



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*The right system for bright futures*

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

**RE: Request to present a strategy for your consideration**

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Board,

The South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council is requesting to present a strategy for your consideration. The strategy is from our original South Phoenix Regional Funding Plan presented to you at the State Board Meeting on December 2, 2008, but at your request it was returned to the Council for further development. We have taken into consideration the comments and direction provided to us by the Board and staff. The Council committees and staff have further developed and improved the strategy by including an administrative entity who will be responsible for implementing the components in the attached strategy worksheet, and we are pleased to submit the following strategy for your consideration; Strategy ten.

**Strategy Ten:** Increase the number of health and mental health specialists with expertise in the 0-5 population through recruitment and incentives.

The South Phoenix Regional Council seeks to increase regional capacity to serve the 0-5 population and their families with more access to specialized health and mental health specialists through implementation of a Fund for Health Professionals that will recruit professionals to work in the South Phoenix region and provide incentives that include stipends, contract/sign on bonuses and a loan forgiveness program. Such financial incentives would help attract and retain qualified specialists to work and serve children and families in the South Phoenix region. The Fund will create opportunities to recruit and incentivize recent graduates and experienced health professionals, providing them motivation to work in the South Phoenix Region, where comprehensive health and mental health services are lacking. Outreach and recruitment would occur nationwide.

Our intention and vision for the strategy remains true to our original intent; to address the greatest needs with effective, well designed efficient strategies; which will change

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outcomes and increase quality opportunities for young children in the South Phoenix Region.

We have responded to the direction and suggestions and found that indeed the strategy now presented is stronger and more focused.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Dr. Robert Donofrio  
Chair  
South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council