

Strategy 5: Child Care Home Study

Information available for the region indicates that 82 percent of children from birth through age five are cared for in family, friend, or neighbor care settings. Currently, there are seven DES certified child care homes across the entire region, with a small collection of licensed family group homes. At this time, the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council does not have enough information to understand the reasons and barriers that are preventing child care homes from becoming licensed and certified through the Department of Economic Security, or the Arizona Department of Health Services, depending on the level of service that the child care home might provide.

Given these facts, and the low numbers of certified family child care homes in the region, the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council will partner with the Coconino Regional Partnership Council to conduct an area-wide study over the course of one year regarding this phenomena:

1. Family choice for child care
2. Barriers to becoming a certified Family Child Care provider
3. Barriers to certified Family Child Care providers engaging in established programs for increasing quality.

Upon completion of this study, we will design strategies based on the information attained.

Completion of the assessment to evaluate the most effective mechanisms to target the population of lawfully operating child care homes will provide the basis for a strategy(ies) to most effectively increase the number of licensed and regulated child care homes.

Program participation will require that the child care home participate in a pre- and post-study evaluation; as well as planned participation in *Quality First!*, within a year or two of licensure.

A specific strategy will be developed to address the needs of the region based on the findings of the assessment.

Study guidelines:

- The grantee will ensure that the protocol and methodology of the study, as well as the data collection instrument, will be submitted to the First Things First Evaluation Division for review prior to implementation of the study.
- All data collected will be submitted to the First Things First Evaluation Division.
- All criteria of the study must meet the predetermined questions of the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council.

Lead Goal: FTF will increase availability and affordability of early care and education settings.

Key Measures:

1. Total number of children enrolled in early care and education programs participating in the QIRS system
2. Number and percentage of early care and education programs with access to a Child Care Health

Consultant
3. Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in regulated early care and education programs as a proportion of total population birth to age five

Target Population:
 Family child care homes that are not currently licensed or regulated, and are operating lawfully

Proposed Service Numbers	SFY2010	SFY2011	SFY2012
	July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010	July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012
	Completion of Assessment	10 new regulated child care homes	10 new regulated child care homes 3-yr. Total = 20 new regulated child care homes

Performance Measures SFY 2010-2012

1. Number of DES-certified homes in the region
2. Number of new family child care homes providing care for infants and toddlers/ Proposed service number

How is this strategy building on the service network that currently exists:

- Currently, there are a total of seven DES- licensed child care homes in the entire region; however, 82 percent of children from birth through age five are in un-regulated care of some type.

What are the opportunities for collaboration and alignment:

- Early Childhood Network meetings occur monthly; collaboration with Association for Supportive Child Care, and Child Care Resource and Referral to assure that services are not duplicated, and that as large a group of partners as possible is reached.

SFY2010 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy (How much of the total allocation will go to this strategy)

Population-based Allocation for proposed	\$50,000
--	----------

strategy	
----------	--

Budget Justification:

\$50,000 for FY 2010:

\$35,000 consultant for conducting interviews, writing the assessment and report, and making recommendations; \$4,000 for travel throughout the region; \$2,500 for meetings; \$5,000 for survey distribution and printing costs and \$3,500 for outreach or incentives for survey completion (\$10 gift card per survey completed).

\$75,000 for FY 2011 and FY 2012 to be made available for home improvement grants to bring a home up to code, or to meet the licensing requirements; additionally, these funds could be made available to participating homes for specific training costs, materials, licensure fees. These funds will be made available to child care homes wishing to become licensed and certified.