



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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July 30, 2009

The Honorable Wendsler Nosie, Sr.
San Carlos Apache Tribe
Post Office Box 0
San Carlos, Arizona 85550

Dear Chairman Nosie:

I am writing to thank you for your leadership and partnership with First Things First (FTF) in expanding educational and health services to children from birth through age five in your community. In order to ensure that this partnership continues, your Tribe must make some critical decisions by March 1, 2010.

As you are aware, First Things First is a statewide effort funded by a 2006 citizens' ballot initiative. That initiative set aside .80 cents on every pack of cigarettes sold to fund the expansion of early childhood programs.

Decisions on which programs to expand are made in local communities by 31 FTF Regional Partnership Councils. The Regional Partnership Councils work with local leaders to conduct an assessment of the needs of young children in their communities and to identify the strategies to be funded that meet those needs. Your leadership has been critical to advancing this very important work for the young children of your Tribe, in collaboration with the FTF San Carlos Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council.

By state law, the boundaries of the FTF Regional Partnership Councils – which define the geographic area that the regional council is responsible for – must be reviewed every two years. We are reviewing the boundaries now and will make recommendations to our statewide FTF Board in August. The final designation of the regional boundaries must be made by January 15, 2010.

In addition, state law gives each Arizona Tribe the authority to determine every two years whether their tribal lands will be considered as part of the FTF region that the tribal lands are geographically located in, or whether their tribal lands will be designated to be a separate FTF region with a separate FTF Regional Partnership Council appointed by the FTF Board for that region.

The Honorable Wendsler Nosie

July 30, 2009

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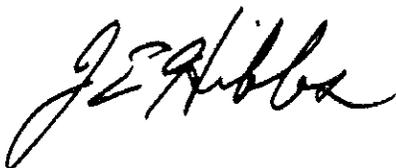
In 2008, it was the decision of your Tribe to have your tribal lands designated as a separate region and therefore the FTF Board formed the San Carlos Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council. Enclosed with this letter is a fact sheet for the San Carlos Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council.

In accordance with state law, Arizona Tribes shall inform the FTF Board by March 1, 2010, if the Tribe elects to have their tribal lands treated as a separate region. The Board will then form a regional council responsible for the tribal region.

I wanted to inform you of the review of regional boundaries and the decision your Tribe may make regarding its tribal lands and how you want to continue to work in partnership with First Things First. To continue to move forward and not delay any services or programming for your young children, I strongly encourage you to make a decision on how you want your tribal lands treated before the March 1st deadline. Should you elect to have your tribal lands treated as a separate region, a letter or resolution to that effect should be sent to my attention. Your Tribal Liaison, FTF Regional Coordinator and FTF Regional Council Chair are copied on this correspondence. In the coming months, they will keep you informed about FTF's actions regarding regional boundaries and opportunities for input. They can also provide you with additional information about this process and the San Carlos Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council.

I look forward to our ongoing partnership for the benefit of your Tribe's youngest members. Should you have questions on the review process, contact me or Katie Stevens, FTF Senior Policy Specialist for Tribal Affairs, at (602) 771-5032 or email kstevens@azftf.gov.

Sincerely,



J. Elliott Hibbs
Executive Director

cc: Bernadette Goode, Tribal Liaison
Beverly Russell, Regional Coordinator
Catherine Steele, Regional Council Chair



FIRST THINGS FIRST

SAN CARLOS APACHE
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

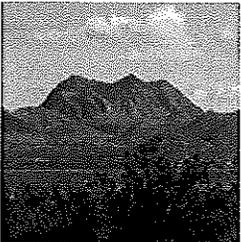
FACT SHEET



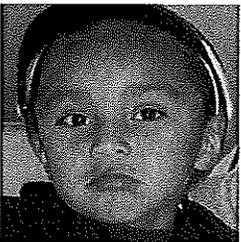
The First Things First San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council was established in April of 2008. The Regional Partnership Council is comprised of eleven community members that work to ensure all children (ages 0-5) in the region are afforded an equal chance to reach their fullest potential.



Since its' inception, the Regional Partnership Council has become an integral part of the community's early childhood development and health system. There are approximately 1,046 children ages 0-5 that are residing in the San Carlos Apache Region. The economic status for families of San Carlos has been impacted by high unemployment in the community. Additionally, given the region's rural nature, it is difficult to recruit and retain service providers for young children birth through age five.



The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council promotes a common vision, serves as the voice for children in San Carlos Apache Region and commits to the development of an integrated system that connects services to children. They are family-centered, community-based partnerships linking state and Tribal government, communities and families.

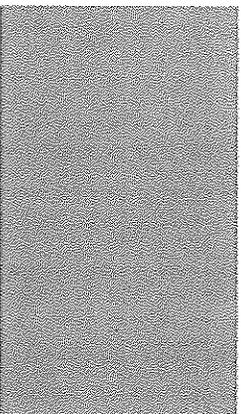


By investing in young children, the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council and its partners will help build brighter futures for the San Carlos Apache Tribe's next generation of leaders, ultimately contributing to economic growth and the region's overall well-being. The Regional Partnership Council works in partnership with the community to provide families with opportunities to improve their children's developmental, health and educational outcomes.

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of culturally relevant information, coordinated services, physical activity, family supports, and a qualified early care and education workforce. Through their efforts parents can better obtain needed services for their infants, toddlers and young children. In turn, children will be better prepared to enter kindergarten ready to succeed. The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council is committed to serving children in all four districts of the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

"You start raising your children when they are still in the womb."

—San Carlos Apache Tribe Elder's Advisory Council





FIRST THINGS FIRST

SAN CARLOS APACHE
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

FACT SHEET

Regional Priorities

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership approached the development of the funding plan based on the cultural concept of — meaning that all things are related. Accordingly, the funded strategies are linked in recognition that the wellness of our young children will require efforts that address the social, physical, mental and spiritual components.

| Prioritized Needs | Strategies |
|---|--|
| Child rearing practices that are reflective of San Carlos Apache Tribal values. | Development and implementation of a culturally relevant parent education curriculum. The purpose of this strategy is to assist in strengthening families through the use of culturally centered child rearing practices for parents with young children. Current Allocation: \$47,000 |
| Coordinated efforts among early childhood service providers to provide for enhanced, effective, and collaborative family support and health services. | Establish and facilitate an Early Childhood Development and Health Collaborative. The goal of the Early Childhood Development and Health Collaborative is to ensure that all families in the San Carlos region have the information and support they need to be effective parents by creating a coordinated network of services. Current Allocation: Unfunded |
| Outreach, education and intervention on nutrition and prevention of childhood obesity and diabetes. | The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council has committed to an initiative designed to expand existing obesity prevention services to children ages three to five. Current Allocation: \$63,000 |
| Increased Public Awareness of Early Childhood Issues, First Things First, and Career Opportunities | The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council would like to promote awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health through a coordinated campaign. Current Allocation: \$11,000 |
| Increased early care and education opportunities for children ages zero through five. | The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council will fund a multi-year wage enhancement strategy for early care and education providers to increase retention of teachers. Current Allocation: \$10,000 |
| Early screening for health and developmental delays for young children. | The communities of the San Carlos Apache Tribe are very remote resulting in limited access to early health and education care services. This strategy will address the service access barrier by providing resources and services for parent education, family support and child developmental screening throughout the region. Current Allocation: \$153,000 |
| Access to information about child development. | Increase families' access to quality and relevant information about child development through distribution of the Arizona Parents Kits. Current Allocation: \$5,500 |

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

Catherine Steele, Chair
David Reede, Vice Chair

Fred Ferreira
Mitch Hoffman
Janell McIntosh
Robert Oliver
Latoya Tawawina
Vernon Poncho
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San Carlos Apache Regional Office

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