



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

### South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council Special Populations Committee Recommendations

#### Strategy Name: Family Resource Center and Service Coordination (\$800,000)

**Background:** Initial meeting held February 14, 2013 and Council reviewed previous strategy development, research and best practices related to special population. Committee Chair requested from the Regional Director a series of recommendations for the committee to consider for discussion and possible movement forward to Regional Council. Information on family support of the region based on data from the *2012 South Phoenix Regional Needs and Assets Report* identifies the following ongoing unmet needs in the region:

- Lack of intensive family support programs and services for families and children in crisis
- Lack of access to parent education, information, and support
- Limited number of effective, comprehensive family support programs (strength-based) including home-visiting programs
- Limited understanding and information about the importance of early childhood development and health and limited support by the community around early childhood development and health efforts
- Lack of community capacity, leadership development, community awareness and grassroots awareness of the importance of early care and education movement

#### Recommendations:

- **Homeless Children:** Funding of *Playspaces* model for Homeless Children Family Resource Centers in the amount of \$133,000 per year from SFY14-SFY15 for a total of \$266,000. Require applicants to demonstrate sustainability plan to include seeking matching funding when applying to the RFGA and SOW.
- **Foster Children:** Service Coordination for children in foster care placement or CPS removal; open to community court teams, care coordination grantees, CMDP providers where foster children are being seen. Work towards holistic service integration to include coordination of health services. Regional Council to require leveraging community resources without layering on another level of case management. The SOW work to include matching dollar requirement and sustainability planning. Funding amount would be \$133,000 per year from SFY14-SFY15 for a total of \$266,000.
- **Children of Incarcerated Parents:** The South Phoenix *Children's Voice Initiative*; the initiative would include 3 components: 1.) Parenting education with special emphasis on Male/Father involvement with fathers previously incarcerated seeking to establish strong parenting skills and involvement in their small children's life; 2.) Kinship Care service coordination to help families caring for children of their incarcerated relatives, to better identify early education and health services; 3.) establishment of *South Phoenix Children of Incarcerated Parents Coalition*, to include regional partners such as South Mountain Community Initiatives, Project Launch, Governor's Office on Kinship Care, Magellan, African American Clergy Coalition, DOC, Mountain Park, and other zip code based providers. The SOW work to include matching dollar requirement and sustainability planning. Funding amount would be \$133,000 per year from SFY14-SFY15 for a total of \$266,000.