

Regional Director's Report ***April 10, 2013***

Statewide Updates

FTF State Board Meeting

- ❖ The FTF State Board met on April 8th and 9th in Payson (anticipated).
- ❖ A summary of highlights and decisions made by the State Board are anticipated to be sent to members by the FTF Communications Team in the near future.

Coming Soon: Quality First Proposed Model Changes

- ❖ Quality First, one of FTF's signature statewide programs, continues to strengthen, evolve and grow.
- ❖ In the near future, some proposed changes to the Quality First model will be released to be vetted.
- ❖ Your input is imperative- FTF would like feedback from Regional Councils, early care and education providers, partners and community stakeholders.
- ❖ Should any proposed changes take effect, they would be implemented beginning July 1, 2014, which is the beginning of Fiscal Year 2015.

Board Roundtable Discussions

- ❖ Representatives of the FTF State Board met with Regional Councils in their local areas to dialog with Regional Council members.
- ❖ For the Southeast Area, the Roundtable was held on March 6 with Chairman Steven Lynn, Member Janice Decker and Ex-Officio Member Brad Willis who represents DES in attendance. Special thanks to Chair Harmon and Member Pitt for attending on behalf of the Central Pima Regional Council.
- ❖ The roundtable discussions replaced the tradition of the Regional Council Chair and/or Vice Chair presenting the funding plan at the January Board meeting.
- ❖ It was a terrific opportunity for Regional Councils to share with the State Board highlights in the region, pose questions to the State Board and to have an open-ended dialog amongst Regional Councils and Board.

Regional Updates

Fiscal Year 2014 Renewal Process

- ❖ During the Regional Council approval of the Fiscal Year 2014 Funding Plan, members approved the continuation of the strategy, the funding level and the funding mechanism. In the case of continuing regional strategies, the mechanism that was approved was a grant renewal.
- ❖ Russell Spencer and Michael Strawther, our Finance Specialists for the Southeast Area, issued the renewals in March.
- ❖ All Central Pima grant partners have submitted their renewal applications, which were due in early April.
- ❖ The preparation process of the renewals is currently underway, which includes a thorough review process by regional and finance staff in addition to support from the program team.
- ❖ For Central Pima, there are a total of 10 grant renewals for the Regional Council's consideration and possible approval.
- ❖ Regional Council has the opportunity to approve grant renewals during the May 8th Central Pima Regional Partnership Council meeting. **It is imperative all are members present at the May 8th meeting to ensure quorum.**
- ❖ Grant renewals will be considered and up for approval at the FTF Board meeting on June 10th-11th.

Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships Strategy

- ❖ In Fiscal Year 2013, the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships strategy has supported pre-k programs in the region that were on the Quality First waitlist and that were accredited. Historically, these pre-k programs have been recognized as quality. During this fiscal year, the participating programs received Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships and were rated through the Quality First Rating assessments.
- ❖ A minimum Star Rating of 3 is required for the currently participating programs to continue to be eligible to receive the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships beginning in Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013).
- ❖ During the Fiscal Year 2014 strategic planning process and funding plan discussions in the Fall of 2012, the Regional Council and staff discussed the possibility of transitioning participating programs off of the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships strategy, should any of the programs not reach a 3 Star Rating through the Quality First assessment.

- ❖ Although Star Ratings at this time are confidential (with an anticipated August release of all Star Rating information), the initial results of the assessments are informing us that the participating Central Pima pre-k programs will be eligible to continue participation in the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships in Fiscal Year 2014.
- ❖ On March 29th, Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships partner, Arizona Department of Education held an informational meeting for interested programs. The application process will remain open until mid-April and ADE will begin reviewing the applications and proposed numbers of pre-k children served through each eligible program.
- ❖ The Regional Council will continue to receive updates on the progress of the Ratings of these participating programs, the number of children to be served, the provider type (i.e. school district, community-based, etc.) as the new fiscal year begins.
- ❖ In the near future, the Regional Council may find interest in revisiting the Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships strategy for Fiscal Year 2015 to ensure the strategy still aligns with the Regional Council's original intent of supporting programs that are historically recognized as quality and on Quality First wait list, to receive an opportunity to be rated through the Quality First Rating System and also receive Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships.

2014 Regional Needs and Assets

- ❖ The Regional Council approved Donelson Consulting as the Central Pima vendor to carry out the 2014 Needs and Assets report.
- ❖ In addition to Central Pima, North Pima and South Pima also designated Donelson Consulting to carry out their 2014 Regional Needs and Assets report during their February 2013 meetings.
- ❖ On April 3rd, the Needs and Assets vendors participated in a statewide call with the FTF Research and Evaluation team.
- ❖ The Donelson Consulting team is anticipated to present options on the Needs and Assets base report and ideas for the additional work deliverables to the Regional Council at the June 12th meeting.

Family, Friend and Neighbor Strategy

- ❖ Central Pima and South Pima have committed to a joint partnership and joint release of a Request For Grant Application (RFGA) to serve Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers.
- ❖ The release was in early March and the Pre-Application was held on March 12th at the Pima Neighborhood Investment Partnership.
- ❖ The RFGA is still currently out to bid, due Monday, April 15 at the Tucson FTF Regional office, 3610 North Prince Village, Suite 100, Tucson, AZ 85719.
- ❖ The RFGA and additional information, including an amendment, can be found through the FTF website: www.azftf.gov.
- ❖ The RFGA review process will begin in late April with the anticipation of the recommendation for award to be presented to the Regional Council at the May 8th Regional Council meeting.

School Readiness Indicators Benchmarking Workgroup

- ❖ At the Chairs meeting in October 2012, the Pima County Chairs and Vice Chairs agreed to convening an ongoing workgroup to initiate discussion and brainstorming on how to benchmark the selected Indicators, particularly those Indicators in which the three Pima Regional Councils have collectively prioritized.
- ❖ In addition to the three Pima Regional Councils, the three Regional Councils that make up the Southeast Area, Tohono O'odham Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Santa Cruz also agreed to work together in the Benchmarking process.
- ❖ The workgroup met for the first time on April 4th with Dr. Amy Kemp, Senior Director of Research and Evaluation.

Save the Date

- ❖ **April 15-** Due date for any public comments regarding the regional boundary Taskforce recommendations. Log onto www.azftf.gov/boundarytaskforce to submit your feedback.
- ❖ **April 18-** Community and Regional Council forums on the regional boundary Taskforce recommendations. Both meetings will be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m.
 - **Regional Council Members:** FTF Tucson Office, 3610 North Prince Village, Suite 100, Tucson, AZ 85719
 - **Community Members:** Westside Police Center, 1310 West Miracle Mile, Tucson, AZ 85705
- ❖ **May 8-** Central Pima Regional Council Meeting, City of Tucson Resource Center, 320 North Commerce Park Loop, Tucson, AZ 85745.