



**Board Chair:**  
Mr. Andrew Moses

**Executive Director:**  
Min. Alexis D. Pipkins, Sr.

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**Total children in county under age 6: 1516**

**Total Children in county living in poverty: 31.6%**

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**Lee County Highlights**

- Early Steps
- Early Reading First
- Centers of Excellence
- Leap Frog Curriculum
- WIA
- Summer Readiness Program
- Parents Anonymous

# Lee County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

FY 2009 proved to be a rewarding year for Lee County First Steps (LCFS). The agency was been fortunate to continue the implementation of 2 major grants- the Centers of Excellence a state funded 2-year pilot project which was in its last year of full implementation. This program provided the partnership the opportunity to provide children with high quality child care and supportive services such as assessments and screening, and child care professionals with systematic training and professional development.

In addition, LCFS has continued its collaboration with SC First Steps and Darlington County First Steps with the implementation of the Early Reading First Grant at four project sites in Lee County. During the fiscal year the classrooms received the benefit of having literacy coaches provide direct support to help classroom teachers strengthen the quality of their early literacy program based upon current, research-based knowledge, curriculum, and supplies. LCFS has been able to strengthen collaborations with the Lee County School District, Head Start, private child care, and other partners in the local community.

LCFS was selected to participate in the SC First Steps Early Steps Program which is a partnership with SAVE THE CHILDREN, SC First Steps and Lee County School District. This program is a family strengthening and home visitation program which provides support to families with children birth to age three, and has a literacy component.

State Budget cuts have forced Lee County First Steps to examine programs and services.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alexis D. Pipkins, Sr.,  
Executive Director  
Lee County First Steps

## **First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas**

*The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:*

**Family Strengthening:** A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

**Healthy Start:** Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

**Quality Child Care:** Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

**Early Education:** Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

**School Transition:** The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

## **2008-09 County Partnership Programs by Strategy**

### **FAMILY STRENGTHENING.**

#### **Parents As Teachers:**

**Program Description:** Increase the capacity of parents to be their child's best and most important teacher by expanding home visitation services. The Parents As Teacher (PAT) program provides one, two, three or four home visits each month to families, based upon the identified needs of each family. The Born To Learn Curriculum is the official curriculum that the Parent Educators have been trained and certified to use during home visits. In addition, there are group meetings and activities scheduled for the parents and their children. The program provides referrals to other community agencies, and provides developmental screenings and assessments of children enrolled in the program. During visits, the Parent Educators provide parents with information which addresses age-appropriate activities that the parent should be involved with their child, and they also provide the parents with handouts that address growth and development, and things that they should be monitoring and observing as it relates to their child's growth and development. Parents are encouraged to become advocates for all of their children, especially if there are school-aged children in the house, by attending school functions and community events and activities. During FY 2009, both are Even Start/ Family Literacy Educator and our two Early Reading First Literacy Coaches utilized the Parents As Teacher model for home visits, group meetings and referrals.

#### **Program results:**

- 63 parents served
- 985 total home visits
- 84.13% families met frequency of home visits
- 96.83% met meeting duration requirement

#### **Early Steps**

**Program Description:** Early Steps to School Success (ESSS) is a language and pre-literacy development program operated by **Save the Children**, a leading international nonprofit relief and development organization helping children in need. ESSS is the birth-to-five component of a continuum of Save the Children programs which focus on literacy and language development, physical fitness and nutrition programs for children birth to age 12.

ESSS provides early childhood education services to pregnant women and children birth to five years of age, education services to their parents, and ongoing staff training to the community early childhood educators involved with the program. ESSS goals are: 1. Increasing children's language and pre-literacy skills that are essential for school success; 2. Increasing parent knowledge of how to support their child's language development and pre-literacy education; 3. Fostering positive home/school connections early in the child's life; 4. Transitioning children successfully to pre-school or kindergarten; and

5. Increasing early childhood knowledge and expertise throughout the community. The program accomplishes these goals through six major strategies:

1. Regular home visits from a trained early childhood educator (*ESSS programs that receive First Steps funding must visit the home at least twice monthly*)
2. Parent/child education groups in school and community settings
3. Child play groups and storybook hours
4. *Raising a Reader* book bag lending program
5. Transition to school activities
6. Community referrals and follow-up

**Program results:**

- 18 parents served
- 245 total home visits
- Average of 2.19 visits each month
- 88.89% of cases met the visit frequency requirement

**QUALITY CHILD CARE.**

**Child Care Training and Professional Development**

Program description: To ensure that child care providers of Lee County receive quality child care training at a reasonable cost. Training will address identified areas of interest and need that child care providers have identified as essential areas. Lee County First Steps has maintained an active partnership with Darlington and Kershaw First Steps to provide training, collaboration with Child Care Resource and Referral (Success by Six training offerings being shared. All of the trainings and trainers are certified or registered with the Center for Child Care Career Development. During FY 2010 child care providers will be able to receive a minimum of 20 hours of trainings and special series trainings, such as the PCAN and Color Me Healthy Curriculums

**Program results:**

- 96 child care staff participated in training
- 15 child care facilities participated in training
- 20.5 hours of child car training were provided for child care professionals in Lee County
- 8 training sessions

**Centers of Excellence**

Program description: The First Steps Centers of Excellence Model is distinguished by the coordinated interplay of nine critical components:

- **For Children and Families:**
- Targeted recruitment and need-based scholarships
- Nurturing care and research-based instruction
- Developmental screening and appropriate child assessment
- Parent education and involvement; and

- Health supports

**For Providers:**

- Quality enhancement (facility and materials)
- On-site mentoring and technical assistance
- Incentives to stable, qualified personnel, including scholarships to expand their learning
- Sustainable operation

**Program results:**

- 23 children received child care scholarships
- 23 Children received home visits and parenting services
- 336 total home visits
- Children received health assessments, health screenings, and developmental screenings and assessments
- Child care professionals receive systematic training in PITC, Creative Curriculum, E-LAP and LAP-3 which are developmental assessment tools for teachers to monitor progress
- 69.57% of the cases met the frequency requirement
- 82.61% of the cases met the duration requirement
- Child Care Quality Enhancement average of 6.82 visits per month; total of 902 hours
- 16 teachers completed the Work Keys Training (1 Gold; 5 Silver, 7 Bronze, 7 Made improvements and attended 80% of classroom training)

**Child Care Scholarships**

This program will provide financial assistance to qualified parents to aide with the cost of child care. The Department of Social Services (DSS) administers this program following the guidelines of the ABC Voucher Program. This program is open to all families in Lee County who meet the eligibility requirements. In addition, Lee County First Steps does a Pre-Application process to ensure eligibility, and once the Lee County Board Child Care Committee determines the guidelines for selection, the identified applicants receive an official application which they must complete and include required documents. Lee County First Steps distributes the applications on a first come first serve basis. The applications are sent to DSS to be officially awarded or denied. The slots are filled by the approved applicants, which their application is processed. If additional applications are needed to fill the allotted slots, First Steps will contact applicants from the waiting list in numerical order. The process continues until all slots are filled. Also, COE and ERF Scholarships were provided to children attending Bishopville Lee Child Development Center and Lynchburg-Elliott Child Development Center

**Program Results:**

- 14 children received Lee County funded scholarships
- 20 COE child care scholarships
- 32 ERF child care scholarships

## **EARLY EDUCATION.**

### **Summer Readiness Program**

**Program description:** The Summer Readiness Program will provide comprehensive program that will seek to strengthen the early literacy skills of children identified as needing additional assistance to ensure that they necessary emergent early literacy skills

#### **Program results:**

- 40 children were served
- The program will be a 10 week comprehensive literacy based program based upon LEAP-Frog Literacy-Based Curriculum
- Children in the Summer Readiness program will be have Pre and Post LAP-3 Assessments
- This program is funded by the SC Early Reading Collaborative, an Early Reading First funded project
- Children will be exposed to cultural, literacy based experiences

### **S.C. Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)**

**Program description:** CDEPP offers state-paid tuition of 4-year-old kindergarten classes to eligible students living in the 37 trial and plaintiff school districts involved in the school funding equity lawsuit, *Abbeville et al. vs. South Carolina*. First Steps oversees CDEPP 4K classes offered in non-public school environments. To qualify for state-paid tuition, a student's family must qualify for TANF or free/reduced-price lunch, be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2007, and live in an eligible school district.

#### **Program results:**

- 38 students served in the CDEPP
- 2 providers (Bishopville Lee Child Development Center and Lynchburg-Elliott Child Development Center) are approved CDEPP 4K Providers
- 3 classrooms served
- Teachers received professional development in Creative Curriculum and Work Sampling
- SC Office of First Steps provided Technical Assistance to all CDEPP classes

### **Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

**Program Description:** Research states that the key to a child succeeding in school is the development of proficient reading skills; therefore, the most important thing a parent can do to develop these skills is to read with their child as much as possible. Every child in Lee County will be eligible to receive an age appropriate book until age 5. This program is open to all families in Lee County with children under the age of five. Lee County First Steps and local partners distribute Imagination Library Registration Forms. This program has ended with the exception of the Early Reading First children who were enrolled when they were three-years-old, and as these children turn age 5 the numbers enrolled will end the program.

**Program results:**

- July 2008 there were 127 children enrolled and in June 2009 17 children
- 719 books distributed to children in this program

**SCHOOL TRANSITION.**

**Countdown To Kindergarten Summer 2008**

**Program description** Ensure an educationally beneficial school transition by serving 70 at-risk children in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.

**Program results:**

- 70 children served Summer 2008 and 40 children served Summer 2009
- Children were provided with academic assistance.
- Children participated in weekly culturally and academically enriching experiences.
- *90% of children received all 7 visits*
- *Targeted 92.5% of Free and Reduced Lunch*

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<b><u>Expenditures</u> By Funding Source</b>	
State Appropriation ( <i>Fund 10</i> )	\$107,737.00
State Appropriation ( <i>Fund 11</i> )	\$40,492.00
E.I.A. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 55</i> )	\$14,313
Lottery Appropriation ( <i>Fund 35</i> )	\$0
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 60</i> )	\$158,713.00
C.O.E. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 65</i> )	\$199,756
N.F.P. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 70</i> )	\$0
State Private ( <i>Fund 15</i> )	\$0
Local Private ( <i>Fund 20</i> )	\$22,871.00
Federal ( <i>Fund 30</i> )	\$467,100.00
In-Kind ( <i>Fund 25</i> )	\$31,551.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,042,533.00</b>

<b><u>Expenditures</u> By Program / Strategy Name</b>	
Family Strengthening	\$166,163.00
Child Care	\$131,856.00
School Transition	\$62,716.00
Health	\$6211.00
Early Educations	\$157,264.00
Scholarships	\$372,099
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$95,454
Administrative Functions	\$50,770
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,042,533.00</b>

### CLARIFICATION(s)

1. The SCERC, Early Reading First Project has indirectly contributed approximately \$201,329.00 to Lee County from supportive services from the SC Office of First Steps. This figure is not included in Lee County's Expenditure.

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## NOTABLE DONORS

<i><b>DONOR'S NAME</b></i>	<i><b>AMOUNT</b></i>
Accident & Injury Center	\$402.60
Angela Tidwell	\$5.00
Annie Hannibal	\$50.00
Bishopville Day Care Center	\$120.00
Central Carolina Community Foundation	\$10,000.00
Communities IN Schools of Lee County	\$8,082.00
Dennis Community Development Corporation	\$500.00
Eleanor Backus	\$30.00
Ella M. Laws	\$90.00
Ernestine Weisner	\$150.00
Eva Hannibal	\$10.00
FTC	\$600.00
Gloria Burris	\$10.00
Gracie Dizzley	\$10.00
Gwendolyn Frederick	\$10.00
Jerlene Atkinson	\$50.00
Kaplan	\$1000.00
Kiddieland Family Daycare	\$80.00
Lakeshore Learning Materials	\$80.00
Laurice Greene	\$30.00
Lee County Department of Social Services	\$30.00
Little Wizard CDC	\$40.00
Lynchburg-Elliott CDC	\$334.00
Maverick Wilson	\$181.00
New Zion AME Church	\$208.36
Parents Anonymous of SC, Inc.	\$2925.00
Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, Inc.	\$6,000.00
Pee De Electricom, Inc.	\$500.00
Progress Energy	\$300.00
Reading is Fundamental, Inc.	\$28,0000
Sarah I. Anderson	\$40.00
Sytrica Price	\$10.00
Target	\$1,500.00
The Campbell Consulting Group	\$100.00
The State	\$85.39
Thomas and Sharon Teigue	\$30.00
Unison Administrative Services, LLC	\$1000.00

United Healthcare Services, Inc.	\$1000.00
United Way of South Carolina	\$1000.00
Various	\$64.00
<b>TOTAL: \$439,909.35</b>	

***Local Match Percentage for FY 2009: 75.08%***  
*(At least 15% Legislative requirement)*

# COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## LEE COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

<b>Board Member's Name</b>	<b>Position on the Board</b>	<b>Place of Employment</b>
1. Mr. Andrew Moses	Legislative Appointee, Board Chair	Retired
2. Pat Saverance	Business Community	Attorney
3. Lillie Patterson	Non-Profit Organization	Bishopville-Lee Child Dev. Center
4. Pastor Marcus Benjamin	Faith Community	Lee County School District
5. Belinda Butler	Business	Select Health of SC
6. Betty D. Addison	Preschool through Primary	Lee County School District
7. Jerlene Atkinson	Early Childhood Education	Kiddieland Family Day Care
8. David "Keel" Addison	Parent of Preschool Child	Addison Barber Shop
9. Victoria McCray		Bishopville Lee Child Development Center
10. M. Deloris LeGrant	Preschool through Primary	Sumter 17 Early Head Start
11. Rev. Archie S. Temoney, Sr.	Faith Community (Vice-Chair)	New Zion AME Church
12. Hannah Hickman	Legislative Appointee	Wateree/Bishopville Head Start
13. Bertha Scott	Early Childhood Education	Lee County School District
14. Betty Rogers	Head Start	Wateree/Bishopville Head Start
15. Melissa Robinson	DSS	Lee County DSS
16. Maverick Wilson	Legislative Appointees	Bishopville Correctional Institution
17. Thelma Hannibal	Family Education, Training and Support	Lynchburg Elliott Child Dev. Ctr.
18. Nicole Simon	Parent of Preschool Child	Benedict College
19. Mattie Westry	Childcare and Early Childhood Development	Little Wizard CDC
20. Cheryl Sims	Family Education, Training, and Support (Secretary)	Lee County School
21. Sharon Teigue	Legislative Appointee	Sumter-Lee Adult Education
22. Socorro White	Early Childhood Education	Lee County School District
23. Diana Williams	Early Childhood Education (Asst. Secretary)	Lee County School District
24. Mary Lee Arthur	School District	Lee County School District
25. Sandy Jenkins	Transportation	Santee Wateree Regional Transportation Authority
26. Sheila Moses	Health Provider	Lee County School District
27. Valarie Haywood	Childcare and Early Childhood Development	Lynchburg-Elliott Child Dev. Ctr.

**\*Appointed and/or Served on the Board during a portion of FY2009**

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## COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY09, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.

*Your 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile will be inserted by OFS after this section. For your reference, a PDF of this risk profile was sent to you along with your Annual Report Template*

## SUCCESS STORIES

### **Andrena L. Duren, Family Literacy Coach (SCERF/ ERF Project)**

Maria and I began working together in December of 2008. Her English was pretty good, but at times she did rely on her other children to translate what was being said to her. Her son spoke more Spanish than English. He was four years old and attended Bishopville Head Start when I recruited the family for the Early Reading First Literacy parenting program.

The child could only recognize a few letters, and had a difficult time distinguishing the difference between capital letters and lower case letters. He also did not know his colors. Maria was very motivated and appreciated the suggestions that I gave her on helping him learn his alphabet and colors. We worked on using flash cards, pulling letters from a bag, picture and alphabet combinations and alphabet bingo. In order to help him learn his colors, we used sorting and real fruit that the family had displayed on a table at their home. With my support, she learned how to better enforce the lessons that Head Start was teaching him at school. It only took seven months for this young boy, who I will refer to as Eddie, to be able to recognize almost all of his letters and 100% of his colors. Maria was so proud of herself and Eddie for the success that they had accomplished that she thanked me tirelessly for giving her ideas and suggestions on how to help him. She told me that she would also use the information that I gave her to help her assist her other school aged children as well.

Eddie graduated from Bishopville Head Start in May 2009 and is now in Kindergarten. I am very proud to have been a part of their lives and to have been able to impact his learning experience by aiding his mother.

### **Gracie Dizzley, Early Steps to School Success Coordinator and Home Visitor**

This home visit I will never forget. I met this teen mother at Lee Central High School, during one of our Parenting Group Meeting. I started talking to her about parenting and home visits. I asked her if I could come to her home and talk a little more about the program (Early Steps to School Success). The young lady gave me the best time to come to her home. When I arrived at her house, she was not there. I introduced myself to her mother and grandmother and began to tell them about ESSS and enrolling the baby in child care. When I mentioned enrolling the baby in childcare, the teen's mother got upset with me and told me, that's why she was there to take care of the baby. As I got to know the family even more and strengthen my rapport and relationship with the family, the teen mother dropped out of school.

Within six months the young teen mother has enrolled in Sumter-Lee County Adult Education Program, and we have secured an ABC Child Care Scholarship Voucher so that the baby can attend a local child care. Now when I go for a home visits, the teen's mother (grandmother) says, "She needs to be in a daycare." Grandmother also actively participates in the home visits now she encourages her grandchild to participate in the home visits activities.

**Gloria Burris, Family Literacy Coach (SCERC/ERF Project)**

This is the Success Story of a parent that I Gloria Burris had the pleasure of working with in the Early Reading First Program this past school term:

Sameshia Spann at 26 years old had two children, and wasn't working and didn't have a High School Diploma, She found herself helpless. So she turned to the Department of Social Service for help and her case manager, Mrs. Debbie Tindal put her in a work experience program at Bishopville-Lee Child Development Center. Sameshia states that even though she only worked as a shadow for the 4K class, Mrs. Lillie Patterson the Director treated her as if she was a regular staff member and always told her she was doing a great job and that motivated her. She was so motivated that she wanted to continue working at the center but she didn't have her High School diploma. Mrs. Patterson and her case manager, Debbie Tindal came up with a plan where she could enroll in the Adult Education program get her High School Diploma and still work part-time. That was another motivation factor for her to succeed and set goals in her life. She remembered her children and how she wanted them to succeed in life and she wanted to be able to help them with their school work so she went back to school. Her child went to the Bishopville-Lee Child Development Center and was in the Early Reading First Program. Sameshia said that during the home visits that she received a lot of help with her parenting skills. She didn't like to spend that extra time reading books, going over alphabets and numbers all the things that her child needed to help enforce what was being done in his class but she realize that he needed that help to succeed. She went to parent group meeting and parenting classes. Also, she picked up points on how to read books with meaning and better communicate with her children. Sameshia said with the home visits, the parenting classes and the encouragement that she received from her employer she has been able to stay on track at making a successful life for her and her children. Within four months she received her High School Diploma and was very proud of her accomplishment. She started a career in Early Childhood attending Central Carolina and now has a GPA of 4.0 and hopes to maintain it.

Her mother was so overwhelmed at her accomplishment that she also went back to school. Sameshia child who was in the Early Reading First program and the 4K class at Bishopville-Lee Child Development Center has graduated and now in the public school and doing very well. Sameshia encourages those people who think it's too late to succeed in life that it's never too late to go back to school. *She said keep your head up and don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something because you can. Be strong and stay focused.*

**Gloria Burris, Family Literacy Coach (SCERC/ERF Project)**

I Gloria Burris had the opportunity to work with Bonita Wilson and her son 4 year old Jaheim Covington who was enrolled in the Early Reading First program at Bishopville-Lee Child Development Center. After visiting Jaheim's classroom several times upon him take the PALS assessment, I observed that he had some weakness in recognizing upper and lower case alphabets, letter sounds, rhyme and print awareness. His teacher and I discussed some ways to help him at home. When I spoke with Jaheim's mother, she was open to suggestions on how we were going to help him master the different skills. Jaheim was a little unresponsive. I encouraged his mother to read a story to him before working on any skills because Jaheim would become talkative when I would give him a book. After time had passed, Jaheim saw that his mother was concern about what he was doing by her conversation and her reading books to him. One strategy that I used to help Jaheim was reading books to him to help him recognize letters, sounds, rhyming and print awareness.

Jaheim, his mother and I also played a lot of Alphabet Bingo, and used flash cards for letter sounds. Doing his class time at the center they worked with the Leap Frog materials daily. Because he enjoyed little Leap Frog Read and Sing Doll, I took it into the home and introduced the doll to his mother. On my home visits I molded ways for his mother to use some of the Leap Frog material such as Little Leap, Fridge Phonics Magnetic Letter, the letter factory book and video. Jaheim's mother attended several parent group meeting and she assured me that she would continue working with him even when I'm not there. Ms. Wilson said that she appreciated the information and encouragement that I gave her because she didn't know how she was going to help him at home. By the end 6 month, the classroom teachers and I saw a great improvement in Jaheim attitude and how well he recognized letters and sounds. I could tell that his mother had helped him at home because she had the fridge phonics magnetic letter on her refrigerator. By the end of the school year, Jaheim knew all of his upper and lower case alphabets, letter sounds, some rhymes and three letter print words. He was also reading books to his mother and telling her what happened in the story. I saw Ms. Wilson and her son's confidence level grow and they were very excited and positive about his transition to Kindergarten.

*The SC General Assembly created in 1999 the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Initiative as a “comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through county partnerships, public and private funds and support for high quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families’ efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to learn”...here's what happened next:*

First Steps Strategy Areas	Notable Moments
Family Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Steps, SAVE THE CHILDREN program implemented in Lee County with additional services in the county to include Literacy, Nutrition and Physical Activity</li> <li>• Even Start Program provided incentive trip for parents and children to go to the zoo</li> <li>• Even Start/ Family Literacy hosted Baby Shower Event for pregnant mothers and fathers</li> </ul>
Quality Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of PCAN Training for Early Child Care Professionals</li> <li>• 16 Child care professionals participated in WIA training (1 Gold Recipient; 5 Silver Recipients; 7 Bronze Recipients)</li> <li>• Early Reading First Project provided LEAP Frog Literacy materials and technological enhancements for project sites</li> <li>• No Place Like Home Grant from CCCCD for implementation of training</li> <li>• Early Care and Education Rural Leadership Conference (2007 and 2008)</li> <li>• Building Tools and Early Care Conference (2007 and 2008)</li> </ul>
Early Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDEPP Program approved at 2 Lee County Sites, Bishopville Lee Child Development Center was the first approved CDEPP</li> </ul>

	<p>private provide in the state, and also the first provider in the state to compete the new NAEYC recertification process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Center of Excellence Grant</li> <li>• Approval of Early Reading First Grant to provide services at Bishopville Lee Child Development Center, Lynchburg Elliott Child Development Center, Wateree Head Start (Bishopville Site), and West Lee Elementary School</li> <li>• Lottery Funds were use to provide quality enhancement materials for three classrooms at Bishopville Primary School</li> </ul>
<p>School Transition Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant from Central Carolina Community Foundation in Summer of 2007 for CTK</li> </ul>
<p>Non-Standard Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Parents Anonymous Mutual Support Groups, and Children and Youth Programs</li> <li>• Lottery Funds were used to provide funds for Community In Schools early childhood program after school classes</li> </ul>



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

## Lee County

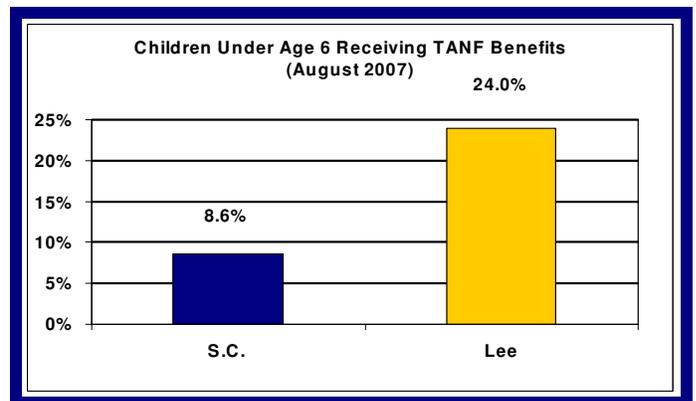
Total Children Under Six: 1,552

### CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%      Lee County (2007): 24.0%

**Fast Fact:** Roughly 1 in 4 Lee County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.
- 373 of Lee County’s 1,552 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.

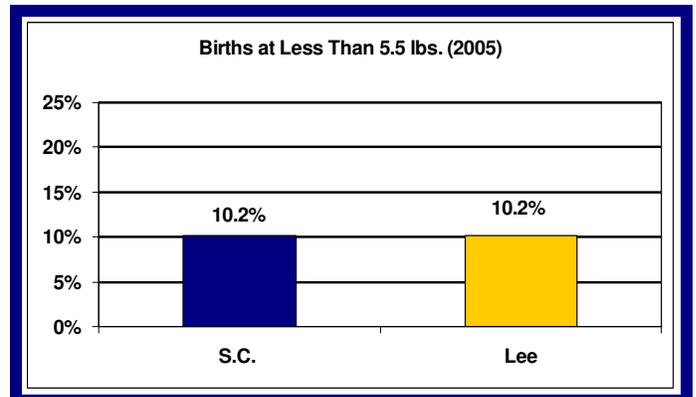


### CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%      Lee County (2005): 10.2%

**Fast Fact:** 1 in 10 Lee County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

- Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.
- Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.
- 25 of the 244 children born in Lee County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.

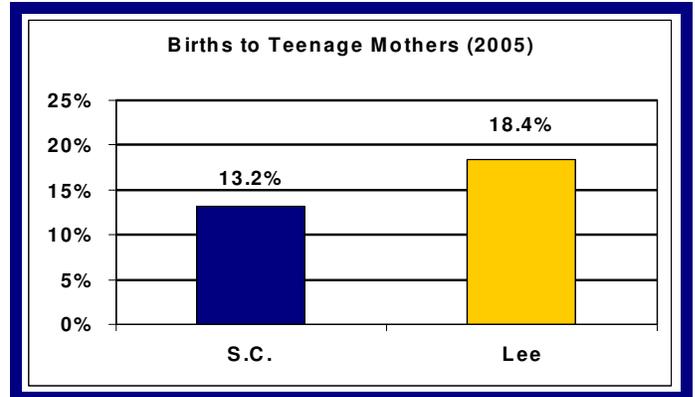


## **BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS**

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%      Lee County (2005): 18.4%

***Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 5 Lee County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.***

- Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.
- 45 of the 244 children born in Lee County during 2005 had teenage mothers.

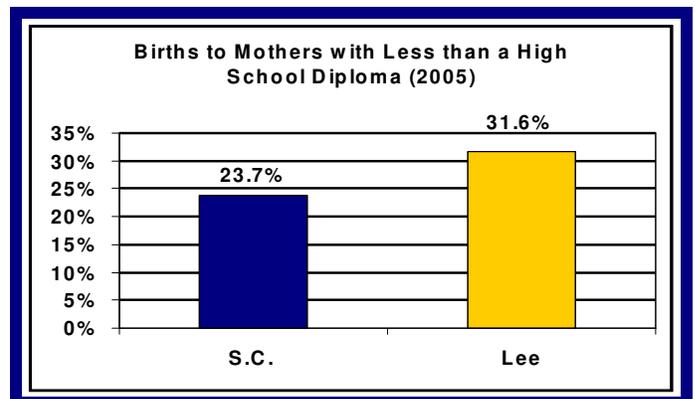


## **BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%      Lee County (2005): 31.6%

***Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 3 children in Lee County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.***

- Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.
- 77 of the 244 children born in Lee County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.



All data provided by the SC Budget and Control Board’s Office of Research and Statistics