



FIRST THINGS FIRST

AGENDA ITEM: State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education

BACKGROUND: This presentation is to share the Board's role as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and to approve submittal of a grant proposal in the amount of \$2,325,469 to fund two projects during FY 2011 and FY2012 including:

- The Quality First Rating Pilot and rating system analysis from August 2010 to June 2011;
- The statewide dissemination, marketing and training from January 2011 to December 2012 on the newly developed Arizona Infant / Toddler Developmental Guidelines, as well as the Arizona's Early Learning Standards (Ages 3 – 5 year olds) and Program Guidelines for High Quality Early Education: Birth through Kindergarten (revised).

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FTF-State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education

Approximately \$2.3 million is available to Arizona to support and carry out the responsibilities of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education (SAC-ECE). As the designated SAC-ECE, First Things First may apply for these funds to support any of the following activities:

- Foster parental and family involvement in early education;
- Help families and caregivers improve children's early social, emotional and cognitive development;
- Support professional development;
- Promote recruitment and retention initiatives for early childhood educators;
- Enhance quality improvement activities;
- Engage in any other activities that are consistent with the State's early childhood plan.

Following several months of review and consultation with FTF leadership and staff, the State Head Collaboration Office, and the State Head Start Association, the recommendation is that the grant proposal address the following projects.

Quality First Pilot (September through December 30, 2010)

In preparation for the second phase of the Arizona's quality improvement and rating system, the Quality First Pilot will test the instruments and processes prior to implementing the Quality First Rating System in July 2011. Piloting assures the integrity and validity of the rating and allows for corrections and refinements prior to the full roll-out of the system.

Estimated cost: \$1.3 million

Match: \$910,000 (Quality First)

Infant / Toddler Developmental Guidelines: Dissemination and Training (January 2011 through December 2012)

Developmental guidelines, sometimes called early learning guidelines, have the potential to advance the early childhood field by increasing awareness that learning begins at birth and must be addressed intentionally if infants and toddlers are to thrive. These guidelines are also an essential part of the continuum of resources needed to improve quality and child outcomes in an early childhood system. FTF has established a working group of experienced stakeholders to develop Arizona's Infant / Toddler Developmental Guidelines. The guidelines are expected to be completed by August 2010, with dissemination and training for all providers serving infants and toddlers projected for January 2011 through December 2012. Incorporated into the dissemination and training plan will be concurrent training on Arizona's Early Learning Standards (Ages 3 – 5 year olds) and Program Guidelines for High Quality Early Education: Birth through Kindergarten (revised).

Estimated Cost: \$1million

Match: \$700,000 (Quality First , T.E.A.C.H.)

Recommendation: The First Things First Board, acting as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education, approve submittal of a grant proposal in the amount of \$2,325,469 to fund the Quality First Pilot and the dissemination and training of the Arizona Infant / Toddler Developmental Guidelines, as well as the Arizona's Early Learning Standards (Ages 3 – 5 year olds) and Program Guidelines for High Quality Early Education: Birth through Kindergarten (revised).

State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education

The 2007 reauthorization of Head Start Act included a provision for State Governors to designate or establish a council to serve as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education to be known as the State Advisory Council.¹ Then Governor Janet Napolitano designated the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (First Things First) to serve as Arizona's State Advisory Council.

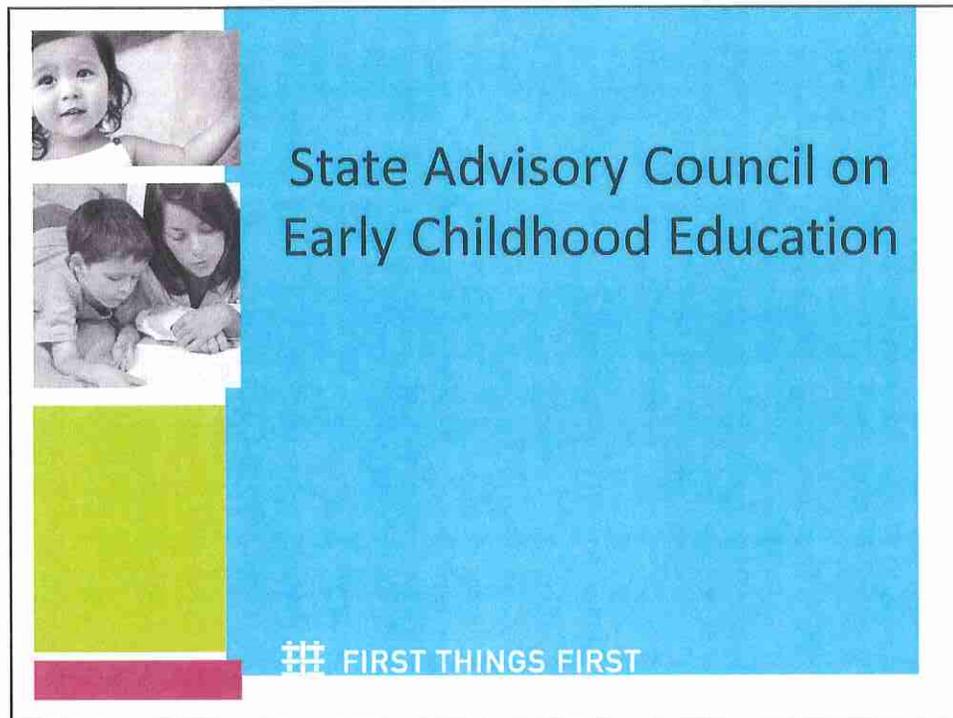
As outlined in the reauthorization, the role of the State Advisory Council includes most, if not all, of the activities of The Early Childhood Development and Health Board, including the following:

- Conduct periodic statewide needs assessments concerning quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services;
- Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services;
- Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early education program, including outreach to underrepresented and special population;
- Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of an unified data collections system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;
- Develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State;
- Assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4- year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans and practice or internships for student to spend time in a Head Start of pre-kindergarten program;
- Make recommendations for improvement in State early learning standards and undertake efforts as appropriate to develop high –quality comprehensive early learning standards;
- Hold public hearing with provisions for public comment;
- Submit a statewide strategic report addressing State Advisory Council activities to the State Director of Head Start Collaboration and the Governor.

To support the work of the Council, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will award, on a non-competitive basis, a one-time grant for the purpose of facilitating the development or enhancement of high quality systems of early childhood education and care. Each state has a specific grant amount that may be awarded and Arizona's allocation is \$2,325,469. A 70 percent match is required for each dollar requested from these funds—the match for Arizona is approximately \$3,953,297. Project fund could total \$6,278,766. Proposals requesting grant funds may be submitted at any time but not later than August 1, 2010.

Grant funds may be used to foster parental and family involvement in early education; help families and caregivers improve children's early social, emotion and cognitive development; support professional development; recruitment and retention initiatives for early childhood educators; enhance quality improvement activities; and any other activities that are consistent with the State's early childhood plan.

¹ Head Start Reauthorization SEC 642B. (b)(1)(A)
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs/legislation/HS_act.html#642B



State Advisory Council

The 2007 reauthorization of the Head Start Act included a provision for State Governors to designate or establish a council to serve as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education, to be known as the State Advisory Council.

In November 2008, the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (First Things First) was designated to serve as Arizona's State Advisory Council.

Role of the State Advisory Council

- Conduct **periodic statewide needs assessments** on the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services;
- Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, **collaboration and coordination** among Federal and State funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services;
- Develop recommendations for increasing the overall **participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early education programs**, including outreach to underrepresented and special population;
- Develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a **unified data collection system** for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;
- Develop recommendations regarding **statewide professional development and career advancement plans** for early childhood educators in the State;

Role of State Advisory Council (cont.)

- Assess the capacity and effectiveness of **2- and 4- year public and private institutions of higher education** in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans and practice, or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre-kindergarten program;
- Make recommendations for improvement in **State early learning standards** and undertake efforts as appropriate to develop high – quality comprehensive early learning standards;
- Hold **public hearings** with provisions for public comment;
- Submit a **statewide strategic report** addressing State Advisory Council activities to the State Director of Head Start Collaboration and the Governor.

State Head Start Collaboration Director

Is designated by the Head Start Reauthorization to “serve on the State Advisory Council in order to assist the efforts of Head Start agencies to engage in effective coordination and collaboration.”

FTF Board Member Amy Corriveau is the recently appointed State Head Start Collaboration Director.

Funding to Support the SAC Work

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will award, on a non-competitive basis, a *one-time* grant for the purpose of facilitating the development or enhancement of high quality systems of early childhood education and care.

Each state has a specific grant amount that may be awarded.

Arizona may apply for \$2,325,469

Match Requirement

A 70 percent match is required for each dollar requested from these funds.

Systems Building Activities Proposed with These Funds

Quality First Pilot Study of Rating System

Dissemination and training on Infant
Toddler Developmental Guidelines, Early
Learning Standards and Program
Guidelines for High Quality ECE

Head Start Partners in Arizona

- Head Start Grantees (Regional, Tribal, Migrant)
- Head Start State Collaboration Director/Office
- Arizona Head Start Association/Tribal Head Start Association