FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide and Signature Strategies Report
Federal Grants and Activities Update

BACKGROUND: The Statewide and Signature Strategies Report provides updated financial information through May 21, 2012, and program performance information for FY12 Quarter 3 for strategies funded through statewide program funds, and other strategies and programs developed or substantially supported by First Things First.

The Federal Grant and Activities Report provides an updated summary of grant awards, expenditures and progress for grants awarded to First Things First, grants that include First Things First in a partnership role, and potential grant opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION: The CEO recommends approval of these reports.

Statewide and Signature Strategies Report – June 2012

Early Learning							
Strategy	Funding Source	Expenditures as of May 21, 2012			FY2012 Contracted Service #	FY 2012 Actual Service # (Data as of March 31, 2012 – End of Quarter 3)	Comments
		FY2012 Allotted Amount	FY2012 Awarded Amount	FY2012 Expended Amount			
Quality First! (Signature Strategy)	FTF State	$ 6,656,300	$ 6,180,300	$ 3,578,400	**Statewide: 236** Centers: 175 Homes: 61	**Statewide: 236** Centers, 175 Homes, 61	Quality First is a comprehensive initiative that provides support, funding and education to qualified centers and homes to improve the quality of early care and education for children younger than five years. The Quality First model includes assessment, coaching, T.E.A.C.H., Child Care Health Consultation and financial incentives for quality improvement. The rating component of Quality First is being implemented in FY12. *Quality First Expenditures are currently less than expected through almost three quarters of the FY; however, the amount is reflective of the timing of invoices and payments. The majority of QF incentive payments tend to be made toward the end of the FY. Additionally, the roll out of new programs occurs throughout the fiscal year. Fifty programs were selected every 10 weeks from August through April. Expenditures are not made until programs are enrolled.*
	FTF Regions	$ 13,426,100	$ 14,003,600	$ 7,837,100	**Regional: 652** Centers: 463 Homes: 189	**Regional: 513** Centers, 398 Homes, 115	
	Total	$ 20,082,400	$20,183,900	$11,415,500	**Total: 888** Centers: 638 Homes: 250	**Total: 749** Centers, 573 Homes, 176	
Scholarships T.E.A.C.H. (Signature Strategy)	FTF State	$ 908,300	$ 813,600	$ 287,500	**Statewide: 413** participating scholars	**Statewide: 132** participating scholars	T.E.A.C.H. ARIZONA is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides early care and education professionals with access to college coursework leading to a degree or certificate in early childhood education. T.E.A.C.H. provides financial support for books, tuition, travel stipends and time off from work to attend class and complete assignments, and a financial bonus upon completion of college coursework. *TEACH participation in FY12 continues to trend around 30% of contracted statewide and less than 50% of contracted*
	FTF Regions	$ 4,181,600	$ 4,146,700	$ 863,900	**Regional: 1078** participating scholars	**Regional: 526** participating scholars	
	Total	$5,089,900	$4,960,300	$1,150,400	**Total: 2124** participating scholars	**Total: 658** participating scholars	

							regionally, and is especially low in QF participating providers, with more than 50% of providers with no participating TEACH scholars. The recent FTF Quality First provider survey reveals that a misunderstanding of the provider's responsibilities within the TEACH model is one of the most likely reason for non-participation in TEACH.
FTF Professional REWARD$ (Signature Strategy)	FTF Regions	$ 2,573,800	$ 2,573,800	$ 1,932,100	**Regional: 1078** incentive awards distributed	**Regional: 1007** incentive awards distributed	FTF Professional REWARD$ helps retain good teachers to promote continuity of teachers and caregivers working with young children. REWARD$ offers financial awards to early childhood teachers based on educational achievement, wages earned and hours worked per week and requires a commitment from participants to remain in their current employment. REWARD$ has an award rate of 90.6% overall and in many regions funds have been exhausted completely. In FY13 the grantee is expected to do a 50/50 split of funds to cover each of the two incentive distribution periods.
Quality First Child Care Scholarships (Signature Strategy)	FTF Regions	$ 22,176,400	$ 22,062,300	$ 16,301,200	**Regional: 2880** children	**Regional: 5412** children	Quality First Scholarships help low-income families who are working, looking for work or improving their work skills through training or education afford high quality learning programs for their young children. These scholarships are available to early care and education providers enrolled in Quality First (or on the waiting list) and support providers in maintaining a quality program. *Actual number of children serviced is higher due to part-time status of some children, and child turnover.*
Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships (Signature Strategy)	FTF Regions	$ 10,564,600	$ 10,200,100	$ 9,126,400	**Regional:** Public school-district Pre-K sites: **73**	**Regional:** Public school-district Pre-K sites: **75**	Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships help low-income families access high quality center and classroom-based programs for their children during the two years prior to kindergarten entry. These scholarships are available to public school and community-based early care and education providers and this strategy includes mentoring to facilitate systemic partnerships between public

					Private/public community partner Pre-K sites: **42** **Total FTF funded Pre-K students: 2243**	Private/public community partner Pre-K sites: **49** **Total FTF funded Pre-K students: 3090**	schools and community-based providers *Actual number of pre-K students is higher due to part-time status of some students.*
Family Support and Literacy							
Strategy	Funding Source	Expenditures as of May 21, 2012			FY2012 Contracted Service #	FY 2012 Actual Service # (Data as of March 31, 2012 – End of Quarter 3)	Comments
		FY2012 Allotted Amount	FY2012 Awarded Amount	FY2012 Expended Amount			
Arizona Parent Kit (Signature Strategy)	FTF State	$ 1,600,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 905,900	**Statewide: 65,000** kits distributed	**Statewide: 45,564** kits distributed	Arizona Parent Kits are given statewide to all families with newborns as they leave the birthing hospital or center. The kits include an 80-page Arizona Parents Guide, six DVDs on early childhood development and health topics and a new book for parents to read with their baby.
Birth to Five Helpline	FTF State	$ 90,000	$ 90,000	$ 60,000	**Statewide: 3,300** calls received	**Statewide: 1381** calls received	The Birth to Five Helpline free service using a toll-free number (1-877-705-KIDS) with experts to answer any family's questions or address concerns on early childhood development for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Questions can also be submitted online at www.swhd.org/get-help/birth-to-five-helpline.
Reach Out and Read	FTF State* FTF Regions* Total	$ 195,000 $ 271,300 $466,300	$ 190,600 $ 270,600 $461,200	$ 123,600 $ 217,300 $340,900	**Statewide: 30** participating practices **Total**: 30 participating practices	**Statewide: 27** participating practices **Total**: 27 participating practices	Reach Out and Read is delivered through medical practices, by training doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud. It also provides books to children at pediatric check-ups from six months to five years of age, with a special focus on children growing up in poverty. The books are used to promote age-appropriate literacy skills and as a tool to discuss developmental issues with parents and families during the medical visit. **Statewide funding supports strategy administration plus 30*

							participating medical provider office/clinics. Several Councils provide supplemental regional funding for the statewide component of this strategy.
Health							
Strategy	**Funding Source**	**Expenditures as of May 21, 2012**			**FY2012 Contracted Service #**	**FY 2012 Actual Service # (Data as of March 31, 2012 – End of Quarter 3)**	**Comments**
		FY2012 Allotted Amount	**FY2012 Awarded Amount**	**FY2012 Expended Amount**			
Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) (Signature Strategy)	FTF State FTF Regions Total	$ 1,044,000 $ 5,312,000 $ 6,356,000	$ 978,000 $ 5,209,900 $6,187,900	$ 375,600 $ 1,986,700 $2,362,300	**Statewide QF: 238** **Regional QF and non-QF: 1338** **Total: 1576** centers and homes	**Statewide QF: 218** **Regional QF and non QF: 681** **Total: 899** centers and homes	Child Care Health Consultants are nurses and child health experts who work with early care and education settings to provide teachers and staff with information and guidance to assure the health and safety of children in the program. This strategy provides onsite, email and phone consultation, staff training and referrals to community health resources. *Expenditures and non-QF use of CCHC continue to be low; the CCHC model and amount of funding for this strategy is adjusted in FY13 in response to this trend over the past 3 years.*
Mental Health Consultation (MHC) (Signature Strategy)	FTF Regions	$ 5,278,100	$ 5,277,600	$ 3,008,600	**Regional: 287** Centers: 215 Homes: 72	**Regional: 252** Centers: 240 Homes: 12	Mental Health Consultants are highly skilled early childhood mental health professionals with specialized training in young children's social-emotional development and how to support early care and education professionals. This strategy provides onsite training and guidance to staff and families to promote children engaged in learning, effective communication skills with children and families, and effective management of children's challenging behaviors. *Child care homes continue to have low utilization of mental health consultation*

Physician Education and Outreach	FTF State FTF Regions Total	$390,000 509,000 $899,000	$390,000 374,500 $764,500	296,700 $186,500 $483,200	**Statewide: 50** participating practices **Regional: 24** participating practices **Total: 74** participating practices	**Statewide: 25** participating practices **Regional: 23** participating practices **Total: 48** participating practices	Physician Education and Outreach improves the quality of health care for young children by providing technical assistance and support to medical practices and clinics, including using a medical home model, best practices, developmental screening, referral to early intervention services and identifying community resources that support child development. *The current low expenditures in regional funding is because the grantee has not yet delivered all of the practice incentive funds to the practices participating in the program. There should be a large expenditure of regional funds in the fourth quarter. In addition, the grantee has discovered that they charged some expenses to the incorrect payer. They are working on correcting this for the next report*
Workforce Capacity – Therapist Scholarships	FTF State	$ 350,000	$ 350,000	$ 347,700	**Statewide: 12** students receiving financial support	**Statewide: 12** students receiving financial support	Therapist Scholarships are used to increase the number of speech language pathologists with specialized knowledge and skills to work with young children. Scholars are provided tuition to complete a Master's level program with specialized coursework, and upon graduation, must commit to two years of service with birth to five populations in Arizona.

FTF Grants Report –June 2012

Federal Grants Awarded					
Grant	**Funding Source**	**FY2012 Awarded Amount**	**FY2012 Expended Amount**	**Grant Description**	**Comments**
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)	Federal	$150,000	$11,009	The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant provides federal funding to help states build and integrate early childhood services systems with a focus on the five key areas of Early Care and Education, Family Support, Health Care/Medical Homes, Social Emotional Development/Mental Health, and Parenting Education. This is year three of a three year grant cycle.	• ECCS grantee states were notified in May that a one year (June 1, 2012 – May 2013) no-cost extension of grant funds has been approved to complete planned grant activities. This extension will support the continued planning and development of Arizona's early care and education professional development system. • A Professional Development System-Building Workgroup convened in January will advance portions of the infrastructure work proposed in the Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge application including revision of Arizona's Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework, designing a professional development website and registry, and working with institutes of higher education to develop a streamlined progression of early childhood degrees and credentials. • The Altarum Institute conducted a two-day site visit March 19 and 20 to develop a profile of Arizona's ECCS and other system building activities in the context of successes for a national best practices report. Interviews were conducted with FTF leadership, state agency and partners, and Regional Council Members. The report is not yet available for state review.
State Advisory Council for Early Childhood Education	Federal	$2,489,746*	$390,204	These grant funds supported the Quality First Pilot Study and the	• The work contracted to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for curriculum development and training

(SAC) *Total 3 year budget.				development and dissemination of the Infant/Toddler Guidelines, Birth to Five Program Guidelines, and Early Learning standards. FTF also applied for and received supplemental funds and was awarded an additional $164,000 that supports the work of the FTF Advisory Committees – Health, Early Learning and Family Support & Literacy.	for the Infant/Toddler Developmental Guidelines, Program Guidelines for High Quality Early Education: Birth through Kindergarten and Early Learning Standards continues as outlined in the grant proposal. • The design work on the Infant Toddler Developmental Guidelines was completed by FTF in early May. ADE will arrange for printing, distribution and training. Training on the new guidelines is scheduled to begin mid-summer, 2012. • Training continues on Early Learning Standards and for High Quality Early Education: Birth through Kindergarten. The Arizona Department of Education has conducted 21 *Introduction to Program Guideline* trainings from August 2011 to March 2012 with 711 participants. Four additional training sessions were scheduled during May to be held in the northern part of the state. • SAC grant funds will continue to support the work of the FTF Early Learning, Family Support and Health advisory committees.
Birth to Five Policy Alliance - Zero to Three	Non-funded	In-kind technical assistance	NA	FTF receives technical assistance regarding expanding and integrating Early Head Start as part of the early childhood system so that more infants and toddlers have access to and receive high-quality early care and education services.	• This technical assistance grant is officially concluded with all activities completed. . • Following the two day TA session held February 27 and 28, recommendations for Quality Assurance, Professional Development, Outreach to Special Populations, and Continuum of Services were provided to the statewide Home Visiting Task Force. Task Force sub-committees will continue to plan and develop these priority areas to be addressed in the development of Arizona's Home Visiting System.
Affordable Care Act Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program	Federal $1,893,443 (year one)	Awarded to ADHS		The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) establishes a home visiting grant program for states administered through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) as a new section of the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grant program.	• Partnership agreements with DES and FTF have been completed to expand home visitation through existing home visiting contracts and Requests for Grant Agreements (RFGAs). • Benchmarks for progress associated with this grant are now

Formula Grant Competitive Grant.	$2,631,887 (year two- overlaps with year one) $9.3 million per year for 4 years	Awarded to ADHS		Grantees are required to use an evidence-based program model with a benchmark component that measures: improvement in maternal and child health, childhood injury prevention, school readiness and achievement, crime or domestic violence, family economic self-sufficiency, and coordination with community resources and supports. Under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act, Arizona is eligible for non-compete formula grants annually for five years. Governor Brewer designated the Arizona Department of Health Services to submit and implement Arizona's proposal for this grant program. FTF is a partner agency in the implementation of these grants.	approved and Home Visiting services funded through this grant will begin in June 2012 in 14 of the Community Health Analysis Areas (CHAAs). These are primarily in Pima County in accordance with the grant planning process. • This grant will also support a professional development conference for home visitors. The conference date is September 19 and 20, 2012 at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix. There will be no cost to attend for home visitors. • The Home Visiting Task Force continues to meet monthly to address both implementation of this grant and a statewide home visiting system.
Race To the Top-Early Learning Challenge Fund	Federal – AZ was not awarded		NA	FTF was the lead agency for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge and together with state agency and community-based partners submitted the state application in October 2011. RTTT/ELC is intended to encourage states to develop bold and comprehensive plans for raising the quality of early learning programs.	• Five states additional states, Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wisconsin, were invited to apply for $133 million of FY12 funding from the Race to the Top initiative. These five states will each be eligible to apply for up to 50 percent of the previous potential award amount. The $133 million for 2012 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge State grants will come from a larger $550 million fund provided by Congress through the Department of Education's fiscal year 2012 budget, with remaining dollars from the 2012 appropriation going toward a new district-level Race to the Top competition.
Promise Neighborhoods	Federal			Promise Neighborhoods is a competitive grant program that supports cradle-to-career services designed to improve educational and developmental outcomes for students in distressed urban and rural neighborhoods. Promise Neighborhoods support the transformation of high-poverty communities into communities of opportunity. Congress has appropriated $60 million to support a new set of planning grants and implementation grants as well as the continuation of support for existing implementation grantees. Up to seven implementation grants, and 14 new planning grants will be awarded. The percentage amount of match remains the same for	The Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council is a partner with Tempe Community Council in developing a Promise Neighborhoods application for this grant round.

				planning applicants—50% of the grant award, which includes public and private sources. The match amount for implementation applicants is 100% of the grant award, which also includes public and private sources, and 10% of which must come from private sources. Rural and tribal applicants are only required to provide half of the match requirement (25% for planning grants and 50% for implementation grants). Federal agency contributions, under both competitions, can be used to meet the match. Notice of Intent to Apply is requested by June 8th, and application submissions are due July 27, 2012. The deadline to issue awards is December 31, 2012.	