



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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March 5, 2012

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman
First Things First Board
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn,

Background

The Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council's Pre-K Expansion strategy was developed to increase access to early care and preventative health for children who have been unable to participate in high quality early education programs prior to Kindergarten. Additionally, the Gila River Regional Partnership Council has worked at a grassroots level with elementary schools and at a policy level with the Tribal Government to secure a 50/50 match for pre-k expansion funding. The 50/50 match proposal will begin in GRIC's SFY2013 funding plan. The Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council requests approval to increase the funding level for this strategy from \$100,000 to \$205,432.

Currently, the Pre-k strategy serves 20 children. The increase in allotment will serve a total of 43 children and expand the available locations from 1 site to 2 sites. The Gila River Regional Partnership Council has met, considered, and approved the following changes to their SFY13 funding plan at their February 29, 2012 meeting.

The Gila River Regional Partnership Council is pleased to offer this request and is confident that children will benefit by participating in school based pre-k programs across the Gila River Indian Community. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Priscilla Foote, Chair
Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council