

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

March 5, 2009

Part I - First Things First Economic Response 2009

Background:

The current national and local economic crisis has increased the number of families facing tremendous challenges in providing for the well-being of their young children. FTF proposes to take immediate action to address this economic crisis.

Specific considerations of the FTF Board in this decision-making process include:

- The First Things First Board is committed to strengthening the early childhood development and health system for young children and their families.
- The responsibility to provide for the health, safety, and well-being of vulnerable children and families is the responsibility of the state. As the state infrastructure is eroded, basic safety and health cannot be fully provided, which places even more children at risk. Using FTF dollars as the solution to the dismantling of the infrastructure is a short-sighted fix; there will be no gains for children and families, and any opportunity to significantly strengthen and grow the foundation of early childhood development will be lost.
- While recognizing the specific purposes for which FTF was created, the Board realizes the significant hardships on children and families as a result of the unprecedented economic times, and wants to explore options to assist young children without jeopardizing the FTF mission.
- It is also critical that funds available from the federal stimulus package be appropriated swiftly and responsibly for their intended purpose.

After analyzing the impacts of the current economic crisis, FTF identified three areas that will provide immediate supports for children and families:

- **Stabilize working families so parents do not have to choose between keeping their job and caring for children.** The impact includes: adults remain employed; children are cared for in safe environments; employers retain their workforce; child care industry is stabilized.
- **Prevent abuse and neglect of children.** Statistics prove that abuse and neglect rise in times of financial and emotional stress. Families need access to supports for a safe and stable home environment.
- **Prevent hunger** in young children to encourage healthy and normal development.

The following principles underpin the development of this proposal:

- Support the immediate and urgent needs of young children
- Preserve the long-term approach to improving the early childhood development and health system throughout the state and in local communities
- Ensure local decision making
- Use both discretionary and regional funding allocations

Specifically, FTF is proposing the combined use of Discretionary and Regional funding to support the Emergency Response Package, currently totaling \$48 million.

FTF Discretionary Funds:

The First Things First initiative is projected to bring in approximately \$150,000,000 annually. 90% of the monies must be deposited into the Program Account, with 10% into the Administrative Costs Account. Funds may be transferred from the Administrative Costs Account into the Program Account, but no monies may be transferred from Programs to Administrative Costs.

In addition to 10% of the monies for administration, the funds are divided as follows:

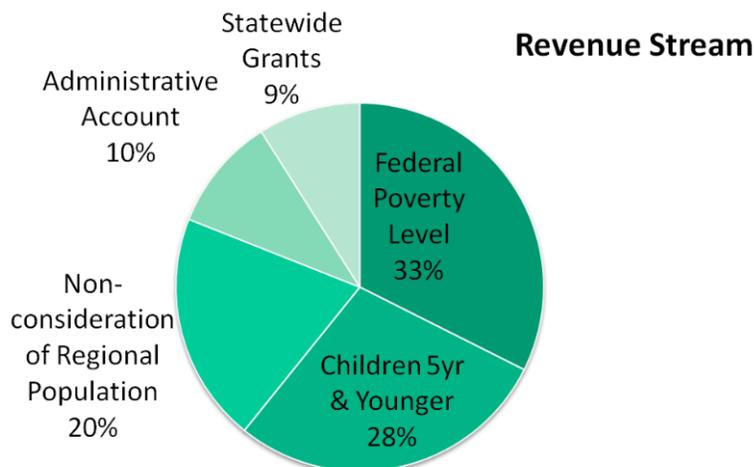
- Up to nine percent may be used to fund statewide grants
- The remaining 81% deposited into the Program Account can only be used to fund approved regional plans.

The percent of total funds to be used for regional programs are further divided as follows:

28.4% of all funds must be provided to fund regional plans based on the population of children aged five and younger in the region.

32.4% of all funds must be provided to fund regional plans based on the population of children aged five and younger in the region whose family income does not exceed 100 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

20.2% of all funds may be used to fund regional programs without consideration of regional population
(Discretionary funds)



On February 24, 2009, the FTF Board approved the use of Discretionary Funds, totaling \$30.3 million, in three ways:

1. To enable one priority strategy to be implemented by each Regional Council. (\$127,000)
2. To provide a financial adjustment for communities deemed non-metropolitan or more rural in nature – “Frontier Communities.” (\$6.3 million to 18 of 31 regions)
3. To ensure critical services are available to families with young children during this economic crisis. (\$23.3 million)

The specifics of #3 above comprise the Emergency Response Package, which includes the following elements:

- Direct \$23.3 million from the Discretionary Fund to:
 - Provide scholarships to working families for child care for approximately 4 months. This amount provides scholarships for approximately 9700 children. The average cost for basic licensed child care is \$600/month for one child.
 - Provide \$500,000 for emergency food boxes for families with children birth to five. Demand for food boxes has increased by 40% in the past year. This allocation provides an additional food box for approximately 11,350 eligible families, allowing them to receive two per month for the remaining 4 months of the fiscal year.

****For the discretionary funds to be utilized within the region, the Council must formally designate through a motion that the Council will participate in this plan.***

- Request approval from Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) for a bid waiver, granting authority to expedite the awarding of contracts in the areas of **Family Support** and **Access and Affordability, through a non-competitive process.**
- Allow Regional Partnership Councils flexibility to alter their Funding Plans to respond to immediate needs using this new expedited process.

*****Expedited procurement may also be allowed for selected Health strategies; to be determined.***

Part II - Regional Considerations for First Things First Emergency Response Package

Summary of Regional Partnership Council Considerations:

- **Through a formal motion, the Council must designate if they are willing to participate in the plan for the discretionary funding.** If the Council chooses not to participate in the plan, scholarships to working families and food boxes will not be distributed throughout the Graham/Greenlee region.
- **If ADOA grants the approval of the bid waiver, the Council may choose to change, enhance or expedite strategies** within Access & Affordability and Family Support strategies. Councils will need to determine if there are strategies in these two goal areas only that they want to release now rather than July 1st to address immediate needs of families and/or if they want to revise their funding plan to address the immediate needs of families.
- **Regional Councils can choose to add funding** to Access & Affordability and Family Support strategies through the following areas:
 - **Needs and Assets (Allocation: \$10,000)**
 - **Evaluation (Allocation: \$25,000)**
 - **Communication (Allocation: \$20,000; FTF is permitting up to 35% of allocation = \$7,000)**
 - **Carry Forward (FY2010 Carry Forward: \$221,725)**
- **Regional Councils can direct staff to conduct further research** on the impact of altering strategies or on the need for more information.
- **Regional Councils are encouraged to consider the long-term implications of these decisions.**

TOPIC #1: FTF Board Emergency Response

Decision Point	Possible Motion(s)
Support FTF Board approval of using discretionary funds to provide child care scholarships <i>(pending approval of bid waiver)</i>	I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council support and participate in the decision of the FTF Board to use discretionary funding for child care scholarships for families with income levels of up to 200% of the federal poverty level.
Support FTF Board approval of using discretionary funds to provide emergency food boxes <i>(pending approval of bid waiver)</i>	I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council support and participate in the decision of the FTF Board to use discretionary funding for emergency food boxes for eligible families with children birth through age five.

TOPIC #2: Potential Changes to Regional Funding Plan

The following decision points involve only the regional strategies listed below:

<u>Goal Area:</u>	<u>Strategy:</u>	<u>Funding Level:</u>
Access & Affordability	Recruit/Support In-Home Early Care Providers	\$100,000
Family Support	Community-Based Family Support	\$100,000
Family Support	Home Visitation	\$300,000

Decision Point	Possible Motion(s)
<p>No change – maintain strategies in these two goal areas as they were originally developed in the Regional Funding Plan</p>	<p>I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council maintain the Family Support and Access & Affordability strategies as they were originally developed in the Regional Funding Plan, and according to the original timeline and through the RFGA process.</p> <p><i>*If the Council selects this option, no additional motions in this table are required.</i></p>
<p>Change (i.e. enhance funding levels, service numbers, and/or service activities) a Family Support or Access & Affordability strategy by:</p> <p>1) moving funds from one of these strategies to the FTF Board Emergency Response categories OR</p> <p>2) moving funds within these 3 strategies</p>	<p><u>Option A:</u> I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council maintain funding levels and service numbers for the Family Support and Access & Affordability strategies as originally proposed in the Regional Funding Plan.</p> <p><u>Option B:</u> I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council shift <u>\$XXXX</u> (dollar amount) from the strategy of (choose one: Home Visitation, Community-Based Family Support, Recruit Home Providers) to the following (choose one):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency response child care scholarships • emergency response food boxes • Home Visitation • Community-Based Family Support • Recruit/Support Home Providers <p><i>*If the Council decides to move funds from more than one strategy, a</i></p>

<p>Expedite funding for the strategies in Family Support and Access & Affordability</p> <p><i>(pending approval of bid waiver)</i></p>	<p><i>separate motion is required for each shift of funds.</i></p> <p><u>Option A:</u> I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council release all of its Family Support and Access & Affordability strategies according to the original timeline and through the RFGA process.</p> <p><u>Option B:</u> I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council participate in the waiver of competitive bid, pending approval, to immediately implement the following strategies, including any additional funds that have been allocated through this emergency response package <i>(read all that apply)</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Visitation (#3) • Community-Based Family Support (#4) • Recruit/Support In-Home Early Care Providers (#8) <p>AND</p> <p>to release the following strategy(ies) according to the original timeline, and through the RFGA process <i>(read all that apply)</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Visitation (#3) • Community-Based Family Support (#4) • Recruit/Support In-Home Early Care Providers (#8)
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TOPIC #3: Use of Funding Plan Line Items for FTF Board Emergency Response

The following decision points involve only the line items listed below:

<u>Line Item:</u>	<u>Funding Level:</u>
Regional Needs & Assets Assessment	\$10,000
Regional Evaluation	\$25,000
Regional Communications	\$20,000
Regional Carry Forward FY2010	\$221,725
	<u>Total: \$276,725</u>

Decision Point	Possible Motion(s)
No transfer	I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council maintain its original allocations for Needs & Assets, Evaluation, Communications, and Carry Forward as determined in the FY2010 Regional Funding Plan.
Transfer funds from Regional Needs & Assets line item to emergency response or FS/AA goal areas (allocation = \$10,000)	I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council shift <u>\$XXXX</u> (dollar amount) from the regional funding plan line item of NEEDS & ASSETS to the following (choose one): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency response child care scholarships • emergency response food boxes • Home Visitation • Community-Based Family Support • Recruit/Support Home Providers
Transfer funds from Regional Evaluation line item to emergency response or FS/AA goal areas (allocation = \$25,000)	I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council shift <u>\$XXXX</u> (dollar amount) from the regional funding plan line item of EVALUATION to the following (choose one): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency response child care scholarships • emergency response food boxes • Home Visitation • Community-Based Family Support • Recruit/Support Home Providers
Transfer funds from Regional Communications line item to emergency response or FS/AA goal areas (allocation = \$20,000; 35% or \$7,000 eligible for transfer)	I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council shift <u>\$XXXX</u> (dollar amount) from the regional funding plan line item of COMMUNICATIONS to the following (choose one): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency response child care scholarships • emergency response food boxes • Home Visitation • Community-Based Family Support • Recruit/Support Home Providers
Transfer funds from FY2010 Regional Carry Forward line item to emergency response or FS/AA goal areas (carry forward into 2010 = \$221,725)	I move that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council shift <u>\$XXXX</u> (dollar amount) from the regional funding plan line item of FY2010 REGIONAL CARRY FORWARD to the following (choose one): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency response child care scholarships • emergency response food boxes • Home Visitation • Community-Based Family Support • Recruit/Support Home Providers