



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Regional Partnership Councils April Monthly Report

Request for Grant Proposals: A total of 15 RFGAs were released on April 7, 2010 in the amount of \$2,606,377. The following RFGAs were released:

White Mountain Apache Tribe: Parent Coaching for Children At-Risk for Developmental Delay **\$125,000**
White Mountain Apache Tribe: Oral Health- Dental Varnish Application **\$82,500**
White Mountain Apache Tribe: Early Literacy **\$200,000**
Navajo Nation: Food Assistance **\$50,000**
Pinal: Food Assistance and Nutrition **\$300,000**
Gila: Home Visitation **\$35,000**
Gila: Oral Health Screenings **\$25,000**
Cochise: Health and Nutrition **\$168,552**
Cochise: Pre-K Expansion **\$100,000**
Yavapai: Food Security **\$45,000**
Yavapai: Child Care Conferences **\$25,000**
North Phoenix: Family Resource Centers **\$400,000**
North Phoenix: Early Literacy **\$352,000**
North Phoenix: Home Visitation – Nurse Family Partnership Model **\$500,000**
North Phoenix: Teen Parent Child Care Scholarship, Parenting Education and Service Coordination **\$280,000**

Emergency Scholarships—Remaining balances to be returned to regions: The Emergency Child Care Scholarships were implemented in April, 2009. The scholarships have closed in the majority of regions, with only four regions that include San Carlos Apache, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Gila River Indian Community, and Graham/Greenlee still operating until June 30, 2010. A number of regions have been reconciled and have fund balances remaining.

Calculating end dates by region was a complicated process that was based on actual expenditures compared with provider projections. The primary intent when determining closure dates was to give families and providers enough notice so they could make necessary arrangements for the transition when scholarships would no longer be available. With some regions spending as much as \$32,000 per day, estimates resulted in unspent balances in all participating regions.

In order to return unexpended funds to the regions, Board approval is requested to amend the contract with the administrative home and return the funds to the applicable regions as each one is reconciled. The last reconciliations are anticipated no later than August 15, 2010. If approved, these funds will become available to regions to reallocate to meet needs identified in their communities.

Chairs and Vice Chairs Leadership Forum: The next leadership forum with the regional council chairs and vice chairs is scheduled for May 6, 2010 from 10am to 3:30pm at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa, 200 N. Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85201. The agenda will focus primarily on communications, legislative update and early childhood system building. Rhian Evans Allvin will present the comprehensive communications plan and engage the chairs and vice chairs in a discussion about next steps and the implementation of the plan across the regions. In addition, any information and discussion around the

legislative session and November ballot will be provided. We will also have a discussion around the system building efforts that are being undertaken by the Arizona Early Childhood Taskforce, what this means at the local level, and integrating feedback in the framework that has been developed thus far. This discussion will also include specific information about the early care and education quality, access, and affordability framework that has been developed.

Professional Development: On May 7th the regional coordinators and managers will be participating in a leadership forum facilitated by Mark S. Homan. Mark Homan is a faculty member in the Social Services Department at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona, where he has been a full time faculty member since 1978 and has served as Chair. In addition to his duties at Pima, Mark has served as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Northern Arizona University; the Graduate School of Social Work at Arizona State University; the Counseling, Deafness, and Human Services Department at the University of Tennessee; and the Human Services Department of St. Edward's University. He has been a guest lecturer across the United States, and in Russia and Sweden. He received his MSW from Arizona State University in 1975 and is a certified independent social worker in the State of Arizona.

Mark is a strong advocate of community empowerment. He uses his own very active involvement in the community to contribute to its improvement and to increase his own learning. For over thirty years, he has worked with diverse populations in urban, rural, and reservation communities on a broad range of issues, including neighborhood stabilization and empowerment, hunger, reproductive rights, children with special health care needs, community mental health, family planning, community health work, capital punishment, public schools and community development, political campaign organizing, foster care, and adoption. In addition to his roles as organizer, lobbyist, consultant and teacher, Mark has developed and directed several human services programs. He is a founding member of many community organizations and agencies and has served on numerous community boards and councils.

Mark's textbook, Promoting Community Change: Making it Happen in the Real World, 3rd ed., is used in colleges and universities throughout the United States and abroad, as well as by public and private groups. His book, Rules of the Game: Lessons from the Field of Community Change, is used as a textbook and as a guide for community change agents, and is based on his many years of experience in community organization and development work.

Following the leadership session will be a tribal educational forum. The forum will begin with a presentation from several regional coordinators on the successes and accomplishments in working with the Tribes. We will close this forum with a tour of the Heard Museum. The Tribal educational forum is open to all staff.