

Invest in the Workforce of Tomorrow: One Action Step at a Time



1. Did you know that nearly 5,000 of Greenville County's children under age six are struggling to survive live below the federal poverty line?

What you can do: Use your voice to encourage county, state and federal leaders to make quality early care and education a priority for ALL children in South Carolina. When we strengthen those children most at risk, we all win.

2. Did you know that quality early childhood education has been proven to strengthen the neural connections in a child's developing brain, and increase the child's chances of a healthy, productive life?

What you can do: Work to ensure that all of your employees- especially those in lower-paying jobs- have access to a reliable, high-quality child development center. Helping your employees in this way will foster strong loyalty and better attendance, while lowering turnover and hiring costs. Tell employees about Child Care Resource & Referral – www.childcarehelpline.org or call 864-467-4800

3. Did you know that implementing a Dependent Care Savings Account at work enables your employees to make pre-tax contributions for child care payments?

What you can do: Ask your benefits coordinator what it takes to implement this plan, or contact Stacey Bechtold at sbechtold@unitedwaygc.org *Partners In Productivity* project to learn more.

4. Did you know that employers can help employees by building a partnership with a Quality Child Care Provider to Reserve slots and/or negotiate reduced rates?

What you can do? Learn more about what Quality Child Care looks like. Contact the Success By 6, Child Care Resource & Referral Office and ask for assistance in establishing such a partnership. 467-4800 or childcare@unitedwaygc.org – www.childcarehelpline.org

5. Did you know that many employees pay the same amount for poor quality child care as they do high quality child care and most do not know the *Indicators of Quality Child Care*?

What you can do? Schedule a child care “lunch – and – learn” session for your employees. It's easy to do, and, takes less than one-hour. You can also link your website to the CCR&R website for employees to learn where they can get help finding quality childcare. www.childcarehelpline.org Contact childcare@unitedwaygc.org

6. Did you know that on average Greenville lacks a supply of quality child care programs; that Greenville only has 20 NAEYC (Highest national accreditation for early childhood programs) programs available to parents; and that we lack a statewide quality rating system to help parents identify quality early care and education programs? NAEYC Quality Standards can be found at www.naeyc.org.

What you can do? Partner with United Way and First Steps by participating in Community Links to Learning to help a center meet a specific need Contact: Childcare@unitedwaygc.org and ask about the *Partners In Productivity* project.

7. Did you know that SC leads the nation by meeting 8 out of 10 Quality Indicator Standards for 4-Year Old Kindergarten in the Public Schools? Greenville County Schools leads the state by providing high quality 4K for 1360 children who have been screened and identified as at-risk for learning.

What you can do? Support continuation of 4-Year Old State Education Approved Classrooms and don't compromise quality by allowing our state to implement lesser quality standards.

8. Did you know that Early Childhood Education is a natural fit for Economic Development?
 - a. High Quality Child Care and Education supports the regional economy
 - b. High Quality Child Care and Education supports working families
 - c. High Quality Child Care and Education enables children to succeed in life

Ensure that every regional economic plan addresses child care and how it will be supported as a key component of the infrastructure of the economy. Ask any of our sponsors about how you can get involved with the newly formed Children's Economic Developers Group, Co-Chaired by City of Greenville Councilwoman Diane Smock and CU ICAR Business Leader, Bob Geolas.