

First Things First

La Paz/Mohave Strategy #1 (A) – Expand Access to Quality Early Care and Education - Planning, Accessibility & Quality Grants

Needs & Assets	Goals & Key Measures	Strategies	Implementation	Performance & Evaluation
<p><u>Need:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the region there is great need, some communities have no regulated child care • Many children in the region live in poverty and this creates barriers for families to access high quality early care & education • Access is even more difficult for infants and toddlers and in rural areas • Many providers report space as the most prohibitive barrier to providing more care (especially for infants and toddlers) <p><u>Capacity to Address Need:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or expanding early care and education providers who are considering expanding enrollment to serve groups of children not currently being served, such as specific age groups or 	<p><u>Goal Area:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and Access <p><u>Goal(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FTF will improve access to quality early care and education programs and settings • FTF will increase availability and affordability of early care and education settings. <p><u>Key Measure(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in regulated early care and education programs as a proportion of total population birth to age five • Current cost of early care and education for families as a proportion of the median income for a family of four 	<p><u>Strategy:</u> Expand quality child care slots by providing planning, start-up and/or quality improvement grants for development, expansion or facility improvements in order to allow new child care centers to open and existing centers and homes to expand enrollment in regulated and quality settings.</p> <p><u>Research to Support the Strategy:</u> High quality child care can be associated with many positive outcomes including language development and cognitive school readiness.^{1 2}</p> <p><u>Target Population:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care home providers and child care centers • Emphasis on unserved or underserved areas, including those lacking quality child care options and those expanding services to reach 	<p><u>Activities and Tasks:</u> Grants would allocate funds toward any or all of the following: improvement, remodeling, expansion, or construction projects, recruitment to regulation of child care homes that would increase the quality of services or increase the capacity of early care and education services for children 0-5 years.</p> <p>Programs may also identify need for resources to improve quality (i.e. playground equipment, minor renovation, costs associated with becoming licensed, certified or accredited, construction, land purchase, or remodeling of a center or family child care home.)</p> <p><u>Planning Grants:</u> Provide funds for providers to work with construction experts to plan and design the most effective way to expand the number of slots in either an existing center or home or in a new center or home. Includes planning and pre-development</p>	<p><u>Performance Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new childcare slots available in licensed/certified child care settings for children age birth to five • Number of child care settings expand to provide infant and toddler care/actual service number • Total number of children age birth to five served <p><u>Evaluation Plan Considerations:</u> Applicant will provide program evaluation data and information to demonstrate evidence of program effectiveness and impact upon the identified key measures.</p>

¹ ; NICHD Early Child Care Research Network, The relation of child care to cognitive and language development, *Child Development*, 2000, 71, 960-980.

² Pence, A. R., & Goelman, H. The relationship of regulation, training, and motivation to quality care in family day care. *Child and Youth Care Forum*, 20, 1991, 83-101.

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<p>children with special needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience improving environments for young children, particularly infants and toddlers. • Staff with understanding of the assets and barriers within communities • Ability to establish strong relationships with partners. • Experience coordinating with appropriate licensing authorities. 		<p>populations not currently being served</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority given to centers and homes expanding to serve infants and toddlers. 	<p>costs including feasibility study, business plan development, architectural services and other associated planning costs.</p> <p><u>Start-up Grants:</u> Provide funds for construction or remodeling of centers or homes to expand the number of slots. Center/home expanding its capacity should include demonstration of local need, specific plans for sustainability, staffing, other organizational and community support. Grants may be used to assist with start-up to defray costs associated with physical renovations that will increase capacity, improve the quality of the classroom, or purchase of equipment such as furniture and supplies. Maximum amount would be \$250,000 per program.</p> <p><u>Quality Improvement Grants:</u> Provide funds for quality improvements for centers or homes to purchase supplies, minor equipment, training, curriculums, etc. so that they are positioned to participate in Quality First! This would also include funds to maintain/pursue accreditation and outreach to centers or home to become accredited and/or participate in</p>	
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			<p>Quality First! This may include costs associated with regulation/certification costs, or licensing expenses such as fingerprinting, regulatory application fees, T.B. tests, orientation training, CPR/First Aid certification, etc.</p> <p><u>Implementation Considerations:</u></p> <p>Grantees must present a plan for further resource development and program sustainability, including coordination of activities with other First Things First funded programs in the region.</p> <p>All new construction requires a 50% match.</p> <p>Grantees will be required to meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited, or in the process of becoming accredited, through an AZ recognized national accreditation system <u>OR</u> • Participating in Quality First! <u>OR</u> • Participating in a demonstrated, recognized quality improvement program (AZ Self-Study, Tucson Hands-on Quality, Head Start PRISM, VSUW Professional Development Model) and commit to enrolling in Quality 	
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			<p><i>First!</i> within 2 years OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to enrolling in <i>Quality First!</i> within 1 year. <p>This strategy must be implemented in coordination and conformity with appropriate licensing authorities (i.e. Department of Health Services, Department of Economic Security, appropriate governmental building construction/ renovation authorities) to ensure compliance with appropriate guidelines, regulations, and laws.</p> <p>Applicant will adhere to all State of Arizona/FTF procurement policies and regulations.</p> <p>Must be (if and when operating) regulated by state, federal, or tribal authority; or must be a lawfully operating child care home, serving 4 or fewer children for payment with intention and commitment to become a regulated child care home.</p> <p><u>Budget:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$251,896 Planning, Accessibility and Quality Grants to ECE programs <p><u>Budget Considerations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council set aside funds to 	
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			enroll grantees in Quality First – \$150,000	
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