



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

**Board Chair:**  
Desiree' B. Council

**Executive Director:**  
Candi Lalonde

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**Total children in county under  
age 6: 1,604**

**Children under age 6 living in  
poverty: 21.5%**

## Edgefield County Highlights

- Over 300 children served by at least one program
- Over 2200 books given to children
- 100% of families satisfied with program services

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

During fiscal year 2008-2009, Edgefield County saw decreased resources and increased need with regards to services for young children. Rather than be discouraged, we energetically sought ways to maximize partnerships and collaborations with other agencies and organizations in our small, rural county. Because of this successful effort, we were able to maintain a consistent level of services to the families with whom we work.

We continue to devote a majority of our resources to family-centered strategies. We recognize that a child's familial situation has the most impact on the child's readiness for school, and ultimately, success in life. Our parenting, family literacy and child care scholarship strategies all work with the whole family through many face-to-face contacts, home visits, developmental screenings of the child, and workshop opportunities for the parents.

Nearly 61% of mothers with children under age 6 are in the workforce, so we also realize the importance of training for child care employees and quality environments and materials for their centers.

Lastly, we realize we have miles to go before we sleep. In 2008, 19% of Edgefield County children were over age for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The work we do must begin before the child ever takes that first step into the elementary school and Edgefield County First Steps will continue to rise to that challenge.

Yours in service to children,  
Candi Lalonde  
Executive Director  
Edgefield 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.

## **2008-2009 County Partnership Programs by Strategy**

### **FAMILY STRENGTHENING**

**Imagination Library** -Children from birth until age 5 are enrolled and receive a book a month. We target children who do not have books (through coordination with our local DSS and DHEC departments). Families complete a pre-survey before enrollment and a post-survey after 1 year. All age eligible children in our scholarship and family literacy programs are enrolled.

#### **Program results:**

- 258 children enrolled
- 2,220 books mailed
- \$4,488.00 local dollars raised
- 100% of program supported by local fundraising

- 55% of children enrolled have fewer than 10 books in their homes
- 43% of post survey respondents show increase in amount of time they spent reading to their child

**Comprehensive Family Literacy** - This program includes the full scope of family literacy services. The parents will all lack a high school diploma or GED; the family will be low income; and all families will possess at least one additional risk factor. Each family will receive intensive instruction in parenting (center and home based), adult education, early childhood, and interactive literacy activities. Families will continue to be provided meals, transportation, and an on-site child development program for infants and toddlers (for the center-based component) three days weekly. Families will also receive a minimum of two home visits monthly using the PAT curriculum.

**Program results:**

- 14 families with 23 children served
- 3 GED's attained
- 96% of scheduled home visits completed
- 100% showed improvement from pre-KIPS to post-KIPS
- 90% showed improvement from pre-ACIRI to post-ACIRI
- 100% of children under age 2.5 post-tested posted gains on the ASQ
- 83% of children age 2.5 to Kindergarten post-tested posted gains on the PPVT-III
- 89% of parents post-tested met the educational level functioning gain as defined by adult education policy
- 100% of families had at least one identified risk factor
- 100% of families satisfied with the program

**QUALITY CHILD CARE**

**Child Care Training** - Child care trainings were offered locally and targeted areas identified in child care reviews. All trainings were either registered or certified through CCCCDC.

**Program results:**

- 7 trainings offered for 14.5 hours of DSS credit
- 72 attendees
- 1 child care center staff member pursuing AA degree

**Facility Quality Enhancement** - Four child care centers received intensive technical assistance and ERS reviews. Small grants were given to purchase supplies and materials in areas needing improvements.

**Program results:**

- 4 centers/family homes participating
- 108.0 hours of technical assistance given

- 4 centers had a comprehensive environment rating scale (ERS) review
- 4 centers received quality enhancement grants based on reviews
- 4 centers had a second review – all 4 showed gains on ERS scores

**Child Care Scholarships** - Families who are 150% of the poverty level or below can apply for a child care scholarship. We pay \$45 each week and the family is responsible for the balance. Families with risk factors are given priority. Parenting workshops are offered quarterly and families must attend at least two during the program year.

**Program results:**

- 29 children enrolled
- 89% of eligible children enrolled in Imagination Library
- 100% of children enrolled at least 60 days received one developmental screening
- 90% of children enrolled at least 180 days received two developmental screenings
- 100% of children with delays received activities to develop weak areas
- 58% of children with delays after 1<sup>st</sup> screening did not have delays after 2<sup>nd</sup> screening
- 67% of children with 2<sup>nd</sup> delays received referrals to outside agencies
- 100% of parents were satisfied with program services
- 4 parent workshops offered – total attendance for all was 40

**SCHOOL TRANSITION**

**Summer Readiness Program** - Children who completed K-4 or K-5 the previous school year and are identified by their teachers as those children most at risk for either losing valuable skills during the summer break, or those who are being considered for retention are served in this program. We employ certified teachers and have a maximum of 15 children per classroom. Each teacher has an aide, and sometimes we also have a foster grandparent in each room. We provide transportation and supplies, and the summer feeding program through DSS provides breakfast and lunch daily. We operate Monday – Thursday from July 7 through July 31 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. A nurse is employed part time to do health and dental screenings. One of our local elementary schools provides the space, oversight, and custodial services for us in kind.

**Program results:**

- 48 children were served
- 90% average attendance rate (38% had perfect attendance)
- 93% of K-4 children increased scores from pre test to post test
- 77% of K-5 children increased reading scores from pre test to post test
- 66% of K-5 children increased math scores from pre test to post test
- 100% of families were satisfied with program services

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<b>Expenditures By Funding Source</b>	
State Appropriation ( <i>Fund 10</i> )	\$95,923
State Appropriation Carryover ( <i>Fund 11</i> )	\$3,363
E.I.A. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 55</i> )	\$48,293
E.I.A. Appropriation Carryover ( <i>Fund 56</i> )	\$4,600
State Private ( <i>Fund 15</i> )	\$1,719
Local Private ( <i>Fund 20</i> )	\$8,356
Federal ( <i>Fund 30</i> )	\$26,155
In-Kind ( <i>Fund 25</i> )	\$33,287
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 221,696</b>

<b>Expenditures By Program / Strategy Name</b>	
Family Literacy	\$82,666
Imagination Library	\$5,077
School Transition	\$32,590
Facility Quality Enhancement	\$14,267
Child Care Training	\$4,975
Child Care Scholarships	\$47,652
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$19,873
Administrative Functions	\$14,596
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$221,696</b>

## NOTABLE DONORS

<i><b>DONOR'S NAME</b></i>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Terri T. Mayson and Matilda Jones on behalf of the Augusta National Golf Club through the Community Foundation for the CSRA	\$2,000
United Way of Edgefield	\$500
Providence Baptist Church WMU	\$270
Allen and Claire Dunn	\$216
Denny and Bridget Clark	\$216
Episcopal Church of the Ridge	\$162
Sam and Sharon Stevens	\$162
Janet Tarbox and Talmadge LeGrand	\$162
Shane and Blair Massey	\$162
Linda G. Ely	\$135
Women in Rural Education (WIRE)	\$100
67 additional sponsors under \$100 each	\$2,403
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$6,488</b>

*Local Match Percentage for FY 2009: 32.0%*  
*(at least 15% Legislative requirement)*

## **COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Lena Baker – Edgefield County School District, appointed  
Ava Burdell – Pre-K through primary education  
Desiree’ Council – Edgefield County Department of Social Services, appointed  
Bridget Clark – Edgefield County Library, appointed  
Juanita Drummings – Faith Community  
Phyllis Lott – GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, Head Start, appointed  
Blair Massey – Business Community  
Angela McLaurin – Early Childhood Education  
Elizabeth Posey – Edgefield County Health Department, appointed  
Michelle Kemp – Business Community  
Melissa Sullivan – Childcare and early childhood development  
Mary Alfreda Turner – Pre-K through primary education  
Janet Tarbox – Faith Community  
Amy Wilhelm – Early Childhood Education  
James Himley – Family education, training, and support provider  
Jenny Mims – Parent of pre-school child served by First Steps  
Gaye Holmes – Early Childhood Education  
Casey Holsomback – Healthcare

## **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 FY10 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 FY09 and the beginning of FY10, 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.



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

## Edgefield County

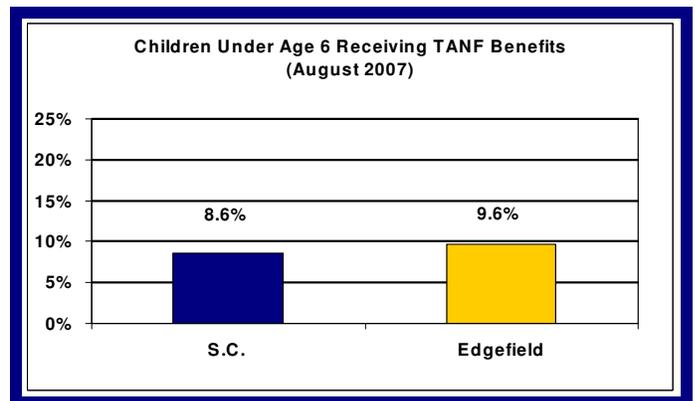
Total Children Under Six: 1,612

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

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%      Edgefield County (2007): 9.6%

**Fast Fact:** Roughly 1 in 10 Edgefield 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.
- 155 of Edgefield County’s 1,612 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.

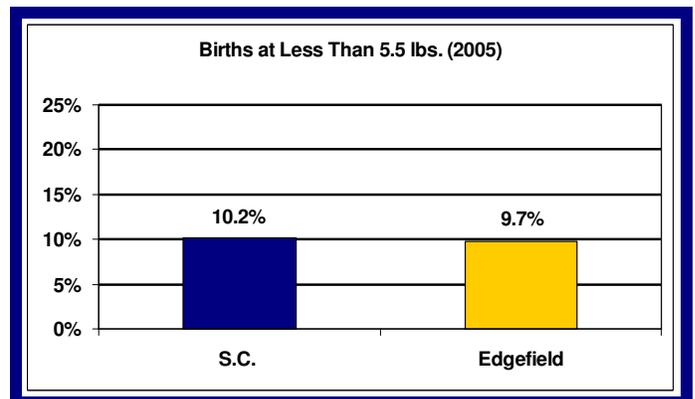


### CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%      Edgefield County (2005): 9.7%

**Fast Fact:** 1 in 10 Edgefield 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.
- 24 of the 248 children born in Edgefield County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



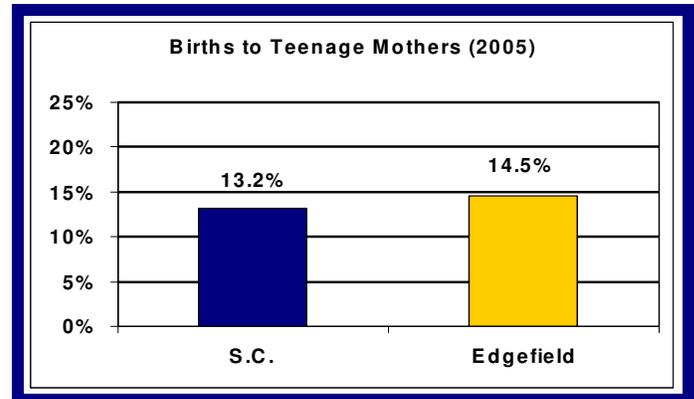
## BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

Edgefield County (2005): 14.5%

**Fast Fact:** Nearly 1 in 7 Edgefield 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.
- 36 of the 248 children born in Edgefield County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



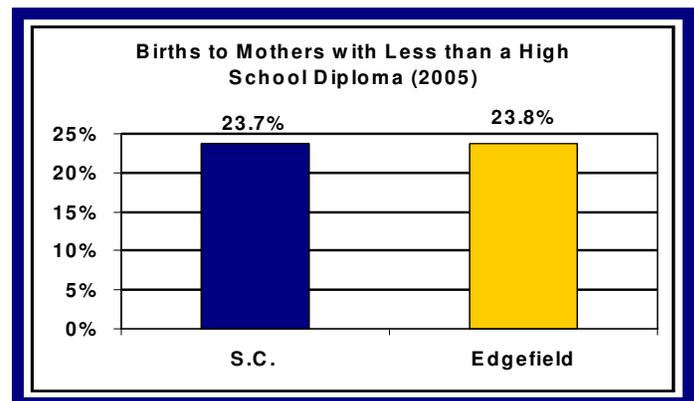
## BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

Edgefield County (2005): 23.8%

**Fast Fact:** Nearly 1 in 4 children in Edgefield 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.
- 59 of the 248 children born in Edgefield 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