

**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

Regional Director's Report

April 8, 2015

Regional Updates

State Fiscal Year 2016 Request of Grant Applications (RFGA):

- ❖ Four additional Pima North regional RFGAs were released on March 2 and will close on April 13. RFGA's were released for the following strategies: Home Visitation (one specific to Nurse Family Partnership and one joint RFGA with Pima South), Professional Development for Early Childhood Professionals and Family, Friends and Neighbor Caregivers.

Southeast Area Cross-Regional Meetings

- ❖ The five Southeast Area Regional Partnership Councils met on March 3 in Green Valley. First Things First Chief Executive Officer, Sam Leyvas provided statewide and legislative updates. Also in attendance was Michelle Katona, Chief Regional Officer; Lisa Colling, Program Evaluation Specialist; and Deanna Carrera, Director of Leadership and Learning. Topics included a discussion on community engagement, a presentation on the Cradle to Career Impact Model and future Cross-Regional Partnership Council.
- ❖ In addition to the Cross-Regional Council meeting, the afternoon of March 3, a cross-regional grantee meeting was held. Grantees in attendance represented all five regions of the Southeast Area. Grantees were invited to share an update on program implementation as well as any system building/unfunded approaches they have been working on.

Update on Regional Needs and Assets Reports

- ❖ The First Things First Statute requires that Regional Needs and Assets reports be done at a minimum every two years. These reports have been occurring on even numbered years but the alignment of these reports with regional council strategic planning has not been ideal in supporting that process.
- ❖ In order to better align the next set of Regional Needs and Assets reports, some changes in the timeline will be implemented.
- ❖ A condensed 2015 Regional Needs and Assets Report will be completed for all regions by the University of Arizona Norton School. The 2015 Regional Needs and Assets Report will not include any additional work.
- ❖ First Things First will work on revising the scope of work for the 2017 Needs and Assets Request for Proposal to be completed summer of 2015.
- ❖ The goal is to have the 2017 Needs and Assets Reports completed a year in advance in time to align with the next three year funding cycle (State Fiscal Year 2019-2021).

First Things First Pima North Regional Director

- ❖ The First Things First Southeast Area Team is elated to welcome Heather Friedman as the Pima North Regional Director!
- ❖ Ms. Friedman has served as the Family Support Director of the Southern Arizona Family Support Alliance through the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona (UWTSA), which is currently funded by the First Things First Pima North and Pima South Regional Partnership Councils (and previously Central, North and South Pima Regional Partnership Councils).
- ❖ In addition to her work with family support programs funded by First Things First, Ms. Friedman has also played a key role in implementing and expanding professional development opportunities for home visitors, which uses the Communities of Practice model and is federally funded through Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV).
- ❖ Prior to her work with UWTSA, Ms. Friedman served as the Pima County Regional Manager (as well as a Case Manager) with Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services, another Pima North funded partner (and previously funded by Central Pima and North Pima).

Update on Pima North Unfunded Approaches/System Building Opportunities

- ❖ For State Fiscal Year 2016, the Pima North Regional Council identified the unfunded approach of connecting families with First Things First available services and supports who have unsubstantiated Department of Child Safety (formerly Child Protective Services) cases. This is connecting families with services who do not enter into the child welfare system and who are not eligible for services through the child welfare system but may be able to benefit from services that are offered through First Things First.
- ❖ On April 3, Department of Child Safety staff, including Director McKay and First Things First regional and program staff met for a daylong meeting, beginning with remarks from First Things First CEO, Sam Leyvas. The morning focused on learning about each organization, including a presentation on the Department of Child Safety led by Director McKay. The afternoon was dedicated to talking how we can work collaboratively in our local communities.
- ❖ The Pima Regional Directors in partnership with Pima Department of Child Safety Assistant Program Managers and the Program Manager for the Pima Region identified opportunities to learn more about each organization, identified professional development needs, data sharing and next steps, which includes a cross-agency meeting that will be held locally in Tucson.

State Fiscal Year 2015 Pima North Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Data Report (See Separate Attachment)

- ❖ Attached as part of the Regional Director's report is the Pima North Quarterly Data Report.

State Fiscal Year 2015 Pima North Quarter 1 and 2 Narrative Report Summary (See Separate Attachment)

- ❖ Attached as part of the Regional Director's report is the Pima North Quarter 1 and 2 Program Narrative Report Summary.

State Fiscal Year 2015 Pima North Expenditure Report (See Separate Attachment)

- ❖ Attached as part of the Regional Director's report is the Pima North expenditure report that is showing financial activities for State Fiscal Year 2015, which began on July 1, 2014 and will end June 30, 2015.

Statewide Updates

Quality First Statewide Sub-Committee Meeting

- ❖ The Quality First Statewide Sub-Committee meeting has met twice, including the most recent meeting held on March 31.
- ❖ This Quality First group is a Sub-Committee of the Statewide Program Committee and is charged with looking at all aspects of the Quality First program, including aspects related to financing, sustainability, program implementation, etc.
- ❖ All documents and agendas are posted on the First Things First website, www.azfff.gov.

First Things First State Board Meeting

- ❖ The next Board meeting will be held April 14 in Yavapai County.
- ❖ First Things First staff are working to ensure this meeting and future meetings that are held outside the Central Phoenix office will be broadcasts throughout the First Things First offices. Eventually, First Things First staff is working towards broadcasting the meetings for anyone to access from anywhere.
- ❖ All State Board documents are available on the First Things First website, www.azfff.gov.

Upcoming Events and Key Dates

- ❖ **April 18:** Southern Arizona Association for the Education for Young Children Annual Awards Brunch, Hotel Congress.
- ❖ **April 24:** Statewide Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting, Phoenix.
- ❖ **May 13:** Pima North Regional Council Meeting, which includes the approval of five Request For Grant Applications. *Attendance is imperative to ensure quorum.*
- ❖ **August 23-25:** First Things First Early Childhood Summit 2015 in Phoenix (Summit starts the 24th officially; however a Cross-Regional Council meeting is currently being coordinated for the Sunday afternoon, the 23rd).