



Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

**Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board
March 25, 2014 Minutes**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on March 25, 2014 at the Family Resource Center, 817 North Country Club Drive, Mesa, Arizona 85201.

Chair Sallquist called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Appreciation for the Grantees that were present was noted.

Members Present

Chair Julie Sallquist, Vice Chair Jack Dillenberg, Christine Scarpati, Sherreis Moreland, Anna David, and Maggie Pfaffenberger. Erica Alexander joined the meeting by teleconference.

Members Absent

Detza Bogaert, David Wade and Dee Tamminen.

Members of the Public

There were twenty six members of the public present.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2014

Vice Chair Dillenberg motioned to accept the minutes of February 25, 2014. Member Scarpati seconded the motion and it was approved 6/0 with no verbal response from Member Alexander telephonically.

Call to the Public

There was no call to the public.

Quarter 2 Grantee Data/Narrative Reports (Review and Possible Discussion)

Senior Director Sabatini gave an overview of the Quarter 2 Grantee Data/Narrative Reports. A familiar barrier among several Grantees was employee retention difficulties. It was also noted that Quarter 2 had proved less active than normal due to the Holidays.

There was discussion about the limited hours and days at the United Food Bank. The Food Box Certificate distribution to families in need will be addressed at a future Council meeting.

Also discussed was how the new East Maricopa Region would affect Southeast Maricopa. Senior Director Sabatini assured everyone that nothing would change in FY15 from a grantee perspective.

Conversations with Family Support Grantees

Chair Sallquist welcomed the family support grantees for home visitation, parent education and family resource centers. The grantees introduced themselves and their teams and then Senior Director Sabatini led the discussion. Each grantee gave a brief description of their program, program successes, partnerships, and barriers.

Carol Lopinski, from Child Crisis Center, stated the data and assessment requirements by national program models and First Things First have prolonged the time period for families to actually receive services. Vice Chair Dillenberg asked about vision screening. At this time, Child Crisis Center does a simple test and, if needed, refers the family to other agencies.

Mary-Laura Brooks, from Healthy Families, reported that their big success was the collaborative opportunities through My Child's Ready. She discussed the age requirement of birth up to 90 days to qualify for their program. Vice Chair Dillenberg suggested convening a group to reach out to Banner Hospital to address the challenge of not having access to engage families on site.



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Victoria Olsen, from Parents as Teachers, reported great success with their Group Connections programs. When asked about the success of children after they leave the program, Ms. Olsen stated that at this time, there is no tracking of the children after program completion.

Donna Shott, from Parenting Arizona, reported that 90% of her staff is car seat certified, and 50% is bilingual. Ms. Shott also expressed how difficult the national program model and First Things First deadlines and data assessment requirements are to meet.

Jannelle Radoccia, from Lutheran Social Services, shared handouts of upcoming events with the Council. Family Spot is designed to be a Resource Center for families. They intend to accomplish this by continuing to bring in other partners to offer services. The Play Spot room is a success story for them. They have opened that room to Gilbert Child Protective Services when needed for parent/child visitation.

Dr. Jill Stamm, from New Directions and Wendy Puga, from Child & Family Resources, gave an update of their service locations such as Banner Hospital and Mesa Public Schools. They now have a parent only class, where parents can receive training and tips on how to further guide their children.

Chair Sallquist told the Council the Care Coordination, Oral Health, and Early Learning Grantees will be addressing them at the next meeting.

Community Outreach Coordinator's Report (Report and Possible Discussion)

In the absence of Community Outreach Coordinator, John Taylor, Senior Director Sabatini reviewed his First Things First Core Message of the Month handout. The handout gave the success stories from the Oral Health Site tour held on February 20, 2014. The Council and Grantees expressed their appreciation for all that John does for the Southeast Maricopa Region.

Member Alexander left the meeting telephonically at 5:30 pm.

Senior Director's Update (Report and Possible Discussion)

Senior Director Sabatini informed everyone that the new Southeast Maricopa Regional Director, Cynthia Melde, will be starting on April 7, 2014. The Southeast Maricopa Regional Council seat applicants are set to be interviewed in April. May 1, 2014 is the day for the Statewide Regional Council Chair and Vice Chair meeting.

Council Member Updates (Report and Possible Discussion)

Member Scarpati informed the Council there will be a rally at the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 10:00 am. Chair Sallquist reported that she and Community Outreach Coordinator John Taylor attended the Queen Creek Town Council meeting where the Council acknowledged 'The Week of the Young Child'. Vice Chair Dillenberg announced that A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health was the Winner of the 2014 William J. Gies Awards of Vision, Innovation and Achievement.

Adjournment: Next Meeting April 22, 2014

Chair Sallquist adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Patty Morris, Administrative Assistant II

Julie Sallquist, Regional Council Chair



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Sustaining Arizona's Commitment to Young Kids

Finance Committee Recommendation to the Board - Summary

Tobacco taxes are a declining source of revenue; in fact, funding for First Things First has decreased from almost \$171 million in fiscal year 2008 to \$132 million in FY2013, a 23% drop in five years. By statute, the Board is ultimately responsible for ensuring that FTF funds are used as Arizona voters intended. Therefore, one of the Board's primary responsibilities is to set a fiscal policy that allows FTF to: sustain program funding for the longest term possible; maximize current and future revenues; and, promote thoughtful and proactive planning for future funding reductions so as to minimize the impact to children and families statewide.

In setting a fiscal policy direction, the Board has focused specifically on trends in tobacco tax collections – which led to revenue projection models researched by Arizona State University – and analysis of expenditures. The initiative that created FTF was written so that an organizational fund balance would accrue for a period of time before expenditures began. This was an intentional, strategic move on the part of the initiative's authors to ensure that funds would be available to sustain FTF's efforts over a longer period of time.

What were not anticipated were sizeable regional carry-forward balances. The Board noted the reasons for and monitored the regional carry-forward balances in fiscal years 2010 and 2011. In 2012, when the total regional carry-forward balance exceeded \$90 million – the Board looked more closely at the regional carry-forward balance and set fiscal policy that focused on spending down that balance.

While fiscal year 2013 was the first year in which the regional fund balance did not grow, the reduction was minimal. As regions complete the last year in the current funding cycle (FY13-15) and begin planning for the next three years (FY16-18), it was a logical next step for the Board – through its Finance Committee and with support from FTF staff – to undertake a deeper review of revenue, organizational fund balance and regional carry forward and to establish the fiscal policy direction that regional councils can use as a basis for discussion of the next three-year strategic direction and budgeting.

Recommendation of the Finance Committee

To expand the discussion and ensure a diverse set of views on the matter, the Chair of the Finance Committee, member Nadine Mathis Basha, invited special guests to both meetings to participate in the conversations. The additional participants represented both Board and regional council members.

Over the course of two meetings the Finance Committee reviewed how allocations are set; discussed the variables involved in the allocation process; examined how future allocations would support current spending budgets; looked at how regional fund balance is related to and impacts spending; reviewed how the organizational fund balance can be used to support a targeted spending level; and, developed recommendations for the Board on future program spending budgets and how the regional fund balance should be used.

Two formal recommendations have been made to the Board. These will be discussed at the April 2014 Board meeting and voted on at the June 2014 Board meeting. They include:

- 1) Beginning in FY16, the start of the new three-year Funding Plan Cycle, allocate \$126.6 million in revenues to support Program spending (statewide and regional combined), and keep this amount constant for successive years.
- 2) In FY16, the total means of financing available to support regional allotments should equal the targeted \$126.6 million level, and so regional allocations should be adjusted such that each region's projected fund balance (regional carry forward) is part of the allocation level rather than being in addition to.

These recommendations are based on reasonable (neither overly optimistic nor pessimistic) revenue projections and will allow FTF to maintain its program spending at a consistent level for an estimated 9-15 years.

The alternatives reviewed included the following:

1. Allow regional councils to spend down their carry forward, hitting fiscal cliffs at varying points between fiscal years 2015 to 2018. Under this proposal, regional councils would need to initiate a round of cuts because – even with their carry forward balance spread out over the next several years – their total revenue would be less than their projected FY15 allotments. Then, regional councils would need to initiate another round of cuts when their carry forward is fully exhausted and only the base-level allocation (based on the \$126.6 million recommended amount) is available.
2. Using large-scale draw-downs of organizational fund balance to maintain spending levels that have been set using regional carry-forward balances. The organizational fund balance would be exhausted within three years and, therefore, resulting in radical reductions in services at that point.

The Finance Committee acknowledged that moving to the recommended allocation methodology will raise questions from regional councils as it will mean an almost 30% reduction in total regional funds available for spending in FY16 (impact to individual regions will vary around this average amount). While this will be a challenge for regional councils to absorb initially, the following points were discussed by the Committee and include:

1. All regions are looking at significant funding reductions in the near future (as a result of spending down carry-forward), and in most cases, would need to make those cuts in FY16 or shortly thereafter.
2. Updating the fiscal policy at the beginning of a three-year planning cycle gives regional councils time to thoughtfully and proactively plan spending that reflects available revenues at the onset of a strategic planning process.
3. The funding available for each region will be very stable over time (with population and/or regional boundary changes being the only real drivers for change).
4. The recommendation sets a targeted spending level and, in FY16, uses regional carry forward in combination with new Board-allocated revenues to achieve that targeted spending level. Therefore, regions will be spending their regional carry-forward balances. In futures years, the targeted spending level will be fully achieved with new Board-allocated revenues.
5. Regions may still experience carry-forward balances, but these will be significantly lower and much more easily managed.

In addition, the Finance Committee discussed whether guidance should come from the Board on how regional councils plan to align programming to available revenues – for example, Board strategy or indicator priorities.

In the first of two meetings, the Board's Policy and Program Committee reviewed this issue at its April 3 meeting. Outlined below are questions the Committee was asked to consider and provide feedback on by the next meeting on May 15. In addition, feedback will be solicited from the regional Chairs and Vice Chairs at their May 1 meeting. All of the feedback obtained will be summarized and presented to the Board for consideration at its June 2014 meeting, so that complete guidance can be provided to the regional councils as they begin their three-year planning cycle.

Items the Program Committee members have been asked to provide feedback on include:

- Should guidance come from the Board on how regional councils plan to align funded programming to available revenues – for example, Board preferred strategy(ies) or School Readiness Indicator priorities?
- Currently, regional funding plans are developed by regional councils and are submitted for Board approval. If and when the Board has concerns with a funding plan presented for approval, they address these concerns on an individual basis and final approval is held until both Board and regional council concerns are resolved. As such,
 - Should this practice continue?
 - Should all regional councils be allowed to prioritize independent of each other, and/or Board priorities?
- Should the Board provide parameters for how a funding plan should be constructed? For example:
 - Should the number of strategies be limited?
 - Are there School Readiness Indicators which should be prioritized?
 - Should X% of funding have to be committed to the Board’s signature Quality First strategy?
 - Should only Y% of funding be committed to strategies for which other state agencies have primary or statutory responsibility?
- The Quality First program and Quality First Scholarships collectively comprise the largest funding investment of FTF. Should FTF research whether the QF model can be adjusted in ways that lower the cost but still preserve the overall design and policy intent?
 - One such example would be reducing the number of scholarships made available to providers receiving them by some amount. If that amount were 1/3, a potential savings of \$15.7 million could be yielded.
 - Another example is considering a decision made by regional councils to fund additional scholarships, which is a significant investment of resources beyond that “required” under the Quality First model. As regional councils make choices to fund additional scholarships, it increases the total investment and in many cases, these additional scholarships are under-utilized.
- Are there other FTF program costs that FTF should research to see if they can be lowered while still preserving the design and policy intent?

What this means for Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council:

Allocation and Funding Sources	2013	2014	2015	2016
FY Allocation	\$10,508,183	\$10,377,396	\$10,567,887	\$10,250,870
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$5,500,174	\$5,526,304	\$4,277,850	
Total Regional Council Funds	\$16,008,357	\$15,903,700	\$14,845,736	\$10,250,870
Total Allotted/ Proposed	\$11,509,892	\$12,917,612	\$12,952,633	
Unallotted	\$4,498,465	\$2,986,088	\$1,893,103	

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

Family, Friends & Neighbors Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
Renewal Considerations												

FTF-RC011-14-0460-01	Association for Supportive Child Care	07/01/2013-06/30/2014	12	\$90,000.00	\$27,785.48	30.9%	Yes	0.0%	\$90,000.00	Yes		
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The Arizona Kith and Kin Project of the Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC) provides support to family, friend and neighbor caregivers through weekly training/support group meetings. An average of 15 participants, per group, meet weekly for 14 weeks for a series of trainings on child development, health and safety, positive guidance and discipline, nutrition, early brain development, language and literacy, care seat safety and much more. Organized with the help of a community collaborative partner, group meeting locations are selected within the communities where family, friend and neighbor care providers live, work and play. The weekly gathering is held in a supportive, workshop format where participants gain emotional sustenance from the other participants while learning about early childhood development, school readiness and safety. Providers receive concrete instruction and training, along with the distribution of related safety equipment. Upon completion of a 14 week training - support group session, participants are invited to attend a Health and Safety Conference each summer. Where applicable and as funding permits, transportation and on-site child care is provided, free of charge, to minimize barriers to participation.

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), the Association for Supportive Child Care is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to meet contracted service number (60 home based providers served). Total home based providers served in Q1 and Q2 is 0. It should be noted that grantee is in year one of contract with region and the approved implementation plan provided 6 months of start up with classes to begin in Q3. Per discussions with grantee, Association for Supportive Child Care does anticipate that it will achieve its SFY 14 contracted service number.

The Association for Supportive Child Care has identified and confirmed three (3) sites where delivery of the Arizona Kith and Kin's 14 week training-support group will take place. The program has partnered with Family Spot Resource Center in Mesa, Family Spot Resource Center in Queen Creek and East Valley Family Resource Center/Crisis Center in Mesa. The 14 week training/support group sessions were scheduled to begin in January 2014.

The Arizona Kith and Kin Project continues to have three (3) vacancies for Child Care Providers. Identifying qualified candidates for these positions has been a challenge. Although many applications and resumes were received and reviewed, only a select few have met the requirements and qualifications for these positions.

No modifications have been proposed for SFY 15. Total funding level for the SFY 15 will not change - \$90,000.

Proposed contracted service number of 60 home based providers served will not change in SFY 15.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Quality and Access

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of home based providers served	60	0	0	0		0	0.0%	No	-30.0%	60

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

Director Mentoring/Training Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
											Renewal Considerations	

FTF-RC011-14-0470-02 Southwest Institute for Families and Children 08/01/2013-06/30/2014 11 \$156,725.00 \$75,793.06 48.4% Yes 0.0% \$159,004.00

Director Mentoring program will provide technical support to 18 child care directors/administrators whose programs are currently wait-listed for the First Things First Quality First early care and education program.

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), Southwest Institute for Families and Children is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Implementation is moving forward. Staff has been hired and trained, and services are being provided. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to exceed contracted service unit (18 directors mentored). To date, grantee service number is 15 directors mentored.

Southwest Institute for Families and Children's Director Mentoring program is in full implementation and is being well received by center directors. Participants describe the program and process as informative, reflective, and respectful. The Large Group Professional Development and Small Group Professional Development meetings were held at different participating program locations with the directors of these respective programs giving a tour of their programs. Those attending reported that being able to visit another program was very informative and gave them ideas they would like to institute. Many participants have indicated they would like to visit other programs with their coach. The program directors participating in this project represent a varied group including representatives from faith-based organizations, corporate organizations, privately owned and operated center-based organizations, and school districts. Each of these programs brings a unique perspective to the group meetings which have been well received by all participants.

In addition, Southwest Institute for Families and Children is currently working with Rio Salado Community College to finalize procedures to enroll participating child care directors interested in receiving college credit courses related to their identified goals.

Total funding level for the SFY 15 will increase from \$156,725 to \$159,004. In SFY 14, the Southwest Institute for Families and Children was funded for 11 months of service. In SFY 15, Southwest Institute for Families and Children is requesting an additional \$2,279 for 12 months of service. Total funding level for the SFY 15 is \$159,004.

Proposed contracted service number of 18 directors mentored will not change in SFY 15.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Professional Development

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of participating professionals	18	0	51			51	283.3%	No	223.3%	18

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

Care Coordination/Medical Home Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
Renewal Considerations												

FTF-MULTI-14-0467-02	American Academy of Pediatrics - AZ Chapter	07/01/2013-06/30/2014	12	\$239,999.00	\$130,063.68	54.2%	Yes	0.0%	\$239,999.00	Yes		
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The American Academy of Pediatrics' Best Care for Kids program will work with pediatric primary and/or specialty care practices to provide care coordination services to families in an effort to maintain good health and provide a medial home. Pediatric care coordination links children and their families with appropriate services and resources in a concentrated effort to achieve good health. These efforts will expand the existing care coordination program which currently serves eleven practices in the Central and Southeast Maricopa regions.

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), the American Academy of Pediatrics is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Implementation is moving forward and care coordination services are being provided at four primary care pediatric practices in the Southeast Maricopa Region. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the grantee has already exceeded its contracted service number (600 families served). To date service number is: 635 children served.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is implementing an evidence based care coordination model based on the Pediatric Alliance for Coordinated Care (PACC). Care Coordination efforts are moving forward successfully, exceeding expectation. Staff continues to both service families, and recruit practices to expand Care Coordination in the region. To enhance efforts, grantee is standardizing and packaging the program so that it is in a user/training manual format for primary care practices interested in hiring a care coordinator for their practice. Once completed, the manual will be available to all interested practices with technical assistance being provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

No modifications have been proposed for SFY 15. Total funding level for the SFY 15 will not change - \$239,999.

Proposed contracted service numbers will change in SFY 15 due to the nature of the model being used and due to the addition of developmental screening service units being added to the contract. Proposed contract service numbers for SFY 15 are: 1000 children served, 300 children receiving screening, 300 developmental screenings conducted, 300 hearing screenings conducted, 300 vision screenings conducted, and 25 families served (HIE assistance)

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Health

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of children receiving screening										300
Number of children served	600	560	635			635	105.8%	No	45.8%	1,000
Number of families served										
Number of developmental screenings conducted										300
Number of vision screenings conducted										300
Number of hearing screenings conducted										300
Number of families served (HIE Assistance)										25

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

Oral Health Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
											Renewal Considerations	

FTF-MULTI-13-0364-01-Y2 Dignity Health Foundation - East Valley 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 12 \$288,600.00 \$166,196.94 57.6% Yes 0.0% \$288,101.00

Dignity Health's Early Childhood Oral Health Prevention Program consists of three parts: 1) Oral health education provided to pregnant women, children 0-5 and their parents and families. 2) Oral health screening and fluoride varnish every three to six months for children ages 0-5 with referral to a dentist as appropriate. 3) Local health care providers including dentists, pediatricians, family practice physicians, nurse practitioners, school nurses, and childcare providers are introduced to best practice oral health education for the 0-5 age group. Registered dental hygienists, nurses, and oral health educators will provide oral health prevention services for children and their families and pregnant women at preschools, child care providers, school districts, and other outreach programs. Through individual visits to their offices, dental professionals will be encouraged to establish their office as a dental home for children beginning at age 1. Medical professionals will be encouraged to incorporate oral health screenings and dental referrals into well-baby visits. The program is designed to utilize the expertise of both dental and medical professionals to provide a more comprehensive approach towards oral health prevention services.

Yes

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), Dignity Health Foundation is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Implementation is moving forward. All staff is hired and trained, and services are being provided. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to meet contracted service number relating to fluoride varnishes (1500) and children screened (1500), while the contracted service unit for adults attending (2500) appears low and may not be achieved by year end. However, it should be noted that how First Things First counts adults attending changed after grantee set SFY 14 contracted service unit. Due to this change, parent education encounters that grantee had anticipated counting toward contracted service are no longer reportable – at no fault of the grantee. Grantee does anticipate reaching 2500+ parents, and does anticipate providing education to those parents; however, those encounters will not be reported toward contracted service unit in SFY 14. To date service numbers are: 805 fluoride varnishes, 892 children screened, 424 adults attending.

Dignity Health Foundation is providing oral health screenings and education throughout the Southeast Maricopa Region with great success. Services are being offered at local immunization clinics, WIC clinics, child care centers, school based preschools, low income clinics, and a variety of community events. Screenings and fluoride varnish applications are provided by Registered Dental Hygienists and Nurses. All assessments follow the American Academy of Pediatrics Caries-Risk Assessment Tool. In addition to an assessment, children receive a toothbrush, paste, floss, two minute timer, and education on the importance of good oral health. If needed, follow up dental services are provided by one of 13 local Dentists who have voluntarily partnered to provide free or low cost services for urgent/emergent needs.

Modification proposed for SFY 15 includes a reduction in the contracted service unit for adults attending. Total funding level for SFY 15 will slightly decrease - \$288,101.

Proposed contracted service numbers will change in SFY 15 due to how First Things First counts adults attending. In prior contract years, adults attending included any adult that received education or interacted with the grantee. In SFY 15, only substantial educational encounters between the parent and the hygienist/nurse/or health educator can be counted toward the adults attending contract service number. Proposed contract service numbers for SFY 15 are: 1500 fluoride varnishes, 1500 children screened, 2000 adults attending, and 195 participating professionals.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of fluoride varnishes applied	1,500	539	266			805	53.7%	Yes	0.0%	1,500
Number of participating adults	2,000	252	172			424	21.2%	No	-8.8%	2,000
Number of participating professionals	195									195
Number of children receiving oral health screenings	1,500	600	292			892	59.5%	Yes	0.0%	1,500
Number of prenatal women receiving oral health screenings	0	32	21			53				0

Health

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

Family Resource Centers Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
										Renewal Considerations		

FTF-RC011-13-0373-01-Y2 Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 12 \$500,000.00 \$262,804.52 52.6% Yes 0.0% \$500,000.00

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, along with New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development, Empowerment Systems, Arizona Ecumenical council, and Youth Education and Social Services present Family SPOT, a new program for families with children between 0-5 who live in the Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council area of First Things First. The new program, sponsored by First Things First, offers workshops for parents, grandparents and other adult family members/care givers in the exciting new area of early childhood brain development. Specialty classes will also be available in Strengthening Families and Nurturing Parenting approaches that help adults relate to and nurture their child in a manner that supports the child's growing abilities. Families also have the opportunity to schedule Family Assessment Appointments to access other resources and support services, such as health insurance enrollment.

Family SPOT also offers an early childhood resource library, and Family Pay Groups where parents, guardians or care givers can bring their child and participate with other families in exploring ideas, games, and activities that contribute to early brain development, as well as the simple but important things parents can do to promote emergent literacy, the foundation of success in Kindergarten and early primary grades.

Yes

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), Lutheran Social Services is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Implementation is moving forward and services are being provided in Mesa, Gilbert, and Queen Creek. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to meet contracted service numbers for both Family Resource Center (5000 Families Served) and Health Insurance Enrollment (500 Families) by year end. Participation in Parent Education-Community Based Training had a slower start than expected and the contracted service numbers (2800) is not anticipated to be achieved. To date service numbers are 3466 families served in the Family Resource Centers/ 299 families have received enrollment assistance for AHCCCS / 305 adults have attended parent education.

All three Family SPOT Family Resource Centers have been moving forward with great success. Staff is promoting services, meeting with community partners, providing resource and referral services, and providing parent education classes. In all centers, calls have multiplied, with a high volume of calls for health insurance, utility and rental assistance as well as assistance in locating low cost medical services. Staff is continually locating new resources to address these needs and provide referrals when services are not available at one of the Family Spot Family Resource Centers. Although slow to get going, participation in the Family SPOT Play On The Go parent education program continues to grow, with both new and returning families attending and enjoying the many different activities offered. Grantee has encountered barriers with recruiting families for Parent Education - Community-Based Training. To address this, the grantee strategically worked to identify and engage community partners that can best reach parents, dedicating more time to cultivating relationships and engaging all of them in dialogue on ways to encourage parent participation in Play On The Go programming. In addition, grantee has developed an aggressive plan to increase both participation and retention of parents in Parent Education-Community-Based Training programs in SFY 15. Grantee is confident that this barrier will be overcome and the SFY 15 contracted service number will be achieved. Proposed programmatic changes for SFY 15 implementation are minimal and include: the addition of a monthly Fatherhood Group at the Gilbert Family Resource Center; and due to low participation, the discontinuation of the Parent Café program.

Total funding level for the SFY 2015 will not change - \$500,000. Proposed contracted service numbers will change in SFY 15 due to changes to the service unit for Parent Education-Community-Based Training. In SFY 14 the service units for Parent Education-Community- Based Training is a duplicated count of the number of participating adults. In SFY 15, the service unit for Parent Education-Community Based Training will be an unduplicated count of the number of adults completing a series. The proposed target service numbers for SFY 15 are as follows: 5000 families served (Family Resource Center)/ 299 families receive enrollment assistance for AHCCCS-Kidscare (Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance) / 45 adults completing a series (Parent Education- Community-Based Training).

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Family Support

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of families served	5,000	1,985	1,481			3,466	69.3%	No	9.3%	5,500
Number of adults completing a series										45

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

Food Security Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
										Renewal Considerations		

GRA-RC011-14-0617-01	United Food Bank	07/01/2013-06/30/2014	12	\$70,000.00	\$43,750.00	62.5%	No	2.5%	\$70,000.00	Yes		
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Family Support

UFB's Help Yourself Program addresses the food and nutritional needs of low-income families with children ages 0-5 by providing a selection of food designed to provide balance and good nutrition. Each year thousands of low-income families in the Eastern Maricopa County region stretch their food buying dollars by purchasing nutritionally-sound food boxes for a fee at about half their true value. Every Friday, people come to the UFB facility where they receive a box filled with fruits, vegetables, breads, meats and other items at half the cost of what they would pay at the grocery store. We are seeking First Things First funds to provide families with children aged 0-5 with a Help Yourself Food Box Certificate so they can receive this food at no cost, along with a milk voucher that allows them to go to a local grocer for a free gallon of fresh milk. The Certificates will be delivered to the First Things First regional office for distribution to FTF qualified clients. The food purchased with the Certificate will consist of a bread product (tortillas, wheat bread, etc.), produce bag, dry goods bag and approximately five pounds of meat. The availability of bonus items, including dairy and other miscellaneous products, will depend on food donations received each week. The certificate will include a milk voucher redeemable for a gallon of milk at any Bashas or Food City Grocery Stores.

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), United Food Bank is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is not on track to meet contracted service unit (2000 food boxes distributed).

Grantee has encountered barriers with meeting contracted service number of 2000 food boxes distributed. Final service number in SFY 13 was 1122 food boxes distributed. At the end of Q2 in SFY 14, the grantee service number is at 662 food boxes distributed. To address this barrier, United Food Bank has provided a comprehensive outreach/collaboration plan to increase food box distribution in SFY 15. Plan includes partnerships with local schools, regional grantees, and other community partners working with lower income families with young children.

No modifications have been proposed for SFY 15. Total funding level for the SFY 15 will not change - \$70,000. Proposed contracted service number of 2000 food boxes distributed will not change in SFY 15.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of food boxes distributed	2,027	305	357			662	32.7%	Yes	0.0%	2,000

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

Home Visitation Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
											Renewal Considerations	

FTF-MULTI-13-0377-01-Y2 Arizona Partnership for Children, L.L.P. 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 12 \$1,037,888.01 \$670,979.31 64.6% No 4.6% \$1,037,888.01

Arizona Partnership for Children LLP (AzPaC) will provide the Parents As Teachers Program, the program has four main components:
 1) Personal Home Visitation - Families receive personal home visits weekly to monthly (based on intensity of need and family's schedule) by a Parent Educator, using the PAT's "Born to Learn" curriculum. Parent Educators will build rapport with the families and assess their needs and strengths. Together, the Parent Educator and the family will devise service plans based on the needs and strengths of the family. Parent Educators will also observe playtime between parent and child to evaluate their interactions. KIPS (Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale) will be used for evaluating 12 interactive behaviors. Parent Educators will incorporate the results of KIPS in their home visits/curriculum activities with the family.
 2) Screening - Children are screened at 9, 18, and 24 months, then annually for developmental progress regarding intellect/problem solving, language, social-emotional, and motor skills. These areas are evaluated through the use of the Ages and Stages tool. Hearing, health, and vision will also be evaluated through utilizing a tool within the PAT Born to Learn curriculum.
 3) Group Meeting - Monthly meetings will be provided to families with information about parenting skills, opportunities to meet with other parents, find common ground, and support each other. We will also have play group meetings where activities will be set up for parents and children to interact together and with others.
 4) Resource Network - Parent Educators will help to connect families with community resources, including early intervention for developmental delays, health, and social service agencies, and general enrichment activities.

Yes

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), Arizona Partnership for Children is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Implementation is moving forward, all staff has been hired and trained, and services are being provided. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to meet contracted service number (425 families served) by year end. To date service number is: 324 families served.

Arizona Partnership for Children is implementing the Parents as Teachers Model. Per narrative reports, implementation is going strong and recruitment of new families, through the My Child is Ready Alliance, is consistent. In addition, the implementation of a Refer a Friend program has been successful in recruiting interested families. In addition, attendance at Group Connection has increased and all feedback collected has been positive. Finally, the playgroup meetings for families in the program continue to be offered monthly. Playgroups are offered in both English and Spanish. Participation in playgroups has been gradually increasing since inception. All feedback from the playgroup attendees has been positive.

Arizona Partnership for Children, in collaboration with Child Crisis Center, has taken a lead role in the implementation of the Parents as Teachers Advisory Council. The Council works with both the Maricopa and Pinal County PAT Providers to talk about common challenges for PAT programs and learn how other programs are overcoming those issues. This group has been very beneficial for sharing strategies and streamlining questions that need to be sent to the Parents as Teachers National Center office.

Grantee has not proposed any modifications in SFY 15. Total funding level for the SFY 15 will not change from \$1,037,888.01.

Proposed contracted service numbers will change in SFY 15 due to the addition of developmental screening service units being added to the contract. Proposed contract service numbers for SFY 15 are: 425 families served, 425 children receiving screening, 425 developmental screenings conducted, 425 hearing screenings conducted, and 425 vision screenings conducted.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of children receiving screening										425
Number of families served	425	308	373			373	87.8%	No	27.8%	425
Number of developmental screenings conducted										425
Number of vision screenings conducted										425
Number of hearing screenings conducted										425

Family Support

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

FTF-MULTI-13-0377-03-Y2 Child Crisis Center 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 12 \$1,417,150.00 \$734,697.02 51.8% Yes 0.0% \$1,212,577.00

Child Crisis Center (CCC) will provide home visitation services in the Southwest and Central regions of Maricopa County serving 375 families annually. CCC uses the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program as the foundation of our home visitation work. PAT aims to help parents positively impact their children's development, beginning before they are born, so that by the time they are ready to enter school, they are ready to learn. This model has three main areas of emphasis: parent-child interaction, development-centered parenting and family well-being. PAT is an evidence-based model that involves using the best available research with professional expertise while considering the family's culture, values and unique characteristics. The program recommends visits occur at least twice monthly or a minimum of 10-12 visits annually. Visits are one hour with parents(s) and child. The target age for children is prenatally through kindergarten entrance. Additional supports and services include: male involvement services; developmental, hearing, vision screening and parent/child interaction screenings; parenting skill development; literacy materials including age appropriate books; and connections to other resources in the community.

Child Crisis Center will also be facilitating the continuation of its regional central intake system including, resource and referral, initial screening, marketing and collaboration with other FTF home visitation providers in the regions via an Alliance called MyChild'sReady (MCR). With a single phone number, central intake allows families to be matched to the program that best fits their needs versus only one program choice. And, in the spirit of reducing competition and confusion to the community, individual organizations are not listed on marketing materials; rather all marketing efforts are shared and use the brand and logo of MyChild'sReady. The MCR Alliance members meet regularly to discuss what works well, what adjustments need made, develop protocols and procedures, training opportunities, resource development, marketing efforts, and strategic planning and relationship building.

Yes

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), Child Crisis Center is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Implementation is moving forward and services are being provided throughout Southeast Maricopa. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to meet contracted service number (375 families served) by year end. To date service number is: 224 families served. Child Crisis Center is implementing the Parents as Teachers Model. Per narrative reports, implementation is going strong, and home visitation services are well received by participating families. In addition, Child Crisis Center is responsible for the My Child's Ready Centralized Intake. Marketing efforts for the intake line have been aggressive and effective. To date, the intake line has received 444 referrals for home visitation services.

Child Crisis Center, in collaboration with Arizona Partnership for Children, has taken a lead role in the implementation of the Parents as Teachers Advisory Council. The Council works with both the Maricopa and Pinal County PAT Providers to talk about common challenges for PAT programs and learn how other programs are overcoming those issues. This group has been very beneficial for sharing strategies and streamlining questions that need to be sent to the Parents as Teachers National Center office.

One barrier identified by the grantee is staff turnover. In SFY 14, grantee assessed conditions relating to staff recruitment and retention and developed an action plan to address issues. Proposed plan will be implemented fully in SFY 15 and includes the following items: revamp recruitment and selection process, establish a training academy for all home visitation staff, increase staff development opportunities in areas of leadership, increase salaries so that compensation aligns with responsibilities and is competitive in today's market, assist all home visiting staff in establishing an individual professional development plan, consciously work to establish and promote a culture that supports team work and collaboration, and hire administrative support to assist Parent Educators with the work required.

Proposed modifications in SFY 15 include: a change in the contracted service number, a reduction of 1 FTE Parent Education (home visitor) and addition of 1 Administrative Support staff, the establishment of a training academy for all home visitation staff, and conducting an independent evaluation of the My Child is Ready Collaboration. Proposed modifications are within the scope of the contract and should result in higher quality service delivery and greater staff retention.

Total funding level for the SFY 15 will decrease from \$1,417,150 to \$1,212,577. Proposed contracted service numbers will change in SFY 15. Change includes a decrease in the number of families served from 375 to 350. Reduced contracted service number is due to increased staff costs and the reduction in the number of Parent Educators (home visitors) funded that resulted from the cost increase. Additional contract service number changes are due to developmental screening service units being added to the contract. Proposed contract service numbers for SFY 15 are: 350 families served, 400 children receiving screening, 400 developmental screenings conducted, 300 vision screenings conducted, and 300 hearing screenings conducted.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of children receiving screening										400
Number of families served	375	248	264			264	70.4%	No	10.4%	350
Number of developmental screenings conducted										400
Number of vision screenings conducted										300
Number of hearing screenings conducted										300

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

FTF-MULTI-13-0377-04-Y2 Southwest Human Development 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 12 \$1,015,712.00 \$689,531.46 67.9% No 7.9% \$1,059,211.67

Healthy Families is an evidenced-based home visitation strategy that enhances positive parent-child relationships, promotes child health and development, improves literacy and school readiness, and increases family self-sufficiency. All of these build the foundation for strong family readiness, and preventing child abuse and neglect. Degreed staff works with parents to promote attachment and bonding and to build healthy, nurturing, and safe relationships with their children. All children 0-5 receive regular physical and social emotional developmental screenings. All family members are linked with medical providers and parents are encouraged to complete their education and secure employment. A standardized assessment tool is used to identify families most in need of services and to enroll them prenatally or at the birth of their child. Upon enrollment, visits are made at least weekly and families may receive services for the first several years of the child's life. As the family achieves greater self-sufficiency, the frequency of visits is decreased.

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), Southwest Human Development is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Implementation is moving forward, all staffing has been hired and trained, and services are being provided. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to meet contracted service number (300 families served) by year end. To date service number is: 210 families served.

Southwest Human Development is implementing the Healthy Families Home Visitation Model. Per narrative reports, implementation is going strong and recruitment of new families, through the My Child is Ready Alliance, has been consistent. In addition, grantee has collaborated with a diverse group of community service providers, city governments, local hospitals, family resource centers and local health and behavioral health service providers. Through these collaborations the grantee has been able to increase opportunities for enrolled families.

Grantee has proposed two modifications for SFY 15. First the grantee will reduce its contracted service unit by 25 families. The reduction is a result of increased program costs. Per grantee, program costs have increased substantially over the past two years and current funding is not sufficient to cover increased costs. Grantee requested an increase in funding (9.7%) to address costs. Should an increase in funding not be available, the grantee will need to decrease service numbers. The second modification proposed the grantee is the elimination of Family Social Events/Groups for participating families. Per grantee, funding provided in current grant is not sufficient to cover the cost associated with hosting the Family Social Events/Groups. Grantee requested an increase in funding (9.7%) to address costs. Should an increase in funding not be available, the grantee will need eliminate the events/groups.

Proposed contracted service numbers will change in SFY 15. Changes will include a decrease in the number of families served and the addition of developmental screening service units being added to the contract. Per grantee, program implementation costs have increased substantially and grantee is no longer able to provide the same level of services with the funding provided. To address the issue, grantee is proposing to decrease the contracted service unit by 25 families served. Proposed contract service numbers for SFY 15 are: 275 families served, 275 children receiving screening, 275 developmental screenings conducted, 275 hearing screenings conducted, and 275 vision screenings conducted.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee at \$1,059,211.67, of which \$40,543.67 is allocated to Department of Economic Security for accreditation.

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of children receiving screening										275
Number of families served	300	205	243			243	81.0%	No	21.0%	275
Number of developmental screenings conducted										275
Number of vision screenings conducted										275
Number of hearing screenings conducted										275

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

FTF-MULTI-13-0377-07-Y2 Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 12 \$473,613.00 \$245,186.30 51.8% Yes 0.0% \$473,613.00

Parenting Arizona will implement the Parents as Teachers evidence based Home Visitation model program for 200 families with children birth to three years old across the Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council. Parent Educators are highly qualified and demonstrate respect for diverse needs and characteristics of families in the regional area. Parents as Teachers Parent Educators work with families through four service delivery components including 1) personal visits which are conducted at least one time per month and more frequently as needed, 2) Group Connections held in a variety of community settings across the regional area, 3) developmental and sensory screening conducted within 90 days of family enrollment and 4) the resource network that connects families to needed resources. Recruitment will be focused on enrolling families prenatally or shortly after the baby's birth and on high risk families. Program outcomes to be measured include increased parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices, early detection of development delays and health issues and increasing children's school readiness and school success.

Yes

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), Chicanos Por La Causa - Parenting Arizona is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Implementation is moving forward, all staff has been hired and trained, and services are being provided. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to meet contracted service number (230 families served) by year end. To date service number is: 166 families served.

Chicanos Por La Causa - Parenting Arizona is implementing the Parents as Teachers Model. Per narrative reports, implementation is going strong and recruitment of new families, through the My Child is Ready Alliance, has been consistent. In addition, grantee has collaborated with a diverse group of community service providers, city governments, school districts, ASU, and health service providers. Through these collaborations the grantee has been able to increase opportunities for enrolled families. Such opportunities have included provision of holiday food boxes and gifts, ability to participate in adopt a family holiday program, donations to take children Christmas shopping, oral health services, and free car seats.

Grantee has not proposed any modifications in SFY 15. Total funding level for the SFY 15 will not change from \$473,613.

Proposed contracted service numbers will change in SFY 15 due to the addition of developmental screening service units being added to the contract. Proposed contract service numbers for SFY 15 are: 230 families served, 230 children receiving screening, 230 developmental screenings conducted, 230 hearing screenings conducted, and 230 vision screenings conducted.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of children receiving screening										230
Number of families served	230	196	202			202	87.8%	No	27.8%	230
Number of developmental screenings conducted										230
Number of vision screenings conducted										230
Number of hearing screenings conducted										230

Southeast Maricopa Grantee Renewal

Parent Education Community-Based Training Strategy

Contract Number	Grantee	Contract Period	Number of Contract Months	FY 2014 Award	FY 2014 Expenditures YTD	FY 2014 Expenditures as % of Award	Within 30-60% Range (Yes/No)	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Renewal Amount	Staff Recommendation to Council	Council Recommendation	Recommendation to Board
											Renewal Considerations	

FTF-MULTI-13-0360-09-Y2 Arizona's Children Association 07/01/2013-06/30/2014 12 \$486,852.00 \$260,221.34 53.4% Yes 0.0% \$486,852.00

New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development (NDI) will implement our evidence-based program Nurturing Parenting Program® (10 sessions) and our neuroscience-based S.T.E.P.S. PLUS® (Security, Touch, Eyes, Play and Sound) (10 sessions) Parent Education Series in conjunction with our successful Cornerstone Institution variety of programs held in hospitals, libraries, family resource centers, community and faith-based centers to 3,150+ parents (plus children) in our family support and education programs, collectively referred to as Bright Choices Family Support. We are partnering with Child and Family Resources, Inc. in delivering choices of program implementation, points of entry and variety of offerings throughout Central and Southeast Maricopa regions. Bright Choices Family Support offers both evidence-based and promising practice parent educational support program options together with community resources tailored to the specific needs of each family.

Based on data and narrative reports submitted to date (Q1-Q2), Arizona's Children Association is compliant with all grant obligations/requirements. Implementation is moving forward, all staff has been hired and trained, and services are being provided. Quarter I and Quarter II data and narrative reporting show that the organization is on track to meet contracted service number (1750 participating adults) by year end. To date service number is: 1137 participating adults.

Arizona's Children Association is providing the following parent education models/curricula: Nurturing Parenting, S.T.E.P.S. Plus, Wired for Success, Brain Time with Brain Boxes, and Kinder Prep. Implementation of the parent education classes in Southeast Maricopa has been well received by parents and classes fill up fast as word of mouth continues to spread among parents. Demand for classes has exceeded expectations and has almost exceeded capacity of grantee.

Grantee has proposed a minor programmatic modification in SFY 15 by adding the Kinder Ready parent education curriculum. Kinder Ready is designed for caregivers and parents with children ages 3-5 years of age and is based on the S.T.E.P.S. to Early Brain Development curriculum. The curriculum is designed for adults alone and will be conducted while the child is participating in preschool education.

Total funding level for the SFY 15 will not change from \$486,852.

Proposed contracted service numbers will change in SFY 15 due to changes to the service unit for Parent Education Community-Based Training. In SFY 14 the service units for Parent Education Community- Based Training is a duplicated count of the number of participating adults. In SFY 15, the service unit for Parent Education Community-Based Training will be an unduplicated count of the number of adults completing a series. The proposed target service number for SFY 15 is as follows: 544 adults completing a series.

First Things First staff recommends renewal of this grantee.

Family Support

Service Unit	2014 Contracted Units	2014 Q1 Actuals**	2014 Q2 Actuals**	2014 Q3 Actuals**	2014 Q4 Actuals**	Year-to-Date Actuals**	Percent of Contracted	Within 30-60% Range	Out of Range Percentage	FY 2015 Proposed Contracted Units
Number of participating adults	1,750	710	427			1,137	65.0%	No	5.0%	
Number of adults completing a series										544



Maricopa/Phoenix Regional Partnership Councils

School Readiness Indicators and Setting of Year 2020 Benchmarks

April/May 2014 Update to Councils and Request for Consideration of Approval

From previous updates, the Regional Council will recall that the recommendations of the Cross-Regional Benchmark Committee were moved to a public vetting process during the month of March, which has been completed.

Overall, the public input affirmed support of the benchmarks identified by the Cross-Regional Committee and there was a consensus staff recommendation that the feedback did not identify any new or significant concerns with the proposed benchmarks. The information from the public forums and online survey were sent forward to the committee for review.

The recommendations now move forward to the Regional Councils for consideration of approval. Each Council is asked to review the recommendations, but only needs to provide formal approval for their regionally selected indicators.

The recommendations from the committee are as follows:

Proposed Benchmarks for Indicator 2: Quality Early Education

Benchmark A: 72% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars by 2020. /of those attending Quality First enrolled programs.

Benchmark B: 29% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars by 2020. /of those attending all licensed or regulated programs.

These percentages represent that 21,500 Maricopa County children will be enrolled in early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 Stars, by 2020.

Proposed Benchmark for Indicator 10: Confident Families

50% Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being by 2020.

The committee process and public input information is included in the attached summary document.



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School Readiness Indicators

Overview

For the School Readiness Indicator benchmarking process, the Phoenix and Maricopa County Regional Councils formed a Cross-Regional Benchmarking Committee. The Committee was formed based on the council's common commitment to cross-regional collaboration and the recognition of common countywide priorities.

Note, that for this cross-regional work, Salt River Pima- Maricopa Indian Community and Gila River Indian Community First Things First regions were not included. They will work separately to set individual regional benchmarks.

North, South, and Central Phoenix as well as Northwest, Southwest, Northeast, Southeast and Central Maricopa Regional Councils each designated committee members to represent their Regional Council in a cross-regional benchmarking process. The Benchmarking Committee met on three occasions: in August and September of 2013, and January 2014. Maricopa countywide benchmark recommendations, to be achieved by the year 2020, were set for the following two indicators:

Indicator #2 - Quality Early Education - #/% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars.

Indicator #10 – Confident Families - % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being.

As only the South Phoenix Regional Council selected *the Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten* and *Healthy Weight* indicators, and no other local regions also selected those indicators, a committee of the South Phoenix Council met separately, in August 2013 and February 2014, to establish recommended benchmarks for those indicators.

Indicator #6 – Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten - #/% of children exiting preschool special education enrolled in kindergarten regular education.

Indicator #7 – Healthy Weight - #/% of children ages 2-4 with Body Mass Index in healthy weight range. *(South Phoenix only)*

After all committee recommendations were made, a public vetting and input process was held. Two public forums were conducted in March 2014. Also, an online survey was available and additional comments were collected.

In this Phase 1 of the benchmarking process, there are recommendations for benchmarks for some of the First Things First indicators. The Regional Councils have selected other School Readiness Indicators as priorities, in addition to those listed above. As data becomes available, cross-regional benchmarks for Maricopa County will be established, through Phase 2 of the process, for the following indicators:

- Indicator #1- School Readiness - #/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical.
- Indicator #8- Well-Child Visits - #/% of children receiving at least six well-child visits within the first 15 months of life.
- Indicator #9 - Dental Health - #/% of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay.

And, for South Phoenix only:

- Indicator #5 - Developmental - Delays Identified in Kindergarten - % of children with newly identified developmental delays during the kindergarten year.



Committee Process Information: Benchmarking Committee

The first meeting of the Maricopa/Phoenix Benchmark Committee was held on 8/14/13. The purpose was to provide an orientation and overview of the benchmarking process. The intent of the School Readiness Indicators was reviewed, and the process completed by the state level committee and First Things First Board in this same area of work. The committee was oriented to the benchmark data sources, as well as the proposed approaches to setting cross-regional benchmarks. The committee members discussed the process and information before the meeting was concluded.

Indicator 2: Quality Early Education, Benchmarking Discussion and Decision

The Committee met on 9/9/13 to consider the Quality Early Education Indicator. The data sources and baseline data were reviewed with the Committee. Two baseline calculations were provided to the Committee for the Quality Early Education Indicator:

Quality Early Education Baseline A is the number of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars divided by the number of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 1-5 stars; this baseline is essentially the percent of children in Quality First who are enrolled in 3-5 star care.

Quality Early Education Baseline B is the number of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars divided by the number of children enrolled in regulated early care and education; this baseline is essentially the percent of children in regulated care who are enrolled in 3-5 star Quality First care.

The Committee had extensive discussion about the limitations of utilizing a data source that measured quality of early care and education in Quality First as the sole measure of quality for their regions as a whole. Members were concerned about measuring the total pool of quality early education without access to data on unregulated, accredited, and other providers that are of undetermined quality. There was consensus that all discussions related to the Quality Early Education Indicator should include information about the limitations of the SRIs. There was also discussion on whether Quality First providers, still at a star level of 2, but on the cusp of 3, are really providing quality care. There was concern that the cut-off scores for a 3 star may not truly reflect a shift of the number of children receiving quality care.

The Committee discussed the expected progress of providers in Quality First (expected progress is to move from 1 to 2 stars in 2 years and 2 to 3 stars in 2 - 4 years) and upcoming model changes in Quality First such as phasing out of scholarships at the 1 and 2 star levels.

They discussed potential factors that might increase the total pool of providers in Quality First between now and 2020, including filling open slots, quality providers moving to a rating only status thereby opening slots for full participation, and efforts to be taken to encourage the filling of currently underutilized slots for children in current Quality First providers in the regions. They agreed that funding considerations make it challenging to anticipate how many additional Quality First slots could be added by 2020.

The Committee discussed a Quality Early Education Indicator benchmark A of 72% and a benchmark B goal of 29% children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars. These benchmarks were based on the assumption that adequate progress in Quality First star ratings will occur. Quality Early Education Benchmark B was estimated utilizing the denominator provided for the number of children in Maricopa County in regulated care (75,628) with the numerator of the targeted number of children in Quality First 3-5 star education by 2020 (21,500).



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School Readiness Indicators

The Committee discussed the Quality Early Education Indicator benchmark A and that it reflected a 50% increase from the 22% baseline A. They also agreed that Baseline B represents a 20% increase in the 9% baseline B. It was agreed that given the progress in Quality First to this point, 72% for baseline A and 29% for baseline B are attainable goals. There was continued discussion that this benchmark left more than a quarter of children in Quality First NOT in quality care by 2020. The Committee agreed that due to variation between regions within the county, the anticipation of turnover and new enrollees, and the complexity of the Quality First system, 72% by 2020 was an attainable goal for the county as a whole.

Proposed Benchmarks for Indicator 2: Quality Early Education

Quality Early Education Indicator Benchmark A: 72% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars by 2020. /of those attending Quality First enrolled programs.

Quality Early Education Indicator Benchmark B: 29% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars by 2020. /of those attending all licensed or regulated programs.

These percentages represent that 21,500 Maricopa County children will be enrolled in early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 Stars, by 2020.



Indicator 10: Confident Families Indicator Committee Benchmarking Discussion and Decision

The Committee met on 1/16/14 to discuss Indicator 10: Confident Families.

The data source, survey methodology and calculation of the overall indicator (a combination of nine key measures) and the baseline data for the region was reviewed with the Committee.

The Confident Families Indicator is measured by the First Things First Family and Community Survey. This survey is conducted every three years and the survey was designed to provide information for Regional Partnership Councils on parent knowledge, skills, and behaviors related to their young children.

The Family and Community Survey is conducted, for non-tribal regions, over the phone. Over 3,700 Arizona parents with children 0-5 participated in the 2012 Survey. In Maricopa County, 1,500 parents completed the survey. Parents were reached randomly via land-line as well as cell phone. Interviews began with demographic questions. Based on information provided by parents on family income, ethnicity, and geography, the sample of parents was carefully balanced to ensure that the respondents reflected the diversity of Arizona and Maricopa County in particular.

The survey contains over sixty questions, some of which were drawn from the national survey: *What Grown-Ups Understand About Child Development*¹. Survey items explore multiple facets of parenting. There are questions on overall knowledge of the importance of early childhood, questions which gauge parent knowledge of specific ages and stages, parent behaviors with their children, as well as parent practices related to utilization of services for their families.

For the First Things First Confident Families Indicator composite score, a sub-set of nine items from the survey were selected. The nine items include parent knowledge, parent self-report of competency and confidence in the parenting of their young children, and parent behaviors, all of which are of key importance to support a young child's safety, health and well-being. Five of the items selected are knowledge-based questions that directly assess a parent's level of knowledge of key developmental areas. Two of the items selected specifically ask parents to rate their level of competency and confidence in their ability to support their child's learning, cognitive development, safety, health and overall well-being. Lastly, two items inquire about parent behaviors around the key early literacy activities of reading, telling stories and singing songs with their children. Six or more responses (out of nine) meeting the cut point comprised the composite score criteria. The scoring was determined based on the national survey key and on early childhood development research and best practice.

The Committee discussed the fact that the Family and Community survey is self-report. They agreed that questions 6 and 7, which ask parents to report their competence and confidence directly, were likely to be positively skewed due to reporting bias. However, they agreed that utilizing a bank of nine survey questions to calculate overall competence and confidence was a good approach to tracking knowledge and skills over time.

The Committee discussed the limitations of the Confident Families indicator to measure the impact of Council funding and evaluating the outcomes of Council efforts. There was agreement that the School Readiness Indicators are high-level dashboard measurements. SRIs do not provide evaluation or research findings which link funding or specific programmatic efforts to outcomes. The purpose of the Competent Families Indicator is to track overall changes in parent knowledge and behavior in the early childhood system as a whole.

¹ CIVITAS Initiative, ZERO TO THREE, and BRIO Corporation, Researched by DYG, Inc. 2000. *What Grown-ups Understand About Child Development: A National Benchmark Survey*.



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School Readiness Indicators

The Committee discussed how the statewide benchmarking committee reviewed and recommended the state goal of 52% of Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being by 2020. It was agreed that the approach and considerations were similar for Maricopa County, especially focusing on multiple areas of parent competence and confidence to meet the needs of the whole child and setting an aspirational yet attainable goal which reflects the efforts of all early childhood partners rather than First Things First alone.

The Committee discussed the data trends across Maricopa County and asked if there is a relationship between poverty and primary language spoken and parent knowledge and behavior. It was noted that respondents could take the survey in Spanish or English and that while the full analysis of the 2012 Family and Community Survey data is anticipated for fall 2014, research findings and 2008 Family and Community Survey findings indicate strong differences in knowledge and supports needed as related to income and education. The Committee agreed that communities in Maricopa County have different levels of need for supports and the overall goal for Maricopa County for 2020 should reflect that diversity.

The Maricopa County baseline is 40% of Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being. The Committee discussed the estimated number of parents who would need to be supported to attain competence and confidence by 2020 to attain a benchmark of 50%: 23,833.

The Maricopa County Committee discussed a benchmark goal of 50%. They agreed that based on the current reach of FTF strategies alone (including Quality First, literacy initiatives, home visitation, and parent education), they could confidently aspire to a 12% change of Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being. Members agreed on a 50% goal and a 10 percentage point improvement by 2020. The Committee agreed that 50% was an attainable goal for Maricopa County as a whole. They agreed that large-scale changes will reflect the work of all early childhood partners, not just First Things First.

Proposed Benchmark for Indicator 10: Confident Families

50% Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being by 2020.



South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council – two additional indicators

South Phoenix/Indicator 6: Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten, Benchmarking Discussion and Decision

The South Phoenix Benchmarking Committee met to discuss the Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten Indicator on February 10, 2013. The data source, trends in transition rates over time, and trends in transition rates by differing disabilities were reviewed with the Committee.

The transition from preschool special education to kindergarten Indicator is calculated using data from the Arizona Department of Education, specifically related to IDEA Part B. Data for children with an IEP under IDEA Part B are tracked to see if, in the subsequent school year, they have entered kindergarten without an IEP. The Indicator is intended to track progress in the screening, identification and delivery of effective intervention services. The intent is to increase the percent of children transitioning to kindergarten without an identified special need due to timely screening, identification and delivery of services.

The Committee asked if data were available on anticipated population rates of IEPs and special needs in preschool and early elementary school. It was identified that estimates of how many children would be anticipated to have a delay are not available. Other states have differing assessment processes and severity of delay required for an IEP. Also, the focus of this Indicator is on preschool services and their effectiveness, rather than services offered in kindergarten and beyond.

The Committee discussed the five different delay categories for preschool special education: Developmental Delay, Speech-Language Impairment, Preschool Severe Delay, Hearing Impairment, and Visual Impairment. There was extensive discussion about what an appropriate benchmark should be. The Committee discussed the consideration that some children with early delays - even with excellent screening, identification and services - will have an IEP throughout their educational career and life. It was agreed that 100%, or no children needing special services in kindergarten, is not an attainable or reasonable goal but that South Phoenix's baseline rates are currently too low.

There was extensive discussion about the current trend in Arizona and South Phoenix of declining rates of entry into kindergarten without an IEP after preschool special education - the opposite of the intended trend. The Committee reviewed trends for Developmental Delay, Speech-Language Impairment, Preschool Severe Delay, Hearing Impairment, and Visual Impairment and noted that Speech Language Impairment rates of transitioning to kindergarten without an IEP have decreased dramatically in the South Phoenix trend data available.

Chief Policy Officer Karen Woodhouse noted a reported trend of school districts waiting to re-assess children for an IEP after the transition from preschool special education. She noted that it is not known how widespread this trend is but it could affect (increase) how many children retain an IEP into kindergarten.

The committee had extensive discussion about the complexity of this situation and Indicator. Overall, they aspire to increased levels of awareness and screening on the part of all who support young children, especially parents. They also want assessment to lead to quality identification and timely and optimal services. They noted that each of these steps is a complex calculation of its own and must all be taken into account in setting a benchmark goal.

The committee noted that improvement in this Indicator will not be the work of First Things First or the South Phoenix Council alone. They noted South Phoenix efforts, including: supporting speech language pathologist education, care coordination, family resource centers, Quality First, and home visitation. However, even with these notable efforts, they agreed that system-level and overall coordination efforts will lead to real changes for children.



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School Readiness Indicators

In setting an benchmark goal, the Committee decided on 27% of children entering kindergarten exiting preschool special education to regular education by 2020 based on the urgency of this situation and the efforts already in place. This is a similar change to the state goal and a 7.4% increase from the South Phoenix baseline of 19.6% of children entering kindergarten exiting preschool special education to regular education by 2020.

Proposed Benchmark for Indicator 6: Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten

27% of children entering kindergarten exiting preschool special education to regular education by 2020.

South Phoenix/Indicator 7: Healthy Weight, Benchmarking Discussion and Decision

The South Phoenix Committee met to discuss the Healthy Weight Indicator 8/14/13. Earlier that same day, committee representatives participated in an overview of benchmarking with the Cross-Regional Benchmarking Committee. For the Healthy Weight Indicator, the data source, limitations of utilizing WIC data to measure progress for all children, trends in obesity, overweight, and underweight for the region was reviewed with the Committee.

The Committee discussed the limitations of First Things First efforts to impact children's healthy weight. They discussed the many complex factors related to healthy weight including historical/generational poverty, cost of food, and lack of culturally appropriate information on healthy activity and eating.

There was also discussion of the potential problems of utilizing the WIC data for population estimates of weight. WIC is not a representative sample and the Committee considered that the WIC population is likely more overweight than the South Phoenix county general population.

The Committee discussed the many new and expanding initiatives in the community (from FTF and partners) such as: SNAP education, family resource centers, KidsCafe, and many more. They agreed these initiatives will positively impact healthy weight through direct funding and collaboration.

The Committee also discussed that there may be under-utilization of services in their community. Convening parents to understand their specific needs, to ensure they are aware of services, and that services are appropriate to the unique and primarily Hispanic community were seen as important steps.

The Committee discussed a benchmark goal of 75% of 2-4 year olds in South Phoenix Council Area at a healthy weight by 2020. They agreed that healthy weight is a critical need in South Phoenix, it is a national and city-wide priority and that current and expanding initiatives will positively impact children's eating and activity habits.

Proposed Benchmark for Indicator 7: Healthy Weight

75% of 2-4 year olds in South Phoenix Council Area at a healthy weight by 2020.



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School Readiness Indicators

Public Input Process

Public comment was solicited in two ways: in-person community forums and an online survey.

Community Forums:

On 3/19/14 and 3/20/14, two public School Readiness Indicator benchmark public forums were held in Phoenix to gather community input on initial benchmark targets set by the Maricopa Cross-Regional Benchmark Committee and the South Phoenix Committee. The agenda was as follows:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of Process to Recommend Regional Benchmarks
3. How and Why Benchmarks Are Used
4. Review and Discuss Proposed Regional Benchmarks for Priority School Readiness Indicators
5. Process and Timeline for Finalizing Recommended Regional Level Benchmarks
6. Questions

There were 11 attendees: 8 members of the public; the Phoenix and Maricopa Regional Senior Directors, Jennifer Johnson and Wendy Sabatini; and the facilitator, Amy Kemp. After introductions, the forums began with an overview of the purpose of SRIs and the statewide and regional processes of setting benchmarks, including the 9 priority roles of First Things First and their relation to the 10 SRIs. There was discussion on the SRI process and additional clarification that SRIs are tools to monitor changes in statewide and regional populations of children and not evaluation tools. Attendees were informed that SRIs are used to measure progress in the early childhood system overall and help identify priorities.

There was a brief review of the status of all Indicators, identification of the eight Indicators prioritized by the Maricopa Regional Councils as well as the four Indicator benchmarks that had been set. Utilizing the baseline and benchmark data for Maricopa County and South Phoenix region, the group reviewed the considerations, discussions and decisions of the Maricopa Cross-Regional Benchmark Committee and South Phoenix Committee on the following prioritized Indicators:

Indicator #2 - Quality Early Education (Cross Regional)

Indicator #10 - Confident Families (Cross Regional)

Indicator #6 - Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten (South Phoenix Indicator)

Indicator #7 - Healthy Weight (South Phoenix Indicator)



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School Readiness Indicators

There was extensive discussion on the Quality Early Education Indicator and Quality First. There was discussion about the supports and incentives provided in Quality First to improve educational quality and to support changes in instructional practice. It was noted that improvements may take extended periods of time because actual instructional practice must change (through teacher education and coaching) rather than environmental/physical considerations alone.

There was intense discussion about the merits of measuring progress through the number of children enrolled in quality early education rather than the number of providers at each Quality First star level. It was agreed that only through changes in provider quality and star level would more children be served in high quality early education, however, it was noted that measurements based on children implies that families are responsible for identifying and travelling to providers of quality rather than ensuring that the supply of quality education is accessible for families.

Also discussed was the hope that more early care and education providers will be able to enter into the Quality First system. The balance between ensuring that providers that have attained quality have adequate financial supports to maintain quality, and the desire to open slots for new providers was noted.

Related to the Confident Families Indicator, it was noted that self-report data are likely to be inflated and over-estimate actual levels of parent knowledge and skill. It was also suggested that the length of the Family and Community Survey be reduced to increase participation. Participants agreed the benchmark was a reasonable goal and supporting parents is crucial to improvements in all of the benchmarks.

After review of the Maricopa County Cross-Regional benchmarks for the Quality Early Education and Confident Families Indicators, no changes were suggested.



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School Readiness Indicators

There was intense discussion related to the South Phoenix Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten Indicator. Participants discussed the importance of parent knowledge of typical development to improving early identification and early intervention services. One participant in the first public comment session stated she would like to see the benchmark goal set higher because of the critical importance of early detection and provision of quality early intervention services, especially for Speech Language Impairment and early reading problems. On the other hand, in the second day of public comment, there was group consensus that the Council should consider a lower benchmark based on the following challenges in improving transition to kindergarten for children with developmental delays:

- In some cases parents are reticent to have their child diagnosed with a developmental delay in other cases they are eager to make sure their child has access to services. In both cases, optimal functioning of the early intervention system is strained. However, parent knowledge and advocacy are critical.
- Definitions of delays change between preschool and kindergarten. It was noted that this may affect the data.
- Intensity of preschool special education services vary by district parents and children in South Phoenix may lack some services but not be aware of options.
- There are many complex facets of this Indicator and to the early intervention system as a whole.

Finally, the group noted that they agreed that a seven percent improvement in the South Phoenix Healthy Weight Indicator was a good target. With this in mind, they questioned why the Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten Indicator was set at the same benchmark when it dealt with a more complex situation, with fewer factors under the control of First Things First, and with the added challenge of a downward trajectory in recent years. It was noted that while the percent targets are the same, the overall number of children is much lower for the Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten Indicator since there are fewer total children with identified delays. With that noted, the group still recommended that the South Phoenix Committee and Council Council consider their benchmark for Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten target carefully.

Related to the Healthy Weight Indicator, participants agreed that the benchmark is ambitious but realistic because there are so many community partners working in this areas and it is a national priority as well as a local concern.

No changes were suggested for South Phoenix's benchmark related to Healthy Weight, however, the group recommended the Regional Council's consideration of lowering the benchmark target for the Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten Indicator based on the comments above.



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School Readiness Indicators

Online Survey:

An online survey for the Phoenix and Maricopa County Cross-Regional Partnership Councils was open March 19 – 27. Utilizing FTF's email contact lists for Phoenix and Maricopa County, the survey was sent to community members and partners throughout the area. The survey provided Maricopa County-wide benchmark targets for the Quality Early Education and Confident Families Indicators, as well as South Phoenix specific benchmark targets for the Healthy Weight and the Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten Indicators. Respondents were asked two questions related to each benchmark:

How much do you agree that the proposed benchmark for this priority School Readiness Indicator in your community/region is ambitious enough to positively impact outcomes for children in Arizona?

How much do you agree that the proposed benchmark for this priority School Readiness Indicator is realistic and achievable?

There was also the option to provide additional comments for each benchmark.

For the Phoenix and Maricopa County online survey:

- 54 respondents viewed the survey
- 49 respondents started the survey
- 32 respondents completed the survey



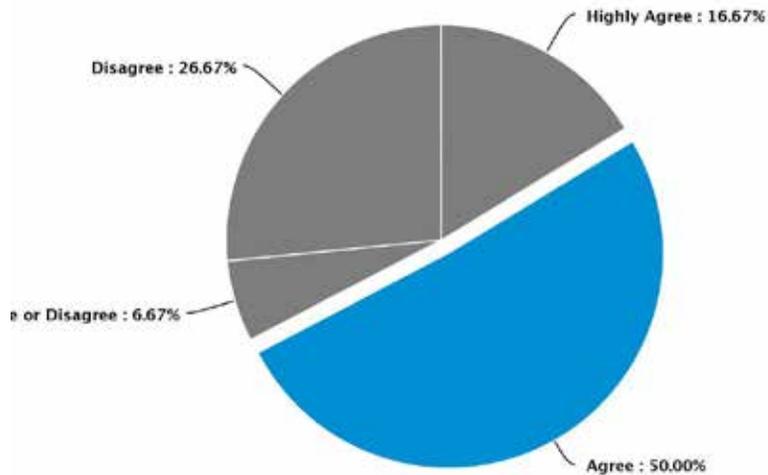
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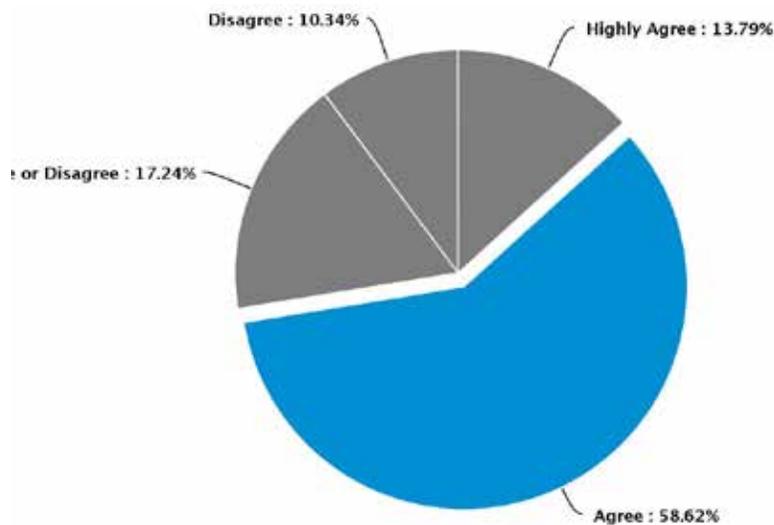
School Readiness Indicators

For Quality Early Education Benchmark B: 29% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars by 2020.

- 67% of respondents (20 of 30) highly agreed or agreed that the benchmark is ambitious enough.
- 7% of respondents (2 of 30) neither agreed nor disagreed that the benchmark is ambitious enough.
- 27% of respondents (8 of 30) disagreed that the benchmark is ambitious enough.



- 73% of respondents (21 of 29) highly agreed or agreed that the benchmark is realistic and achievable.
- 17% of respondents (5 of 29) neither agreed or disagreed that the benchmark is realistic and achievable.
- 10% of respondents (3 of 29) disagreed that the benchmark is realistic and achievable.



There was one additional comment for this benchmark. It noted that in the respondent's community they will surpass the benchmark due to already high baseline rates of quality early education.



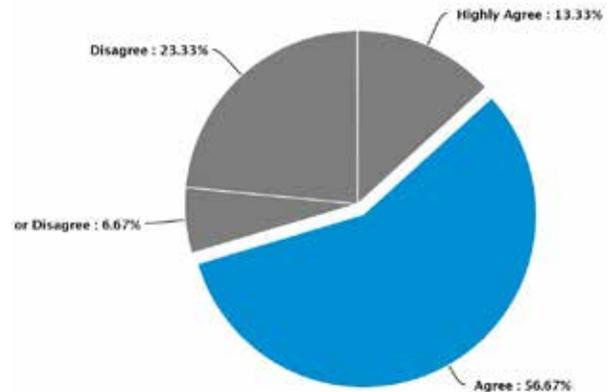
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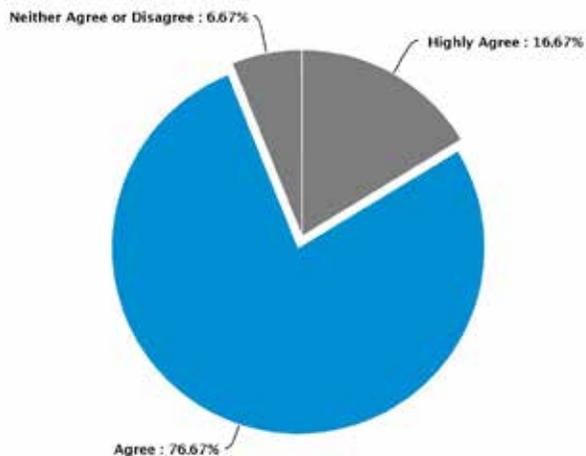
School Readiness Indicators

For Confident Families Benchmark: 50% of Families Competent and Confident about Their Ability to Support Their Child's Safety, Health and Well-Being by 2020.

- 70% of respondents (21 of 30) highly agreed or agreed that the benchmark is ambitious enough.
- 7% of respondents (2 of 30) neither agreed nor disagreed that the benchmark is ambitious enough.
- 23% of respondents (7 of 30) disagreed that the benchmark is ambitious enough.



- 93% of respondents (28 of 30) highly agreed or agreed that the benchmark is realistic and achievable.
- 7% of respondents (2 of 30) neither agreed nor disagreed that the benchmark is realistic and achievable.



There were three additional comments for this benchmark. All comments reinforced the importance of this Indicator and the attainability of the benchmark goal. It was also noted that parent self-report is likely to be an over-estimate of parent confidence.

No responses were received for the South Phoenix specific benchmark targets for the Healthy Weight and the Transition from Preschool Special Education to Kindergarten Indicators.



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Community Awareness Budget
FTF Directed Strategy

Southeast Maricopa RPC
SFY 2015

Total Community Awareness Budget: \$

Budget Category		Total Cost	Finance use below
CONTRACTED SERVICES	REPORT CATEGORY	\$	-
FTF Hosted Event	Other Professional & Outside Services		6299
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	REPORT CATEGORY	\$	40,000.00
ACI folders, OfficeMax, Born Learning, printing by External Vendor	External Printing	\$6,300	7472
Community Awareness Equipment (cart, table, chair, etc.)	Office Supplies	\$850	7321
Community Awareness Supplies (educational, craft project, etc.)	Other Office Supplies	\$1,000	7381
ERI, Branded Items, Brown & Bigelow, Engagement Wheel	Entertainment & Promotional Items	\$11,250	7521
Event Sponsorships (\$), Media	Advertising	\$7,600	7461
FTF Hosted Event (event participation)	Conference Registration/Attendance Fees	\$1,000	7455
Printing of materials by FTF internal copier	Internal Printing	\$2,000	7471
Rent conference/meeting room	Rent of Facilities	\$0	7229
Children's Books	Books, Subscriptions, Publications	\$10,000	7541
Specify here if not listed above:			7599
Total Award:		\$	40,000.00

Approval Signature

Date

(after signed, give to Finance)

Budget Narrative: for each line item above, provide description below of the activities and rationale for funding level

CONTRACTED SERVICES	
FTF Hosted Event	
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	
ACI folders, OfficeMax, Born Learning, printing by External Vendor	Printing of posters/banners/brochures/flyers/signs, etc. for events in which the Regional Council participates or is a sponsor. Approximately 1,500 FTF branded folders at a cost of \$1,125.00 (These folders are routinely used to give to prospective champions/community partners and are used to educate individuals on FTF and the importance of early childhood. Additional expenditures will focus around Born learning materials (\$3,000), external printing of fact sheets, parent guides and funded by FTF signs (\$2,000)
Community Awareness Equipment	Funding will be used to purchase community awareness equipment such as: FTF branded table cloth, Wheel of Engagement, external microphone for interviews and miscellaneous equipment (sd cards, replacement bulbs for projector and cart replacement)
Community Awareness Supplies	In conjunction with community events and FTF and FSC staffed information table, supplies will be purchased to be used in craft activities.
ERI, Branded Items, Brown & Bigelow, Engagement Wheel	FTF-branded educational reinforcement items will be purchased over the course of the year to be utilized at events such as: community events, in partnership with grantees and other community partners, presentations/speaker's bureaus and community meetings where an FTF presentation or update is being given. Specifics with respect to the items and quantities of materials to be purchased will be determined by the venue, target audience and intent of the events in which materials are to be distributed.
Event Sponsorships (\$), Media	Sponsorship of activities and events that align with First Things First vision, mission and strategic plan. Planned Sponsorship events for FY15 include: Prehistoric Preschool at the Museum of Natural History in Mesa, Gilbert Literacy Day, Science on Wheels, as well as planned literacy events in Mesa and Queen Creek.
FTF Hosted Event	N/A
Printing by FTF internal copier	
Rent conference/meeting room	N/A
Children's Books	Approximately 4,000 children's books at an average of \$2.50 per book will be purchased to distribute at events or in book distribution projects held in collaboration with other community partners. Events will focus around literacy events and must be accompanied by messaging.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

March 2014– Southeast Maricopa RPC



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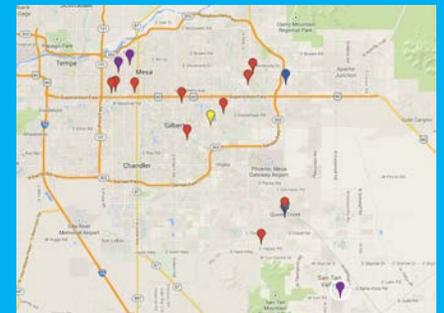
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Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

FTF Core Message of the Month

Critical skills, like motivation, self-discipline, focus and self-esteem, begin to take root from birth to 5 years old. Successful people share these traits and we must give children the tools to develop these essential skills.

Use this message to demonstrate how Early Childhood impacts a child's future performance in the workplace or school. Successful people share these traits and we want our kids to be successful!



Google

Maps outreach activity

https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=z0kyb_ThFXo.kUJ_R7nbqBFg

I hope everyone is doing great! There were 21 community outreach activities conducted during the month of March. In total, the Southeast Maricopa Region was represented in: 12 presentations, 2 networking meetings, 1 site tours, 4 events and 1 speaker's series trainings where we *presented on the importance of early childhood, distributed FTF literature and educational reinforcement items. Below you will find a sample of this month's audiences.*

- ◆ 71 members of civic organizations
- ◆ 17 future early childhood educators
- ◆ 12 Fatherhood advocates
- ◆ 9 members of the medical community
- ◆ 9 member of the business community
- ◆ 5 current early childhood educators
- ◆ 1 members of the K/12 community
- ◆ 1 Town Council
- ◆ Distributed 112 books to children

Total number of Individuals Reached: 476

Here is the link to access the outreach activities conducted in March 2014 for Southeast Maricopa.

https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=z0kyb_ThFXo.kUJ_R7nbqBFg

Furthermore, I worked on recruiting Friends, Supporters and Champions as part of the new tiered engagement program to help spread the word about First Things First in our region. In the new tiered engagement program, recruitment is rooted in the understanding that stakeholders choose to engage in varying degrees – depending on personal interest, comfort level, time, resources, and a host of other factors.

First Things First's tiered program consists of three levels – Level 1 - "Friends", Level 2 - "Supporters", and Level 3 - "Champions". For your convenience, I have attached a document that further explains the roles of each supporter. In the month of December, we engaged:

16 new friends

2 new supporters

6 new champion



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council and local partner organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the Week of the Young Child, April 14-20, 2013; and

WHEREAS, these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, which are crucial to the growth and development of young children, and building a foundation of learning for everyone in Queen Creek; and

WHEREAS, all young children and their families in the State of Arizona and Queen Creek deserve access to high-quality early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, public policies and programs that support early learning for all young children are critical to young children's futures and the success of our community; and

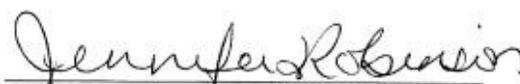
WHEREAS, teachers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children and families in Queen Creek, Arizona deserve thanks and recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gail Barney, Mayor of Queen Creek, do hereby proclaim April 14-20, 2013 as WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD in Queen Creek, and encourage all citizens to work together to make good investments in early childhood in Queen Creek.

WITNESS MY HAND this 17th day of April, 2013.



Mayor Gail Barney



Attest: Town Clerk Jennifer Robinson

