



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board
First Things First
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Date: March 5, 2010

Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board,

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council is pleased to present to the First Things First Board two strategy changes to the SFY2011 Regional Funding Plan. With careful deliberation, the Regional Council would like to request an increase in the allocation for the Pinal Food Assistance strategy to address the increasing needs for families in the Pinal Region. Furthermore, the Council would like to present the new coordination strategy that was placed on "self-hold" while the rest of the Pinal funding plan was presented to the Board in January for approval. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council is now ready to present this completed strategy worksheet to the Board for consideration and approval.

The first strategy change for Board consideration is the increase in the allocation for the food assistance strategy. After additional research and subsequent Regional Council discussions since December 2009, the Regional Council is requesting to increase the allocation from \$242,884 to \$300,000 for the SFY2011 funding plan. This increase would allow the region to serve 6,000 families with children ages birth through five. It is anticipated that out of the 18,286 families in the Pinal Region, about 15,000 have children ages birth through five; by serving 6,000 families, we could potentially impact about 40 percent of families region wide.

Through this increase, the Regional Council will be able to provide support to families that have been impacted by the economic crisis by expanding access to nutritious food and providing resources and information that support the needs of families with children birth through age five. Current regional services extend to 10 of the 13 communities within the region, reaching over 400 families monthly. To be placed on the waiting list, a family completes document verification and all families are screened for potential need of additional services opportunities (i.e. job training/placement, utility assistances among other family support related services). Further, this strategy has been successfully implemented in the Ak-Chin community.

The Pinal Regional Council is respectfully requesting the Board to approve this strategy and implementation to begin in Fiscal Year 2011. On February 23, 2010 the Regional Council motioned to implement this strategy, using \$57,116 from the Fiscal Year 2010 Fund Balance.

The second strategy for the Board's consideration is a new coordination strategy, Family Support and Resource Coordination.

Pinal Regional Partnership Council

The strategy proposed would allow the region to develop and maintain a Family Support Network as a point of contact to assist families with referrals to service providers; and to increase collaboration among Parenting Education Providers, Home Visiting Providers, Child Care Provider s, Health Care Providers, and Families with children ages birth through five to work collaboratively to achieve a comprehensive system of early childhood development and health services that meet the needs of families while reducing service duplication. It is anticipated that through this strategy over 50 percent of Pinal Families could benefit from these services.

The Pinal Regional Council is respectfully requesting the Board to approve this strategy and implementation to begin in Fiscal Year 2011. On February 23, 2010 the Regional Council motioned to implement this strategy, using \$300,000 from the Fiscal Year 2010 Fund Balance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Mezzio', written in a cursive style.

Barbara Mezzio, Chair
Pinal Regional Partnership Council

cc: File



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

PINAL REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL 2011 FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY—REVISED

Regional Allocation 2011: \$ 5,332,345
 Carry Forward from 2010: \$ 1,633,830
 Funding Available for Allocation in 2011: \$ 6,966,177

Prioritized Needs	Goal Area	Proposed Strategies	Portion of Regional Allocation	Recommendation to the Board
Limited support and resources for medical professionals serving children birth through age five	Health	Strategy 1: Continuing Medical Education	\$50,000	Approved January 26, 2010
		Strategy 2A: Health Insurance Outreach	\$100,000	Approved January 26, 2010
		Strategy 2B: Physician Outreach and Education	\$200,000	Approved January 26, 2010
Limited support and resources for medical professionals serving children birth through age five	Health	Strategy 3: Health Screenings	\$500,000	Approved January 26, 2010
Families have limited access to high quality early care and education programs	Quality, Access and Affordability	Strategy 4: Quality First	\$971,320	Approved January 26, 2010
		Strategy 5A: Child Care Health Consultation	\$240,000	Approved January 26, 2010
		Strategy 5B: Mental Health Consultation	\$240,000	Approved January 26, 2010
Limited opportunities to increase the knowledge and skills sets of family home care providers	Quality, Access and Affordability	Strategy 6: Recruit and Support Home Providers	\$355,000	Approved January 26, 2010
Limited access to parental education and education/service delivery systems Lack of access to early literacy education for families	Family Support	Strategy 7A: Family Support and Resource Coordination	\$300,000	Recommend Approval
		Strategy 7B: Early Literacy	\$350,000	Approved January 26, 2010
		Strategy 7C: Home Visitation	\$500,000	Approved January

				26, 2010
Lack of support for families with children birth through age five with identified high risk medical needs	Family Support	Strategy 7D: High Risk Infant Home Visitation	\$400,000	Approved January 26, 2010
Lack of highly qualified early care professionals	Professional Development	Strategy 8A: Professional Career Pathway Project	\$151,560	Approved January 26, 2010
		Strategy 8B: T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Arizona	\$0	
		Strategy 9: Community Based Training	\$250,000	Approved January 26, 2010
		Strategy 10: Professional REWARD\$	\$0	
		Strategy 11: Recruitment into the Early Care and Education Field	\$75,000	Approved January 26, 2010
Limited understanding and information about the importance of early childhood development and health	Communication	Strategy 12: Awareness Campaign	\$50,000	Not being submitted for board approval
Limited support and services for families who are experiencing financial hardships and are unable to provide nutritional requirements for their children's success	Family Support	Strategy 13: Food Assistance and Nutrition	\$300,000	Recommend Approval
		Subtotal of Expenditures	\$5,032,880	
		Fund Balance	\$1,933,297	
		Grand Total	\$6,966,177	

Summary Financial Chart
SFY 2010-2012

Revenue				
FTF Total Allocation for the SFY	\$5,765,870	\$5,332,347	\$5,332,347	\$16,430,564
Fund Balance (carry forward from previous SFY)	N/A	\$1,633,830	\$1,933,297	
Total Available Funds	\$5,765,870	\$6,966,177	\$7,265,644	
Strategies	SFY 2010 OBLIGATED	SFY 2011 PROPOSED	SFY 2012 ESTIMATED	Total
1 - Continuing Medical Education	\$35,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$135,000
2A - Health Insurance Outreach	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$250,000
2B - Physican Outreach and Education	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$500,000
3 - Health Screenings	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,250,000
4 - Quality First	\$687,700	\$971,320	\$1,345,000	\$3,004,020
5A - Child Care Health Consultation	\$220,000	\$240,000	\$240,000	\$700,000
5B - Mental Health Consultation	\$100,000	\$240,000	\$240,000	\$580,000
6 - Recruit and Support Home Providers	\$355,000	\$355,000	\$355,000	\$1,065,000
7A - Family Support and Resource Coordination		\$300,000	\$300,000	\$600,000
7B - Early Literacy "New"		\$350,000	\$350,000	\$700,000
7C - Home Visitation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,500,000
7D - High Risk Infant Home Visitation "New"		\$400,000	\$400,000	\$800,000
8A - Professional Career Pathway Project	\$126,250	\$151,560	\$180,000	\$457,810
8B - T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Arizona			\$150,000	\$150,000
9 - Community Based Training	\$125,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$625,000
10 - Professional REWARD\$	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
11 - Recruitment into the Early Care and Education Field	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$225,000
12 - Awareness Campaign	\$32,500	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$132,500
13 - Food Assistance and Nutrition	\$242,884	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$842,884
Emergency Child Care*	\$1,168,456	\$0	\$0	\$1,168,456
Needs and Assets	\$14,250	\$0	\$20,000	\$34,250
Evaluation				
Subtotal Expenditures	\$4,132,040	\$5,032,880	\$5,605,000	\$14,769,920
Fund Balance (carry forward)	\$1,633,830	\$1,933,297	\$1,660,644	
Total	\$5,765,870	\$6,966,177	\$7,265,644	

Family Support and Resource Coordination

Strategy Description: Develop and maintain a Family Support Network to assist families with connecting to appropriate services and programs and to increase collaboration among the various early childhood development and health service providers throughout the region.

According to the Pinal 2008 Needs and Assets Report, families in the region lack strong family support and parent education services. Although the Pinal Region has a number of effective programs that serve as assets to the region, often these services are not coordinated. Many of the organizations servicing the Pinal Region are working in proverbial silos and are unable to provide families with a holistic approach due to lack of communication and coordination. While providers may offer similar services or programs, they may have different eligibility requirements, enrollment processes and outreach efforts. Moreover, further challenging family access is minimal community awareness of available services. Currently, there is no effective mechanism to coordinate services, identify and address gaps in service, reduce duplication, or ensure that families are referred to the services that best fit their needs. The development of a coordinated network and clearinghouse of family support services in the region will support the goal that all families have access to the information and support they need to be effective parents.

The goal of the Family Support Network is to provide the mechanism for a cross-system of early childhood development and health programs that will foster service coordination, increase information exchange between providers, reduce duplication of services, and result in a comprehensive system of service that families can easily access and navigate. First Things First grant recipients and other service providers within the region will plan and develop a coordination mechanism to: ensure the needs of the most at-risk families are addressed; coordinate outreach activities to encompass families residing in the entire region; coordinate openings for services; recommend programming changes to better address the unique needs of teen parents, families with Court or CPS referrals, families living in outlying communities and other target populations identified by the Regional Partnership Council. It is expected that these activities will result in improved coordination of programs currently operating in the Pinal Region.

The Family Support Network will be charged with making a report to the Pinal Regional Partnership Council within 6 months and at least annually thereafter of the existing family support services, gaps in service (taking into consideration availability of services by location and to all target populations) and recommended improvement strategies. It is also envisioned that within the Family Support Network there may be subcommittees to address service coordination within particular service sectors.

This Network is to include the Ak-Chin Tribal community.

In summary, the goals of this strategy include:

- Development of resource information to be shared across the region with families and service providers
- Development of a mechanism for service coordination
- Creation of planning and problem-solving opportunities for service providers to align goals and work together to find solutions for region-wide issues that could not feasibly be addressed at the individual program level.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: Resource information will be shared across the region with families and service providers through a clearinghouse of resource information for parents of regional services which supports the development of their young children. The goal is to link families to support services, and to

assist families in navigating through these services. Coordination of family support programs will be facilitated to ensure that resources are being used effectively and families are enrolled in programs that best meet their need, without duplication. A family support guide to services will be developed and disseminated among families. The goal of this guide is to allow families within the region to have access to existing programs, complete with descriptions and eligibility requirements. This information will be available to parents via the telephone, a resource guide, parenting education calendars and through a website. The Resource Management will include the following: Website Development; Family Support Guide; Parenting Education Calendars; and Outreach and Resource/Referral Information to Families.

Outreach efforts will include:

- Connecting families to existing services. Such efforts could include distribution of information on the network of available services, assisting families in finding appropriate services;
- Increasing awareness of, and enrollment in, parenting programs by developing and distributing a monthly Parenting Education Calendar;
- Developing and distributing a home visiting guide to services, complete with descriptions and eligibility requirements, which will give families within the region information about and increased access to programs.

NETWORK COORDINATION: Service coordination will be achieved through the facilitation of a cross-system network of early childhood development and health programs within the region. This coordination can help streamline services to reduce duplication and address barriers to access. This effort will provide a venue for provision of cross training and service coordination among all service providers in the region.

Specific outcomes will be identified through this network coordination to maximize coordination within the region which will include Quarterly Collaborative Meetings and development and presentation of an Annual Report.

All recipients of First Things First funding who provide health screenings, family support, health, parenting education, and early care and education development programs will be required to participate in the Family Support Network. Potential subcommittees of the Network may be formed to address the following areas:

- Parenting Education
- Family Support
- Child Care
- Health Care

Lead Goal: #11: FTF will coordinate and integrate with existing education and information systems to expand families' access to high quality, diverse and relevant information and resources to support their child's optimal development.

Goal: #13: FTF will lead cross-system coordination efforts among state, federal and tribal organizations to improve the coordination and integration of Arizona programs, services, and resources for young children and their families.

Goal: #14: FTF will collect and disseminate accurate and relevant data related to early childhood development and health.

Key Measures:

Percentage of families with children birth through age five who report they are satisfied with the accessibility of information and resources on child development and health.

Percentage of families who report they are satisfied with the level of coordination and communication among agencies serving their children.

Total number and percentage of public and private partners who report they are satisfied with the extent and quality of coordination between public, private, and tribal systems.

Target Population:

Families in the Pinal Region and family support agencies and programs, including parenting education programs, home visiting programs, health and child care providers.

	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	1 annual report	1 annual report	1 annual report
The Regional Council would like to see the family support guide & parenting education calendar distributed to 50 percent of the households in the Pinal Region.	1 family support guide	1 family support guide*	1 family support guide*
	1 parenting education calendar*	1 parenting education calendar*	1 parenting education calendar*
	Outreach and resource/referral information to families	Outreach and resource/referral information to families	Outreach and resource/referral information to families

Performance Measures SFY 2010-2012

- Percentage of families reporting an increase in parenting knowledge and satisfaction with level of coordination.
- Percentage of Family Support Collaborative participants / stakeholders reporting an increase in knowledge about other service providers and satisfaction with level of coordination.

SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy

Allocation for proposed strategy	\$300,000
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Budget Justification:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT \$145,000 - Staffing, technical support and resource documents development; and paper, printing and postage associated with distribution of the Parenting Education Calendar, Family Support Guide and resource/referral information to families via the telephone, and internet links.

- Website Development, Training and Management - \$55,000

- Family Support Guide Development, Printing, Distributing (Postage and Travel) and Storage - \$50,000
- Parenting Education Calendars Development, Printing, Distributing (Postage and Travel) and Storage - \$40,000

NETWORK COORDINATION \$155,000 - Staffing and technical support to support the quarterly Family Support Network meetings. Support will only be provided to Family Support Network meetings during the start-up phase, with the goal of transitioning Coalition operations to their membership. The budget will support contracted services to assist in initial development of the collaborative and in the collection of data for the first Family Support Annual Report, and miscellaneous meeting supplies.

- Quarterly Collaborative Meetings – (Parenting Education, Family Support, Child Care, Health Care) – Total of 4 meetings on a quarterly basis for a total of 16 meetings per a year – Part time staff
- Annual Report - Development, Printing and Presenting to the Regional Council
- Outreach and Resource/Referral Information to Families cost to include; marketing, office location, customer service staffing (2) duties to include (resources information collection, management of incoming calls and follow-up on information requested), supplies to include phone equipment and technical support – \$105,001

Food Assistance and Nutrition

Strategy Description: Support the region's families that have been impacted by the economic crisis by expanding access to nutritious food and providing resources and information that support the needs of families with children birth through age five. This strategy will be addressed through the coordination of local community resources in provision of basic childhood necessities.

Research has shown that even moderate under-nutrition, the type seen most frequently in the United States, can have lasting effects on the brain development of children. According to the Center on Hunger and Poverty, inadequate nutrition is a major cause of impaired cognitive development, and is associated with increased educational failure among impoverished children.

Number of Households in the Pinal Region with children ages 0-18 – 18,286¹

Number of Pinal households receiving Food Stamps - 12,808²

Number of Pinal households receiving Cash Assistance/Welfare Benefits - 1,865³

A significant percentage of children in the Pinal Region are at risk for hunger. A large percentage of children in the Pinal Region are members of low income families, living at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (\$43,000 for a family of four). The percent of children living at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level ranges from 28 percent (Florence) to 61 percent (Eloy) in the cities for which data was available.³

Many families do not qualify for food stamps, and are struggling in tough economic times. F.O.R. Maricopa Food Bank and other local food banks are reporting that an increased number of middle income families are seeking food assistance for their families as the economy becomes increasingly unstable and job loss grows.

To accomplish this strategy the Regional Council will issue Request for Grant Applications, asking potential applicants to propose how they would accomplish one or more of the following:

- Increase provision and distribution of food boxes to families with young children in the Pinal Region.
- Conduct outreach to expand reach of the existing Food Service Programs in the Pinal Region.
- Expand enrollment in or enhance accessibility of services provided by WIC or the Child and Adult Care Food Program to reach more young children and their families.
- Additionally, families will be supported through the provision of basic childhood necessities such as, but not limited to, baby formula, diapers, education on diaper hygiene, information on nutritional value of food and community resources that support families in need.

No grantees will be allowed to use First Things First funding to pay for services currently available or covered by existing federal funding.

Coordination

Coordination and collaboration with all FTF grantees is critical to develop a seamless service delivery system for children and families. Services and programs cannot be implemented in isolation and coordination and collaboration must occur within a region and across regions. FTF Staff and Regional

Councils will identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination with successful applicants that become grantees of FTF. The successful applicant will be required to attend meetings and workgroups in the region being served to identify, develop, and implement mechanisms around coordination and collaboration.

Ak-Chin Services

The successful applicant will be required to receive formal written approval from the Ak-Chin Tribal Council prior to starting services on the tribal community. FTF Regional Staff will be notified prior to any outreach to the Ak-Chin Community and may provide assistance in this process.

Research Notes

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey
- ² Arizona DES Monthly Statistical Reports, January 2008
- ³ Pinal Regional Partnership Council Needs and Assets Report, 2008.

Lead Goal: Coordinate and integrate with existing education and information systems to expand families' access to high quality, diverse, and relevant information and resources to support their child's optimal development.

Key Measures:

- Percentage of families with children birth through age five who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health, and well-being
- Percentage of families who report they are satisfied with the level of coordination and communication among agencies serving their children

Target Population:

Children birth through age five and their families experiencing financial hardships and food insecurities.

Proposed Service Numbers	SFY 2011 July 1, 2010 –June 30, 2011	SFY 2012 July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	SFY 2013 July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
		6,000 Families	6,000 Families

Performance Measures:

- Number of children provided with food assistance/proposed service number
- Number of parents who received education on nutritional needs or financial literacy/ proposed service number
- Percentage of children living in the region who are facing food insecurity
- Number and percentage of pregnant women and children served by WIC Program in the region

SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy

Allocation for proposed strategy | \$ 300,000

Budget Justification:

Personnel, Travel, and Operating Cost Total \$300,000

Cooperative food purchasing programs provide a variety of food packages that range in costs from \$30 - \$35 per food box. Additionally, families will be supported through the provision of basic childhood necessities such as, but not limited to, baby formula, diapers, education on diaper hygiene, information on nutritional value of food and community resources that support families in need.