

Statewide, Multi-regional and Coordination Strategies Report – December 2010

Federal Grants					
Strategy & Policy Contact	Funding Source	FY2011 Awarded Amount	FY2011 Expended Amount	Grant Description	FY2011 Performance and Significant Milestones Update
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Dr. Judy Walruff	Federal	\$132,000	\$13,326	This grant award supports the FTF Children's Budget project, a Cost of Quality Study, coordination with the Arizona Department of Health Services, and a collaboration project with the Intertribal Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection for the Children's Budget project is nearly complete and draft data and narrative have been reviewed. The Cost of Quality Study is scheduled to begin in January 2011. Collaboration with ADHS to coordinate and align health services for children birth through age five is ongoing with information exchange meetings, joint planning (e.g. home visiting grant), and problem solving. An early childhood collaboration project is in development and is coordinated with and through Beverly Russell, FTF Tribal Liaison.
State Advisory Council for Early Childhood Education (SAC or ELAC) Dr. Judy Walruff	Federal	\$2,489,746	\$00.00	These grant funds support the Quality First Pilot and the development and dissemination of the Infant/Toddler Guidelines, Birth to Five Program Guidelines, and Early Learning standards. FTF also applied for supplemental funds and was awarded an additional \$164,000 that will support the work of the FTF Advisory Committees – Health, Early Learning and Family Support & Literacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Quality First Pilot is underway. 56 centers and 3 homes applied to participate in the pilot. To date, 10 participants have completed the portfolio process and are waiting assessment scoring. The Quality First Assistant Coordinator provides ongoing technical assistance to support providers as they move through the process of building their portfolios and submitting information into the online system of data collection. It is anticipated that overall, 34 programs will complete the pilot process. All assessments should be conducted by March 2011, at which time the data analysis will begin. The contracts with the Department of Education to implement the development and training for the Early Learning Guidelines and Birth to Three Developmental Guidelines will be completed and sent to the Department of Education by January 30, 2011.
Birth to Five Policy Alliance - Zero to Three	Non-funded	in-kind technical assistance	NA	FTF receives technical assistance in order to expand and integrate Early Head Start into the state's early childhood system. The goal is that more infants and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arizona is among five states (AR, CO, HI, and MS) selected for this second round of technical assistance provided by the organization Zero To Three.

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Dr. Judy Wairuff			toddlers receive high-quality early care and education services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A first planning conference call was held December 16, 2010, and will lead to a five state technical assistance meeting scheduled for April 13-15, 2011. The Arizona team is composed of FTF, the Head Start State Collaboration Office, the Arizona Head Start Association, and the Arizona Head Start Training and Technical Assistance staff.
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FIRST THINGS FIRST

Grant Opportunities and Federal Legislation Pending Action		
Race To The Top (RTTT)	<p>The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allocated \$4.3 billion for Race To The Top competitive grants. This federal grant program is designed to encourage and reward implementation of significant education reforms across four specific areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standards and Assessments• Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems/Use• Great Teachers, Great Leaders• Support to Struggling Schools <p>The second round of Race To The Top applications from states were due June 1, 2010.</p>	<p>Arizona was not selected for the second round of RTTT funding. The state was the highest-ranking Western state and placed 12th among the 19 finalists. It missed a grant by 5.4 points.</p> <p>Second round winning states were Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio and Rhode Island.</p>
Early Learning Challenge Fund	<p>In late July, the <u>Senate Labor, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations</u> proposed significant investments in early childhood programs, including \$1 billion in new funds for the Child Care and Development Block Grant and an increase of \$990.3 million for Head Start and Early Head Start. The bill also includes \$300 million for a new Early Learning Challenge Fund to provide competitive grants to states for early childhood programs.</p> <p>The Early Learning Challenge Fund grants would encourage states to coordinate quality improvement activities across early learning settings, including child care, Head Start and pre-kindergarten programs; expand the number of low-income children in high-quality programs; and ensure that more children enter kindergarten ready to succeed. These investments were part of the subcommittee's plan for FY 2011 funding for agencies under its jurisdiction.</p>	<p>In the last days of the 110th Congress, efforts were made to identify a mechanism for funding the Early Learning Challenge Fund. Unfortunately, none was found, and efforts to invest in early care and education programs will have to begin again during the next congressional term. There is no effort underway currently.</p>

<p>H.R. 3590: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Formerly America's Healthy Futures Act of 2009)</p>	<p>The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act establishes a home visiting grant program for states administered through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) as a new section of the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grant program. It provides \$1.5 billion over 5 years for maternal, infant and early childhood home visitation programs.</p> <p>Grantees are required to use an evidence-based program model with a benchmark component that measures: improvement in maternal and child health, childhood injury prevention, school readiness and achievement, crime or domestic violence, family economic self-sufficiency, and coordination with community resources and supports.</p> <p>Funding Breakdown:</p> <p>\$1.5 billion* over 5 years \$100M for FY2010 \$250M for FY2011 \$350M for FY2012 \$400M for FY2013 \$400M for FY2014</p> <p><i>*State and Federal Reservations Apply</i></p> <p>The Act requires states to complete a needs assessment to identify communities that have few quality home visitation programs and are at-risk for poor maternal and child health outcomes as a pre-condition for receiving the home visiting funds.</p>	<p>ADHS, the agency holding the Title V Maternal and Child Health block grant, submitted an initial assessment of maternal child health and welfare risk and a description of early childhood home visiting programs operating in Arizona. The application provides an overview of the state, the methodology for defining a community as at-risk, a list of those communities considered to be at-risk, and Arizona's plan for addressing the needs identified in those communities.</p> <p>Additional guidance is forthcoming from federal grant officers regarding final criteria for selecting the community(ies) that will be the focus of home visiting and the models eligible for serving the population. A state interagency steering committee (FTF, DES, ADE, ADHS) continues to meet to support and guide this process.</p>
<p>HR 3047, Balancing Act of 2009,</p>	<p>This legislation would make available funding to support a range of family support activities in states. It was referred to five committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Administration Committee • House Armed Services Committee • House Education and Labor Committee, • House Oversight and Government Reform Committee • House Ways and Means Committee 	<p>This legislation is "dead" according to congressional rules. This was never heard in committee and therefore must start over with a new bill number.</p>