

January 15, 2008

First Things First  
Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board  
4000 N. Central Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85014

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Dorothy Yazzie  
Member

Dear Members of the First Things First State Board:

On behalf of the Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council, I am writing to request an additional extension until February 2009 for our Regional Council to present its Funding Plan to the State Board for approval. Since December, the Finance Committee of the Regional Partnership Council has met three times to develop strategies for the Regional Council to consider. The Regional Council met on January 6<sup>th</sup> to review the full plan. At this meeting members reviewed the strategies and additional questions or issues were raised. Members determined that more time was needed to work through points identified and they will meet on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to review and approve the plan.

Our prioritized strategies thus far are as follows:

### **Quality and Access**

- Increase number of children receiving quality early care and education through funding for facility improvements.
- Increase number of children receiving quality early care and education through expanding capacity of existing centers.
- Increase number of children receiving quality early care and education through funding of homes to be licensed.

### **Professional Development**

- Increase early care and education workforce by means of fostering education of those considering entering the field, those pursuing CDA, AA, BA, & MA degrees, and those currently employed, through funding of scholarships, incentives, or professional development.

- Increase early care and education workforce through retention of degreed professionals (CDA, AA, BA & MA) by funding of incentives or wage enhancement in early care and education.

### **Family Support**

- Support Ke' (extended family/friends childcare) by funding early care and education through home visitations, resources, seminars, and hands-on training to improve knowledge and understanding of basic parenting/care giving skills.
- Support families of children birth to 5 with literacy-rich environments that promote dual-language in early care education at preschools, centers and home based settings through funding, including but not limited to: development of materials, dissemination of materials, clearinghouse, and community awareness to parents and families.

The Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council looks forward to completing and presenting a thorough funding plan to the State Board in February. Even more importantly, we look forward to the implementation of the strategies and to making a real difference for the children and families of the Navajo Nation.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

*Paula Curley*

Dr. Paula Curley  
Chair, Navajo Nation Regional Partnership Council