



Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council  
**Head Start Quality Improvement Strategy**

**Strategy:** Improve the learning environment of the Cocopah Head Start.

With all of the region's children attending the Cocopah Head Start prior to entering kindergarten, the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council has developed a quality improvement strategy that has the potential to make a universal impact in the region. Of the region's children birth through age five, over 75%, or 65 children, are living below the federal poverty level. The Cocopah Head Start serves 20 of those children each year, mainly having to prioritize those children who would be enrolling in kindergarten the following year.

In May of 2010, the Indian Health Services, under the US Department of Health & Human Services, conducted a comprehensive environmental health survey of the Cocopah Head Start, and several concerns were documented regarding the health and safety of the environment. Further solidifying the need for improvements, in December of 2010, the Cocopah Head Start underwent their Federal Review by the Office of Head Start which resulted in unsatisfactory marks in the environmental report regarding the condition and safety of the facility and grounds.

The Tribe is taking immediate action, to avoid the closing of the Head Start. The Tribe has obtained estimates to perform repairs to the existing Head Start center, which is the only licensed or regulated early care provider in the region. The Tribe is utilizing their own funds as well as Head Start maintenance funds, and has prioritized the repair needs of the center. The most basic health and safety standards are being addressed first, such as toilet and bathroom privacy and sanitization, working locks on the doors, and playground safety. The funds currently available are not sufficient to complete all of the repairs. The Assistant Tribal Administrator for the Cocopah Indian Tribe expressed the desire and determination to complete as many health, safety, and environmental improvements as possible prior to the children arriving in early September 2011.

There is a great need to improve quality and ensure a safe learning environment for the children attending the Cocopah Head Start program. This is structured as a strategy with one-time only funding that will improve the quality of the learning environment. The Regional Partnership Council believes moving forward with this strategy to work in partnership with the Cocopah Indian Tribe and support the renovation of the Cocopah Head Start has the potential to impact all Cocopah children, and continues their vision of building a strong foundation from which to grow true collaboration and to provide both preventive and responsive services to the children of the Cocopah region.

**Priority Role:** This strategy addresses the priority need to increase the **quality, access and affordability of regulated early care and education settings** so that all children have access to high-quality, culturally responsive early care and education that promotes their development.



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<b>Key Measures:</b> (To be determined)																																			
<b>Target Population (Description of the population to reach):</b>																																			
- The Cocopah Head Start center and program serving 20 children age three to five.																																			
<b>Proposed Service Numbers</b>	<b>SFY2010</b> July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010	<b>SFY2011</b> July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	<b>SFY2012</b> July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012																																
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<b>Performance Measures 2012-2013:</b> (To be determined)																																			
<b>SFY2012 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy</b>																																			
Allocation for proposed strategy		<b>\$50,860</b>																																	
<b>Budget Justification:</b>																																			
<p>The Cocopah Indian Tribe has received proposals for the repairs and renovations suggested in the Head Start Environmental Health and Safety Report.</p> <p>The proposed renovations include:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Repairing and replacing ceiling tiles in the kitchen, classroom, and restrooms .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$7,700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adding a kitchen door .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Making restrooms handicap accessible .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adding playground surfacing and two sand boxes .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowering two existing playground equipment pieces .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Redesigning the play areas to be fully accessible to persons with disabilities .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$9,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Replacing two toilets .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Installing exhaust fans in restrooms .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Replacing inoperable/exposed light fixtures .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Removing and replacing two sets of swings .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$3,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Installing floor molding and flooring behind toilets in the restrooms .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Renovating six metal doors with self-closing mechanism .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$5,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Installing additional wall outlets (as opposed to permanent extension cords) .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Landscaping projects (de-weeding, leveling sand dune build-up, etc) .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Addressing draining and flooding issues due to the location of the site .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1,000+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additional renovations awaiting bids .....</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10,000+</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Cocopah Indian Tribe has contributed \$6,402 to this Improvement project.</p>				Repairing and replacing ceiling tiles in the kitchen, classroom, and restrooms .....	\$7,700	Adding a kitchen door .....	\$600	Making restrooms handicap accessible .....	\$3,500	Adding playground surfacing and two sand boxes .....	\$3,500	Lowering two existing playground equipment pieces .....	\$250	Redesigning the play areas to be fully accessible to persons with disabilities .....	\$9,200	Replacing two toilets .....	\$500	Installing exhaust fans in restrooms .....	\$400	Replacing inoperable/exposed light fixtures .....	\$300	Removing and replacing two sets of swings .....	\$3,500	Installing floor molding and flooring behind toilets in the restrooms .....	\$1,300	Renovating six metal doors with self-closing mechanism .....	\$5,800	Installing additional wall outlets (as opposed to permanent extension cords) .....	\$1,000	Landscaping projects (de-weeding, leveling sand dune build-up, etc) .....	\$1,000	Addressing draining and flooding issues due to the location of the site .....	\$1,000+	Additional renovations awaiting bids .....	\$10,000+
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