



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

4000 N Central Ave, Ste 800  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
Phone: 602.771.5100  
Fax: 602.274.7040  
[www.azftf.gov](http://www.azftf.gov)

### Chair

Steven Lynn

### Vice Chair

Dr. Eugene Thompson

### Members

Dr. Arturo Gonzalez  
Nadine Mathis Basha  
Hon. Cecil Patterson  
Dr. Pamela Powell  
Vivian Saunders  
Vacant  
Vacant

### Ex-Officio Members

Director ADHS  
Director ADES  
Superintendent ADE

April 30, 2010

Ms. Virginia Hout  
Regional Director  
Arizona's Children Association  
440 N. Washington Avenue  
Prescott, AZ 86301  
[vhout@arizonaschildren.org](mailto:vhout@arizonaschildren.org)  
Fax: 928-771-2351

Re: Yavapai Regional Partnership Council Contract –  
FTF RC022-09-0095-01 Home Visitation - Bright Start Renewal

Dear Virginia:

After presenting the renewal recommendation to the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council, they are requesting additional information in an effort to better understand the significant reduction in target service numbers. Your previous clarifying comments mentioned that:

After a year of providing Bright Start services, Arizona's Children Association has revised its target numbers based on the following:

- Experience has shown us that families become engaged in services and are not ready for discharge as soon as originally projected. For Bright Start, the average length of service is 8 to 9 months rather than the 4 to 6 months as originally predicted.
- Travel times to remote locations have impacted the overall number of families we are able to serve.
- Many of the families we serve have multiple children under the age of six, in which case services are provided to more than one child in the home

The council has requested the following information:

1. How many families are currently being served? Of those families, how many children under six are receiving services?
2. How many of the families being served, live in outlying areas?
3. How many children are staying in the program after six months?

You may fax your response to me at (602) 265-0009 or e-mail to [krice@azftf.gov](mailto:krice@azftf.gov) by 5:00 PM, Thursday May 6, 2010.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Rice*

Senior Grants and Contracts Specialist  
First Things First

TO: Kathy Rice, Senior Grants and Contracts Specialist  
First Things First

FROM: Virginia Hout, MA, LPC, Northern Regional Director  
Arizona's Children Association

DATE: May 6, 2010

RE: Yavapai Regional Partnership Council Contract  
FTF-RC022-09-0095-01 Home Visitation, Bright Start Renewal

In response to your request of April 30, 2010, Arizona's Children Association is happy to provide the additional information requested regarding the Bright Start contract renewal.

- 1) How many families are currently being served? 21  
Of those, how many children under 6 are receiving services? 28
- 2) How many of the families being served live in outlying areas? 9, including Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Paulden, Peeples Valley, Mayer, and Cornville
- 3) How many children are staying in the program after six months? On average, 50% of cases are remaining open after 6 months.

I'd like to provide the following additional information to put these numbers in context:

- At full capacity, Bright Start should have 40 families open at any given time. We have not been fully staffed throughout the contract year and, thus, have not spent all the dollars awarded. At last count, we had only spent 54% of our contract dollars.
- There are several reasons for this. Even though Bright Start was an "expedited" award that was scheduled to start April 13, 2009, we did not have an actual contract in place until the end of May 2009. Grantee Orientation was not provided to us until August 27, 2009. Though we began serving families at the end of May, reporting and billing processes were still being established during the summer of 2009. We were not set up to bill and did not receive payment for services until September 2009. Therefore, though the contract was for 14.5 months, it was not fully operational until September due to factors beyond our control.
- At the present time, we are fully staffed so that we can continue outreach and generate additional referrals.

For the 2010-2011 grant year, Bright Start is proposing to serve a total of 80 families, which is a realistic and cost effective target number. For cost comparison, the following table details the cost per family of home visitation programs currently funded by the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council:

Program	Cost per family	Frequency of home visits/mo.
Verde Valley Medical Center	\$ 4,215	4 + 1 group mtg./mo.
YRMC – Healthy Families	\$ 3,513	1-2
YCCCHS-BFB nursing	\$ 3,395	TBD
Parents as Teachers	\$ 1,889	1-2 + 2 group mtgs./mo.
Bright Start	\$ 1,515	1-2

As this table demonstrates, the dollar amount requested for Bright Start is significantly lower than other home visitation models. Some other distinguishing characteristics of the Bright Start program that may be helpful to consider:

- Bright Start is the only home visitation program, with or without FTF funding, that does not require risk-factors for program eligibility.
- Bright Start is the only home visitation program, with or without FTF funding, that accepts children, without eligibility requirements, at ages 3, 4, and 5.
- Bright Start is the only home visitation program that staffs their program with master's level mental health therapists.
- Bright Start is the only FTF-funded county-wide program that accepts prenatal clients.
- Bright Start is the LEAST expensive FTF-funded home visitation program.

If further clarification is needed, please don't hesitate to contact me at (928) 443-1991 x 11 or [vhout@arizonaschildren.org](mailto:vhout@arizonaschildren.org). Thank you.