours; the TA/consultant observed and participated in the classroom, and helped to plan purchases of educational or health/safety materials. In addition, ten information-sharing sessions were offered. Topics of the sessions included the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS), playgrounds, temperament, and health/safety. The program also included funds for caregivers to work to attain their Child Development Associate Credential.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Start date. A Parents as Teachers (PAT) program was in the planning stage in fiscal year 2001-02. **Next steps.** Richland County First Steps plans to implement PAT in the next fiscal year. Six staff have been hired and trained.

■ Health

Multiple Programs

Extended or new program? Four health programs utilized First Steps funding in Richland County. The Breathe Easy asthma program and the Community Health Nurse program were extensions of existing programs; Health Coordination and the LINC Nutrition Partnership were new programs. **Start date.** The Breathe Easy asthma program began in January 2001; The Community Health Nurse program began in April 2002; The Health Coordination program began in July 2001; and the LINC Nutrition Partnership began in May 2002. **Number of families.** Breathe Easy served 56 families; the Community Health Nurse program served four families and seven child care providers; and the LINC Nutrition Partnership served seven families. **Population served.** All of the programs targeted at-risk populations, however each program had its own criteria for identifying risk status. For example, the Breathe Easy program served families of children ages five and under with asthma. The

Community Health Nurse program served families of newborns that were not eligible for home visits through Medicaid. **Key activities.** The Breathe Easy program conducted home visits to deliver educational materials to families about asthma. The Community Health Nurse program conducted one postpartum home visit to families and consulted with child care programs to help them with health care issues. The Health Coordination program conducted monthly meetings of health service providers, during which referrals were shared, networking took place, and upcoming events were discussed. The LINC Nutrition Partnership conducted visits to families.

■ Other

Library Program

Start date. A library program began in February 2002. **Key activities.** There were two activities. The first was to establish book collections in child care programs and to train child care staff in methods to read aloud. The second was to conduct workshops for parents and child care providers.

Resources for Readiness

Start Date. Resources for Readiness, a program that gave community organizations start-up money either to begin a new program or to expand a program that provided services for children and families, began in August 2001. **Number of participants.** Richland County First Steps collaborated with 34 community organizations. **Population Served.** Children ages zero to five and their families were served. **Key activities.** Richland County First Steps contracted the Central Carolina Community Foundation (CCCF) to help summarize the findings from the program.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Richland County's Executive Director, the county's major accomplishment was generating the community's enthusiasm about early education. They were able to convey to families that education needs to begin at an early age, namely ages zero to three. In the future, the County Partnership would like to reach even more children and families and to enhance their child care strategies and PAT program.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u> Under age 3 753 Under age 6 1,484	<u>Poverty</u> Poor children < age 6 (1999) 24.9% Very poor children < age 6 (1999) 8.8%
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u> White only, non-Hispanic 52.8% Black only, non-Hispanic 34.8% Other, non-Hispanic 1.1% Hispanic 11.3%	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u> Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001) 56.4%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u> Total number of families 1,093 Married couple family 66.7% Single householder 33.3%	<u>Immunization</u> Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized 4.0%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force 61.8%	<u>Birth-Risk</u> Total number of births 257 Nonmarital births 45.1% Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas 31.9% Births to mothers < age 18 9.7% Nonmarital and no diploma 21.0% Low birthweight 9.3% Inadequate prenatal care 35.0%
<u>4K Participation</u> Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ² 39.2%	

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

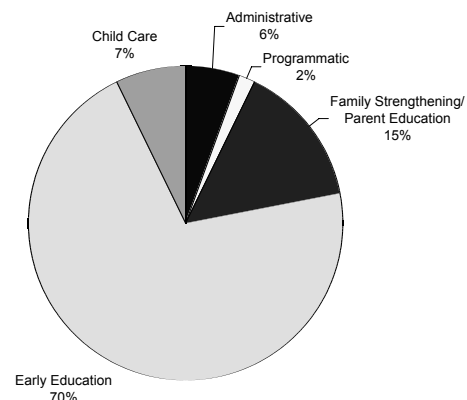
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

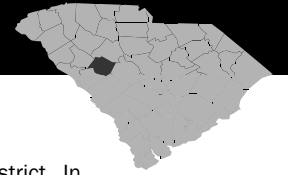
First Steps Strategies in Saluda County Based on PERs

4K Half Day ✓ Full Day Other	Child Care ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other	Health ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness ✓ Any Program	Family Strengthening ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies	Other Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$399,253, the Saluda County Partnership spent 70 percent on early education and 15 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 7 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$269 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$1,100 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Six half-day 4K classrooms in two schools were extended to full-day classrooms using First Steps funds. **Start dates?** The classrooms began in August 2001. **Number of children.** A total of 123 children were served. **Population served.** The program served children with low screening measure (DIAL-3) scores. **Program model.** The classrooms used the High/Scope curriculum. **Next Steps.** Plans include carrying out more advertising (e.g., posting and handing out fliers in grocery stores and other locations) and obtaining referrals through the county's Parents as Teachers program. In addition, more field trips, manipulatives, and books will be added to the classrooms.

Summer Readiness

Length of Program. A summer readiness program that lasted three weeks ran in June 2002. **Number of children.** A total of 35 children participated in four full-day classrooms. **Population served.** The selection of children was based on end of year school records and teachers' assessments. **Program model.** A teacher-created curriculum was used in the classrooms.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in January 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants ranging from \$1,439 to \$2,500 were awarded to nine child care providers. **Key activities.** The grantees used the grants to purchase materials and supplies. Each grantee received at least two technical assistance site visits within three months of receiving their grants. **Next steps.** In the future, training will be provided for child care staff, and they will also be encouraged to participate in T.E.A.C.H.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? An existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) program with a focus on serving Spanish-speaking families was extended using First Steps funding. **Start date.** First Steps funded families were first served in January 2002. **Number of families.** First Steps funds permitted the program to serve 11 families. **Population served.** The program served at-risk, low literacy families with children between the ages of zero and three. Particular attention was given to Spanish-speaking families. **Key activities.** Parent educators made 90-minute home visits twice a month. Group meetings (one in English, one in Spanish) were scheduled for every other month, and lasted 90 minutes each. In addition, twice a month (once in English, once in Spanish), book-reading activities for parents and their children (PACT time) were made available at the Saluda District One Parent Resource Center. **Next steps.** The program plans to develop a screening instrument that will be a rating scale of risk factors so that they can identify the highest risk families and move them to the top of the waiting list. They also plan to conduct recruitment during kindergarten registration at Saluda Elementary School, which has the highest per-

centage of Spanish speaking children in the district. In addition, they plan to identify strategies to encourage community resources to make referrals to the PAT program.

■ Health

Postpartum Home Visitation

Extended or new program? First Steps funds were used to extend an existing DHEC postpartum/newborn home visitation program. **Start date.** The program began in May 2002. **Number of families.** The program served five families in a one-month period. **Population served.** The population served was new mothers without Medicaid or other insurance, and/or new mothers whose infants were discharged from the Self Regional Healthcare Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. **Key activities.** The main activity of the program was a single home visit, which lasted two and a half hours, by a registered nurse. The nurse assessed the health status of the postpartum mother and newborn, and also evaluated the nutritional, developmental, emotional, and educational needs of the family.

■ Other

Library Program

Start date. A library program began in February 2002. **Number of participants.** The program served 20 parents and caregivers of children ages zero to five, nine Head Start/4K programs, and eight child care providers (home-based and centers), thereby serving a total of 200 children. **Key activities.** Program activities included monthly story times for pre-school children and their parents and quarterly workshops.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to Saluda County's Executive Director, one of the county's major accomplishments was the 4K program. Parents felt that their children made significant gains by attending 4K. Another highlight for the county was the Summer Readiness program; the Executive Director believed that children excelled in the program because of the one-on-one attention they received in small classes.

Spartanburg County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	9,918
Under age 6	20,108
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	67.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	23.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.7%
Hispanic	4.5%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	15,173
Married couple family	69.7%
Single householder	30.3%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	63.3%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	29.6%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	15.5%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	7.8%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	43.3%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	9.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	3,344
Nonmarital births	30.7%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	25.5%
Births to mothers < age 18	5.7%
Nonmarital and no diploma	13.5%
Low birthweight	9.3%
Inadequate prenatal care	27.9%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

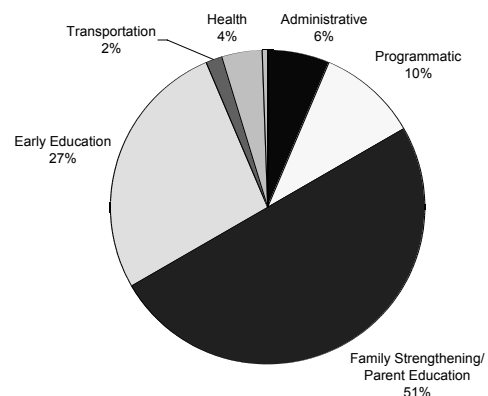
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

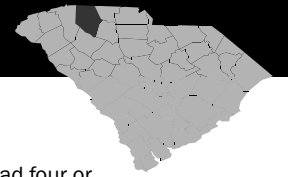
First Steps Strategies in Spartanburg County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home ✓ Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits ✓ Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$2,695,099, the Spartanburg County Partnership spent 51 percent on family strengthening and 27 percent on early education. The Partnership spent 7 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$134 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$867 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

New or extended program? First Steps Funds were used to extend an existing 4K program. **Number of children.** Five full-day, and four half-day 4K classrooms were established, serving 194 children. **Population served.** Children who scored low on a developmental screening instrument (DIAL-3 or DIAL-R) were served. **Program model.** The programs used a variety of curriculum models; among the models used was the High/Scope curriculum, adapted to meet the needs of children within the county.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. First Steps funded a four-week summer readiness program that began in June 2002. **Number of children.** The summer readiness program served 247 children in 19 classrooms. **Population served.** The program served children transitioning to first grade identified as at risk for not being ready for first grade. **Program model.** This program adopted Greenville County's summer readiness program (please see the Greenville County Profile for more information).

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were first awarded in July 2001. **Number of grantees.** Eighteen child care providers received quality enhancement grants averaging \$3,571. **Key activities.** Grantees purchased equipment and supplies, and participated in staff development activities.

Caregiver Training

Start date. A child care training program began in July 2001. **Number of sessions.** DSS-approved presenters provided 29 training sessions lasting two hours each at various locations for child care staff, in order to help them attain the 15 hours required for DSS licensing. Some caregivers also participated in distance learning sessions for child care staff, broadcast from the National Head Start Center. **Attendance.** The total attendance across all DSS sessions was 415, with staff members from 112 different child care facilities each attending one or more sessions. Total attendance was 58 for the distance learning sessions. **Topics.** Sessions covered four content areas: curriculum, child development, health and safety, and administration.

T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships

Start date. Child care staff were awarded scholarships in July 2001 to participate in the T.E.A.C.H. program. **Number of participants.** Ninety-two scholarships were awarded.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

New or extended program? A new Parents as Teachers (PAT) program was implemented. **Start date.** The program began in July 2001. **Number of families.** A total of 344 families received PAT services. **Population served.** The program served

families with children ages zero to three who had four or more identified risk factors. **Key activities.** Activities included at least two one-hour home visits a month, plus one group meeting a month. Parents were also referred to other community resources, as needed. Toys and books were left with families after home visits

Family Literacy (Kenan Model)

New or extended program? First Steps funding was used to open three family literacy sites in Spartanburg County. This program extended existing adult education programs by adding child care, parenting classes, and PACT time. **Start date.** The Family Literacy program began in August 2001. **Number of families.** With First Steps funding, the program served 107 families. **Population served.** The program served parents and/or caregivers of children ages zero to five with low literacy and high stress factors. **Key activities.** The sites used the Kenan Family Literacy model and were open four days a week (for four hours/day) and two evenings a week (for three hours/night).

■ Health

Home Based Health Services

Extended or new program? This program was new to the county, but was cancelled after eight months because there was no agreement to allow nurses to recruit families in a local hospital. **Start date.** This program began in September 2001. **Number of families.** This program served 158 families. **Population served.** Non-Medicaid eligible families with newborns were provided services. **Key activities.** Before being cancelled, program activities included providing health examinations and assessments, and providing health education. The intent was to provide seven visits—one visit for each newborn and planned follow-up visits at six months, one year, two years, three years, four years, and five years.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

The Spartanburg County Executive Director indicated that First Steps programs made a difference in the lives of the county's children and families, helping many parents to make gains personally and with their children. Publicity efforts such as putting in place 40 billboards (ten in Spanish) across the county were very effective. In addition, the county First Steps office hosted a child care conference and improved coordination within the child care community. The County Partnership plans to sustain its programs and to continue to work with the school districts to expand upon accomplishments.

Sumter County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	4,741
Under age 6	9,370
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	44.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	49.9%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.3%
Hispanic	2.5%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	6,848
Married couple family	63.7%
Single householder	36.3%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	63.5%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	34.9%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	23.3%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	12.7%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	55.9%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	5.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	1,744
Nonmarital births	46.7%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	20.4%
Births to mothers < age 18	6.8%
Nonmarital and no diploma	16.4%
Low birthweight	10.0%
Inadequate prenatal care	38.1%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

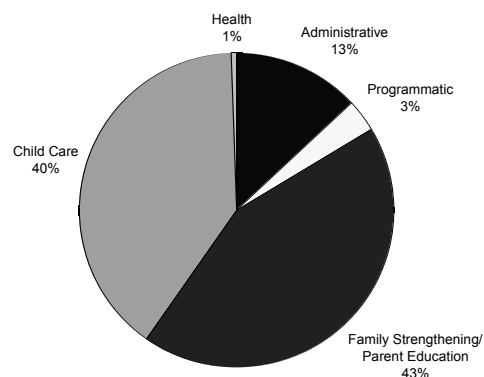
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

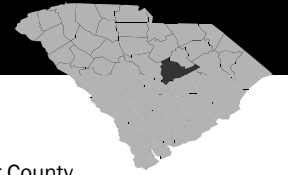
First Steps Strategies in Sumter County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day Full Day Other 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships Other 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
<p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home ✓ Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$686,463, the Sumter County Partnership spent 43 percent on family strengthening and 40 percent on child care strategies. The Partnership spent 16 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$73 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$322 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. First Steps quality enhancement grants were first awarded to child care providers in February 2002. This program was an extension of the Success By 6/Bank of America Child Care Quality Improvement program begun in 2001.

Number of grantees. With First Steps funds, grants were awarded to 27 child care providers. **Key activities.** First Steps staff worked with grantees to develop quality improvement plans. Grantees purchased needed materials and equipment, and received on-site technical assistance. In addition, 22 grantees were paired with NAEYC accredited child care providers who served as mentors. The grantees visited their mentoring sites to observe a classroom for a minimum of one and a half hours. Success By 6 arranged for training sessions on topics such as CPR/First Aid, networking, playgrounds, and food service. **Next steps.** The program would like to establish a fully-funded Child Care Resource and Referral program.

Child Care Scholarships

Number of scholarships. Child care scholarships were awarded to 33 children from 23 families in Sumter County in 2002.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

New or extended program? Two school districts received First Steps support for Parents as Teachers programs; the program in District 2 was new, while the program in District 17 was an extension of an existing program. District 2 provided seven parent educators and District 17 provided six parent educators.

Start date. District 2 parent educators began seeing clients in February 2002; in District 17, clients were seen beginning in March 2002. **Number of families.** A total of 235 families were served by the two programs. **Population served.** The program in District 2 targeted families identified as being at-risk based on parent characteristics (e.g., single parents, first time parents, teen parents, low income parents, parents without high school diplomas). The program in District 17 was open to all interested families. **Key activities.** In District 2, seven parent educators, following the PAT curriculum, conducted 90-minute home visits twice a month, developed plans for each family based on initial assessments, and provided referrals and services. In District 17, six parent educators also conducted 90-minute home visits twice per month and helped parents understand their responsibilities in their children's early education and home-school liaison activities. In District 17, other activities were also described, including family education workshops offered monthly at several elementary schools, lending libraries with educational toys, tapes, books, and other resources; and parenting centers providing information on parenting skills, job skills and literacy skills. **Next steps.** District 2 plans to initiate group meetings for parents that focus on skill building and understanding child development.

Family Literacy

New or extended program? First Steps funds were used to develop a new family literacy program in Sumter County. **Start**

date. Beginning in February 2002, the Sumter County Adult/Community Education program provided GED, basic skills, parenting, technology, and job training classes to adults to address high levels of illiteracy, unemployment and crime in the county. **Number of families.** The program served 103 parents of young children. **Population served.** The program targeted parents facing a variety of barriers to success (e.g. limited education, poverty, unemployment). **Key activities.** Activities included Read to Your Child seminars to encourage reading as a family, provision of children's books to read at home, adult academic (i.e., basic skills, GED, high school diploma, and ESL) classes, and provision of vocational training opportunities and internships for participants passing a final evaluation. Families were also given books for children. The program offered transportation to activities and services at various times of the day.

■ Health

Postpartum Home Visits

Extended or new program? This was an extension of an existing DHEC postpartum home visitation program. **Start date.**

The program began in February 2002. **Number of families.** The program served 49 new mothers and their infants.

Population served. The target population was new mothers and their infants who were ineligible for Medicaid and who had household incomes between 185 percent and 250 percent of the poverty line. **Key activities.** Clinical assessments were conducted and referrals were made during one two-hour home visit, with follow-up as needed.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to the Sumter County First Steps Executive Director, the biggest accomplishment of First Steps in the county was addressing the identified needs of children. The programs implemented were comprehensive and addressed a variety of needs. Specifically, the Sumter County Adult/Community Education program was very successful in enhancing parenting skills. A priority for the future is to continue to work with child care providers to help them improve their quality. Another priority is to enhance collaboration within the county.

Union County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u> Under age 3 1,104 Under age 6 2,269	<u>Poverty</u> Poor children < age 6 (1999) 22.1% Very poor children < age 6 (1999) 10.1%
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u> White only, non-Hispanic 59.3% Black only, non-Hispanic 38.5% Other, non-Hispanic 1.5% Hispanic 0.7%	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u> Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001) 54.2%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u> Total number of families 1,764 Married couple family 58.7% Single householder 41.3%	<u>Immunization</u> Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized 1.0%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force 68.2%	<u>Birth-Risk</u> Total number of births 376 Nonmarital births 46.5% Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas 23.7% Births to mothers < age 18 6.4% Nonmarital and no diploma 18.1% Low birthweight 13.3% Inadequate prenatal care 29.0%
<u>4K Participation</u> Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ² 52.7%	

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

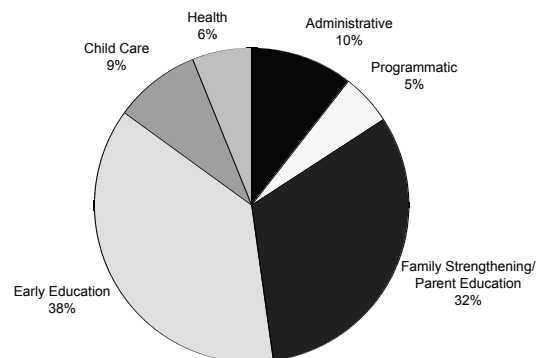
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

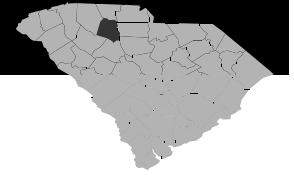
First Steps Strategies in Union County Based on PERs

4K Half Day ✓ Full Day Other	Child Care ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other	Health ✓ Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
Summer Readiness ✓ Any Program	Family Strengthening ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies	Other Transportation Public Awareness ✓ Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$510,432, the Union County Partnership spent 38 percent on early education and 32 percent on family strengthening/parent education. The Partnership spent 10 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions and met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$225 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$1,066 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Five half-day 4K classrooms in four schools were expanded to full-day in Union County. **Number of children.** This program enrolled 100 children across all classrooms. **Population served.** The programs served at-risk children with low scores on a developmental screening instrument, the DIAL-3. **Program model.** The program used the High/Scope curriculum model. **Next steps.** Plans for the future are to expand all half-day 4K classrooms to full-day, provided that resources are available.

Summer Readiness

Length of program. The summer readiness program began on June 3, 2002, and ran for four weeks, five half-days per week. **Number of children.** Thirty children participated in this program, which operated in four classrooms in four different elementary schools. **Population served.** The program was designed for children transitioning to first grade who were identified as being not ready for first grade, based on low SCRA scores, low scores on a developmental screening instrument (the DIAL-R), other indications of delayed development in any school readiness dimension, and teacher recommendations. **Program model.** This half-day summer readiness program used the High/Scope curriculum.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in November 2001. **Number of grantees.** Ten teachers from six child care centers participated in this program. **Key activities.** Ten teachers from six child care centers received scholarships to attend a High/Scope curriculum training program involving nine two-day sessions. Participating child care centers received \$1,500 grants for each teacher who completed the training program. Grantees used the money to purchase materials and supplies; High/Scope technical assistance was also provided.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? First Steps funding permitted the existing Family Resource Center, which had provided center-based and home visiting services, to hire four additional parent educators. **Start date.** This program began in August 2001. **Number of families.** First Steps funding permitted this program to serve an additional 120 families, bringing actual enrollment to 137. **Population served.** This program was open to any parents with children from birth to age seven who were interested in enrolling, although efforts were made to identify and recruit at-risk families. **Key activities.** The parent educators conducted 45-minute home visits with each family every week, taught parents how to work with children to improve school readiness, and provided literacy information. In addition, families had an option of coming to the center for additional time, and parenting workshops were held twice a month during the school year.

■ Health

Home Based Health Services

Extended or new program? Home-based health services (Resource Mothers) was a new program in Union County. **Start date.** The program began in February 2002. **Number of families.** This program provided services to 21 pregnant teenagers. **Population served.** The program served first-time pregnant teens, following them as they make the transition to parenthood. **Key activities.** Activities included training two lay community health workers (Resource Mothers), who provided mentoring and referrals as needed to teenagers during an average of two hours of contact each month, and providing education programs and activities for the mothers. Each teen mother received two hours of contact with community health workers per month. Monthly educational programs on topics such as nutrition and personal finances were also conducted.

■ Other

Library Program

Start date. This library program began in August 2001. **Number of preschool classes served.** The program provided storytelling services to 27 classes (approximately 400 children). **Population served.** Children ages zero to five enrolled in 27 preschool and child care programs across Union County received services. **Key activities.** Activities included weekly 30-minute story reading sessions in preschool classes, informing parents of library-based activities and programs, encouragement of early learning by providing items such as coloring books for children to take home, and library field trips.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

A major accomplishment in Union County was the extension of five 4K classrooms from half- to full-day. Other programs were also highly successful: the library strategy generated enthusiasm about literacy, and the Resource Mothers program successfully reached teen mothers. In the future, the County Partnership would like to continue to develop the programs that have already been implemented, as well as to implement new programs that were in the planning stages in fiscal year 2001-02.

Williamsburg County

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	
Under age 3	1,572
Under age 6	3,077
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	
White only, non-Hispanic	26.2%
Black only, non-Hispanic	71.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.1%
Hispanic	0.9%
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	
Total number of families	2,284
Married couple family	56.6%
Single householder	43.4%
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	60.6%
<u>4K Participation</u>	
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	21.7%
<u>Poverty</u>	
Poor children < age 6 (1999)	36.4%
Very poor children < age 6 (1999)	14.0%
<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>	
Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)	72.7%
<u>Immunization</u>	
Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized	28.0%
<u>Birth-Risk</u>	
Total number of births	543
Nonmarital births	54.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	21.9%
Births to mothers < age 18	6.4%
Nonmarital and no diploma	16.6%
Low birthweight	13.1%
Inadequate prenatal care	32.6%

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

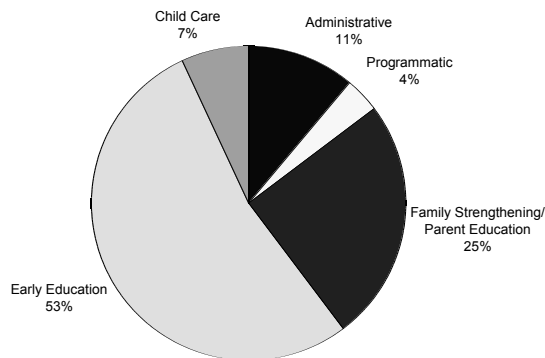
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

First Steps Strategies in Williamsburg County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day ✓ Full Day Other <p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Quality Enhancement Grants Caregiver Training Scholarships Other <p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents as Teachers ✓ Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL ✓ Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies
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Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$531,080, the Williamsburg County Partnership spent 53 percent on early education and 25 percent on family strengthening. The Partnership spent 12 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$173 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$490 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Early Education

4K

Extended or new program? Two half-day 4K classes were extended to full-day (in two different schools), and one full-day classroom was added to an existing program (in a third school).

Start date. The two expanded-day classrooms started in August 2001; the new classroom started in January 2002.

Number of children. A total of 61 children were enrolled in the three full-day classrooms. **Population served.** The program served children with the most significant developmental delays and the greatest number of additional risk factors for school readiness (e.g., low birth weight, referral from a collaborating agency, low family income, parents with low education levels). **Program model.** All three classrooms used the High/Scope Curriculum. **Next steps.** Future plans include creating more full-day classrooms so that more children can be served.

■ Child Care

Quality Enhancement Grants

Start date. Quality enhancement grants were awarded in May 2002. **Number of grantees.** Grants were awarded to 25 child care providers (eight private center-based providers and 17 family-based providers). Grants ranged from \$500 to \$2,500, with an average of \$2,000. **Key activities.** Because the program got started later than expected, only four grantees spent all of the funds awarded to them by June 30. Eight providers did not spend any of their funds and the rest spent a portion of their funds. In addition to the provision of grants, the county's First Steps purchased children's books and a mobile book tower for each grantee, as well as swings for providers in need of playground equipment. **Next steps.** Plans for the future of the program include reaching out to the county's child care providers with the greatest need for improvement.

■ Family Strengthening

Parent Child Home

Extended or new program? An existing Parent Child Home (PCH) program was extended in Williamsburg County. Four home visitors were hired using First Steps funds. **Start date.** The First Steps funded home visitors began working with families in January 2002. **Number of families.** A total of 39 families were served by the First Steps funded home visitors.

Population served. The program served families with two- or three-year-olds in which parents had low literacy levels, low income, and high stress. **Key activities.** Families received two 30-minute home visits per week, during which the home visitor modeled interactions or provided feedback on parents' interaction with the children. The program also provided toys and books for the families and gave parents a guide sheet of questions parents could use with their children to prompt good interaction. **Next steps.** Plans for the future include assessing outcomes for children and parents.

Motheread/Fatheread

Extended or new program? First Steps funding was used to add a Motheread/Fatheread program to an existing Fatherhood

Initiative in Williamsburg County. **Start date.** The program began in May 2002. **Number of families.** The program served a total of 73 parents—17 non-custodial fathers and 57 mothers (none were parents of the same child). **Population served.** The program planned to serve 50 non-custodial fathers of children ages zero to five, as well as the children's mothers. However, it was difficult to recruit 50 non-custodial fathers; as a result, mothers unaffiliated with the participating fathers were included so that resources could be used rather than wasted. **Key activities.** One-hour parent meetings were held twice per week; parents were only required to attend one meeting per week. The purpose of the meetings was to teach parents how to tell stories and read books to their children. Parents received children's books to take home with them. **Next steps.** Goals for the future of the program are to explore ways to engage both parents, and to redesign the program for a smaller number of fathers (10 to 15) rather than the initial goal of 50 fathers.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to the Executive Director in Williamsburg County, setting up the County Partnership Board and implementing programs were big accomplishments. Priorities for the next few years include monitoring the progress of children in first grade who had participated in First Steps programs, and comparing their progress to children who had not participated in First Steps programs. Data collection will be essential to show whether or not First Steps is making a difference in Williamsburg County.

Profile of the County's Children

Child Population Characteristics ¹	At-Risk Children ¹
<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Poverty</u>
Under age 3	Poor children < age 6 (1999)
Under age 6	Very poor children < age 6 (1999)
<u>Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6</u>	<u>Medicaid Eligibility</u>
White only, non-Hispanic	Children < age 6 and eligible for Medicaid (2001)
Black only, non-Hispanic	
Other, non-Hispanic	<u>Immunization</u>
Hispanic	Children < age 2 seen in public health clinics who are not fully immunized
<u>Families with children < Age 6</u>	<u>Birth-Risk</u>
Total number of families	Total number of births
Married couple family	Nonmarital births
Single householder	Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas
	Births to mothers < age 18
Children < age 6 with all parents in labor force	Nonmarital and no diploma
	Low birthweight
<u>4K Participation</u>	Inadequate prenatal care
Children in all public 4K as percent of all 4-year-olds (2001-2002) ²	

¹ Except where otherwise noted, all data are for 2000.

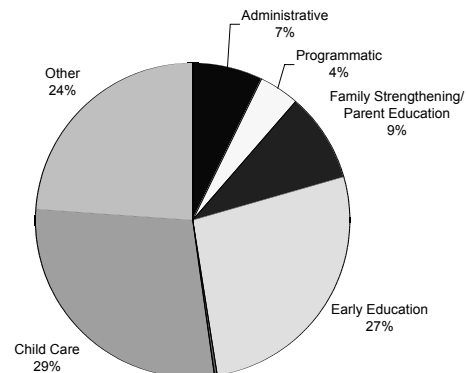
² The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator for the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 Decennial Census.

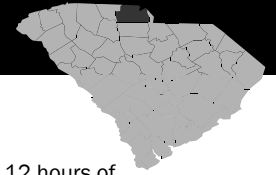
First Steps Strategies in York County Based on PERs

<p>4K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Day Full Day Other 	<p>Child Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Enhancement Grants ✓ Caregiver Training ✓ Scholarships ✓ Other 	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postpartum Home Visits Other Strategies
<p>Summer Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any Program 	<p>Family Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parents as Teachers Parent Child Home Family Literacy ESL Other or Multiple Strategies 	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Transportation Public Awareness Library Program Other Strategies

Fiscal Information

Out of total spending of \$858,233, the York County Partnership spent 29 percent on child care strategies. The Partnership spent 14 percent of its state allocation on administrative functions (a figure that differs from the percent labeled "administrative" in the pie chart, which includes all administrative spending as a share of total county spending). The Partnership met its match requirement. The Partnership spent \$64 per child ages zero to five residing in the county or \$500 per child living in poor county families.





Program Profiles

■ Child Care

Child Care Scholarships

Number of grantees. Child care scholarships were awarded for 30 children.

Caregiver Training

Start date. First Steps funds were used to provide CPR training sessions, beginning in December 2001. **Number of sessions.** The CPR and First Aid training program was a one day training session. **Attendance.** Seventy-one child care employees each completed the training. **Key activities.** Certified instructors provided one day (five hour) training sessions 14 times during the fiscal year.

Employee Background Checks

Start Date. York County First Steps carried out background checks of new child care employees in order to help child care providers fulfill licensing regulations. This began in March 2002. **Number of background checks.** Eighty-five background checks have been completed. **Key activities.** A First Steps administrative assistant conducted SLED/FBI background and child abuse registry checks for no fee for child care providers. Each child care employee should receive one background check.

■ Family Strengthening

Parents as Teachers

Extended or new program? York County used First Steps funds to extend four existing Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs by hiring one additional parent educator in each of three school districts, and by extending two existing parent educators from part-time to full-time in a fourth district. **Start date.** Programs began seeing families between October 2001 and January 2002. **Number of families.** There were 101 families who participated across the four programs. **Population served.** Programs were open to all parents who wished to enroll. **Key activities.** In each program, parent educators conducted two home visits per month with each family; two group meetings with parents were held monthly; a toy lending library was made available; developmental screenings were conducted; and referrals were made to community resources as needed. **Next Steps.** One district is trying to address transportation issues through collaboration with the Council on Aging. One district notes the need to evaluate the program next year, to obtain additional training for staff, and to have the supervisor go on more home visits; another notes the need to increase Hispanic translation services.

■ Other

Transportation

Start date. York County's Transportation program began in May 2002, near the end of the fiscal year. **Number of rides.** Four families each received one or more rides; a total of six round-trip rides were provided. **Population served.** Transportation services were available to uninsured, non-Medicaid eligible families with children from birth to age six. **Key activities.** Eighteen drivers and one transportation coordinator took a

defensive driving course, first aid training, and 12 hours of unspecified additional training in order to offer transportation services.

County Highlights and Looking Toward the Future

According to York County's Executive Director, implementing the child care strategy was a major accomplishment. The County Partnership also held several community events that provided information on services, school readiness, and family strengthening. In the future, the County Partnership would like to provide early childhood educators with more training opportunities. They would also like to implement a health strategy, with a particular focus on dental care for children.