



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

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April 6, 2010

Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board  
First Things First  
4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Chair Lynn and Members of the First Things First Board:

The North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council is pleased to present to the First Things First Board a new strategy for SFY 2011 for consideration of approval. The strategy, Child Care Tuition Scholarships, falls under the goal area of Access and Affordability. After hearing from the members of the North Phoenix community in numerous "Calls to the Public" over the past several months regarding the need for additional support in this goal area, and after long Council discussions, the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council is proposing an additional regional strategy that focuses on addressing the needs of North Phoenix families through child care tuition scholarships.

This additional Child Care Tuition Scholarship strategy is intended to extend the continuum of services within the Region. The North Phoenix Council previously submitted to the Board for approval a strategy for implementation in Fiscal Year 2011 that focused on providing supports and child care tuition scholarships to teen parents. That strategy will have as a priority, infant and toddler children for the scholarship portion. The scholarships through this proposed additional strategy will be available for children ages three through five living within the region.

Increasing costs in licensing fees and continued decreases in DES child care reimbursements have resulted in severe financial pressures experienced by child care providers in both centers and group homes. The North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council is cognizant of the economic time and the shifting needs of families within the region with young children. Through this additional strategy, the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council will be serving approximately 75 preschool aged children within the region and providing economic support for families with young children by reducing the cost barrier to continuous, affordable, safe child care.

In the March 2010 regular council meeting, the Regional Council motioned to implement this strategy, utilizing \$740,000 that was previously allocated to other strategies within the funding plan. The Council motioned to re-allocate \$500,000 in funding from the "unidentified" Family Support strategy (strategy # 14) that has not yet been presented to the Board for approval, as well as an amount of \$240,000 from the Child Care Health Consultant strategy (strategy #2a). The Council determined that they can continue to reach the percentage of centers/homes identified with less funding to this strategy in the next fiscal year, as the number of eligible centers/homes in the region has decreased. Moving forward, with the reduced allocation, the North Phoenix Region will be supporting six (6) additional Child Care Health Consultants instead of eight (8).

**North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council**

The North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council is respectfully requesting the Board to approve this strategy and implementation to begin in Fiscal Year 2011.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Adams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Adams, Chair  
North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

## NORTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL 2011 FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY Revised April 13, 2010

Regional Allocation 2011: \$ 10,137,299

Carry Forward from 2010: \$ 2,562,484

Funding Available for Allocation in 2011: \$ 12,699,783

Prioritized Needs	Goal Area	Proposed Strategies	Portion of Regional Allocation	Recommendation to the Board
Limited access to quality early care and education	Quality, Access & Affordability	Quality First	\$1,537,940	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to quality early care and education	Health	Child Care Health Consultants	\$720,000	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to quality early care and education	Health	Mental Health Consultants	\$960,000	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to quality early care and education	Professional Development	Professional REWARD\$	\$200,000	Approved 12 8 09
More training and professional development opportunities for early childhood care providers	Professional Development	T.E.A.C.H. scholarships	\$495,340	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to parent education, information, and support	Quality, Access & Affordability	Family, Friend & Neighbor	\$250,000	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to parent education, information, and support	Family Support	Home Visiting	\$1,500,000	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to parent education, information, and support	Family Support	Family Literacy	\$1,000,000	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to parent education, information, and support	Family Support	Crisis Prevention	\$400,000	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to and utilization of preventive health care	Health	Oral, Vision and Hearing Screening	\$740,000	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to and utilization of preventive health care	Health	Health-E Applications	\$440,000	Approved 12 8 09

Limited understanding and information about the importance of early childhood development and health and limited support by the community around early childhood development and health efforts	Communication	Communications Campaign	\$500,000	Held
More training and professional development opportunities for early childhood care providers	Professional Development	Community Based Training for Early Education Professionals	\$200,000	Approved 12 8 09
Limited access to parent education, information, and support	Family Support	Supplemental Family Support	\$0	Not being submitted for board approval
Limited access to parent education, information, and support	Family Support	Teen Parent Care Coordination	\$1,200,000	Approved 2 23 2010
Access and affordability of child care	Quality Access and Affordability	Child Care Scholarships	\$740,000	Recommend Approval
		Regional Needs & Assets	\$100,000	Not being submitted for board approval
		<b>Subtotal of Expenditures</b>	\$10,983,280	
		<b>Fund Balance</b>	\$1,716,503	
		<b>Grand Total</b>	\$12,699,783	

**North Phoenix Summary Financial Chart SFY 2010-2012**

	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012 ESTIMATED	Total
<b>Revenue</b>				
FTF Total Allocation for the SFY	\$9,950,096	\$10,137,299	\$10,137,299	\$30,224,694
Fund Balance (carry forward from previous SFY)	N/A	\$1,992,484	\$1,169,503	
<b>Total Available Funds</b>	\$9,950,096	\$12,129,783	\$11,306,802	
<b>Strategies</b>				
	SFY 2010 OBLIGATED	SFY 2011 PROPOSED	SFY 2012 ESTIMATED	Total
1 Quality First	\$746,225	\$1,514,940	\$2,263,655	\$4,524,820
2a Child Care Health Consultants	\$870,000	\$720,000	\$720,000	\$2,310,000
2b Mental Health Consultants	\$480,000	\$960,000	\$960,000	\$2,400,000
3 Professional REWARD\$	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$580,000
4 T.E.A.C.H.	\$477,500	\$495,340	\$514,580	\$1,487,420
5 FFN Professional Development	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000
6a Home Visitation - Nurse Family Partnership	Removed	\$0	\$0	\$0
6b Home Visitation - EXPEDITED	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$4,000,000
7a Family Literacy - In Home	Removed	\$0	\$0	\$0
7b Family Literacy - Community Based	\$400,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,400,000
8 Crisis Prevention	\$90,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$890,000
9 Child Care Affordability Study	Removed	\$0	\$0	\$0
10a Oral Health Screen, Referral & Flouride Varnish				
10b Vision and Hearing Screen & Referral	\$0	\$740,000	\$740,000	\$1,480,000
11 Health-E Application	\$220,000	\$440,000	\$440,000	\$1,100,000
12 Communications	\$235,000	\$500,000	\$365,000	\$1,100,000
13 Community Based Training for Early Education Professionals	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000
14 Supplementary Family Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
15 Teen Parent Care Coordination	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$2,400,000
16 Child Care Scholarships	\$0	\$740,000	\$0	\$740,000
Emergency Food Boxes	\$33,288	\$0	\$0	\$33,288
Emergency Scholarships	\$2,885,599	\$0	\$0	\$2,885,599
Needs and Assets	\$90,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$240,000
<b>Subtotal Expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,957,612</b>	<b>\$10,960,280</b>	<b>\$10,803,235</b>	<b>\$29,721,127</b>
<b>Fund Balance (carry forward)</b>	<b>\$1,992,484</b>	<b>\$1,169,503</b>	<b>\$503,567</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,950,096</b>	<b>\$12,129,783</b>	<b>\$11,306,802</b>	

## Strategy #16

### Name: Child Care Tuition Scholarships

**Strategy Description:** First Things First will support working families who are facing economic challenges by developing a scholarship program that will assist families in accessing and retaining their young children ages three through five in quality early care and education programs. Child Care Tuition Scholarships help expand the choices available to families when making out-of-home early care and education decisions for their children. Because of high quality care is more expensive, scholarships help offset the cost of higher quality for low-income families.

**Supporting Young Children and their Families:** Providing economic support for families with children age three through age five by reducing the cost barrier to continuous, affordable, safe care is the intent of this regional strategy for families in North Phoenix.

Scholarships support continuity of care to children so that, previously formed supportive relationships with care providers can remain in place. Research shows that children thrive in the care of familiar care providers who play a significant role in their lives and on whom they count on for consistency, feelings of security, belonging and love. Continuity of care is particularly important for children birth through age five as they are in the developmental stages of building basic trust and a sense of self. Disruptions in care, particularly those that are abrupt, that result from changes in child care settings can be minimized with the use of stipends.

The high cost of early care and education is one of the most difficult obstacles to obtaining and maintaining employment for many low-income or single-parent families. Without access to quality care, working families may be forced to decide whether to quit their jobs or leave children in care that is not their primary choice.

Scholarships can support families who are employed, seeking employment or who are improving their skills by participating in training or education to better compete in the market place and who wish to give their children an educational boost.

**Linking Families to Additional Programs and Supports:** The North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council has a number of strategies implemented in the community. Recognizing some parents may need assistance beyond a child care tuition scholarship, it is important that families are informed of other services and programs supported by First Things First and beyond. The Administrative Home will be responsible for developing a coordinated partnership with other First Things First partners, such as the home visitation, family resource center, and early literacy partners in the North Phoenix Region. This will be an important component in successfully linking services with families who are in need of more comprehensive support.

The North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council recognizes this strategy as a unique opportunity to educate participating families about the overall mission and vision of First Things First. Families will learn more about why choosing quality child care is important, indicators of a quality care program and the instrumental role First Things First plays in building an overall comprehensive system for young children. Regional Council staff and the Regional Council will work directly with the First Things First Communications Division and the administrative home to ensure any messages and any public information materials pertaining to building awareness of this regional strategy coordinates and aligns with the overall mission and vision of First Things First.

The North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council is cognizant of the economic time, which may improve or further decline within the projected three Fiscal Years. The North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

also understands the shifting needs of all of the North Phoenix communities, particularly those families with young children.

**Benefits to the Child Care Infrastructure & the North Phoenix Region:** Increasing cost in licensing fees and continued decreases in DES child care reimbursements have resulted in severe financial pressures experienced by child care providers in centers. Providers across the state, including those in North Phoenix, are threatened with closure without an infrastructure in place to help them stabilize their financial situations. With improved financial stability, centers have the increased ability to maintain staff which contributes to the stability of the environment and quality of care to enrolled children. Child care tuition scholarships can play a strong role in achieving and maintaining high quality care and education.

**Participating early care and education providers are eligible to participate if the provider/program meets the following criteria:**

- The program provides early care and education services to children age three through age five;
- The program is in good standing with their certifying, licensing or regulatory authority; and,
- The program demonstrates a commitment to quality by one of the following:
  1. Is already enrolled as a Quality First participant and is actively working towards quality improvement, OR
  2. Is accredited by one of the six national accreditations recognized also by the Arizona Department of Education and Arizona Department of Economic Security, and provides a written statement that the entity has either already applied for Quality First (improvement or rating, when available) or will apply and commits to participate when accepted into the Quality First program OR
- The program demonstrates that it has applied for Quality First (improvement or rating, when available) and commits to participate when accepted into the Quality First program.

**LEAD GOAL:** FTF will increase availability and affordability of early care and education settings.

**KEY MEASURES:**

- Total number of children enrolled in early care and education programs participating in the QIRS system
- Total number of early care and education programs participating in the QIRS system
- Total number and percentage of early care and education programs participating in the QIRS system with a high level of quality as measured by an environmental rating scale
- Total number and percentage of early care and education programs participating in the QIRS system improving their environmental rating score

**Target Population:**

- North Phoenix families with children age three through age five who exhibit an economic difficulty in keeping their child in their current early care and education placement

**Priority will be given to families who may experience one or more of the following barriers (but may not be limited to):**

- Parents who are not eligible for any form of child care subsidy/assistance
- Working parents up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Parents underemployed, currently looking for employment or currently receiving job training

Proposed Service Numbers	SFY 2011	SFY 2012	SFY 2013
	July 1, 2010 –June 30, 2011	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
	75 Slots	75 Slots	75 Slots

**Performance Measures:**

- Current cost of early care and education for families as a proportion of the median income for a family of four.
- Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in regulated early care and education programs as a proportion of total population birth through age five.
- Number of families referred to other First Things First programs/actual service number.

**SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy**

<b>Allocation for proposed strategy</b>	\$740,000
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**Budget Justification:**

**Child Care Tuition Scholarships: Approximately \$701,224**

- This program is intended to cover 100% of the cost of care.

**Administrative Home: Approximately \$38,776**

An administrative home will be responsible for overseeing the progress of the program, which includes:

- Administrative Tasks: Fiscal responsibilities include but not limited to ensuring and determining eligibility of families and early care and education programs; conducting random audits; keeping financial records; development of applications and related forms.

1) Lally, J.R. & Signer, S.M. Introduction to Continuity. Available at:  
[http://www.pitc.org/cs/pitclib/download/pitc\\_res/360/Introduction %20toContinuity.pdf?x-r=pcfiled](http://www.pitc.org/cs/pitclib/download/pitc_res/360/Introduction%20toContinuity.pdf?x-r=pcfiled)