

Proposed Discretionary Distribution Methodology

Introduction

FTF staff has prioritized the following four options, in order, to distribute discretionary funding for Regional Partnership Councils:

- Funding sufficient to ensure one priority strategy can be implemented by each Regional Council.
- Provide an adjustment for those communities deemed non-metropolitan or more rural in nature that face higher costs for providing/obtaining services and difficulty attracting and retaining services, programs and professionals.
- Provide additional funding that would be potentially targeted to address a need/gap across Regional Partnership Councils that would be evident from an analysis of the impacts of state budget cuts to critical services for young children. Additional work in reviewing possible uses of these funds will be conducted during the next week and provided Board members by February 20th.
- Funding for regional program/service evaluations—FTF staff and Regional Councils will work together to identify the evaluations to be conducted.

In addition to the above, regional needs and assets basic reports will be provided through FTF administrative funds rather than discretionary and other program funds. Regional Councils that want to collect information above and beyond the standards may use their population-based allocation.

Proposed Distributions

Staff has prepared a proposed breakdown of Discretionary dollars based on the priorities enumerated by Regional Partnership Council Chairs and Vice-Chairs and the Board of FTF Executive Committee. Those priority distributions are:

1) Baseline Adjustment -- To ensure each Regional Partnership Council's is able to fund one strategy, the Cocopah and Hualapai Regions would be given sufficient funds to fully execute their only funded strategy. FTF staff proposes setting aside sufficient funds to allow those Regional Partnership Councils with \$50,000 or fewer in Population-Based Allocations to gain the ability to implement at least one priority strategy based on their initial indications of discretionary funds needed.

2) Frontier Communities Adjustment – FTF staff proposes that Regional Partnership Councils that lie within areas deemed by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2000 to be “Frontier Communities” be given an additional allocation from discretionary funds. The total amount to be allocated in this manner is based on the number of children 5 and under in designated “Frontier” regions to the total of all children 5 and under in the state. The resulting percentage would be applied against total discretionary dollars to determine the amount to be provided to “Frontier”

regions, with the apportionment to each region based on their share of the total children 5 and under in all Frontier” regions. The “Frontier” adjustment would provide \$6,300,000—or approximately 21 percent of discretionary monies—for the affected regions as shown on the Discretionary Table. The definition for “Frontier Communities” used by the U.S. Census Bureau is determined using a variety of criteria including population density and availability of services relative to the number of miles needed to be driven to reach the service. A full explanation of the latest consensus definition of a Frontier Community is located at: <http://www.frontierus.org/documents/consensus.htm>.

Twelve of Arizona’s counties are considered “Frontier” based on the 2000 Census List of Frontier counties (<http://www.frontierus.org/2000census.htm>). This includes all counties except Maricopa, Pima (portion thereof) and Pinal counties. However, the National Center for Frontier Communities designates part of Pima County as a Frontier Community, as per the University of Arizona’s Rural Health Office. For this proposal FTF staff followed the definitions as provided by the National Center for Frontier Communities and have designated all Regions outside of Maricopa, Pinal (fully contained within) and Pima Counties, with the exception of the South Pima Regional Partnership Council, Pascua Yaqui Reservation and the Tohono O’Odham which meet the definition of a Frontier Community as staff understands it.

3) Needs & Assets/Evaluation Distribution – This is a distribution of funds sufficient for Evaluative services across regions. FTF Staff recommends \$1,000,000 as a set-aside for this purpose and intends to allocate an additional \$620,000 from Administrative Account funds to Program Account funds to provide for the costs of the basic regional Needs & Assets development.

4) Additional Discretionary Funding –FTF staff recommends allocating \$22,873,000—the remaining Discretionary Funds available for FY 2010, to be distributed among Councils as the Board deems necessary. FTF staff will continue to develop potential strategies that will address the most immediate needs and have the greatest impact on children and communities, particularly those aspects of services most negatively impacted by the current state budget reductions and the economic recession.

The attached spreadsheets show potential funding amounts for each RPC and the new total allocations.