



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

CENTRAL PIMA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL 2011 FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY

Regional Allocation 2011: \$9,034,787

Carry Forward from 2010: \$355,450

Funding Available for Allocation in 2011: \$ 9,390,237

Prioritized Needs	Goal Area	Proposed Strategies	Portion of Regional Allocation	Recommendation to the Board
Limited access to high quality early care and education programs and settings that provide an individualized continuum of support.	Quality and Access	Strategy 1 – Quality First	\$1,020,300	Recommend Approval
Limited access to literacy based support services.	Family Support	Strategy 2 – Early Literacy and Language Coaches working with center based programs	\$78,500	Recommend Approval
Lack of professional development opportunities tied to college credit.	Professional Development	Strategy 3- Innovative Professional Development	\$701,400	Recommend Approval
Lack of highly qualified professionals to serve all children birth through age five.	Professional Development	Strategy 4- T.E.A.C.H.	\$675,000	Recommend Approval
Limited access to quality health care services for high risk families.	Family Support Health	Strategy 5- Home Visitation for High-Risk Families (Nurse Family /Community Health Worker home visiting program)	\$1,600,000	Recommend Approval
Limited access to high quality early care and education programs and settings that provide an individualized continuum of care.	Quality and Access	Strategy 6- Expansion of Infant and Toddler Care	\$630,000	Recommend Approval
Limited access to comprehensive family education and support services.	Family Support	Strategy 7- Home Visitation and Community-Based Parent Education	\$750,000	Recommend Approval

Lack of highly qualified professionals to serve all children birth through age five.	Professional Development	Strategy 8- Professional REWARD\$	\$450,000	Recommend Approval
Inadequate number of professionals to address the behavioral health needs of young children.	Health	Strategy 9- Mental Health Consultation	\$500,000	Recommend Approval
Limited access to parent education and information.	Family Support	Strategy 10– Expansion of Parent Kits	\$25,000	Recommend Approval
Limited access to affordable early care and education	Access and Affordability	Economic Stabilization of Families	\$2,000,000	Recommend Approval
Lack of highly qualified professionals to serve all children birth through age five.	Professional Development	Professional Career Pathways Project	\$100,000	Recommend Approval
		Regional Needs & Assets	\$ 0	Recommend Approval
		Regional Evaluation	\$225,000	Not being submitted for Board approval
		Subtotal of Expenditures	\$8,755,200	
		Fund Balance	\$304,527	
		Grand Total	\$9,059,727	

Central Pima Regional Council Summary 2010-2012

	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012 ESTIMATED	Total
Revenue				
FTF Total Allocation for the SFY	\$9,571,194	\$9,034,787	\$9,034,787	\$27,640,768
Fund Balance (carry forward from previous SFY)	N/A	\$24,940	\$304,527	
Total Available Funds	\$9,571,194	\$9,059,727	\$9,339,314	
Strategies				
	SFY 2010 OBLIGATED	SFY 2011 PROPOSED	SFY 2012 ESTIMATED	Total
1 Quality First	\$1,020,300	\$1,020,300	\$1,020,300	\$3,060,900
2 Early Literacy and Language Coaches	\$78,500	\$78,500	\$78,500	\$235,500
3 Innovative Professional Development	\$584,449	\$701,400	\$701,400	\$1,987,249
4 T.E.A.C.H.	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$675,000	\$2,025,000
5 Home Visitation for High-Risk Families	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$4,800,000
6 Expansion of Infant and Toddler Care	\$1,049,926	\$630,000	\$630,000	\$2,309,926
7 Home-Based/Community-Based Visitation	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$2,250,000
8 FTF Professional REWARD\$	\$225,000	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$1,125,000
9 Mental Health Consultation	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,250,000
10 Expansion of Parent Kits	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$75,000
11 Maintain Quality to Accredited Programs	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
12a Communications	\$95,000	\$0	\$0	\$95,000
12b Community Awareness	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
13 Economic Stabilization of Families	\$450,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,450,000
14 Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP)	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Emergency Food Boxes	\$45,740	\$0	\$0	\$45,740
Emergency Scholarships*	\$2,382,339	\$0	\$0	\$2,382,339
Needs and Assets	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$20,000
Evaluation	\$0	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$450,000
Subtotal Expenditures	\$9,546,254	\$8,755,200	\$8,765,200	\$27,066,654
Fund Balance (carry forward)	\$24,940	\$304,527	\$574,114	
Total	\$9,571,194	\$9,059,727	\$9,339,314	

**On January 26, 2010 the First Things First State Board approved an amendment to the contract with the emergency child care scholarships administrative home, which returned \$119,490 of unspent funds to the Central Pima Region. The \$2,382,339 reflects the unspent funds returned to the Regional Council.*



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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February 12, 2010

First Things First State Board
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85201

Chair Lynn and Members of the First Things First Board:

The Central Pima Regional Partnership Council is pleased to present to the First Things First Board two strategies for consideration of approval. The first strategy, *Economic Stabilization of Families* falls under the goal area of Access and Affordability. As stated in the Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Plan, the Regional Council requested additional time to develop this new strategy. After engaging the community, meeting with members of the North Pima and South Pima Regional Partnership Councils and subsequent Regional Council discussions since November 2009, the Regional Council is proposing a long-term regional strategy that focuses on addressing the needs of Central Pima families through child care scholarships.

The Regional Council recognizes the importance of implementing this strategy as soon as possible to assist Central Pima families. The Regional Council is respectfully requesting the Board to approve this strategy and implementation to begin in Fiscal Year 2010. On February 3, 2010, the Regional Council motioned to implement this strategy in Fiscal Year 2010, with a 14 month minimum government to government agreement, using \$450,000 from the Fiscal Year 2010 Fund Balance, in addition to \$2,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2011, pending the approval by the First Things First Board.

The second strategy for the Board's consideration of approval derives from a community forum on professional development the Regional Council held in January 2010. Representatives from the Regional Council in partnership with the community collectively discussed and identified barriers to accessing professional development opportunities in Central Pima. From this conversation, the need to assist early care and education professionals who are unable to participate in the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) program emerged. On February 3, 2010 the Regional Council motioned to create a new strategy, for Fiscal Year 2011, *Professional Career Pathways Project* to meet the needs of Central Pima early care and education professionals who are ineligible to participate in TEACH. This proposed strategy will assist early care and education professionals attain early childhood coursework that will prepare them to be eligible for a Child Development Associate credential.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andrew Arthur, Chair,
Central Pima Regional Partnership Council

Central Pima Regional Partnership Council

Strategy # 13

Strategy Name: Economic Stabilization of Families

Strategy Description: First Things First will support working families who are facing economic challenges by developing a scholarship program that will assist families in retaining their young children in their current early care and education program at a reduced cost.

Supporting Young Children and their Families: Providing economic support for families with children birth to five by reducing a barrier to continuous, affordable, safe care is the intent of meeting the needs of Central Pima families through this regional strategy. Due to the increased costs associated with accessing and affording infant and toddler care, the Regional Council has identified a priority to support Central Pima families with infants and toddlers.

Scholarships support continuity of care to children and previously formed supportive relationships with care providers can remain in place. Research shows that children thrive in the care of familiar care providers who play a significant role in their lives and on whom they count for consistency, feelings of security, belonging and love. Continuity of care is particularly important for infants and toddlers as they are in the developmental stages of building basic trust and a sense of self.¹ Disruptions in care, particularly those that are abrupt, that result from changes in child care settings can be minimized with the use of scholarships.

The high cost of early care and education is one of the most difficult obstacles to obtaining and maintaining employment for many low-income or single-parent families. Without access to quality care, working families may be forced to decide whether to quit their jobs or leave children in care that is not their primary choice.

Scholarships support families who are employed, seeking employment or who are improving their skills by participating in training or education to better compete in the market place and who wish to give their children an educational boost. Although families with incomes less than 165% of the FPL would otherwise qualify for child care subsidies through the Department of Economic Security (DES), legislative budget cuts have resulted in a waiting list for subsidies. To date, over 11,000 children are on the DES waiting list which is only expected to increase as a result of additional budget cuts.

Price discrepancies correlate with the age of the child served, which creates an additional barrier to those families accessing and affording care for children younger than three years of age. As a guiding principle, the cost of child care should not exceed 10% of the family's annual income; however for some families, especially those who access care for infants and toddlers, the cost is significant. The DES Market Rate Survey conducted in 2008 reports the following daily costs demonstrating a price discrepancy between ages:

- *Full time care, for a child under the age of one year:* The median daily charge ranged from \$25.00 to \$38.00 across the Arizona districts while the statewide median is \$36.80.
- *Full time care, for a child one to two years:* The median daily charge ranged from \$22.00 to \$34.88 across the Arizona districts while the statewide median is \$32.55.
- *Full time care, for a child three, four or five years:* The median daily charge ranged from \$21.00 to \$30.00 across the Arizona districts while the statewide median is \$28.14.

Linking Families to Additional Programs and Supports: The Regional Council has a number of strategies implemented in the community. Recognizing some parents may need assistance beyond the scholarship, it is important families are informed of other services and programs supported by First Things First and beyond. The administrator will be responsible for developing a coordinated partnership with other First Things First partners, such as the family support partners that make up the Family Support Alliance. This will be key in linking supportive services with families who are in need of more comprehensive support that are offered through other Central Pima and statewide strategies.

The Regional Council recognizes this strategy as a unique opportunity to educate participating families about the overall mission and vision of First Things First. Families will learn more about why choosing quality child care is important, indicators of a quality care program and the instrumental role First Things First plays in building an overall comprehensive system for young children. Regional Council staff and the Regional Council will work directly with the First Things First Communications Division and the administrative home to ensure any messages and any public information materials pertaining to building awareness of this regional strategy coordinates and aligns with the overall mission and vision of First Things First.

Local Accountability Practices: The Regional Council is cognizant of the economic time, which may improve or further decline within the projected three Fiscal Years. The Regional Council also understands the shifting needs of the Central Pima community, particularly those families with young children. In response, the Regional Council has elected to create an Advisory Committee, which will comprise of the administrator (an ex officio member), at least one parent of a young child, at least one community member and at least one Regional Council member to oversee the progress of the program.

Benefits to the Child Care Infrastructure & Central Pima Community: Dramatic decreases in enrollment, increasing costs, and decreased DES child care reimbursements have resulted in severe financial pressures experienced by child care providers in both center and home-based settings. Providers across the state, including in Central Pima, have closed their doors, and many others are threatened with closure without an infrastructure in place to help them stabilize their financial situations. With improved financial stability, centers and homes have the increased ability to maintain staff which contributes to the stability of the environment and quality of care to enrolled children. Scholarships also play a strong role in achieving and maintaining high quality care and education and will be implemented through a sliding scale.

Participating early care and education providers are eligible to participate if the provider/program meets the following criteria:

- The program provides early care and education services to children birth through age five;
- The program is in good standing or with their certifying, licensing or regulatory authority; and,
- The program demonstrates a commitment to quality by one of the following:
 1. Is already enrolled as a Quality First participant and is actively working towards quality improvement, **or**
 2. Is accredited by one of the six national accreditations recognized also by the Arizona Department of Education and Arizona Department of Economic Security, and provides a written statement that the entity has either already applied for Quality First (improvement or rating, when available) or will apply and commits to participate when accepted into the Quality First program, **or**
- The program demonstrates that it has applied for Quality First (improvement or rating, when available) and commits to participate when accepted into the Quality First program.

Lead Goal: FTF will increase availability and affordability of early care and education settings.

Key Measures:

- # of licensed spaces for target populations.
- # of spaces for target populations meeting Quality First! three star measures.

Target Population:

- Central Pima families with children birth to five who exhibit an economic difficulty in keeping their child in their current early care and education placement
- Central Pima families accessing child care for the first time for their child one year of age or younger.

Priority will be given to families who may experience one or more of the following barriers (but may not be limited to):

- Parents who are not eligible for any form of child care subsidy/assistance
- Working parents up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line
- Parents who are currently accessing infant and toddler care
- Parents who are accessing care for their child aged one year or younger for the first time
- Teen parents
- Parents underemployed, currently looking for employment or currently receiving job training

Proposed Service Numbers	SFY 2011	SFY 2012	SFY 2013
	July 1, 2010 –June 30, 2011	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
	500 Families Region-wide	500 Families Region-wide	500 Families Region-wide

Performance Measures:

- Current cost of early care and education for families as a proportion of the median income for a family of four.
- Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in regulated early care and education programs as a proportion of total population birth through age five.
- Number of families referred to other First Things First programs/Actual Service Number.

SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy

Allocation for proposed strategy	\$ 2,000,000
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Budget Justification for the Central Pima Economic Stabilization of Families Program**Scholarships: Approximately \$1,810,000**

- Scholarships will be based on family size and income.
- The family's annual income will be based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines, supporting families up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line.
- This program is not intended to cover 100% of the care placement. The family will be responsible for at least 50% of the portion.
- Maximum number of children/families will be allocated per center, per year to participate.
- Participating early care and education programs will have published rates that apply equally to all families.

Administrative Home: Approximately \$190,000*

An administrative home will be responsible for overseeing the progress of the program, which includes:

- **Administrative Tasks:** Fiscal responsibilities include but not limited to ensuring and determining eligibility of families and early care and education programs; conducting random audits; keeping financial records; development of applications and related forms.

- **Coordination Component:** Developing a partnership with local community, early care and education providers, families and First Things First partners. The administrator will work collaboratively with participating families, early care and education programs and current First Things First partners to help coordinate any additional services the family may need assistance in accessing.
- **Accountability Component:** The administrator will serve as an active participant on the Advisory Committee in the role of an ex officio member. The administrator will work in partnership with the Advisory Committee, which will also include with at least one parent of a young child, at least one community member and at least one Regional Council member to oversee the progress of the program.

**Note: The intent of the Regional Council is to keep administrative costs as low as possible in order to maximize funding to direct services to young children and their families.*

¹ Lally, J. R. & Signer, S. M. Introduction to Continuity. Available at:

http://www.pitc.org/cs/pitclib/download/pitc_res/360/Introduction%20to%20Continuity.pdf?x-r=pcfile_d

Central Pima Regional Partnership Councils

Strategy #: 14

Strategy Name: Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP)

Strategy Description: Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP) scholarships will be available to those who are unable to participate in the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) scholarships and covers only early childhood coursework that prepares them to be eligible for a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. PCPP has been active in Arizona for over twelve years and has supported hundreds of early care and education professionals to achieve their CDA, certificates of completion and two-year degrees. Early care and education professionals who use this scholarship would be required to commit to remain in the early childhood field for one year after receiving the scholarship.

PCPP is a program offered at community colleges throughout Arizona for Early Childhood Education classes. To be eligible, individuals must be employed or volunteer in center-based programs, family child care provider homes or family group homes. The program supports professionals by paying tuition and registration fees for specific courses in early childhood education (ECE), including those leading to the CDA credential, Community College Certificate of Completion and Associate of Applied Science degree in ECE, or other related education goals.

Participants must work with an ECE advisor to identify a Pathway, also known as an identified goal, and pursue the early care and education coursework that accomplishes that Pathway. In addition, participants must complete all courses paid for by the PCPP with a grade of "C" or better to be eligible for continued scholarships. All coursework must meet the requirements to obtain the CDA, Community College Certificate of completion or a two-year degree in early childhood.

The Central Pima Regional Partnership Council understands the importance of building a strong partnership with First Things First partners, including the PCPP program. The Regional Council intends to work closely with the local community colleges that serve the Central Pima community and will coordinate an Advisory Team to strengthen this partnership. The Advisory Team will include the program administrator and/or at least one community college representative, at least one student participating in the PCPP program and at least one Regional Council member. Other FTF partners carrying out related professional development strategies in the Central Pima region will be included in the participatory process to coordinate and align professional development strategies and goals.

Lead Goal:

- FTF will build a skilled and well-prepared early childhood development workforce.
- FTF will increase the retention of the early care and education workforce.

Key Measures:

- Total number and percentage of professionals working in early childhood care and education settings with a credential, certificate or degree in early childhood development.
- Total number and percentage of professionals working in early childhood care and education that are pursuing a credential, certificate or degree.
- Retention rates of early childhood professionals.

Target Population: Professionals working in early childhood care and education settings.

	SFY 2011 July 1, 2010 –June 30, 2011	SFY 2012 July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	SFY 2013 July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
Proposed Service Numbers	Approximately 120 Professionals Region-wide	Approximately 120 Professionals Region-wide	Approximately 120 Professionals Region-wide
Performance Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed number of professionals pursuing degree in early childhood/Actual service number. • Proposed numbers of professionals working in early childhood with a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential/Proposed service numbers. • Proposed number of early care and education teachers retained for three years/Actual number of professionals. 			
SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy			
Allocation for proposed strategy	\$ 100,000		
Budget Justification: Supporting approximately 120 Early Care and Education Professionals through the Professional Career Pathways Project Program <p>Based on the early care and education professional enrolling in 6 credit hours per year: \$825 annually</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pima Community College tuition (estimated): Up to approximately \$750 annually for the cost of 6 credits (approximately \$125 per credit hour, which includes costs to administer the program) • Registration fees, technology fees, student services fees, supply fees (estimated): \$75 annually 			