



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

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January 4, 2010

First Things First  
Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board  
4000 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Chair Lynn and Board Members:

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council met on December 17, 2009 and after much discussion, is recommending for your consideration an additional allocation of \$500,000 for child care scholarships. The Statewide economic and employment recession emergency allocation of \$936,276 for the Yuma region is projected for depletion as of January 15, 2010. Approximately 450 children birth through 5 years of age have benefited from this allocation along with 90 participating early care and education programs in the region.

The allocation of \$500,000 would fund approximately 223 scholarships with priority families to receive scholarships as follow; infants and toddlers up to 35 months of age, children with special needs up to 5 years of age and not yet in kindergarten, children in single parent families, limit of 2 children per family and children not receiving assistance from another source. The Yuma Regional Partnership Council is recommending that the scholarships be distributed across the programs currently participating with the following guidelines. Quality First and Accredited Providers; family home setting 2 scholarships, group home setting 4 scholarships, small center 10 scholarships, medium center 14 and large centers 17 scholarships. The Yuma Regional Partnership Council would like to continue a portion of scholarships in non Quality First sites but at a lower number as follow; family home settings 1 scholarship, group home settings 2 scholarships, small center 3, medium center 6 and large centers 6 scholarships.

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council determined that this program would best be carried out in the region with a continued partnership with the current Administrative home to facilitate the transition process.

We respectfully request your approval of the determination to allocate an additional \$500,000 to child care scholarships as proposed.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Coil  
Chair, Yuma Regional Partnership Council