



Hampton County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report*

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Executive Director:
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**Total children in county under
age 6: 1,734**

**Total Children in county living
poverty %: 29.4**

Hampton County Highlights

- Fourteen (14) children considered most “at-risk” were served in the Center of Excellence program
- Fourteen (14) childcare providers completed ECD 101

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

The intention of Hampton County First Steps (HCFS) is to promote the education and well-being of the children within the county. In FY’09, HCFS served approximately 330 “at-risk” children and their parents, both directly and in-directly within programs. Among the programs offered, Parents As Teachers proved to be a great benefit to families.

HCFS served 26 families/30 children in our Parents As Teachers Program. Data from this program indicated that 100% of the families enrolled possessed one or more priority risk factors. These parents utilized Parents As Teachers in an effort to improve their knowledge of child development as well as to gain a better understanding of their role in the child’s education process.

The success of the program is dependent upon the quality of service and the intensity that is delivered to the participants. Services provided during FY’09, resulted in a 33% increase in home visitations as well as an increase in parental involvement.

In addition to receiving parenting, we were able to provide 14 of the families with a full-time DSS scholarship to attend an enhanced childcare center.

Sincerely,
Leslie Blevins
Executive Director
Hampton 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 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/2012

Program description: Hampton County First Steps administers the Parents As Teachers strategy in-house. Each family enrolled in Parents as Teachers (P.A.T.) receives at least two (2) home visits per month. The use of model-specific lesson plans (P.A.T. Born to Learn 0-5) is used in the home and/or at a resource center. Every visit is one-on-one with the child and a family member lasting at least 30 minutes. Group meetings are offered monthly on topics pertaining to health education, literacy skills, and other parenting topics. The Ages and Stages Developmental age-appropriate screening is used, as well as the functional hearing checks, functional vision assessments, use of milestone checklists, dental checks, etc. Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS) and Adult-Child Interactive Reading Inventory (ACIRI) are used in assessing the needs and/or progress in parent involvement.

Program results:

- HCFS served 26 families/30 children in the PAT program
- 100% of the participants had one or more risk factors
- 353 home visits were made producing a 33% increase from the previous year
- Families received an average of 1.73 visits per month, exceeding the minimum of 1.5 visits per month
- 96% of families met or exceeded the minimum duration requirements
- 65% of families in the program attended at least one PAT group meeting
- 100% of the children enrolled received a book monthly through Dolly Parton Imagination Library as well as other developmentally appropriate books and learning tools

QUALITY CHILD CARE

Childcare Quality Enhancement/6012

Program description: The Facility Quality Enhancement program provides quality enhancement services to volunteer childcare facilities in Hampton County. Five (5) childcare facilities participated in the QE program. Technical assistance is provided to each of the facilities in classrooms needing improvement. Each of the classrooms receive at least two (2) visits per month, with additional visits conducted as needed. Technical assistance includes staff/child interactions, health and safety issues, selection of equipment and materials, room arrangement, etc. Funds are provided by HCFS to purchase needed equipment and materials for classrooms and/or playgrounds. Prior to any purchases, pre- ITERS or ECERS assessments are conducted. A plan-of-action is determined between the TA provider and the facility. The facility is expected to carry out its responsibility for improvement, according to the plan. Post- ITERS or ECERS assessments will periodically be conducted to note improvements.

Program results:

- Five (5) childcare centers with fifteen (15) classrooms serving 130 children ages 0-5 received services
- Two (2) childcare centers offered CDEPP 4K classes
- 269 site visits were made producing a 45% increase from the previous year
- 328 hours of Technical Assistance were conducted creating a 48% increase from the previous year
- Sites received an average of 3.04 visits per month, exceeding the minimum of 2 visits per month
- 14 childcare providers received TEACH scholarships and completed ECD 101

Centers of Excellence/7032

Program description: The Center of Excellence Project offers need-based scholarships and parent education to low-income families. The children receive nurturing care, developmental screenings, appropriate child assessments, and research based instruction at no cost. The Center of Excellence Site receives quality enhancement services to include staff training, research based instruction, age appropriate equipment and materials, as well as on-site mentoring and technical assistance.

Program results:

- 14 children received a scholarship to attend COE site
- 12 families (14 children) participated with the Parents As Teachers home visitation program
- 206 home visits were completed in FY 09
- Families received an average of 1.7 visits per month, exceeding the minimum of 1.5 visits per month
- 100% of the families attended group meetings
- 100% of the families had one or more priority risks factors
- 168 books were given to families through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Childcare Training and Development/6052

Program description: The childcare training and development strategy provides certified DSS trainings to childcare facilities in Hampton County. The training areas include Curriculum, Growth and Development, Guidance, Health, Safety, and Nutrition Professional Development and any others needed to fulfill DSS hours. However, other topics are incorporated based on the ITERS/ECERS assessment results and providers suggestions. South Carolina certified trainers conduct trainings.

Program results:

- 130 children age 0-5 were impacted by trainings offered to childcare centers
- Ten (10) training sessions were offered, providing 22.5 hours of DSS certified credits
- 110 adults attended the trainings offered by First Steps
- 435 childcare providers from Hampton, Jasper, Colleton, Beaufort counties attended the fourth annual Lowcountry Early Childhood Conference

EARLY EDUCATION

Scholarship Initiative/ 7012

Program description: The Scholarship Initiative strategy collaborates with the Department of Social Services (DSS). HCFS provides scholarships to children in families needing assistance to attend childcare. The parents have to be working or attending school full time to qualify. Parents complete an application and a preliminary screening occurs in the HCFS office. Applications are then sent to DSS for approval. The scholarships are honored in approved ABC enhanced centers that participate with HCFS to ensure that the children are receiving quality care.

Program results:

- 14 families received a childcare scholarship
- 62% of families had one or more risk factors
- 12 monitoring visits were conducted at the sites where the children were enrolled

S.C. Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)/3140

Program description: CDEPP offers state-paid tuition of 4-year-old kindergarten classes to eligible students living in one of 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:

- 17 students served
- Two (2) childcare centers offered CDEPP 4K classes
- 100% of the children enrolled received Dial 3 screening to determine any potential developmental delay
- 78 hours of technical assistance were conducted in FY 09
- 100% of the children were monitored throughout the year using a work sampling assessment tool
- 100% participation at the 9-day creative curriculum, 2 day work sampling, children from poverty workshop, curriculum embedded assessment training and emergent literacy workshop.
- Two (2) children were referred for special education services

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expenditures By Funding Source	
State Appropriation (<i>Fund 10</i>)	\$115,002
E.I.A. Appropriation (<i>Fund 55</i>)	\$22,430
State Appropriation-Carry Fwd. (<i>Fund 11</i>)	\$20,553
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 60</i>)	\$67,226
C.O.E. Appropriation (<i>Fund 65</i>)	\$129,828
E.I.A. Appropriation-Carry Fwd. (<i>Fund 56</i>)	\$82
State Private (<i>Fund 15</i>)	\$350
Local Private (<i>Fund 20</i>)	\$7,094
Federal (<i>Fund 30</i>)	\$26,785
In-Kind (<i>Fund 25</i>)	\$50,450
TOTAL:	\$439,800

<u>Expenditures</u> By Program / Strategy Name	
2011-Parent As Teachers (public)	\$43,199
2012-Parent As Teachers (in-house)	\$59,524
2122-Imagination Library (in-house)	\$1,687
3140-Full Day 4-K (private)	\$67,000
6012-Childcare Quality Enhance (in-house)	\$74,605
6050-Childcare Training & Prof. Dev. (private)	\$2,970
6052-Childcare Training & Prof. Dev. (in-house)	\$15,175
7031-Scholarship Initiatives (public)	\$37,400
7032-Scholarship Initiatives (in-house)	\$74,381
9012-Public Health-Based Services (in-house)	\$9,174
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$36,861
Administrative Functions	\$17,824
TOTAL:	\$439,800

NOTABLE DONORS

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	AMOUNT
Coastal Community Foundation of SC	\$7500.00
Board Members	\$40.00
United Way of Bamberg, Colleton & Hampton	\$362.50
Community Donations	\$95.00
Fundraiser	\$182.00
TOTAL:	\$8179.50

*Local Match Percentage for FY 2009: 53.6%
(at least 15% Legislative requirement)*

COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name – FY'09	Category
Brenda Brooks LaSonya Bryson-Murdaugh	Family Education, Training, and Support
Debra Scott	Pre-K Education
Alice Wright Jamie Williams	Faith Community
Rose Choice	Appointed Hampton School Dist #2
Virginia Douglas	Early Childhood Education
Glenda Dunbar	Legislative Appointee
Mary Ennis	Legislative Appointee
Kandi Hewlett	Childcare Provider
Cynthia Gordon	Appointed by Hampton County Library
Terrie Hill	Early Childcare Education
Tammy Washington	Appointed Hampton County Health Department
Jerry Mikell Hattie Askew	Business Community
Marelyn Murdaugh	Appointed Hampton School Dist #1
Lynette Harley Tracy Preston	Parent served by First Steps
Joyce Dunbar	Appointed Low Country Head Start
Bob Harris	Non-Profit serving families/Children
Bridget Gray-Peebles	Appointed Hampton DSS
Kakela Robinson	Transportation Provider

Hampton County First Steps Success Stories

My name is Shanita Johnson and my daughter Raniyah Johnson is enrolled in the Parents As Teachers program. Ms. Vicky has done a marvelous job teaching Raniyah and me. This program has taught me to be a better mother emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually. I understand being a parent takes a lot of love, patience, and learning. Raniyah has learned a lot and she is ready for 4-K. The teachers are going to be amazed, but I cannot take all the credit. I would recommend this program to everyone I know. I thank God for this program and the people who put it together. Please keep up the good work.

*Shanita Johnson
Parents As Teachers Program*

I enjoy serving all of my PAT families. I love to see the pride in a parent's face when their child accomplishes something new. Three years ago, I enrolled a young expecting mother. That young woman had a premature baby, barely weighing over 3 lbs. This mother's dedication to her child's developmental needs lead the child to not only becoming developmentally ready, but to exceed all expectations for a three year old. This same mother was blessed this year with a baby who has special needs. I am looking forward to assisting this mother again in her endeavor to prepare both children for school.

*Vicky Belger
Parent Educator*

Hampton County First Steps has really helped me to enhance my classroom. They provided materials, equipment, and resources needed for my room, that otherwise I would not have been able to afford. All the materials have helped in educating my group of three-year-old children in a fun way using things that are age appropriate.

*Michelle Hoats
The Mellon Patch Childcare Center*

My name is Nichole Sauls. I am the owner and director of Kids R Us childcare center. The center is ABC enhanced and we receive First Steps childcare scholarships. First Steps scholarships help keep our enrollment constant, as well as produce funding which helps operate the center. In addition, the scholarships help working parents and single parents that cannot afford childcare send their child to a safe learning environment. The scholarships are a very important asset to my childcare center.

*Nichole Sauls
Kids R Us Childcare Center*

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:

Timeline of special moments during the past ten years:

1999-2000 Organization of County Partnership

2000-2001 Public Forums were held in the County. The Hampton County First Steps Partnership Board was developed.

2001-2002 Began implementation of programs during FY'02

2002-2003 First Steps Full Day 4K classes implemented. One (1) additional full-day 4K class in District One and two (2) full-day 4K classes in District Two were offered.

2003-2004 The first group of 40 children that attended 4-K ('01-'02 school year) completed the first grade in May, '04 with a retention rate of 4.02%, compared to the total retention rate from all first grades in the county of 18.5%.

2004-2005 Both Hampton County school districts participated in the Countdown To Kindergarten program. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library started in Hampton County.

2005-2006 Parents As Teachers program resumed services in-house

2006-2007 One hundred twenty three (123) children have received childcare subsidies through the Scholarship Initiative since implementation.

2007-2008 Center of Excellence was awarded to Lawtonville CDM in Hampton County

2008-2009 Received grant in the amount of \$7500.00 from the Coastal Community Foundation to enhance playgrounds at childcare centers.

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.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile Hampton County

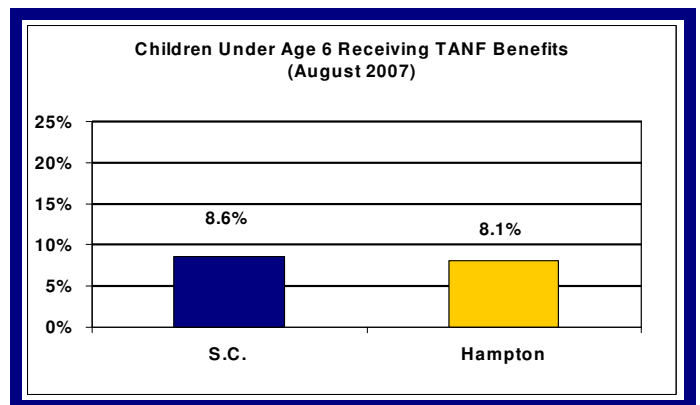
Total Children Under Six: 1,619

CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4% Hampton County (2007): 8.1%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 12 Hampton 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.
- 131 of Hampton County’s 1,619 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.

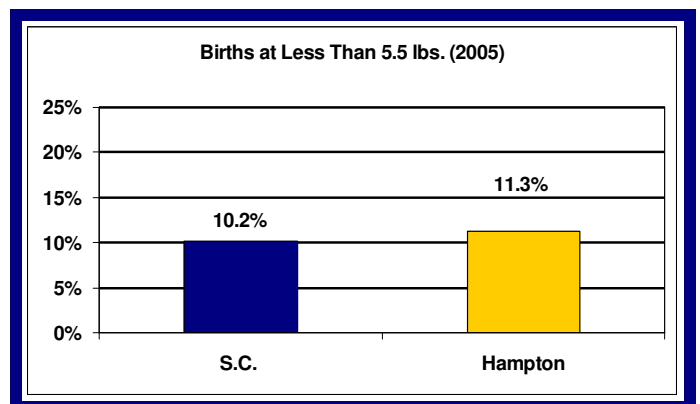


CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2% Hampton County (2005): 11.3%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 9 Hampton 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.
- 33 of the 293 children born in Hampton County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



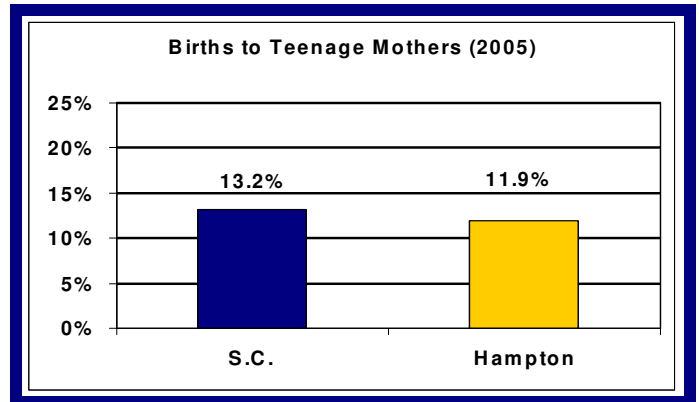
BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

Hampton County (2005): 11.9%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 9 Hampton 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.
- 35 of the 293 children born in Hampton County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

Hampton County (2005): 25.0%

Fast Fact: 1 in 4 children in Hampton 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.
- 73 of the 293 children born in Hampton County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

