



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

Coconino Regional Partnership Council

**AGENDA ITEM:** Overview of Quality First Child Care Scholarship Projected Cost Model

**BACKGROUND:** The proposed Quality First model changes were approved by the State Board in June. Those Quality First changes were reviewed at the May Regional Council meeting. Under the model changes to Quality First, the regional cost for child care scholarships will change beginning in FY15.

The attached document provides an overview of the **estimated** and **projected** yearly costs for the Child Care scholarships from FY2014 through FY2018. They are only estimates at this point. The final costs for FY15 scholarships will not be available until September or October, 2013. *This cost model does not include the cost of the Quality First program and its components. This only shows QF scholarship costs.*

Please note that these costs can change depending on how QF sites progress in their star ratings. This cost model projection is based on centers and homes increasing their quality rating over time.

This information is important to consider when thinking about the cost considerations for the FY2015 Quality First regional funding allocation when we begin the funding planning process this fall.

### **Summary of QF Child Care Scholarship Model Changes**

- QF providers at all 5 star levels currently receive scholarships on a tiered reimbursement scale. Over time, under the new model, FTF will provide scholarships to providers only at the 3, 4 and 5 star levels.
- **SFY14** - Beginning July 1, 2013, programs on the waiting list will no longer be eligible for QF child care scholarships.
- **SFY15** - Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, only programs at the 2, 3, 4 and 5 star levels will be eligible for scholarships.
- **SFY16** - Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, only programs at the 3, 4 and 5 star levels will be eligible for scholarships.
- FTF is considering a policy to ensure that all QF programs demonstrate efforts to assure that children/families meet the income eligibility for child care scholarships (at or below 200% of the poverty level).

**RECOMMENDATION:** No action is needed. This is for information only.