

## Regional Annual Reports – FY2012 – Cocopah

### Financials –

FTF Area	Goal Area	Sum of Expended
Cocopah Tribe	Community Awareness	2,520
	Evaluation	606
	Family Support	71,682
	Quality and Access	44,860
Cocopah Tribe Total		119,668

### Service Units – FY12 –

Families Served Home Visitation	25
Parent Education – Attendance at Sessions	23
Food Security	96
Oral Health - screenings	NA
Oral Health - varnishes	NA
Oral Health - referrals	NA
Children Served by QF Scholarships + Pre-K scholarships	NA
Health Strategy Selected by Region	<b>NA</b>

**Regional Snapshot** – Please Fill In With Most Recent Demographic Information. If you do not have a regional number, the county or statewide number from the last statewide Needs and Assets report will be used, as available and with the appropriate notation.

### Demographics

- Number of Kids Under 6 in region - **65**
- Number or Percentage of Households with Kids Under 6 (This data is not available for Cocopah) Possibly replace with: **Housing Status - 71% of enrolled Cocopah Indian Tribe members rent their homes. 17% own their homes, and 12% live with relatives.**
- Living Arrangements of Kids Under 6 (pie chart) - **56% of Cocopah Indian Tribe families with children under 18 lived in households with single mothers in 2010. One-third (33%) of families with children under 18 lived in married-couple households in 2010.**
- Ethnic Breakdown of Kids Under 6 (pie chart) – **72% Native American, 22% Hispanic or Latino**
- Percentage of Young Kids in Poverty **68%**

- Percentage of 3-4 Year-olds who don't go to preschool – **No preschool option for 3 year olds; Most (almost 100%) 4 year olds attend the Head Start for preschool**
- Percent of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students passing AIMS in reading – **71% (out of all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students – data is not separated by residency or ethnicity)**

### Economics

- Median Family Income **\$43,300**
- Employment Status of Parents with young kids (pie chart) **Unemployment rate is 32%**

### Health

- Young Children without Health Insurance (This data is not available for Cocopah) Possibly replace with: **Rate of Children Up-to-Date on Immunizations – 67.2%**
- Regional Health Indicator – **Teen Pregnancy Rate – 22.2%**

### Education

### **Our Region's Priorities**

Rational for the major funded strategies  
Research regarding children 5 and younger in the Cocopah Tribe region revealed the need for the following programs to promote optimal development and school readiness:

**Home Visitation** – Cocopah's Home Visitation strategy seeks to give parents stronger, more supportive relationships with their children through in-home services on a variety of topics, including parenting skills, early childhood development, literacy and health, and also by connecting parents and caregivers with community resources to help them better support their child's health and early learning. The primary goal of home visiting services is to promote effective parenting and bring services to families that may be geographically or socially isolated. This program follows the Parents as Teachers model for preventive and non-mandated services with a curriculum and education plans specifically designed to meet the needs of each child and their families. The program also reinforces the idea that a child's first teacher is their parent.

**Quality Support** – With almost all of the region's children attending the Cocopah Head Start prior to entering kindergarten, the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council implemented a strategy to improve the quality of and ensure a safe learning environment for the children attending the Cocopah Indian Tribe's Head Start program. With supported funds from the Cocopah Indian Tribe as well as Head Start maintenance funds, the strategy was successful in improving the quality of the learning environment of the Cocopah Head Start.

**Community Outreach and Awareness** – In a small community, rich in a tradition of oral communication and community gathering, the Regional Partnership Council is focused on conducting outreach to raise awareness of important issues mainly by participating in community events. In Fiscal Year 2012, community outreach included a Talking Circle with parents and grandparents. Community outreach in the region is also supported by the Community Outreach Coordinator through a cross-regional collaboration with the Yuma Regional Partnership Council.

### **Financial Report**

Expenditures by Goal Area FY2012	
Community Awareness	\$2,520
Evaluation	\$606
Family Support	\$71,682
Quality and Access	\$44,860
Total	\$119,668

### **Our Region's Impact**

#### ***Healthy, Ready for School***

*A child's most important developmental years are those leading up to kindergarten. Good nutrition is vital to healthy development in young children.*

*Through the Harvest Food Box program funded by the First Things First Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council's Food Security strategy, more families with young children are able to access nutritious food. Through the program, young kids and their caregivers learn about proper nutrition for the whole family and how to prepare healthy snacks and serve nutritious meals with the food they receive. Families also receive referrals to other services, depending on the family's needs.*

*"We have single parents and grandparents raising grandchildren", said Gina Nierenhausen, Coordinator at the Cocopah Community Center, "thanks to First Things First, families with young children are able to have nutritious meals and have a healthy lifestyle."*

#### ***Cross-Regional Collaboration***

*In 2010, the leadership of the Cocopah Tribe and Yuma Regions began holding regular meetings to develop closer communication and collaboration, cross-regional coordination of services, and an increased awareness of the issues that confronted both regions. The Yuma and Cocopah Tribe regions host bi-monthly grantee coordination meetings to establish collaborative efforts among First Things First grantees and other local community agencies. The purpose is to establish an organized and inter-related network of elements, programs and support services for children in both regions.*

*As a result, several strategies are available to children and families. These include:*

*Family, Friend and Neighbors- provides training and support to providers who care for the children of friends and/or family; First Smiles Oral Health- provides oral health screenings and fluoride varnishing to children while the parents learn about the benefits of their children establishing an oral care routine and visiting their dentist every 6 months; Community Outreach- provides information to families to raise the awareness of the importance of early childhood.*

*Collaborative efforts from both Yuma and Cocopah Regional Partnership Councils with the Cocopah Tribal Departments, are leading the families and caregivers in the region to receive the support and services to prepare their young children for kindergarten.*

### **Service Units**

167 children attended activities hosted by grant partners

8 Quality First scholarships awarded

2 Quality First Centers in operation

### **Moving Forward**

The Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council wants every child to be healthy, happy and safe. Connecting families to resources to support their child's health and early learning is critical in that mission. Through ongoing strategic planning and evaluation, the needs and assets are identified and strategies are implemented to work toward addressing those needs. Looking forward, it is crucial that the system of partners is working together and is looking inward from the perspective that each child comes from a unique family with a unique scenario. Having resources and services has minimal impact if not for coordination among them and awareness within the community. The Regional Partnership Council is seeking to expand services in two areas: 1- Fully supported Home Visitation services in order to provide ongoing support for families; 2- Increase the quality of early learning opportunities by providing access to the full Quality

First package. In order for children to be ready for school, healthy, happy and safe, all parents would have access to family support and involvement, and all children would have access to developmental screenings and immunizations, supportive home environments with nutritious food, and would have the opportunity to participate in high quality early education.

### **Grantees**

Cocopah Indian Tribe  
Yuma Community Food Bank

### **CONTACT**

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