

GOAL THREE: Stakeholder Education

Enhance the knowledge of families, businesses and child care providers regarding the significance of quality child care.

Accomplishments:

- Adopted by the City of Greenville—a Citywide Early Childhood Strategic Plan.
- Authored: Strengthening SC's Economic Future-Child Care Quality Matters—Palmetto STARS: Be Part of the Solution.
- Received by local employer the 2004 SC Family Friendly Workplace Award: City of Greenville
- Recruited a new partner to the Child Care Initiative: The Greenville County Housing Authority.
- Held Business Leadership Summit—sponsored by GHS Children's Hospital, PRIDE, First Steps and UW Success By 6.
- Held Building Children's Futures event in partnership with Greenville PTA to raise awareness regarding the need for high quality early education prior to K5.

GOAL FOUR: Public Policy

Create awareness of child care issues and encourage aggressive solutions by citizens, business and local, state, and federal governments.

Accomplishments:

- Supported the passage of improved SC Child Care Licensing regulations. (Spring 2005 passed.)
- Endorsed Palmetto Stars—a voluntary quality star rating system that, when implemented, will enable parents to understand the quality indicators of excellent child care and to make informed early education decisions for their children.
- Sponsored “Greenville County Child Care Solutions”—a Call to Action adopted by ALL Local Municipal Governments.



CHILD CARE INITIATIVE PARTNERS

- United Way of Greenville County Success By 6
- Greenville County First Steps
- Child Care Resource & Referral of The Upstate
- Greenville County Child Care Association
- Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce
- Greenville County Schools—Early Education & Lifelong Learning
- Community Foundation of Greater Greenville
- Greenville County DSS—Child Care Licensing
- SC Department of DSS—ABC Child Care Division
- Center for Child Care Career Development
- SHARE Head Start
- Children's Advocacy, Greenville Hospital System—Children's Hospital
- Greenville Technical College—Early Education Department
- Center for Developmental Services (CDS)
- Greenville Library System
- Lapsits for Early Literacy
- Strong Communities
- City of Greenville
- YWCA
- PRIDE
- Furman University

Thank you to the following local municipalities who have signed Greenville County's Child Care Solutions, A Call to Action: County of Greenville, City of Greenville, City of Greer, City of Fountain Inn, City of Mauldin, City of Simpsonville, and City of Traveler's Rest.

Susan Shi, Chairwoman
Laurie Rovin, Staff
Linda Allen
Doris Ballard
Susan Beattie
Stacey Bechtold*+
Linda Brees
Michele Brinn
Dottie Campbell
Martha Cooper
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Liz DuBose
Jeff Dunlaevy+
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Dana Grant
Saundra Ground
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Allison Howard**
Shannon Humphries*
Beverly Hunter
Dawn Huntley
Annette Kerns

Stephanie Knobel***
Ginni Johnson**
Kathy Lark**
Barbara Lee
Susan Lill*+
Phyllis Martin
Millie McDonald
Libba McKinney
Lori Moody*
Wayne Mullen+
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Nicole Smith
Lewis Smoak+
Diane Smock++
Lynda Stokes-Kimak***
Juliane Taylor**
Bernard Tisdale*+
Joni Thomas
Myrna Turner
Jane Watkins**
David White*
Kendra Williams*
Amanda Wilson
Stephen Woods+
Susan Zeiger+

Key:
* Parent
** Child Care Provider
+ Business Leader
*+ Parent/Business Leader
++ Elected Official

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THE GREENVILLE COUNTY
CHILD CARE INITIATIVE

Status Report 2005





HISTORY

Spring 2002, Success By 6[®] convened a group of Greenville County citizens representing governmental agencies, higher education, public and private child care providers, public schools and non-profit organizations to form a Local Council, the Greenville County Child Care Initiative. Today the Initiative is a formal committee of United Way of Greenville County.

The Child Care Initiative is focused on the coordination and expansion of high quality resources, providing information regarding child care issues and seizing opportunities to shape public policy. The Child Care Initiative works to achieve four goals. They are:

GOAL ONE: Quality

Advance the quality of child care, practices and policies, and the education and compensation of the staff.

Accomplishments:

- Committed dollars (by First Steps and United Way) to sustain ELOA federal grant, STEPS Early Literacy Project, to continue quality enhancements by Child Care Outreach Staff (5) to child care centers and family care homes.
- Achieved NAEYC Accreditation (Meyers Center and YWCA) raising total to 20 NAEYC child development programs in Greenville County!
- Provided two Prospective Child Care business seminars to encourage creation of new, high quality child development centers.
- Sponsored Love and Logic discipline training for Centers & Parents.

- Partnered with local Fire Departments to train Child Care teachers about Fire Safety.
- Partnered with the State to create an Infant/Toddler Curricula to be taught at technical colleges statewide in an effort to improve teacher quality.
- Instituted training for 289 child care providers, giving them the skills and tools needed to identify developmental delays in children and the resources for parent referrals.
- Institutionalized a Human Resources Certificate Business/Child Care Series into an annual training series at Greenville County Schools Lifelong Learning Program.

GOAL TWO: Availability & Affordability

Expand the availability and affordability of quality child care programs in all geographic regions of Greenville.

Accomplishments:

- Secured lottery funding for a public/private, NAEYC accredited 4-K Classroom for 20 children most in need.
- Participated on the SC Task Force on the Cost of Quality Early Care and Education.
- Formed partnership with faith based and retail community to work with Family, Friend & Neighbor Care Providers.

OUR GOAL: Quality

- Total number of providers meeting highest quality standards (NAEYC)
- Child Care teachers who completed Early Childhood Credential (passed ECD 101) this year
- Child Care teachers who completed Early Childhood Associates Degree this year

	2002	2005
Total number of providers meeting highest quality standards (NAEYC)	11	20
Child Care teachers who completed Early Childhood Credential (passed ECD 101) this year	59	59
Child Care teachers who completed Early Childhood Associates Degree this year	1	6

TREND

Better
Equal
Better

OUR GOAL: Availability & Affordability

- Number of ABC Enhanced Quality Centers
- Number of NAEYC Accredited Centers accepting ABC Vouchers
- Total number of children receiving ABC Vouchers
- Where do parents CHOOSE to use the Child Care Subsidy Vouchers?

Number of ABC Enhanced Quality Centers	39	50
Number of NAEYC Accredited Centers accepting ABC Vouchers	8	8
Total number of children receiving ABC Vouchers	2,090	2,144

Better
Equal
Better

Minimum Quality ABC Centers	184	138
Enhanced Quality ABC Centers	675	695
NAEYC Accredited Centers	20	15

USDA Food Care Program: Percentage of Centers participating	15%	27%
USDA Food Care Program: Percentage of Family Child Caregivers participating	30%	22%

Better
Better
Worse

- USDA Food Care Program: Percentage of Centers participating
- USDA Food Care Program: Percentage of Family Child Caregivers participating

USDA Food Care Program: Percentage of Centers participating	15%	27%
USDA Food Care Program: Percentage of Family Child Caregivers participating	30%	22%

Better
Worse

OUR GOAL: Stakeholder Education

- SC Family Friendly Workplace Applications
- Thousands of dollars supporting this effort
- Child Care Initiative Active Partners participating in this initiative

SC Family Friendly Workplace Applications	3	3
Thousands of dollars supporting this effort	0	\$30,000
Child Care Initiative Active Partners participating in this initiative	0	19

Equal
Better
Better

OUR GOAL: Public Policy

- Dollars in Greenville County First Steps State Funding (FY 05)
- Dollars in Greenville's ABC Voucher System (FY 05) (July 1, 2004–June 30, 2005)

Dollars in Greenville County First Steps State Funding (FY 05)	\$2,350,000	\$1,135,864 *
Dollars in Greenville's ABC Voucher System (FY 05) (July 1, 2004–June 30, 2005)	\$3,500,000	\$4,017,993 **

Worse*
Better

* FY State Budget funding has improved 5% from 2004. In addition, Greenville First Steps received \$278,566 in State Lottery funds.

** Increase of \$377,000 of which STEPS Early Literacy funded \$305,000 via Federal dollars = \$72,000 increase in state dollars.

STATUS REPORT RESULTS (FROM JULY 1, 2004 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2005) ARE BASED ON AN ANALYSIS OF THE GREENVILLE COUNTY CHILD CARE INITIATIVE STRATEGIC PLAN.

Data reported is from SC Department of Social Services (DSS) Advocates for Better Care (ABC), Greenville County First Steps, and the SC TEACH (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Initiative.

- 112 Center Based Caregivers (For-Profit, Faith Based, and Not-For-Profit)
- 104 Family Caregivers
- 11 Head Start Centers
- 38 Preschool/Mother's Morning Out Programs
- 36 School Age Programs

Four years ago, Greenville County decided to improve the availability of affordable, quality child care. Never before has our county worked so closely on an early education issue as we have on child care. Partners are examining their individual resources, and developing common strategies to achieve measurable results. Greenville has demonstrated the capacity to establish model programs that benefit our youngest children and their school achievement. South Carolina considers Greenville to be a leader in the early care and education arena.

In 2002, we promised a report card each year, and each year we have delivered. 2005 marks some progress. Are we where we want to be? No, but we are making progress and are determined to improve the quality of infant/toddler, preschool and 4-Year-Old Kindergarten programs.

In South Carolina this year, Child Care Licensing Regulations were strengthened for the first time since 1993. The Child Care Initiative partners played a major role in this success. Could these regulations be stronger still? Absolutely. South Carolina continues to lag behind other states in areas such as Group Size and appropriate teacher: child ratios. However, we did make progress this year and are determined to fight for continued improvements.

The Child Care Initiative has also strongly advocated for the institutionalization of a Quality Rating System for child care programs. Parents need to recognize and understand the components of quality care so they can select quality child care for their children. A quality indicator system will differentiate one program from another—hence we are determined to initiate a voluntary Quality Rating System for South Carolina's child care system.

Moving forward, the Greenville County Child Care Initiative will focus on building Business and Government Partners, strengthening the Child Care Industry to improve the quality of their business, and engaging parents to become their child's advocate regarding quality early care and education.