

# Southwest Maricopa Regional Council Partnership - Creating an Early Childhood System

Adapted from Karen Ponder, February 9, 2010 presentation to the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force



**System Building:**  
**An organized, inter-**  
**related network of**  
**elements, programs and**  
**services for all children.**



# Purpose of System Planning in Arizona

To get measureable results for  
Arizona's young children and  
their families



# Why is a System Important?

- To maximize resources including multiple funding streams with their own regulations and requirements
- To improve the performance of multiple systems impacting young children and their families



# Why is a System Important?

- There are individual variations in the circumstances and needs of children and their families
- There is duplication of services and a lack of coordination and many children are not being served



# Why is a System Important?

- To reduce turf issues through a shared vision and agreed-upon goals and objectives
- Helps to secure needed policy changes and improvements
- Better communication among partners



# Characteristics of an Effective System

- Comprehensive
- Accessible for children and families
- Scalable
- Outcome focused
- Accountable



# System Areas to Consider

- Context—successfully building a political context that leads to resources
- Components—establish effective programs and services
- Connections—create better linkages between components
- Infrastructure—create supports that enable continuous improvement
- Scope and Scale—the system can produce broad impacts for system beneficiaries



# Funding History

Allocations and Funding Sources	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Strategies	Allotted	Allotted	Allotted	Allotted	Allotted	Proposed Allotted
Child Care Demand Study	-	\$31,620				
Child Care Health Consultation		\$56,667	\$68,000	\$52,920	\$60,432	\$60,298
Children's Budget		\$1,160				
Communications	\$50,000					
Community Awareness		\$2,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Community Outreach		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$45,000	\$77,000	\$77,000
Developmental and Sensory Screening	\$120,000					
Director Mentoring/Training		\$54,000	\$54,000			
Family Resource Centers	\$387,981	\$990,000	\$750,000	\$600,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
Family, Friends & Neighbors	\$147,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$261,300	\$250,000	\$250,000
Food Security	\$10,294			\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Health Insurance Enrollment	\$120,000					
Home Visitation		\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Media		\$58,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Needs and Assets		\$3,119	\$20,000	\$20,000	-	
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity				\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Oral Health	\$130,000	\$200,000	\$168,832	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Parent Education Community-Based Training		\$240,000	\$240,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$375,000
Parent Kits - Study		\$5,957				
Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships				\$330,422	-	
Quality First	\$323,500	\$491,544	\$346,250	\$369,053	\$392,422	\$373,118
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$463,503	\$450,000		\$762,873	\$1,360,784	\$1,469,320
Scholarships non-TEACH		\$76,500	\$76,500	\$76,500	\$76,500	\$76,500
Scholarships TEACH	\$279,550	\$134,270	\$99,100	\$99,000	\$97,600	\$97,600
Service Coordination	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000



# Regional Priorities Identified 2012

**Improving the quality of early care and education.** In our region, 20 childcare centers and homes are enrolled in Quality First, which provides support; funding and education to help them better serve the children in their care. And, because so many children spend their early years in informal child care situations, the Arizona Kith & Kin program offers valuable skills and training to family and friend caregivers.



# Regional Priorities Identified 2012

**Partnering with families through one-stop family resource centers.** These three centrally located resource centers offer families with few transportation resources convenient access to parent education classes and additional service connections.



# Regional Priorities Identified 2012

**Parent Education.** Parents learn how to ensure their child is developing in a healthy way through in-person and on-line parenting skills seminars.

**School Readiness.** Serving each community's distinct needs is a major goal of First Things First—reaching out to children and families in ways that will best offer support so that all Arizona children can start school ready to learn, be successful and reach their full potential.



# Ongoing System Building Efforts

- As part of the council ongoing efforts in cross regional collaborations, four strategies included in the funding plan are part of cross regional implementation with the Northwest Regional Council Partnership. I.e....Oral Health, Obesity and Injury Prevention, Grandparents raising Grandchildren and Teen Pregnancy Outreach Services, etc...
- Leveraging funding with Private Partners and Cities for resource centers.



**SFY14 Funding Plan**  
**Regional Priorities, Selected FTF Indicators and Priority Roles, and Strategies to Achieve Outcomes**

Regional Priority to be addressed	School Readiness Indicators	FTF Priority Roles in the Early Childhood System
<p><b>Family Support:</b>  Expand and enhance parent/caregiver support</p> <p>Increase parent/caregiver access to child development information and identification of early developmental delays</p> <p><b>Early Learning:</b>  Increase support to Family, Friends and Neighbors care providers</p> <p>Increase access to high quality early care and education with a focus in the rural areas</p> <p>Increase professional development of early care and education providers.</p> <p><b>Health:</b>  Increase access to early preventive dental care</p> <p>Increase family and child care provider access to comprehensive health systems and prevention training</p>	<p><b>Family Support</b>  #% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child’s safety, health and well-being.</p> <p><b>Early Learning</b>  #/% of children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical</p> <p><b>Health</b>  #/% of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay.</p>	<p>Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families. <b>(Resource Centers, Home Visitation, Parent ED, Food Security)</b></p> <p>Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive and affordable early care and education programs. <b>(Quality First, FFN)</b></p> <p>Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services- Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for children and their families.  <b>(Oral Health, Nutrition/obesity/Physical Activity)</b></p> <p>Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services- Collaborate with partners to support improved nutrition and increased age/developmentally appropriate physical activity levels among children. <b>(Service Coordination, Community Awareness)</b></p>

# System Building - Council Discussion

- Identify areas of progress and gaps and barriers
- Identify possible themes (areas of focus, geographical areas, key partners, etc.)
- Review regional priorities, funding, indicators and possible benchmarks.
- Discuss the role of the council in addressing the gaps and barriers.
- Priorities focus areas for action plan.

