



# Kershaw County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report*

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**Total children in county under  
age 6: 4,363**

**Children under age 6 living in  
poverty: 6.3%**

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## **Kershaw County Highlights**

- Kershaw County Quality Enhancement Initiative Child Care Providers increased their score on the Environmental Rating Scale by an average of 1.79.
- “Without the assistance of Kershaw County First Steps, we would not be able to afford child care training for our staff” Lil Angels Daycare Director (Camden)- Marie Steward.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE**

Kershaw County First Steps is truly a foundation for success for our very young children and I am privileged to work in such a dynamic organization. In 2006- 2007, we leveraged our board, community partners, and staff’s expertise to review our program and internal policies and procedures and developed new guides that provide the written guidance our program needs to efficiently implement their service objectives. To date, we have impacted 1029 young children’s lives with those vital services that are building blocks for their future. In fiscal year 2007-2008, Kershaw County First Steps continued to improve its results through targeted outcomes. Here are just a few examples:

- Through Childcare Services, children of all economic backgrounds have better access to quality early child care and education. Over 50% of the licensed programs in Kershaw County attend certified quality training and receive some technical assistance to improve their services. Child Care providers participating in the Quality Enhancement initiative increased their scores on the Environmental Rating Scale by an average of 1.79 points.
- Through Family Services, the number of children referred to intervention services by Kershaw County First Steps increased by 60% this fiscal year compared with 2006-2007. More children are accessing early childhood intervention services, which significantly increases their likelihood for success in school.

Kershaw County First Steps is mobilizing the community around children’s issues and better engaging our valued, highly trained Board of Directors in the process. I am confident that we’re building a better tomorrow for our community’s youngest citizens.

Sincerely,  
Kimberley Jordan  
Executive Director  
Kershaw 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.

## **2007-08 Kershaw County Partnership Programs by Strategy**

### **FAMILY STRENGTHENING.**

#### **Early Advantages Program (Healthy Families)**

**Program description:** KCFS Early Advantages team served predominately high-risk families with young children (ages 0-5) in the rural and low-income areas of Kershaw County. Services are provided in the home or a community setting and include resource and referral information to families about community agencies that improve access to healthcare, health insurance, dental care and early intervention referral services; health education classes; school readiness activities; kindergarten transition; family literacy; child passenger safety education and parenting workshops. Curriculums/supports used are from the Triple P Program (Positive Parenting Program, USC) and Healthy Families Program outline. Transitional Scholarships are provided for eligible families. The program also provides a parent training component that focuses on assisting parents to understand child development, promote health and prevent child abuse and neglect. An

additional component is the One Stop Workforce System Program that will assist parents with job training and professional development.

**Program results:**

- 16 adults and 18 children served
- The KIPS Assessment- parent child interaction, shows an increase average of .07 on the scale.
- For FY09 the partnership plans to use the Parent Child Home Curriculum, to increase the intensity of the visits.

## **HEALTHY START.**

### **KC Healthy Tomorrows (Public Health-Based Services)**

*Program description:* KC Healthy Tomorrows Program promotes, educates, and is an advocate for families regarding the importance and availability of comprehensive and continuous health care. This program promotes the importance of regular preventive care to parents of children birth to age five. The coordinator, working with local health providers, provides clients with information regarding health services. These services include developmental, hearing and vision screenings, dental services, and comprehensive health checkups. The coordinator also provides outreach workshops to parents, child care providers and other community groups. The coordinator use Ages and Stages and the Denver Developmental Screening Test II to screen at-risk children, integrate social service activities, and provide family and child care consultation regarding developmental/behavior concerns and intervention strategies.

**Program results:**

- 49 adults and 56 children served
- KCFS has assisted families with connecting to early intervention services. However, the data does not reflect the materials, parenting support, screening, and follow-up assistance provided to families.
- For FY09 the partnership plans to merge the Healthy Tomorrows program with the Early Advantages Parenting Program.

## **QUALITY CHILD CARE.**

### **Kershaw County Child Care Quality Enhancement Initiative**

*Program description:* KCFS enrolled Kershaw County child care centers, family providers, and self-arranged care providers in the KCFS Child care Quality Enhancement Program. The purpose of the program is to assist child care providers to move to a higher level of license or accreditation. Activities include classroom assessment (ECERS, ITERS, and FDCERS), program administration scale assessment, on-site technical assistance, parent support using Strengthening Families Curriculum, and T.E.A.C.H support (career counseling).

**Program results:**

- 7 facilities served
- Average increase on the Environmental Rating Scale was 1.79 points.

- The outcome data clearly depicts the effectiveness of the program. The program is designed to assist providers to move toward quality enhancement and the scores on the assessment do show a growth.
- The plan for FY09 is to enroll a second classroom at the child care sites and to focus on teacher enhancement for the FY08 classrooms.

### **KC Center Staff Training and Development**

**Program description:** KCFS enrolled child care staff in the KCFS Child care Training and Development Program. The purpose of the program is to enhance the staff's knowledge of children's growth and development. KCFS provided certified training in the DSS required areas and in school readiness skills.

#### **Program results:**

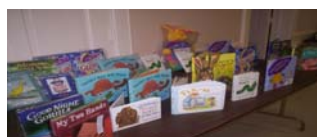
- 90 participants
- KCFS has assisted the county child care programs to receive quality school readiness training. However, it does not reflect the implementation materials and follow-up assistance provided to participants.
- For FY09 the partnership plans to offer more training and require all QEI programs to attend training in accordance with their staff training plan.

### **KC Child Care Resource and Referral Services**

**Program description:** KCFS received a grant from Interfaith Community Services of SC, Inc. to implement CCR&R in Kershaw County. KC Child Care Resource and Referral\* - ensured that targeted populations (e.g., parents and families of children 0-5, child care providers (both current and potential), and local businesses and the community at-large) had the necessary tools for recognizing, choosing, creating, and maintaining high quality child care in Kershaw County. CCR&R staff provided the following services to targeted population as follows: (1) Parents – resource and referrals, informational/educational materials, and parent outreach; (2) Child care providers – ongoing technical assistant to encourage higher standards, professional development plans, provider recruitment and lending library.

#### **Program results:**

- 260 participants
- Increased the number of early care and education providers in Kershaw County.
- Increased family knowledge of the characteristic of high quality early care and education services.
- Increased community knowledge of issues affecting early care and education services and improved linkages between community stakeholders and early care and education service providers.



## **Financial Summary**

<b>Expenditures By Funding Source</b>	
State Appropriation ( <i>Fund 10</i> )	\$216,441
E.I.A. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 55</i> )	\$11,804
Lottery Appropriation ( <i>Fund 35</i> )	\$0.00
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 60</i> )	\$0.00
C.O.E. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 65</i> )	\$0.00
N.F.P. Appropriation ( <i>Fund 70</i> )	\$0.00
State Private ( <i>Fund 15</i> )	\$0.00
Local Private ( <i>Fund 20</i> )	\$11,802
Federal ( <i>Fund 30</i> )	\$15,740
In-Kind ( <i>Fund 25</i> )	\$12,650
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$268,437</b>

<b>Expenditures by Program/Strategy Name</b>	
Healthy Families	\$70,943
Imagination Library	\$300
Childcare Quality Enhancement	\$57,596
Childcare Training & Professional Dev	\$32,526
Resources and Referral Services	\$25,300
Public Health-Based Services	\$25,917
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$30,930
Administrative Functions	\$24,924
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$268,437</b>

### **NOTABLE DONORS**

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	AMOUNT
Camden Jaycees, Inc	\$500.00
Camden Family Care	\$200.00
Associated Charities of Kershaw County	\$2000.00
Central Carolina Technical College	\$129.00
Interfaith Community	\$16,683.33
Office Depot	\$114.85
Target	\$500.00
Wal-Mart	\$1000.00
United Way	\$3827.83
Child Care Providers	\$2316.83
Interest Income	\$1485.56
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$28757.40</b>

**Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 18.68%**  
*(at least 15% Legislative requirement)*

# **KERSHAW COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Sammie Tucker, Jr, Board Chairman, Parent of a preschooler

Marion Bennett, faith community

Katharine Bradley, Legislative appointee

Audrey Burroughs, Early childhood educator

Lula Callwood, Child care provider

John Clinton, Transportation provider

Debra Edwards, Non-profit organization

Gerald Gary, Early childhood educator

Margaret Goodrich, Family education training & support provider

Sid Isler, Business Community

Patricia Johnson-Moses, Statutory member- Kershaw County Head Start

Lottie Jones, Transportation

Diane McDonald, Statutory member- Kershaw County Health Department (DHEC)

Susan Munn, Healthcare provider

Delores Osborne, Pre-k/ primary education

Ted Schmidt, Business community

Thomas Smith, Faith community

Connie Sheorn, Statutory member- Kershaw County School District

Rudine Smalls, Early childhood education

Tracey West, Pre-K/ primary educator

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## **COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT**

In FY08, 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.



*Kimberley Jordan, Executive Director and Wanda Montes, Program Manager*

# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

# Kershaw County

Total Children Under Six: 4,363

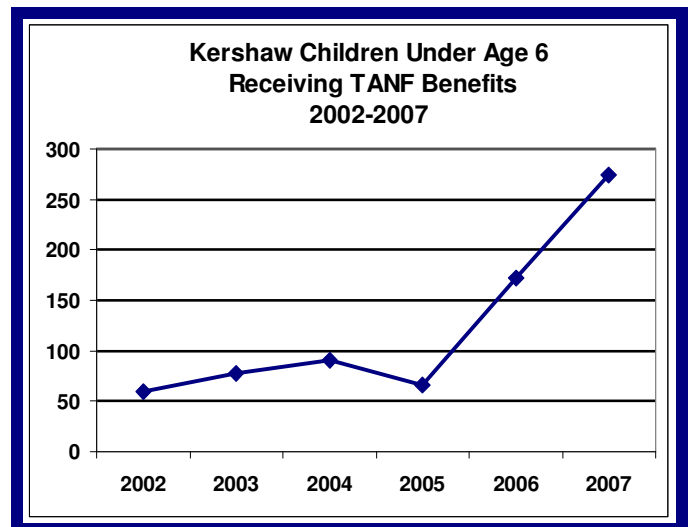
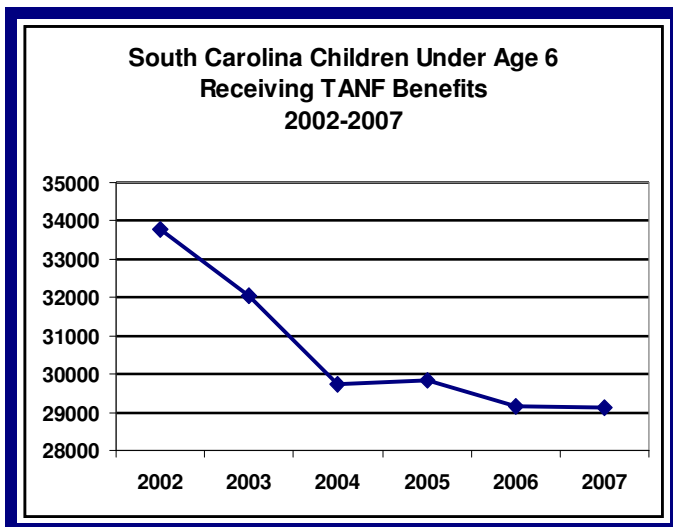
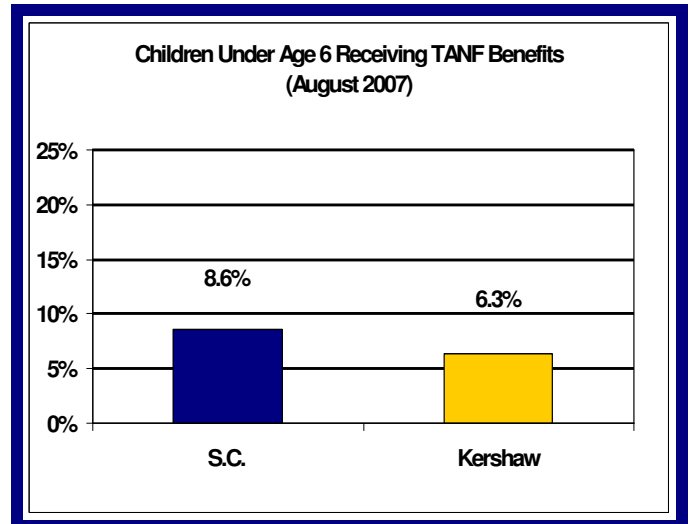
## CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%      Kershaw County (2007): 6.3%

***Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 16 Kershaw 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.

274 of Kershaw County’s 4,363 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.





# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

# Kershaw County

Total Children Under Six: 4,363

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

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

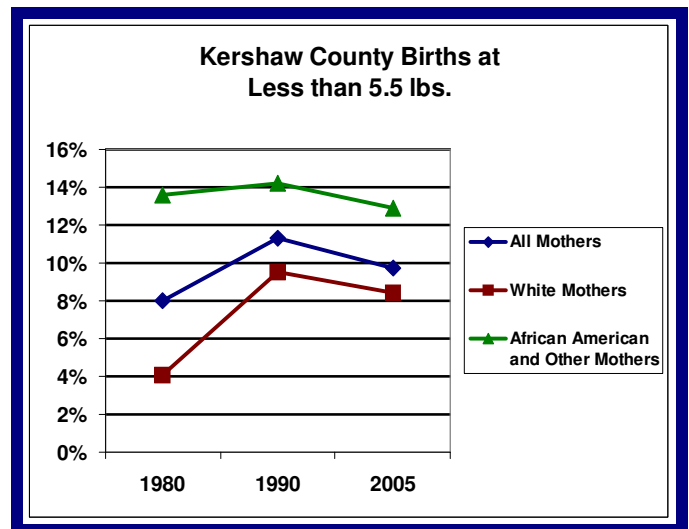
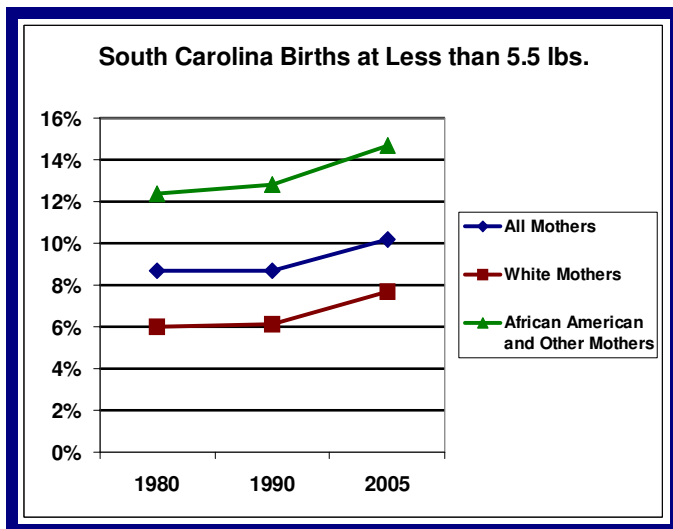
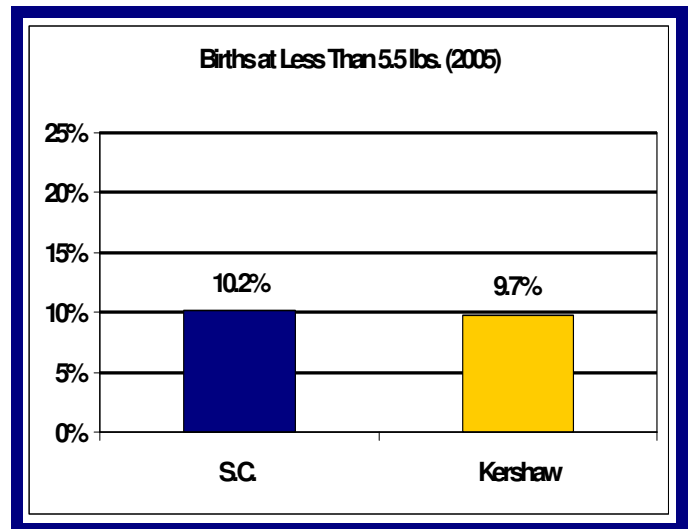
Kershaw County (2005): 9.7%

**Fast Fact:** Nearly 1 in 10 Kershaw 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.

74 of the 763 children born in Kershaw County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

# Kershaw County

Total Children Under Six: 4,363

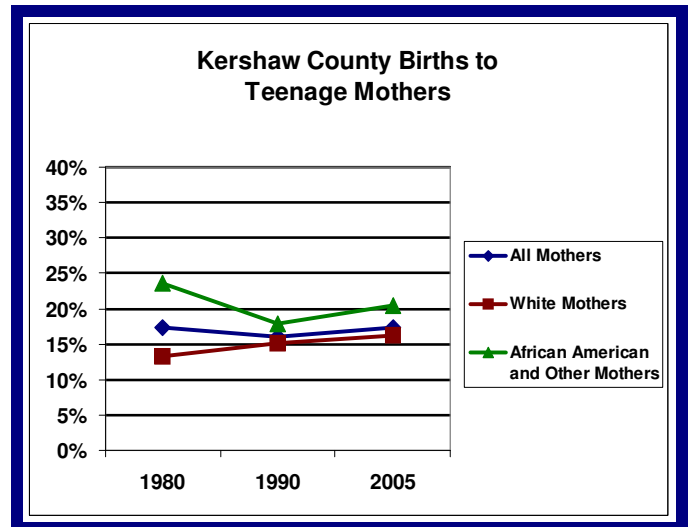
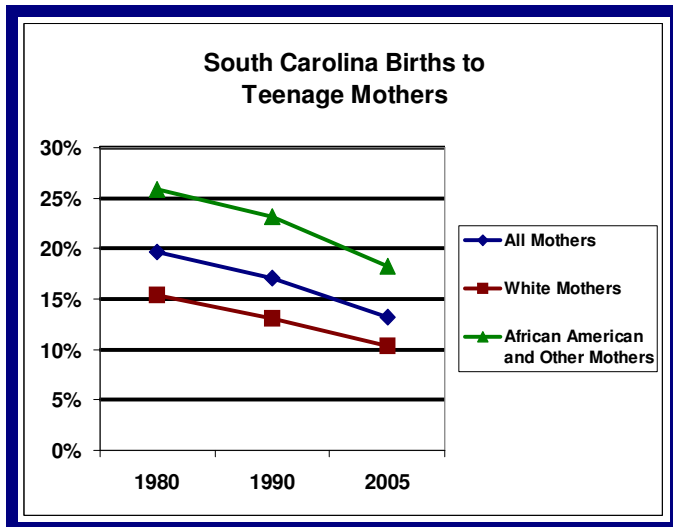
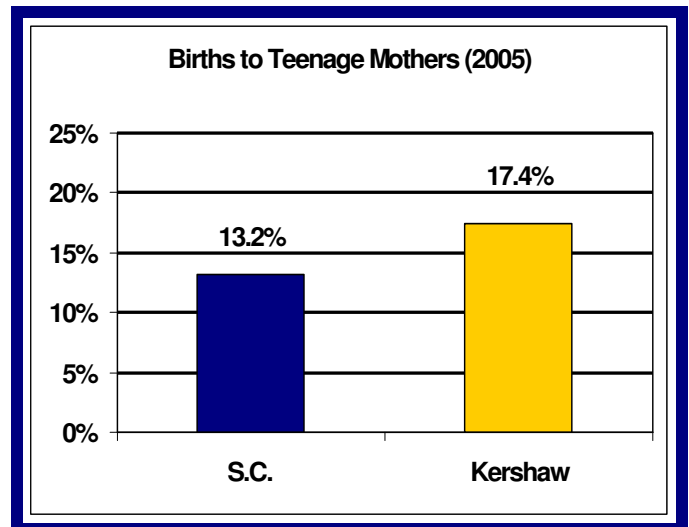
## BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%      Kershaw County (2005): 17.4%

**Fast Fact:** Nearly 1 in 6 Kershaw 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.

133 of the 763 children born in Kershaw County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



# 2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

# Kershaw County

Total Children Under Six: 4,363

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

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%      Kershaw County (2005): 21.9%

**Fast Fact:** 1 in 5 children in Kershaw 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.

167 of the 763 children born in Kershaw County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

