



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Pursuant to A.R.S. §8-1194(A) and A.R.S. §38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the First Things First Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board, and to the general public that the Board will hold a **Regular Meeting open to the public on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 beginning at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Phoenix Convention Center, 100 North 3rd Street, North Building, Room 224, Phoenix, Arizona 85004.** Some members of the Board may elect to attend telephonically.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (1), A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (2) and A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (3), the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the general public, to discuss personnel items, records exempt from public inspection and/or to obtain legal advice on any item on this agenda.

The Board may hear items on the agenda out of order. The Board may discuss, consider, or take action regarding any item on the agenda. The Board may elect to solicit public comment on any of the agenda items.

The meeting agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order

Steve Lynn, Chair

2. Conflict of Interest

Steve Lynn, Chair

Board Members will Address Potential Conflicts of Interest Regarding Items on this Agenda.

3. Call to the Public

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss or take legal action regarding matters that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism, or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

4. Consent Agenda

Steve Lynn, Chair

All items on the agenda that are in *italics, underlined*, and marked with an asterisk (*) are consent matters and will be considered by a single motion with no discussion. All other items will be considered individually. Any matter on the consent agenda will be removed from the consent agenda and discussed upon the request of any Board member.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (1), A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (2) and A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A) (3), the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the general public, to discuss personnel items, records exempt from public inspection and/or to obtain legal advice on any item on this Consent Agenda.

- A. * Board Meeting Minutes for June, 10, 2013 and July 22, 2013 (Attachment #1)
- B. * Regional Council New and Revised Strategies and Government Agreements (Attachment #2)
* Statewide and Multi-Regional Agreements and Amendments (Attachment #3)
- C. * External Affairs Report (Attachment #4)
- D. * Tribal Affairs Report (Attachment #5)
- E. * Technical Changes to Strategies and Allotments (Attachment #6)
- F. * Quality First Update (Attachment #7)
- G. * Annual Report (Attachment #8)

5. **Board Member Report/Update** **Board Members**
6. **CEO Report/Update** **Sam Leyvas, Interim CEO**
7. **Discussion and Possible Appointment of Regional Partnership Council Applicants (Possible Executive Session)** **Michelle Katona, CRO**
Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (1) and A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (3), the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the general public, to discuss personnel items and or to obtain legal advice regarding Regional Council applicants.
8. **Discussion and Possible Approval of RFGA Recommendations (Possible Executive Session)** **Michelle Katona, CRO
Josh Allen, COO/CFO**
Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (2), the Board may vote to go into Executive Session, which will not be open to the general public, to discuss records exempt from public inspection. Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-2702(E), all information in the grant application is confidential during the process of evaluation.
9. **Guidance on Allocation Methodology (Discussion and Possible Approval) (Attachment #9)** **Josh Allen, COO/CFO**
10. **Quality First Web Site Launch Update (Attachment #10)** **Sam Leyvas, Interim CEO
Liz Barker Alvarez, Sr. Director
Communications**
11. **General Discussion** **Board Members**
The Board may engage in general discussion regarding items of possible interest as new business, regarding the agency's mission, goals, initiatives and priorities and strategies. The Board's discussion may include First Things First staff members. No official action will be taken at this time; any matters deemed appropriate for future action will be placed on a future agenda for deliberation and a possible vote.
12. **Next Meeting – September 30 and October 1 – Phoenix, Arizona** **Steve Lynn, Chair**
13. **Adjourn**

A person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter by contacting Kim Syra, Board Administrator, Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012, telephone (602) 771-5026. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Dated this 16th day August 2013

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD



Kim M. Syra, Board Administrator



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Monday, June 10, 2013 beginning at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the First Things First Office, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at approximately 8:03 a.m.

Members Present:

Steve Lynn, Dr. Pamela Powell, Nadine Mathis Basha, Janice Decker and Cecil Patterson

Members Present: (via phone)

Vivian Saunders and Gayle Burns

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Mary Ellen Cunningham, Brad Willis, and Karla Phillips

Chairman Lynn introduced new Board member Ruth Solomon and welcomed her to the Board.

Conflict of Interest

Chairman Lynn asked the Board members if there were conflicts of interest regarding items on this agenda. There were no conflicts at this time.

Call to the Public

Maureen Duane, Central Maricopa Regional Council Member addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the Regional Boundary Taskforce recommendations and read a letter from the Council stressing their concerns.

Mara de Luca Funke, Central Maricopa Regional Council Member addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the Regional Boundary Taskforce recommendations.

Marsha Porter, Crisis Nursery, addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the Quality First Model item being discussed on this agenda.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Member Powell to approve the Consent, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Board Member Report/Update

Member Cunningham reported to the Board that the Tobacco Division Department of Health Services is initiating a three year public awareness campaign on the effects of second hand smoke on children. The study findings show that infants exposed to second hand smoke are three times more likely to die of sudden infant death syndrome, more frequent hospital stays, asthma, pneumonia and colds.

Second, the Department of Health Services has started a Safe Sleep Taskforce with the first meeting held this Friday. The taskforce will be looking at sleep habits of babies when sleeping on their side and tummy.

Lastly Member Cunningham noted that the latest injury report is out and on the Department of Health Services web site.

Member Mathis Basha reported to the Board that the last Public Private Partnership Committee meeting will be held this week and that report will be ready to present at the August Board meeting. Also the next Finance Committee meeting will be held in July.

Member Mathis Basha traveled to the Salt River reservation this past week and participated in reading to children in a First Things First kindergarten transition classroom.

CEO Report

Chairman Lynn introduced CEO Allvin and noted that this will be Ms. Allvin's final CEO update to the First Things First Board as she has accepted a position at the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Washington, DC.

The CEO report highlights are listed below:

National Update – Michigan and Minnesota both passed significant budgetary implications for pre-k, \$46-48 million was raised by public private partnerships for pre-k expansion.

Beverly Russell, Sr. Director of Tribal Affairs for First Things First has been invited to speak at the presidential session at the National Indian Education Association in December in South Dakota. This is an enormous endorsement for the work of First Things First and Ms. Russell.

State of Arizona Budget Update – The governor has submitted a budget to the legislature that included \$9 million in child care funding. We are monitoring and will keep you updated. Bruce Liggett was recognized for his extraordinary advocacy work on the budget.

First Things First signed an MOU with the Arizona Department of Education for data transfer. This data will begin to match child level identifiers with the student to begin to receive longitudinal data. First Things First is in discussion with the Department of Health and Department of Economic Security regarding the same data sharing agreements. Josh Allen and Alex Turner were recognized for their stewardship over the MOU process.

Kindergarten Developmental Inventory Update – With the help from Piper Trust, a taskforce of stakeholders was convened to assist with recommendations on how to proceed with the kindergarten developmental inventory. Their third and final meeting will be in July with a report from the taskforce available in early August.

Ms. Allvin noted that she visited Morenci, Arizona while attending council meetings in San Carlos and Graham Greenlee. She had a chance to tour two new childcare facilities in this small mining community that were built by Freeport McMoRan. The wrap around childcare is open 24 hours and the other is a pre-k program open to every child of a Freeport employee both participate in Quality First and every teacher is enrolled in T.E.A.C.H. and working on their associates in early childhood education.

Race to the Top Grant language will be posted in approximately 45 days. First Things First has contacted the governor's office to express our interest in moving forward. The only states that are eligible are those states that applied and did not win the first round.

In conclusion Ms. Allvin thanked the Board and the work in Arizona on behalf of young kids in Arizona.

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Regional Boundary Taskforce Recommendations

CEO Allvin opened the discussion with a quick overview of the Board convened statewide task force chaired by Judy Mohraz and Jack Jewett that reviewed the current regional boundaries. The First Things First statute provides the Board the opportunity to review regional boundaries every two years. The goal of this process was to determine if the current regional boundaries should continue or whether a change would better serve children and families. The Task Force oversaw an assessment of the current regional boundaries, received public input and prepared recommendations for the State Board. A final report was developed by the Task Force and a set of recommendations were presented by Jack Jewett to the Board for consideration that included changes to the regional boundaries in Phoenix, Pima County and the east side of Maricopa.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Powell to approve the regional boundary recommendations put forth by the Regional Boundary Taskforce and the adoption of the boundaries for implementation in SFY15 as presented, seconded by Member Patterson.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Mathis Basha	vote – no
Member Burns	vote – yes
Member Saunders	vote – no
Member Patterson	vote – yes
Member Decker	vote – no
Member Solomon	vote – no
Vice Chair Powell	vote – no
Chairman Lynn	vote – yes

Motion failed 3:5

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha to approve the regional boundary recommendations put forth by the Regional Boundary Taskforce and the adoption of the boundaries for implementation in SFY15 as presented with the exception of the consolidation of the Northeast and Central Maricopa Regions pending additional input, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

The board directed staff to meet with the Northeast and Central Maricopa Regions and have a discussion and offer additional input as quickly as feasible and bring back to the Board a recommendation by the July Board meeting.

Introduction of the First Rodel Exemplary Early Childhood Teach

CEO Allvin introduced and congratulated Brenda Thomas, the first Rodel exemplary early childhood teacher of the year. Ms. Thomas has been in education for ten years including four years in the development of the Extended Resource program for grades k-3 and is currently teaching at Tolleson Elementary School. The Rodel Exemplary Teacher Initiative honors extraordinary teachers and asks that they each mentor six high-potential student teachers.

Financial Report

Josh Allen presented to the Board the SFY13-15 financial updates and budget.

A motion was made by Member Solomon to approve the SFY13 budget update as presented, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Powell to approve the SFY14 budget update and revisions as presented, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Member Solomon to approve the revised SFY14 revenue budget for SFY15 planning purposed as presented, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion carried.

External Affairs 3-Year Strategic Plan

Sam Leyvas presented to the Board the External Affairs 3-year strategic plan. This plan is a comprehensive multi-year effort to build awareness and knowledge of early childhood, and motivate people to act on behalf of Arizona's young children.

A motion was made by Member Patterson to approve the External Affairs 3-year strategic plan as presented, seconded by Member Mathis Bash. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Appointment of Regional Partnership Council Applicants

A motion was made by Member Mathis Basha that the Board approve the appointment of Regional Council applicants as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Powell. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Statewide and Multi Regional RFGA Recommendations

A motion was made by Member Decker to approve the RFGA recommendations as presented, seconded by Member Solomon. Motion carried.

Quality First Policies – Expectations of Progress – First Reading

Ginger Sandweg presented to the Board for first reading and overview of the Quality First Policy Expectation of Progress.

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Quality First SFY15 Changes

Karen Woodhouse and Ginger Sandweg presented a report to the Board on the proposed changes to the Quality First model. The report describes the resulting model updates that were reviewed and vetted by FTF staff, regional council members and stakeholders. These updates will take effect beginning July 1, 2014 and address the following areas; alignment of Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten, First Things First Scholarships – eligibility, rates and slots, "Buy-in Option" for Quality First and T.E.A.C.H.

A motion was made by Member Patterson to approve the report of the FY15 Quality First model changes as presented, seconded by Member Decker. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Employment of a New CEO

A motion was made by member Solomon to move into Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (1) and A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A) (3), to discuss personnel items and or to obtain legal advice regarding the employment of a new CEO, seconded by Vice Chair Powell. Motion carried. Time 12:07 p.m.

A motion was made by Member Decker to return to Regular Session, seconded by Member Solomon. Motion carried. Time 12:56 p.m.

A motion was made by Member Patterson to proceed with the CEO search process, authorize the Chair to select a CEO Search Committee with the goal of having a new CEO hired within six months, seconded by Member Decker. Motion carried.

Chairman Lynn designated Vice Chair Powell, Member Mathis Basha and Member Patterson to join him on the Search Committee.

Eddie Basha Memorial Fund

Chairman Lynn gave an overview to the Board regarding the Eddie Basha Memorial Fund. At the request of Member Mathis Basha and the Basha Family the Eddied Basha Memorial Fund was established at First Things First after the passing of Mr. Basha. Mr. Basha was instrumental in the creation of First Things First and to date more than \$27,000 has been contributed to the fund.

A motion was made by member Decker to treat the Eddie Basha Memorial Fund as an endowment, with the intent of spending no more than 5% of the principal fund balance each year, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

A motion was made by Vice Chair Powell to approve Steve Lynn as Board Chair, seconded by Member Decker. Motion carried. Chairman Lynn abstained.

A motion was made by Member Patterson to approve Dr. Pamela Powell as Board Vice Chair, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion carried. Vice Chair Powell abstained.

General Discussion

There was no general discussion at this time.

Next Meeting

The next Special Meeting will be held on July 15, 2013 via teleconference in Phoenix, Arizona

Adjourn

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m.



Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Monday, July 22, 2013 beginning at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the First Things First Office, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Chair Lynn called the meeting to order at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Members Present: (Via Phone)

Steve Lynn, Vivian Saunders, Dr. Pamela Powell, Nadine Mathis Basha, Gayle Burns, Janice Decker, Cecil Patterson and Ruth Solomon

Ex-Officio Members Present: (Via Phone)

Mary Ellen Cunningham, Brad Willis and Karla Phillips

Chairman Lynn acknowledged the passing of the First Things First Board Attorney Alex Turner. Leslie Cooper has been appointed as Interim legal counsel by the Attorney General's Office.

Conflict of Interest

Chairman Lynn asked the Board members if there were conflicts of interest regarding items on this agenda. Brad Willis declared a conflict due to his employment with ADES.

Call to the Public

There were no calls to the public.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Member Solomon to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Member Burns. Motion approved.

Discussion and Possible Approval of the Regional Boundary Taskforce Maricopa Recommendations

Chairman Lynn and Michelle Katona presented to the Board an overview of the meeting held on June 25, 2013 with council leadership from Central and Northeast Maricopa to address concerns raised by the Central Maricopa Regional Council concluding that an agreement was reached by council leadership to work together to ensure the transition to a consolidated region would be smooth.

A motion was made by Member Powell to approve the regional boundary recommendations put forth by the Regional Boundary Taskforce to consolidate the existing Northeast and Central Maricopa regions into a new East Maricopa region and the adoption of the regional boundary for implementation in SFY15, seconded by Member Patterson. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Appointment of Regional Partnership Council Applicants

A motion was made by Member Burns to approve the Regional Council applicants, seconded by Member Mathis Basha. Motion approved.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Quality First Policies – Second Reading

Karen Woodhouse reviewed with the Board the second reading of the Quality First Policies and noted that there were no changes from the previous reading.

A motion was made by Member Decker to approve the Quality First Policies-Expectations of Progress as presented, seconded by Member Solomon. Motion carried.

General Discussion

Chairman Lynn gave a brief update on the CEO Search Firm noting that the review of the RFP applicants would be held later in the week.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2013.

Adjourn

With there being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.



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AGENDA ITEM: Regional Council New and Revised Strategies and Government Agreements

BACKGROUND: The following Regional Councils are requesting changes to their SFY14 funding Plans.

Southeast Regional Area: Tohono O'odham Nation

Maricopa Regional Area: Northwest Maricopa, Southwest Maricopa

In addition, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council is requesting approval of a tribal agreement for SFY14.

Letters from the Regional Council Chairs are included for your review and provide information on the request(s). A funding plan financial summary is provided to illustrate the changes to the overall funding plan.

RECOMMENDATION: The Interim CEO recommends approval of all the proposed strategies and funding levels and the tribal agreement presented.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Chair

Louis Johnson

Vice Chair

Mildred Manuel

Members

Albert Adler

Ella Begay

Joseph Mease

Janine Prewitt

Dionne Ramon

Ben Standifer

Kymerlii Tenario

Vacant

Vacant

310 South Williams Boulevard, Suite 106

Tucson, Arizona 85711

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July 31, 2013

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman
First Things First
4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn,

On behalf of the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council, I am writing to request modifications to our SFY14 Regional Funding Plan. The specific changes for your consideration are outlined below.

New Strategies:

On July 24, 2013 the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council approved a new strategy for SFY14: Expansion, Start-up and/or Capital Expense for Early Care and Education, with a total allotment of \$327,000. The Regional Council is targeting \$227,000 in support of the Baboquivari Unified School District's Early Education Program in Sells and \$100,000 in support of early education program development in the San Lucy District of the Tohono O'odham Nation. These allotments will allow for expansion of preschool programs in Sells and in San Lucy, which has been a priority of the Regional Council since its inception.

Revised Strategies:

On July 24, 2013 the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council approved an increase to the Community Outreach strategy of \$75,000 for a total of \$80,000 available in SFY14. The increase will support a full time Community Outreach Coordinator who will work three-quarter time with Tohono O'odham and one-quarter time with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Council recognizes that the implementation of the plan due to the vastness of the Tohono O'odham Nation requires additional staff hours. The success of current outreach has helped to connect parents to resources and expand the conversation around early childhood education and health.

In addition, on July 24, 2013 the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council approved an increase to the Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals strategy of \$50,000 for a total a \$100,000 available in SFY14. The increase will expand service from 27 to 50 early childhood professionals and will allow for a full-time Communities of Practice Coordinator. The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Council's Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals strategy is implemented in partnership with the Tohono O'odham Nation Education Department, Tohono O'odham Community College and the United Way of Southern Arizona, with cohorts in all regions in Pima County.

The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council respectfully requests approval for these increases to our SFY14 funding plan in our continued support of young children and families on the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Sincerely,

Louis Johnson, Chair
Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

Strategy: EXPANSION, START-UP AND/OR CAPITAL EXPENSE – TOHONO O’ODHAM NATION

Strategy Description

Recruit new or existing providers to begin to serve or expand early care and education programs. Supports may include the following: assist with planning, licensing and/or certification process for new early care and education centers or homes, or provide support to a provider to improve the quality of early learning facilities or programs.

Strategy Narrative

The Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has identified a need to increase the number of children who receive high quality early care and education services in order to improve school readiness, with identified priority areas of the San Lucy District and the Baboquivari Unified School District.

High quality early care and education programs are strongly linked to both academic and life-skills success among all children, but especially those from families with several risk factors such as low income, low education levels of parents or caregivers, or single parent households.

Regional funding for this strategy will support the start-up and expansion of programming for those children who may not otherwise have access to high quality early care and education due to a lack of licensed and/or certified providers in particular neighborhoods or localities. Start-up activities are needed to support the expansion of early care and education programs in the San Lucy District and the Baboquivari Unified School District, due to known and identified shortages in access to regulated early learning programs.

The program will apply and receive a license to provide early care and education from the Tohono O’odham Nation or Department of Health Services, prior to enrolling children to be served through this strategy. Upon becoming licensed, the program will also be expected, if not already, to enroll in the Quality First program. The following components will be included:

- Coaching and technical assistance by mentors to plan a new classroom or program site;
- Child care licensing and/or certification fees;
- Facility improvements to equip the setting or renovate/expand an existing site;
- Furniture, supplies, play equipment, etc... to create a quality early learning environment;
- Personnel and employee related expenses to support hiring highly qualified staff.

If the proposed project requires capital expenditures they will need to conform to the First Things First Capital Improvement Policy.

Target Population Description

The target population for this strategy is children 0-5. The regional council has prioritized the San Lucy District and the Baboquivari Unified School District areas in the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Target Service Units	SFY 2013	SFY 2014	SFY 2015
Number of increased slots for participating children	-	60	60
Number of center based providers served	-	2	2
Funding Level	SFY 2013	SFY 2014	SFY 2015
	-	\$327,000	\$327,000



Proposed Funding Plan Summary FY 2014 - Tohono O'odham Nation

Total Allocation:		\$1,814,276					
Strategy	Original Allotment	Current Allotment	Proposed New Allotment	Awarded Amount	Proposed Amendment Amount	New Proposed Awarded Amount	Recalculated Unawarded
Child Care Health Consultation	\$22,638	\$22,638	-	\$22,638			-
Community Awareness	\$5,000	\$5,000	-	\$5,000			-
Community Based Professional Development Early Care	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$50,000			\$50,000
Community Outreach	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$80,000	\$5,000			\$75,000
Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense	-	-	\$327,000				\$327,000
Media	\$5,000	\$5,000	-	\$5,000			-
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$70,000	\$70,000	-	\$70,000			-
Parent Outreach and Awareness	\$292,690	\$292,690	-	\$292,690			-
Quality First	\$152,719	\$152,719	-	\$151,151			\$1,568
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$353,622	\$353,622	-				\$353,622
Scholarships TEACH	-	-	-				-
Statewide Evaluation	\$30,096	\$30,096	-	\$30,096			-
Total Allotment:	\$986,765	\$986,765	\$507,000	\$631,575			\$807,190
Total Unallotted:		\$827,511					



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Chair

Dr. Deborah Pischke

Vice Chair

Ashley Flowers

Members

Judith Brengi

Stacey Cassidy

Patrick Contrades

Annette Johnson

Margaret Morales

Jannelle Radoccia

Lynda Vescio

Vacant

Vacant

August 19, 2013

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman
First Things First Board
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

RE: Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council's Changes to SFY 2014 Regional Funding Plan

Dear Chairman Lynn:

The Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council would like to solicit your approval to make changes to the Regional Partnership Council's SFY14 Regional Funding Plan. Proposed changes include adding two new strategies, **Care Coordination/Medical Home and Family Support - Children with Special Needs**, to address the Region's needs around developmental screenings.

Since inception, the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council has identified developmental screenings as a priority need of the Region. Over the past five years, the Regional Partnership Council has struggled with identifying the best approach to address this need. In 2010, the Regional Council convened a subcommittee to analyze regional data, activities, and best practice approaches around developmental screenings. After months of meeting, the Subcommittee reported back to the Regional Council that additional data was needed before recommendations could be made. In 2012, the Regional Partnership Council commissioned additional work to be conducted as part of the Regional Needs and Assets Report that focused specifically on current conditions regarding developmental screening activities in the Region. In January 2013, the final Developmental Screening Report was provided to the Regional Partnership Council and the Subcommittee was reconvened, with the inclusion of representatives from the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council which had also identified developmental screenings as a regional priority.

After reviewing and analyzing data, the Subcommittee determined that the priority needs of the Regions included: access to comprehensive screening activities that included coordinated linkage to evaluation and intervention services; and access to evidence based parent coaching services for children with delays who did not meet the eligibility requirements for state funded early intervention services.

After reviewing a variety of approaches, the Subcommittee came to consensus in identifying two strategies: Care Coordination/Medical Home and Family Support-Children with Special Needs. Both strategies are evidence/research based and have shown significant evidence of effectiveness in promoting adequate/timely developmental screenings and in improving families' abilities to support children's healthy development.

At the June meeting of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council and the July meeting of the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, members of the Developmental Screening subcommittee presented recommendations to the Regional Partnership Councils. Recommendations presented encouraged cross-regional collaboration to address identified needs around developmental screenings through joint funding of both the Care Coordination/Medical Home and the Family Support-Children with Special Needs strategies. The Subcommittee demonstrated that the inclusion of a Care Coordination/Medical Home and Family Support-Children with Special Needs strategies

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

into both the Northwest and Southwest Maricopa Regions has the potential of accomplishing not only multiple outcomes at the family and child level, but also at the system level.

At the June 21, 2013 meeting of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, the Regional Council voted to utilize unallotted dollars in the amount of \$400,000, with \$200,000 for the Care Coordination/Medical Home strategy to serve 600 children and \$200,000 for the Family Support children with Special Needs strategy to serve 85 families living in the Region. The impact of the requested changes on the Region's SFY14 Funding Plan can be found on the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council Funding Summary that is attached.

At this time, the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council respectfully requests that the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board approve the Council's request to make the changes outlined above. The Regional Partnership Council is confident that the proposed changes are in the best interest of children and families in the Northwest Maricopa Region and support the Board approved priorities, aligning with the Early Childhood System that First Things First is working to build.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Dr. Deborah J. Pischke, EDD
Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Strategy: Care Coordination/Medical Home			
Strategy Description			
Improves children’s health care and future development by ensuring they have access to adequate and appropriate health care services. Provides children and their families with effective case management, and connects them to appropriate, coordinated health care.			
Strategy Narrative			
<p>The Care Coordination/Medical Home strategy is intended to provide comprehensive approaches to ensuring children are healthy. The medical home model represents a standard of primary care where children and their families receive the care they need from a family physician, pediatrician or healthcare professional that they trust. A medical home addresses well-child care, acute care, and chronic care for all children from birth through their transition to adulthood. A medical home is a building block needed to ensure accessible, patient-centered, and coordinated primary care for children. The medical home model is an approach to providing primary care that is focused on the relationship between the patient and the personal clinician. Championed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the medical home is broadly defined as primary care that is "accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective."</p> <p>An important component of a medical home is care coordination to provide linkages for children and their families with appropriate medical services and community resources in a coordinated effort to achieve optimal health. According to the Medical Home Practice-Based Care Coordination Workbook, it has been suggested that you cannot be a strong medical home without the capacity to link families with a designated care coordinator.</p> <p>Effective care coordination begins with recognizing the relationship between the family, the health care provider and the care coordinator. It enhances access to needed services and resources, promotes optimal health and functioning of children, and supports improved quality of life.</p> <p>Care is coordinated and/or integrated across all elements of the complex health care and social services systems (e.g., subspecialty care, hospitals, home health agencies, home visitation services) and the patient’s community (e.g., family, schools, child care, public and private community-based services). Care coordinators will enhance the abilities of the medical practice to assure that children receive appropriate medical care and developmental screening in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.</p>			
Target Population Description			
This strategy universally targets all children birth through five in the Northwest Maricopa Region and is intended to insure that the child has a comprehensive support system to maximize the use of a medical home, thus insuring positive outcomes for the child.			
Targeted population includes families and children birth to 5 years who are un/underinsured, and families with young children who have special health care or developmental needs.			
Target Service Units	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Number of Children Served	600	600	600
Funding Level	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Care Coordination	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Strategy: Family Support- Children with Special Needs			
Strategy Description Provides coaching, group activities and services to the parents of children with special needs. Services are designed to help their child reach his/her fullest potential.			
Strategy Narrative To assist families in developing knowledge and skills to enhance their abilities to help their children reach their fullest potential, the Family Support-Children with Special Needs strategy promotes a parent coaching model to provide individualized support in combination with an interactive parent-child model that includes families and children with similar experiences living in the community. Coaching provides families with the supports they need to ensure their children reach their maximum potential through a comprehensive service delivery model. Coaching focuses on building families' understanding of the primary relationship they have with their children and the significance of their role as their child's first and foremost teacher. Coaching is directed toward expanding parenting skills and knowledge rather than provision of therapy services to a child. The fundamental, core components of a parent coaching and support services model for families with children with special needs include: 1. Individual Visits: Visits are conducted in the home or other locations where the family typically frequents and feels most comfortable. Personalized activities center on children's specific needs and family strengths for supporting children's on target development. 2. Ongoing Child Progress Monitoring and Screening: Families are encouraged to develop skills around recognizing how to observe and understand their child's development. Ongoing developmental screening using standardized screening tools are implemented to monitor and assess the child's developmental progress. 3. Parent and Child Interactive Time: Families participate in facilitated group activities where they can interact with their children and enjoy opportunities to be connected with other families with similar concerns and to reduce family isolation. 4. Networking and Coordination of Services: Families are provided with information and support in connecting with additional services, navigating referral systems and accessing community resources to improve their natural, concrete support networks. The purpose of this strategy is to meet the needs of individual families specific to their child's developmental needs when a child is developmentally delayed but found ineligible for Arizona's IDEA programs. Although ineligible for IDEA in Arizona, families and their children with developmental delays can benefit from formal supports, services and resources that promote positive developmental outcomes and school readiness.			
Target Population Description This strategy specifically targets children birth to five years who have been identified as having a developmental delay, and who are not eligible for intervention services offered through DDD, AzEIP or their local school district.			
Target Service Units	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Number of Families Served	85	85	85
Funding Level	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Family Support – Children with Special Needs	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000



Proposed Funding Plan Summary FY 2014 - Northwest Maricopa

Total Allocation:		\$15,119,352					
Strategy	Original Allotment	Current Allotment	Proposed New Allotment	Awarded Amount	Proposed Amendment Amount	New Proposed Awarded Amount	Recalculated Unawarded
Care Coordination/Medical Home	-	-	\$200,000				\$200,000
Child Care Health Consultation	\$171,234	\$171,234	-	\$170,895			\$339
Community Awareness	\$75,000	\$75,000	-	\$60,000			\$15,000
Community Outreach	\$77,000	\$77,000	-	\$77,000			-
Family Resource Centers	\$725,000	\$725,000	-	\$724,978			\$22
Family Support – Children with Special Needs	-	-	\$200,000				\$200,000
Food Security	\$100,000	\$100,000	-	\$100,000			-
Home Visitation	\$500,000	\$500,000	-	\$500,000			-
Media	\$200,000	\$200,000	-	\$200,000			-
Mental Health Consultation	\$492,000	\$492,000	-	\$492,000			-
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	\$650,000	\$650,000	-	\$650,000			-
Oral Health	\$400,000	\$400,000	-	\$400,000			-
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$300,000	\$300,000	-	\$300,000			-
Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships	\$2,133,912	\$1,446,720	-	\$1,446,720			-
Quality First	\$1,117,565	\$1,160,225	-	\$1,158,098			\$2,127
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$3,569,728	\$4,082,420	-	\$4,082,420			-
Recruitment into Field	\$280,000	\$280,000	-	\$240,000			\$40,000
Scholarships non-TEACH	\$45,945	\$45,945	-	\$45,945			-
Scholarships TEACH	\$160,000	\$160,000	-	\$160,000			-
Service Coordination	\$75,000	\$75,000	-	\$75,000			-
Statewide Evaluation	\$673,913	\$673,913	-	\$673,913			-
Total Allotment:	\$11,746,297	\$11,614,457	\$400,000	\$11,556,969			\$457,488
	Total Unallotted:	\$3,504,895					



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August 19, 2013

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman
First Things First Board
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

RE: Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council's Changes to SFY 2014 Regional Funding Plan

Dear Chairman Lynn:

The Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council would like to solicit your approval to make changes to the Regional Partnership Council's SFY14 Regional Funding Plan. Proposed changes include adding two new strategies, **Care Coordination/Medical Home and Family Support - Children with Special Needs**, to address the Region's needs around developmental screenings.

In 2009, the Regional Council participated in a multi-region RFGA that included five Regional Councils with an unsuccessful award for Sensory and Developmental Screenings. Since that time, the Regional Council has struggled with identifying the best approach to address this need. While Home Visitation and Parent Education Community Based Training strategies include components of developmental screening, the need for a more comprehensive approach has been identified in the region by community stakeholders, providers and the region's Needs and Assets Reports. This issue has also been identified by the Northwest Regional Council, and both Regional Councils have held numerous discussions on the subject as part of their ongoing cross-regional system building approach.

After further analysis of a report commissioned by the Northwest Regional Council which focused specifically on current conditions regarding developmental screening activities in the region, a cross-regional subcommittee was convened to further discuss the findings and formulate strategies to recommend to each Region Council. The subcommittee determined that the priority needs of the Regions included: access to comprehensive screening activities that included coordinated linkage to evaluation and intervention services, and access to evidence based parent coaching services for children with delays who did not meet the eligibility requirements for state funded early intervention services.

Upon prioritizing regional developmental screening needs, the Subcommittee began to review appropriate strategies to best address said needs. After reviewing a variety of approaches, the Subcommittee came to consensus in identifying two strategies: Care Coordination/Medical Home and Family Support-Children with Special Needs. Both strategies are evidence/research based and have shown significant evidence of effectiveness in promoting adequate/timely developmental screenings and in improving families' abilities to support children's healthy development.

At the July meeting of the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, recommendations were presented by the Subcommittee to encourage cross-regional collaboration to address identified needs around developmental screenings through joint funding of both the Care Coordination/Medical Home and the Family Support-Children with Special Needs strategies. The Subcommittee demonstrated that the inclusion of a Care Coordination/Medical Home and Family Support –Children with Special Needs strategies in both the Northwest and Southwest Maricopa Regions has the potential of accomplishing

Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

not only multiple outcomes at the family and child level; but also at the system level.

At the July 16, 2013 meeting of the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, the Regional Council voted to utilize unallotted dollars in the amount of \$400,000, with \$200,000 for the Care Coordination strategy to serve 600 children and \$200,000 for the Family Support-Children with Special Needs strategy to serve 85 families living in the region. The impact of the requested changes on the region's SFY14 Funding Plan can be found on the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council Funding Summary attached.

At this time, the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council respectfully requests that the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board approve the Council's request to make the changes outlined above. The Regional Partnership Council is confident that the proposed changes are in the best interest of children and families in the Southwest Maricopa Region and support the Board approved priorities, aligning with the Early Childhood System that First Things First is working to build.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Carlian W. Dawson, Council Chair



Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council
(Attach: RFGA Recommendation Matrix/cies, Financial Summary)

Strategy: Care Coordination/Medical Home			
Strategy Description			
Improves children’s health care and future development by ensuring they have access to adequate and appropriate health care services. Provides children and their families with effective case management, and connects them to appropriate, coordinated health care.			
Strategy Narrative			
<p>The Care Coordination/Medical Home strategy is intended to provide comprehensive approaches to ensuring children are healthy. The medical home model represents a standard of primary care where children and their families receive the care they need from a family physician, pediatrician or healthcare professional that they trust. A medical home addresses well-child care, acute care, and chronic care for all children from birth through their transition to adulthood. A medical home is a building block needed to ensure accessible, patient-centered, and coordinated primary care for children. The medical home model is an approach to providing primary care that is focused on the relationship between the patient and the personal clinician. Championed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the medical home is broadly defined as primary care that is "accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective."</p> <p>An important component of a medical home is care coordination to provide linkages for children and their families with appropriate medical services and community resources in a coordinated effort to achieve optimal health. According to the Medical Home Practice-Based Care Coordination Workbook, it has been suggested that you cannot be a strong medical home without the capacity to link families with a designated care coordinator.</p> <p>Effective care coordination begins with recognizing the relationship between the family, the health care provider and the care coordinator. It enhances access to needed services and resources, promotes optimal health and functioning of children, and supports improved quality of life.</p> <p>Care is coordinated and/or integrated across all elements of the complex health care and social services systems (e.g., subspecialty care, hospitals, home health agencies, home visitation services) and the patient’s community (e.g., family, schools, child care, public and private community-based services). Care coordinators will enhance the abilities of the medical practice to assure that children receive appropriate medical care and developmental screening in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.</p>			
Target Population Description			
This strategy universally targets all children birth through five in the Southwest Maricopa Region and is intended to insure that the child has a comprehensive support system to maximize the use of a medical home, thus insuring positive outcomes for the child.			
Targeted population includes families and children birth to 5 years who are un/underinsured, and families with young children who have special health care or developmental needs.			
Target Service Units	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Number of Children Served	600	600	600
Funding Level	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Care Coordination	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Strategy: Family Support - Children with Special Needs			
Strategy Description Provides coaching, group activities and services to the parents of children with special needs. Services are designed to help their child reach his/her fullest potential.			
Strategy Narrative To assist families in developing knowledge and skills to enhance their abilities to help their children reach their fullest potential, the Family Support-Children with Special Needs strategy promotes a parent coaching model to provide individualized support in combination with an interactive parent-child model that includes families and children with similar experiences living in the community. Coaching provides families with the supports they need to ensure their children reach their maximum potential through a comprehensive service delivery model. Coaching focuses on building families' understanding of the primary relationship they have with their children and the significance of their role as their child's first and foremost teacher. Coaching is directed toward expanding parenting skills and knowledge rather than provision of therapy services to a child. The fundamental, core components of a parent coaching and support services model for families with children with special needs include: 1. Individual Visits: Visits are conducted in the home or other locations where the family typically frequents and feels most comfortable. Personalized activities center on children's specific needs and family strengths for supporting children's on target development. 2. Ongoing Child Progress Monitoring and Screening: Families are encouraged to develop skills around recognizing how to observe and understand their child's development. Ongoing developmental screening using standardized screening tools are implemented to monitor and assess the child's developmental progress. 3. Parent and Child Interactive Time: Families participate in facilitated group activities where they can interact with their children and enjoy opportunities to be connected with other families with similar concerns and to reduce family isolation. 4. Networking and Coordination of Services: Families are provided with information and support in connecting with additional services, navigating referral systems and accessing community resources to improve their natural, concrete support networks. The purpose of this strategy is to meet the needs of individual families specific to their child's developmental needs when a child is developmentally delayed but found ineligible for Arizona's IDEA programs. Although ineligible for IDEA in Arizona, families and their children with developmental delays can benefit from formal supports, services and resources that promote positive developmental outcomes and school readiness.			
Target Population Description This strategy specifically targets children birth to five years who have been identified as having a developmental delay, and who are not eligible for intervention services offered through DDD, AzEIP or their local school district.			
Target Service Units	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Number of Families Served	85	85	85
Funding Level	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16
Family Support – Children with Special Needs	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000



Proposed Funding Plan Summary

FY 2014 - Southwest Maricopa

Total Allocation:		\$6,279,140				
Strategy	Original Allotment	Current Allotment	Proposed New Allotment	Awarded Amount	New NON-RFGAs	Recalculated Unawarded
Care Coordination/Medical Home	-	-	\$200,000			\$200,000
Child Care Health Consultation	\$60,432	\$60,432	-	\$60,312		\$120
Community Awareness	\$15,000	\$15,000	-	\$15,000		-
Community Outreach	\$77,000	\$77,000	-	\$77,000		-
Family Resource Centers	\$900,000	\$900,000	-	\$503,000		\$397,000
Family Support – Children with Special Needs	-	-	\$200,000			\$200,000
Family, Friends & Neighbors	\$250,000	\$250,000	-	\$250,000		-
Food Security	\$50,000	\$50,000	-	\$50,000		-
Home Visitation	\$300,000	\$300,000	-	\$300,000		-
Media	\$10,000	\$10,000	-	\$10,000		-
Needs and Assets	-	-	-			-
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	\$200,000	\$200,000	-	\$200,000		-
Oral Health	\$175,000	\$175,000	-	\$175,000		-
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$375,000	\$375,000	-	\$374,998		\$2
Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships	-	-	-			-
Quality First	\$392,422	\$392,422	-	\$388,394		\$4,028
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$1,360,784	\$1,360,784	-	\$1,360,784		-
Scholarships non-TEACH	\$76,500	\$76,500	-	\$76,500		-
Scholarships TEACH	\$97,600	\$97,600	-	\$97,600		-
Service Coordination	\$50,000	\$50,000	-	\$50,000		-
Statewide Evaluation	\$287,713	\$287,713	-	\$287,713		-
Total Allotment:		\$4,677,451	\$4,677,451	\$400,000	\$4,276,301	\$801,150
Total Unallotted:		\$1,601,689				



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August 19, 2013

Steven W. Lynn, Chairman
First Things First Board
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

RE: Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council Recommended Agreement for Community Partnerships

Dear Chairman Lynn:

On behalf of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council, I am pleased to present the following recommendation to enter into an agreement with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in the amount of \$9,000 for the Community Partnerships strategy, which is part of our approved SFY14 Regional Funding Plan.

Community Partnerships Agreement:

This agreement details a partnership between the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council, Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council and the Tribal Social Services Department to carry out a Child Care Feasibility and Implementation Study. The Tribal Social Services Department will oversee the study and provide periodic updates to the Regional Council. In addition to the \$9,000 from the Regional Council, the Social Services Department will use funding from the Social Service Block Grant for Family Support, Preservation, and Reunification Services for the completion of this study.

The study outlined in this agreement addresses the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council's historical priority of increasing access to high quality early care and education programs for the Tribe's youngest children and their working families. The agreement facilitates coordination between the Regional Partnership Council, Pascua Yaqui Tribe Leadership and Social Services Department in exploring an issue that is of critical importance to the community.

The Tribal Social Services Department has selected LeCroy & Milligan Associates to carry out the study based on the organization's experience in working with various communities related to early care and education programming. The overall intent of the study is for the Pascua Yaqui community to better understand the readiness of key stakeholders to design and construct an early care and education facility on the PYT reservation. This study will focus on issues of readiness as the Tribe already has information that indicates a need for additional child care services. Assuming that the study results validate community support for a new facility, the results will allow Pascua Yaqui leadership to identify next steps towards implementing a child care center.

The total amount of funding to be awarded under the agreement for the Community Partnerships strategy for SFY14 is \$9,000 and the grant period is from

Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council

September 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 without renewal of the agreement as the study is expected to be completed within the fiscal year.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council respectfully requests that the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board approve the Council's request. The Regional Council is confident that the proposed agreement is in the best interest of children and families in the Pascua Yaqui reservation and supports the Board approved priorities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Cecilia Garcia, Chair
Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council



Proposed Funding Plan Summary

FY 2014 - Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Total Allocation:		\$393,866					
Strategy	Original Allotment	Current Allotment	Proposed New Allotment	Awarded Amount	Proposed Amendment Amount	New Proposed Awarded Amount	Recalculated Unawarded
Child Care Health Consultation	\$5,040	\$7,560	-	\$7,560			-
Community Based Professional Development Early Care	\$9,093	\$9,093	-	\$9,093			-
Community Partnerships	-	\$9,000	-			\$9,000	-
Home Visitation	\$105,000	\$105,000	-	\$105,000			-
Needs and Assets	\$9,000	-	-				-
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$40,000	\$40,000	-	\$40,000			-
Parent Outreach and Awareness	\$750	\$750	-				\$750
Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships	\$115,738	-	-				-
Quality First	\$23,989	\$43,333	-	\$42,888			\$445
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$20,416	\$130,533	-	\$130,533			-
Scholarships TEACH	-	-	-				-
Statewide Evaluation	\$11,481	\$11,481	-	\$11,481			-
Total Allotment:	\$340,507	\$356,750	-	\$346,555		\$9,000	\$1,195
Total Unallotted:		\$37,116					



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AGENDA ITEM: Statewide and Multi-Regional Agreements and Amendments

BACKGROUND: The attached document provides information on amendments for funding increases related to program strategies for Statewide and Regional Needs and Assets Reports, Child Care Health Consultation, Home Visitation and the Arizona Parent Kit.

RECOMMENDATION: The Interim CEO recommends approval of the proposed amendments and funding levels.



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Program Strategies					
Funding Plan	Strategy Summary	Agreement Type	Prior Award	Amended Award	Difference
Multi Regional	Regional Needs and Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional services requested by regions to supplement the base Statewide Needs and Assets report.	Agreement Type: Interagency Service Agreement with the University of Arizona, Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	\$0.00	\$179,000	\$0.00
Statewide	Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">CCHCs work with child care staff to improve health and safety in their facilities. They also provide professional advice on the well-being of a single child, with the purpose of training child care staff to prevent health and safety events and intervene appropriately in future occurrences.La Paz/Mohave = \$45,657	Agreement Type: Grant Agreement with the University of Arizona La Paz/Mohave Cooperative Extension Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	\$0.00	\$45,657	\$0.00



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<p>Statewide</p>	<p>Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC)/Oral Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the work of the CCHC, First Things First has received a grant from Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation to provide Oral Health Services in the La Paz/Mohave region. The funds from Delta Dental to First Things First (La Paz/Mohave Regional Council) are considered pass-thru and are awarded to the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, the CCHC grantee which also has capacity to provide these oral health services. 	<p>Agreement Type: Grant Agreement with the University of Arizona La Paz/Mohave Cooperative Extension</p> <p>Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>
<p>Statewide</p>	<p>Child Care Health Consultation Warmline (CCHC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) technical assistance phone services delivered regionally, under the model outlined by First Things First. 	<p>Agreement Type: Grant Agreement with the University of Arizona Cochise Cooperative Extension</p> <p>Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>
<p>Statewide</p>	<p>Child Care Health Consultation Training and Technical Assistance (CCHC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Initial and ongoing training for CCHC's; Health Champion training for child care providers; development and maintenance of program policy and procedures; and, technical assistance for providers. These trainings are to be provided to all Child Care Health Consultants delivering services in Quality First participating programs as well as those 	<p>Agreement Type: Grant Agreement with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health</p> <p>Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>	<p>\$55,000</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>



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	providing non-Quality First regional consultation services funded through FTF regions.				
Statewide	<p>Home Visitation (Healthy Families Accreditation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out all functions and responsibilities for Healthy Families programs in Arizona for the purpose of meeting national standards for accreditation, evaluation, quality assurance, training, technical assistance and other core services as specified by National Healthy Families America. 	<p>Agreement Type: Interagency Service Agreement with the Arizona Department of Economic Security</p> <p>Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014</p>	\$0.00	\$216,923.26	\$0.00
Statewide	<p>Home Visitation (Healthy Families Accreditation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend agreement with Arizona Department of Economic Security to adjust for accreditation, training and quality assurance functions for additional home visitation providers in Yavapai Region. 	<p>Amendment Type: Interagency Service Agreement with the Arizona Department of Economic Security</p> <p>Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014</p>	\$216,923.26	\$217,260.76	\$337.50
Statewide	<p>Arizona Parent Kit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Print, reprint, and/or revise the <i>Arizona Parent Guide</i> in English and Spanish versions. This guide is included in the Arizona Parent Kit. 	<p>Agreement Type: Interagency Service Agreement with the University of California</p> <p>Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014</p>	\$0.00	\$350,000	\$0.00



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<p>Multi-Regional</p>	<p>Regional Needs and Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional needs and assets report is a biennial assessment to identify assets, coordination opportunities, and unmet needs in early childhood development and health programs in each region. The needs and assets report is intended as the primary vehicle for the collection and analysis of all data available at the regional level, and informs the strategic planning of each regional partnership council. <p>Funding amount: County Based Regional Partnership Councils = \$17,000 per Base Report; Tribal Regional Partnership Councils= \$22,000 per base report. Additionally, funding allocated by the Board with approval of the <i>FTF Research and Evaluation Plan 2013 – 2017</i> for Tribal data enhancement will be utilized for collecting school readiness indicator data for Tribal Regional Councils.</p>	<p>Agreement Type: Interagency Service Agreement with the University of Arizona, Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences</p> <p>Contract Effective Date: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 (\$250,250) Renewal: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 (\$134,750)</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>	<p>\$385,000</p>	<p>\$0.00</p>
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AGENDA ITEM: External Affairs Update

BACKGROUND: The attached report provides information and updates on progress related to external affairs.. The report is segmented into several focus areas, including:

- Community Outreach
- Government Affairs
- Communications
- Tribal Affairs (see report under separate cover)

RECOMMENDATION: For informational purposes only.

Community Outreach

Although their numbers are small – just 18 throughout the state -- Community Outreach staff made big strides during Year 3 of First Things First's strategic communications efforts.

In Fiscal Year 2013, the team continued to educate Arizonans about the importance of early childhood and connect early childhood supporters with opportunities for opportunities. To date, community outreach efforts have secured more than **14,000 supporters** who receive regular updates from First Things First. In FY13, **775 of those supporters** were trained on the most effective ways to share the importance of early childhood in their local communities.

The Community Outreach team implemented a variety of tactics (see chart below), reaching an estimated audience of **588,000 statewide**, to successfully contribute to the goal of raising awareness and support for early childhood and First Things First. As the team moves forward in FY14, they continue the work of awareness and support building and have expanded into a more intentional focus on community engagement in alignment with the new First Things First Strategic Communications Plan.

FY13 Community Outreach Activities	
Outreach Activity Type	Total
Presentations	385
One-on-Ones	362
Site Tours	29
Networking Meetings	249
Events	262
Speaker's Series Trainings	50
Media	333
Other Outreach	296
Overall Total Activities	1966
Approximate People Reached	588,000

Inspiring Action through Stories

One of the most effective ways to build support and inspire action is through storytelling. As part of their work in FY13, the Community Outreach team identified, researched, and wrote **56 success stories** sharing the impact of First Things First on families, children and early childhood professionals. These stories were used in presentations, media outreach and social media efforts.

Looking forward to Fiscal Year 2014, the Community Outreach team will begin incorporating digital storytelling as part of their story sharing efforts. This new tool offers an opportunity to combine compelling images with engaging narrative to powerfully demonstrate the impact of early childhood investments.

Communications

Earned Media

Between the June Board report and the end of the 2013 fiscal year, there were **44 articles** featuring FTF and/or its grantees placed in media statewide.

In addition, there were two columns submitted by former First Things First CEO Rhian Allvin to the *Arizona Republic* that likely ran in 5-8 Community sections each on topics including: support for fathers through First Things First programs like the parent kit and community-based education; and, Ms. Allvin's thoughts about the status of early childhood in Arizona as she departed for Washington, D.C.

These additions bring the total of earned media placements about the importance of early childhood, First Things First and its grantees to 361 for fiscal year 2013. This represents an almost **31 percent increase in earned media placements from the previous fiscal year.**

Social Media

Our Facebook strategy and public engagement through our social media channels has grown exponentially. FTF now has almost 21,274 friends on Facebook (**a 26 percent increase since our last report**), and 888 followers on Twitter, **up by more than 40 percent since our last report.**

Government Affairs

Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

The U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced they will invest the majority of the 2013 Race to the Top funds for a second Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge competition. About \$370 million will be available this year for states to develop new approaches to increase high-quality early learning opportunities and close the school readiness gap.

Timeline

Application available: Summer, 2013

Webinar for potential applicants: Summer, 2013

Technical Assistance Planning Workshop: Summer, 2013

Deadline for transmitting applications: Fall, 2013

Awards announced by December 31, 2013

Proposed Budget Requirements

As in the FY 2011 competition, the Departments developed the following categories by ranking every State according to its share of the national population of children ages birth through five years old from Low-Income families and identifying the natural breaks in the rank order. Then, based on population, budget caps were developed for each category. The Secretaries proposed the following budget requirements for States receiving funds under this competition.

Category 1—Up to \$75 million— Florida, New York, Texas.

Category 2—Up to \$52.5 million—Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania.

Category 3—Up to \$45 million—Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Jersey,

Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia.

Category 4—Up to \$37.5 million—Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire.

Arizona's 2011 Application

Arizona's application scored 28th among the 37 applications in 2011 for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant, with 186.8 out of a possible 300 points. While ranked 28th among states, Arizona was in the middle among states not receiving a competitive grant and its score was not far from being among the next top six states. To secure a grant in the 2013 application, however, Arizona has an opportunity to improve its scoring on a number of the different categories.

First Things First has met with the Governor's Office on preliminary discussions about potentially submitting a 2013 application for the Early Learning Challenge.

State Legislature – Budget

Governor Brewer unveiled an \$8.8 billion budget for the coming state fiscal year in January. Her plan called for \$110 million more in education spending that covers K-12 schools and universities. Her budget also included \$65.7 million more for child safety, which includes funding for more Child Protective Services staff, more aid for foster families and \$9.6 million to address the growth in CPS-related child care assistance.

Governor's Proposal on Child Care Assistance:

- Limited to families involved in the CPS system, as well as low-income families that need assistance in order to work or seek work;
- When a child is removed from a home and placed with a foster family, DES pays for child care assistance as necessary to allow foster parents to go to work;
- Demand for child care assistance for foster families **increased by 52%** between July 2009 and September 2012, from 5,606 children per month to 8,508 children per month;
- Growth in this program is expected to continue in Fiscal Year 2014 as **reports of child abuse continue to rise** and more children are placed in the CPS system;
- The governor is requesting \$9.6 million to accommodate this growth;
- A \$9.6 million appropriation is necessary to **maintain** a caseload of approximately 26,700 children in the DES child care program and to preserve subsidized child care assistance for approximately 4,000 children of low-income working families.

With wide support in the state legislature, the state budget included a total of \$9 million for child care assistance.

Tribal Affairs

See full report under separate cover.

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

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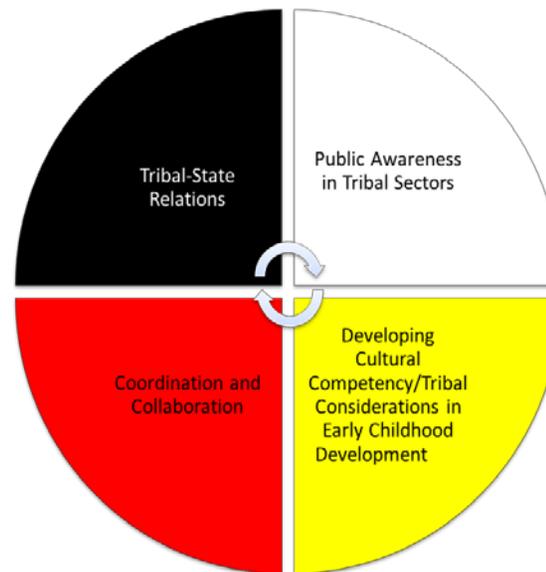
AGENDA ITEM: Tribal Affairs Update

BACKGROUND: The attached table provides information on the activities related to tribal affairs for the months of June through early August 2013. The first column lists four categories that indicate the overall content areas that summarize tribal affairs for this reporting period. These areas include:

- Tribal-State Relations
- Public Awareness Efforts in Tribal Sectors
- Developing Cultural Competency/Tribal Considerations in Early Childhood Development
- Coordination and Collaboration

The second column provides a brief summary of the activities and accomplishments.

RECOMMENDATION: For informational purposes only.



TRIBAL AFFAIRS STATUS REPORT
June-August 2013

Project Type	Description
Tribal-State Relations	<p>The Senior Director of Tribal Affairs, Beverly Russell, participated in several meetings with tribes/nations and tribal partners focused on strengthening data partnerships. This reporting period FTF initiated an approval process with the ten tribal regions to collect and analyze data related to the school readiness indicators for the purposes of setting regional benchmarks. As a part of this process Tribal Affairs met and dialogued with the following Tribes: Hualapai Tribe, Cocopah Tribe, San Carlos Apache, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The Hualapai Tribe became the first of the 10 tribal regions to approve this effort in July.</p> <p>Also during this reporting period, FTF welcomed a new Tribal Affairs position within External Affairs. Ina Perez joined the staff as the Tribal Data Partnership Coordinator. In her role, Ina will coordinate with tribal authorities, external partners, and regional staff to request and obtain data permissions for data usage and collaboration in tribal communities.</p>
Public Awareness Efforts in Tribal Sectors	<p>FTF recently convened three focus groups of primary caregivers of young children in Native American communities in Arizona. The primary objective of this effort was to gather insight into these communities' attitudes and opinions regarding FTF core messaging and quality of early education in childcare facilities, and more specifically, their responses to Quality First. These groups were conducted in July in Tucson, Phoenix, and Window Rock with the assistance of EMC Research, Inc. FTF will use this information in program, communications, and outreach work planning.</p> <p>In June, First Things First was invited to present at the NIEA 2013 Presidential Session on implementing Early Childhood Education being held as part of the 44th Annual Convention and Trade Show. The Presidential Session, Early Childhood Education: A Critical Step in Building up Native Communities will focus on the opportunities and challenges of developing early childhood education programs. Additionally, FTF workshop proposals focusing on Native Language Preservation and Data Partnerships with tribes have also been accepted for the annual NIEA Convention.</p>
Tribal Considerations in Early Childhood Development	<p>First Things First was invited to serve on an advisory committee for the very first state-wide Indian Education Summit. The Senior Director of Tribal Affairs has participated in three meetings of this committee this reporting period to ensure representation from the tribal early childhood perspective. The date for this event has not yet been confirmed. The purpose of Summit is to provide an orientation and dialogue regarding increased academic rigor (i.e. Common Core, STEM) with policy-makers and implementers that can, in turn, support greater success at the community, school, and student level. Considerations Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the need for imbedding cultural relevancy to the higher academic standards will provide an authentic voice for Tribal Nations, communities, education leaders, teachers, and students • Early childhood and higher education as integral components of the education pipeline
Coordination and Collaboration	<p>FTF Tribal Affairs engaged in collaborative dialogue with early childhood partners in the tribal sector at the following gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona Annual Meeting - Pre Training Session: FTF Tribal Affairs and Program Staff joined colleagues from ADHS, and DES to participate in a dialogue about Quality First and the alignment of early learning standards with the Common Core. • FTF Tribal Affairs presented before the Arizona American Indian Oral Health Initiative to share information about the FTF funded oral health strategies being implemented on tribal lands. The goal of this presentation was to explore opportunities for collaborative efforts.

The following projects are currently in progress by Tribal Affairs:

- On August 15, 2013, First Things First will host the 4th Annual Tribal Consultation Session.
- Tribal Affairs is in the process finalizing the Tribal Gathering to be held in conjunction with the FTF Summit later this month. Highlights of this event will include the commencement of the Lanna Flood Memorial Address to honor the memory of former FTF staff member Lanna Flood and her contributions to the early childhood field in Arizona. Dr. Eduardo Duran, author of *Healing the Soul Wound: Counseling with American Indians and Other Native Peoples*, *Native American Postcolonial Psychology* and *Buddha in Redface* will deliver this address. The agenda will also include a panel on systems building from a cultural perspective.
- FTF Program and Tribal Affairs will convene the Quality First participants operating on tribal lands. This discussion is designed to provide an opportunity for Quality First participants to offer insight and perspective on how the components of the Quality First program take tribal considerations into account and to provide an opportunity for participants to share their views about the unique circumstances and considerations that you they face as a Quality First participant operating on tribal lands.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

AGENDA ITEM: Technical Adjustments to FY14 Statewide and Regional Funding Plans

BACKGROUND: According to the Guidance adopted by the Board of First Things First in its September 2010 meeting, staff has completed technical adjustments to funding plans for clerical errors and nomenclature adjustments to allotments and contract amounts approved by the Deputy Director of Operations.

CEO RECOMMENDATION(S):

- Approval of technical adjustments to the FY14 Statewide and Regional Funding Plans.

DETAIL:

Clerical Error Adjustments -

- None to report at this time.

Nomenclature Adjustments –

- None to report at this time.

Allotment Adjustments –

Adjustments will be made to the following strategies in the FY14 Statewide Funding Plan:

- **Increase Community Awareness** by \$21,439
(from \$187,480 to \$208,919)
Decrease Community Outreach by \$21,439
(from \$160,520 to \$139,081)
- **Increase Community of Practice** by \$122,927
(from \$0 to \$122,927)
Decrease Capacity Building by \$100,000
(from \$400,000 to \$300,000)
Decrease Unallotted Funds by \$22,927

An adjustment will be made to the following strategy in the FY14 Coconino Regional Partnership Council Funding Plan:

- **Increase Regional Early Childhood Workforce Development Strategy** by \$31,772
(from \$0 to \$31,772)
Background: this strategy was approved for \$100,000 and an award was made to the Hopi Tribe for the development of the Hopi Lavayi Early Childhood Assessment in FY10. The assessment was not completed in FY10 or 11, so the council moved the strategy and funds to FY12. A final payment for \$31,772 was made in June 2012 but was never released pending the delivery of the final report. The payment expired and was credited to this strategy in FY13. Upon delivery of the final report, a new payment will be made for \$31,772 in FY14 from the funds that were credited and carried forward into FY14.

The Regional Early Childhood Workforce Development Strategy will be added to the FY14 Coconino Regional Partnership Council Funding Plan with an allotment of \$31,772. Subsequently, an award will be made to the Hopi Tribe for \$31,772 pending the delivery of the final report.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Quality First Update on Estimated Ratings for Enrolled Providers, Providers on the Wait List, and Age Ranges of Enrolled Children

BACKGROUND: The attached documents provide an updated report of Quality First enrollment data and estimated quality ratings on currently enrolled providers.

All Quality First Ratings are based on three measures: (1) ERS- Environmental Rating Scales (ECERS, ITERS, and FCCERS); (2) Classroom Assessment Scoring System – CLASS (Domains: Emotional Support, Instructional Support, and Classroom Organization); and (3) QF Point Scale that measures Staff Qualifications, Administrative Practices, and Curriculum and Child Assessment. This report includes providers whose ratings are now public, as well as providers who are in the process of completing one or more of the three assessments. Ratings for providers with an incomplete assessment process are considered as *preliminary Quality First Ratings*.

Current data from the Quality First data system shows 28% of providers at 3 – 5 Stars. Beginning this month, QF Rating Only providers are also included in this report, which impacts the % change from June to August.

June 2013	August 2013	% Change
Providers: 776	Providers: 855	+10.2%
Children: 42,622	Children: 46,398	+8.9%
Waitlist: 284	Waitlist: 302	+6.3%
Ratings:	Ratings*:	
1 Star: 42	1 Star: 34	- 19%
2 Star: 591	2 Star: 584	-1.2%
3 Star: 102	3 Star: 160	+ 56.9%
4 Star: 29	4 Star: 58	+ 100%
5 Star: 10	5 Star: 18	+ 80%

*1 provider has a pending rating and is not included in the star level breakdown

RECOMMENDATION: The CEO presents this update for information only.

Quality First Eligible Applicant and Enrolled Participant Data Report

Regional Partnership Council	Wait List	Full Participation	Rating Only	Infants*	Toddlers*	2 Yr Olds*	3Yr Olds*	4 Yr Olds*	5 Yr Olds*	Total Enrollment 0 - 5*
Central Maricopa	41	38	10	303	456	644	815	1346	265	3829
Center	41	35	10	302	446	635	806	1339	263	3791
Home		3		1	10	9	9	7	2	38
Central Phoenix	11	62		273	455	532	843	991	226	3320
Center	11	60		269	454	526	839	991	226	3305
Home		2		4	1	6	4			15
Central Pima	56	78	3	263	497	670	763	877	330	3400
Center	43	55	3	241	467	636	734	847	317	3242
Home	13	23		22	30	34	29	30	13	158
Cochise		36		61	96	134	260	310	111	972
Center		20		56	72	102	232	296	107	865
Home		16		5	24	32	28	14	4	107
Coconino	8	18		38	90	97	150	137	48	560
Center	8	14		33	78	89	143	134	45	522
Home		4		5	12	8	7	3	3	38
Cocopah Tribe			1				4	9	7	20
Center			1				4	9	7	20
Home										
Colorado River Indian Tribes		2		5	5	5	56	133		204
Center		2		5	5	5	56	133		204
Home										
Gila		8		13	30	31	44	83	45	246
Center		5		9	28	19	41	78	42	217
Home		3		4	2	12	3	5	3	29
Gila River Indian Community		1		10	11	18	23	26	9	97
Center		1		10	11	18	23	26	9	97
Home										
Graham/Greenlee	1	8		12	14	27	54	91	71	269
Center		5		10	12	24	52	89	71	258
Home	1	3		2	2	3	2	2		11
Hualapai Tribe										
Center										
Home										
La Paz/Mohave	9	17		27	52	89	246	312	126	852
Center	8	17		27	52	89	246	312	126	852

Quality First Eligible Applicant and Enrolled Participant Data Report

Home	1									
Navajo Nation	15	3		6	10	6	86	56	27	191
Center	15	3		6	10	6	86	56	27	191
Home										
Navajo/Apache	5	3		1	4	10	27	28	6	76
Center	4	2			2	8	26	25	5	66
Home	1	1		1	2	2	1	3	1	10
North Phoenix	5	84		485	776	1086	1378	1744	739	6208
Center	5	77		476	771	1075	1365	1736	736	6159
Home		7		9	5	11	13	8	3	49
North Pima	7	31		172	251	411	479	676	198	2187
Center	2	27		166	246	400	478	671	196	2157
Home	5	4		6	5	11	1	5	2	30
Northeast Maricopa	17	18	3	154	218	354	408	469	96	1699
Center	17	18	3	154	218	354	408	469	96	1699
Home										
Northwest Maricopa	22	65	15	361	599	829	1235	1751	719	5494
Center	22	57	15	357	587	822	1224	1747	713	5450
Home		8		4	12	7	11	4	6	44
Pascua Yaqui Tribe		2		1	2		2	2		7
Center										
Home		2		1	2		2	2		7
Pinal		32		74	145	185	387	559	285	1635
Center		28		72	137	180	374	553	282	1598
Home		4		2	8	5	13	6	3	37
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community										
Center										
Home										
San Carlos Apache		5		17	21	16	21	117	2	194
Center		4		14	20	15	21	116		186
Home		1		3	1	1		1	2	8
Santa Cruz	12	5		1	1	2	17	45	2	68
Center	5	1					13	33		46
Home	7	4		1	1	2	4	12	2	22
South Phoenix		79		232	355	481	827	1671	347	3913
Center		56		212	299	442	795	1645	337	3730
Home		23		20	56	39	32	26	10	183

Quality First Eligible Applicant and Enrolled Participant Data Report

South Pima		69		122	255	373	716	1076	317	2859
Center		32		94	197	332	671	1042	297	2633
Home		37		28	58	41	45	34	20	226
Southeast Maricopa	66	52	9	293	461	676	879	1232	327	3868
Center	64	43	9	286	446	660	841	1174	323	3730
Home	2	9		7	15	16	38	58	4	138
Southwest Maricopa	11	24		98	204	270	402	582	237	1793
Center	6	20		95	196	267	401	577	234	1770
Home	5	4		3	8	3	1	5	3	23
Tohono O'odham Nation		4		3	12	17				32
Center		4		3	12	17				32
Home										
White Mountain Apache Tribe		1		13	23	12	14	12		74
Center		1		13	23	12	14	12		74
Home										
Yavapai	7	30		62	122	185	288	424	171	1252
Center	6	26		58	106	176	281	415	168	1204
Home	1	4		4	16	9	7	9	3	48
Yuma	9	36	3	47	96	108	221	451	156	1079
Center		16	3	35	71	84	204	435	151	980
Home	9	20		12	25	24	17	16	5	99
Statewide Total	302	811	44	3147	5261	7268	10645	15210	4867	46398

*Enrollment data is self reported by Child Care provider.

Quality First Preliminary Star Level for Enrolled Providers by Regional Partnership Council

Regional Partnership Council	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Unknown	Total
Central Maricopa		31	10	6	1		48
Central Phoenix	4	50	6	1	1		62
Central Pima	3	57	14	5	2		81
Cochise	4	22	5	4	1		36
Coconino	1	11	4	2			18
Cocopah Tribe							
Colorado River Indian Tribes							
Gila		6	2				8
Gila River Indian Community							
Graham/Greenlee		7	1				8
La Paz/Mohave		12	4	1			17
Navajo Nation							
Navajo/Apache							
North Phoenix	6	60	14	2	2		84
North Pima		19	5	4	3		31
Northeast Maricopa		17	3	1			21
Northwest Maricopa	2	45	19	9	5		80
Pascua Yaqui Tribe							
Pinal	1	24	7				32
San Carlos Apache		5					5
Santa Cruz		3	2				5
South Phoenix	8	56	9	4	2		79
South Pima	2	44	17	5	1		69
Southeast Maricopa		46	10	5			61
Southwest Maricopa	1	15	6	1		1	24
Tohono O'odham Nation							
White Mountain Apache Tribe							
Yavapai	1	21	6	2			30
Yuma	1	21	12	5			39
Total	34	584	160	58	18	1	855

Note: Regional partner councils' provider ratings are suppressed for confidentiality reasons, as the total providers enrolled within this regional area is less than 5.



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Annual Report

BACKGROUND: In accordance with A.R.S. §8-1192 A(4), by September 15 of each year, the First Things First Board shall produce an annual report that describes the expenditures, activities and impact of First Things First during the prior fiscal year. State statute requires First Things First to place a copy of the annual report on its website and distribute hard copies to the Governor, Secretary of State, President of the Arizona Senate, Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives and the Director of the State Library and Archives.

The attached document includes placeholders for financial and service unit information, which is not finalized until early September.

If approved, the attached content will be updated with the final Fiscal Year 2013 financial information and service numbers, then placed in to a formatted design prior to final distribution on September 13 (September 15 falls on a Sunday).

RECOMMENDATION: The Interim CEO recommends approval of the annual report content with the noted updates to be incorporated into the document after approval.

DRAFT

First Things First
2013 Annual Report

FIRST THINGS FIRST BOARD

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Interim Chief Executive Officer

Sam Leyvas

OUR VISION

All Arizona's children are ready to succeed in school and in life.

OUR MISSION

First Things First is one of the critical partners in creating a family-centered, comprehensive, collaborative and high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, health and early education of all Arizona's children birth through age 5.

OUR PARTNERS

First Things First gratefully acknowledges the dedication and hard work of the following individuals and organizations to efforts statewide that help more Arizona children start school healthy and ready to succeed:

- The more than 300 volunteers who serve on the statewide Board and 31 regional partnership councils across Arizona – without your leadership, stewardship, and community spirit, these funds would not be changing the lives of thousands of Arizona children;
- The hundreds of funded partners statewide – your commitment to providing research-based, culturally relevant programs in dozens of Arizona communities has improved early learning, enhanced children's health and helped countless parents feel more confident in their role as their child's first teacher;
- The Arizona early childhood community – your partnership has been crucial in creating an early childhood system that prepares children for school success; and,
- The thousands of early childhood champions statewide – your collective voice in keeping young kids foremost in the minds of Arizonans everywhere will ensure that the school readiness for all children birth to 5 remains a priority for our state now and in the years to come.

Arizona Shines Because of Early Childhood Commitment

On August 20, First Things First launched QualityFirstAZ.com – a tool for parents and providers to learn more about the importance of quality in child care and preschool. With the goal of empowering families as they make decisions about early learning, the site is the latest phase in the implementation of Arizona’s Quality First program. Throughout the state, Quality First is partnering with about 900 regulated child care centers, homes and preschools to make improvements that research shows help children thrive.

The website is also the latest example of the type of quality programming that is raising Arizona’s profile as a state committed to improving outcomes for young children. In the past year, First Things First has had a seat at local, state and national discussions on improving children’s access to programs that will help them start school healthy and ready to succeed. We have also been asked to present on our approaches, programs and successes at national conferences by a variety of organizations, including: Smart Start, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Zero to Three, the National Indian Education Association, the National Black Child Development Institute and the National Center for Family Literacy.

While this increasing recognition of the work going on in Arizona on behalf of children 5 and younger is flattering, we know our true success lies in the lives that are being changed every day as families gain the support they need to feel confident in their role as their child’s first

teacher and as more children start school with the tools they need to succeed.

As you read through these pages, you will see reflected in compelling stories and increasing numbers the children birth to 5 who are being impacted by the commitment Arizona has shown to ensuring school readiness for all children. This goes beyond First Things First funding to include the vast numbers of individuals and organizations who are working to help young kids succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

It is a commitment that matters now more than ever. As the economy continues to improve and more companies find their home in Arizona, it is imperative that we have an educational system that prepares all children to take their place as leaders in those industries. Research shows us that that the skills needed to thrive in school, in business and in life – motivation, self-control, focus and self-esteem – are rooted in early childhood. By continuing our commitment to investing in young kids, we will ensure that Arizona continues to serve as an example to others of what’s possible when we ensure that all children are ready for school and set for life!

Steven W. Lynn
Chair, First Things First Board

Sam Leyvas
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Path to Learning Success Begins at Birth

Ninety percent of a child's brain develops *before* they start kindergarten. First Things First continues its commitment to improving the quality of early learning so that Arizona's children will have access to a world-class educational system starting at birth. Research shows that children exposed to high-quality early learning are more prepared when they enter kindergarten, do better in school and are more likely to graduate and go on to college. First Things First recognizes that Arizona families need choices when it comes to early learning. Our programs focus on improving quality and access across a variety of settings, including:

- **Quality First** – which partners with almost 900 regulated programs in child care centers, homes and schools to enhance early learning in areas proven to help children thrive;
- **Kith and Kin programs** – which help relatives, neighbors and friends caring for young kids in their homes expand their skills working with young kids, including classes on brain development and early literacy; and,
- **Summer Transition to Kindergarten** – which exposes children who may not have had an opportunity to attend preschool to the routines of school and introduces them to the skills they will need to be successful in kindergarten.

Additional First Things First strategies address other challenges in early learning, such as scholarships to help more families and young children access quality child care and preschool; support for child care staff to attend college courses and earn degrees in early childhood; technical assistance to child care programs in areas such as dealing with behavioral challenges or promoting healthy habits in children; and, incentives to keep the best teachers working with our youngest kids.

When combined, all of these strategies are helping to improve the quality of children's early learning experiences so that they will be ready for school and set for life!

Preschool Expansion Doubles Number of Young Kids Meeting Benchmarks

Four years ago, kids were coming in to Topock's elementary school kindergarten not knowing their letters. Now, the preschool program in Mohave County has doubled the number of students entering kindergarten meeting literacy benchmarks.

The preschool program's success was so profound early on that after the first group of preschoolers graduated to kindergarten, their new teacher found herself having to redo her lesson plans.

"She came to me at 10:20 a.m. on that first day of school and had already run through her lesson plan," Superintendent John Warren said. "The children knew it all."

First Things First began funding the Topock preschool program four years ago. Warren said without that funding, Topock's preschool program wouldn't exist.

Quality early learning programs prepare children for success in kindergarten by exposing children to foundational information and skills – such as letter and shape recognition, sharing and decision-making.

An average spring day at the Topock preschool begins with the children and their teachers working on pre-reading skills such as recognizing the relationship between letters and the sounds they make. Because of this early exposure to language and literacy, the preschoolers are developing a lasting love for books that will stay with them into the upper grades. They are also building the foundation that will help them meet the growing expectations placed on them in school.

More than a quarter of Arizona's fourth graders are not reading at a fourth grade level. First Things First is helping reverse that trend by helping expose more children to language and literacy in the critical years between birth and 5 years old. The approach appears to be working in Topock.

"There's no falling through the cracks here," Warren said.

Scholarships Keep Kids Learning, Parents Working

As a single mom of three boys, Angie struggled to afford child care while still keeping food on the table. She has let the lights go out and stretched a half-gallon of milk and a loaf of bread just to make it through the month knowing that she had to pay the child care bill in order to keep working. So it was a welcome relief when Angie first enrolled her middle son, Jordan, in the Quality First scholarship program through Phoenix Christian Daycare.

Jordan is now 8, loves to read and is thriving in second grade. His 2-year-old brother, D'Angelo, has also been able to attend Phoenix Christian with a scholarship. Angie credits the Quality First scholarship program for allowing her sons to attend such a high-quality early learning program.

"The Quality First program at Phoenix Christian Daycare in Phoenix has contributed to a better future for my children," she said. "Because of the Quality First program I feel confident that my boys are getting the best education to be ready for school. Now I have obtained my GED, I've moved into a better position at work and started college. My big goal is to transfer to ASU and complete my bachelor's degree."

Lori Grosvenor, director of Phoenix Christian Daycare, cannot say enough about how Quality First has impacted early learning at her center. "Just having the opportunity to learn from the Quality First coaches, the training, the workshops ... they've all opened our eyes tremendously," she said. "We are trying to enhance all our programs."

Editor's Note: This section will include Fiscal Year 2013 service numbers in the areas of: number of young children with access to higher quality early learning through Quality First; number of QF and pre-K scholarships; number of TEACH scholars and number of Professional REWARD\$ stipends.

Strong Families, Strong Communities

Strong families are the cornerstone of a strong society. Turns out, they hold one of the keys to their child's academic success, as well. The majority of a child's brain develops by the time she is 5 years old, and the strength of a child's relationships with her family and early caregivers determines whether her brain will develop in healthy ways that promote learning.

First Things First partners with parents, so they feel more comfortable in their role as their child's first teacher. Our funded strategies represent a continuum of programs aimed at meeting parents and caregivers where they are at. Through a governance structure that respects local decision-making, First Things First provides increased access for families to programs that are completely voluntary; culturally responsive; offered in a variety of settings; and, provided at the intensity that meets the individual family's needs and desires.

These programs stress the importance of early education and health, teach invaluable parenting skills and promote early literacy by emphasizing the importance of reading to children at an early age. Programs include:

Arizona Parent Kits are provided to every family of a newborn upon discharge from an Arizona hospital or birthing center. The kits include DVDs on healthy parenting practices, an 80-page resource guide and a book to encourage parents to begin reading immediately with their child.

Birth to 5 Helpline allows all Arizona parents to call in with questions about their infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The line is toll-free statewide and staffed by early childhood development specialists, registered nurses, disabilities specialists, early literacy specialists and mental health counselors.

Family Resource Centers and Community-based Classes provide families with children birth to 5 years old access to information and education on a variety of child development and health topics. The centers are established and classes are offered in areas of the community where families naturally congregate.

Home Visitation programs provide participating families of infants and toddlers with information and education on parenting, child development and health topics while assisting with connections to other resources or programs as needed. Home visitors deliver one-one-one coaching and interaction tailored to the needs of individual families.

When families can access information and support in ways that are comfortable and meaningful for them, they feel empowered to make the best choices for their children.

Toddler Defies Doctors' Expectations

Joy and her Aunt Doris were one of the first families to receive support from the Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program, a comprehensive intervention and home visitation program. Doris initially struggled to find help for Joy, who was born with a rare illness and spent her first year of life in and out of hospitals.

Through the program, Nurse Jennifer Pope partnered with the family and helped coordinate Joy's medical appointments. She also connected the family with the Arizona Early Intervention Program so Joy could receive the therapy she needs.

Now 2-year-old Joy is defying doctors' expectations by walking and learning to talk. Doris is teaching Joy English and Hualapai to help preserve her heritage.

Without the program, Doris considered moving from Peach Springs to get the help and services Joy needs.

"I did not want to think negative, I wanted to think positive," Doris said. "I did not want to doubt Joy; I had faith in this little girl."

Grandma Finds Support in Parenting a Second Time Around

Elena is only 47 years old and is in the challenging role of raising her three grandchildren alone.

Elena enrolled in the Choices for Families voluntary home visiting program in 2011. For 18 months, a parent educator regularly visited the family in their Buckeye home to help Elena build the skills she needed to be the best caregiver for her grandchildren. The program promotes schools readiness by helping families increase their knowledge of early childhood development, gain positive parenting techniques, and detect developmental delays early on.

With coaching and mentoring, Elena said she has become a better caregiver. "She (her parent educator) would talk to me about how we were doing and really understood our situation," Elena said. "She would show me different ways to work with the kids. I learned a lot from her."

Six-year-old Ashley, who was 4 when she came to live with her grandmother, would barely speak, but by the time she entered kindergarten, she was talking all the time. Elena also is better able to communicate with 5-year-old Paul, who has autism.

"It was very hard with him, at first," Elena said. "I didn't know what to do, he would cry but I didn't know why." Now, Paul has special assistance and Elena has learned to use a picture communicator system to help her connect with him.

Eduardo had recently had surgery when he came to live with Elena. She was afraid she would hurt him if she held him too much. But, with the help of the parent educators, she learned about his condition and felt more comfortable interacting with him. "I know that he has some limitations, but that as long as we are careful about those, he can do all the things kids his age can do; he's the most active of the bunch!"

Now, all the kids are happy and doing well in school – Ashley is in first grade, Paul has just started kindergarten and Eduardo is an enthusiastic preschooler.

Although the family has graduated from the program, Elena knows that the parent educators are just a phone call away.

"I owe so much to them for all their help," she said.

Editor's Note: This section will include Fiscal Year 2013 service numbers in the areas of: number of parent kits distributed; number of families served by home visitation; number of calls to the Birth to 5 Helpline; number of caregivers who attend community-based parent education sessions; and, number of families served by family resource centers.

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Preventative Health Programs Reduce Learning Challenges

Many elementary school absences and learning problems are caused by developmental delays that were not detected before children entered kindergarten or by chronic illnesses that became more severe due to a lack of preventative care. For example, dental issues caused by untreated tooth decay can lead to speech impediments and increased school absences. Overweight or obese preschoolers are more likely to miss class or repeat a grade later on. And, children with undetected developmental delays are more likely to need special education services when they reach kindergarten.

That's why access to health information, screenings and care are vital components of any successful early childhood development program.

First Things First supports healthy children by providing access to screenings for oral health, medical and developmental issues and creating opportunities for families to learn about brain development, nutrition, healthy weight and physical activity. First Things First also helps families identify health insurance options and connects them to available health care.

In underserved areas, First Things First funds training in needed specialties, like speech therapy for children, and offers incentives for health care providers to work in smaller communities.

First Things First works also with early childhood health partners to increase collaboration and maximize health resources. For example, First Things First's investments in health promotion and disease prevention are used to leverage additional resources – such as federal grants – that allow these efforts to serve more young children and their families. As a result, more children throughout Arizona can start school healthy and ready to succeed!

Smiling All the Way to School

When 5-year-old Alivia came in to a First Things First-sponsored oral health screening clinic last year, she had chronic pain and decay in six teeth.

“Alivia’s mother told (our staff) that after eating, Alivia would run to the bathroom crying while trying to brush the decay away because of the pain,” said Megan Miks, manager of the community oral health program at Chandler Regional Medical Center.

Left untreated, dental decay can cause eating problems and speech impediments. The pain can also cause children to frequently miss school.

The family did not have insurance or many resources to pay for the amount of dental work Alivia required. But, Miks said the program was able to put the family in touch with a partner dentist, who was able to provide the care free of charge.

“Because of this partnership, Alivia had a very good outcome,” Miks said. “The family is very grateful for the care their daughter was able to receive.”

Health Headline 2

A care coordination success story will be added prior to final distribution.

Editor's Note: *This section will include Fiscal Year 2013 service numbers in the areas of: oral health screenings completed, fluoride varnishes applied, the number of children impacted by child care health and mental health consultation, and the number of children receiving developmental screenings.*

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Financial Report – Partnerships Crucial to Future Success FY1 – the graphics in this section are from prior reports for reference only.

Each year, the First Things First Board works with 31 regional partnership councils statewide to identify and fund the early childhood education, health and family support programs that will help more children arrive at school prepared to succeed. The information detailed in this section provides an overview of the areas funded in fiscal year 2013 and the areas served through those expenditures. While the impact of these funds is significant, research on the needs of young children in communities across Arizona shows that there is still work to be done. As we look for ways to build on past successes and increase investments on behalf of young kids in the future, it is crucial that First Things First continue its efforts to maximize the resources available to promote school readiness for all Arizona kids, including: leveraging all available grant resources, establishing partnerships with non-profits and private entities, and pursuing prudent investments. These efforts will ensure that resources are available to fulfill Arizona’s commitment to our youngest kids.

Central Maricopa – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Central Maricopa Region includes the cities and towns of Tempe, Chandler, Guadalupe and Ahwatukee.

Central Phoenix – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Central Phoenix Region includes most of metropolitan Phoenix.

Central Pima – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Central Pima region includes most of metropolitan Tucson.

Cochise – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Cochise Region includes all of the communities in Cochise County.

Coconino – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Coconino region includes the greater Flagstaff area, Williams, Winslow, Grand Canyon/Tusayan, Page, Fredonia and three tribal areas – Hopi, Havasupai and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians.

Cocopah Tribe – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Cocopah Tribe Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the three Cocopah Indian Reservations.

Colorado River Indian Tribe – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Colorado River Indian Tribes Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the Town of Parker.

Gila – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Gila Regional Partnership Council includes the communities of Gila County including the tribal lands of the Tonto Apache Tribe.

Gila River Indian Community – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Gila River Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Gila River Indian Community.



Graham/Greenlee – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Graham/Greenlee Region includes the communities of both counties, not including the portion of the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation.

Hualapai Tribe – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The First Things First Region of the Hualapai Indian Tribe is comprised of the tribal lands of the Hualapai Indian Reservation.

La Paz/Mohave – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The La Paz/Mohave Region includes La Paz and Mohave Counties, including the tribal lands of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.

Navajo Nation – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Navajo Nation Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Navajo Nation within the state of Arizona.

Navajo/Apache – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Navajo/Apache Region includes most of southern Navajo and Apache counties.

North Phoenix – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The North Phoenix Region includes several Phoenix ZIP codes north of Glendale Avenue – all the way to the county line. The region includes neighborhoods as diverse as Sunnyslope, the North Central Corridor, Deer Valley, Moon Valley, Anthem and New River.

North Pima – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The North Pima region includes mostly suburban and rural areas in northern Pima County.

Northeast Maricopa – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Northeast Maricopa Region includes Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Fountain Hills, Care Free, Cave Creek, Rio Verde, including the tribal lands of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.

Northwest Maricopa – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Northwest Maricopa Region includes the communities of Glendale, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, El Mirage, Aguila, Morristown, Waddell, Wickenburg, Wittmann, and Youngtown.

Pascua Yaqui Tribe – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Pascua Yaqui Tribal Region is comprised of the tribal lands of New Pascua.

Pinal – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council area comprises the geographic boundaries of Pinal County including the tribal lands of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is bordered by the cities of Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale, Fountain Hills and the Tonto National Forest.

San Carlos Apache – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The San Carlos Apache Region is comprised of the communities located on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation.

Santa Cruz – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Santa Cruz Region includes Nogales, Rio Rico, Tubac, Patagonia, Carmen, Tumacacori, Sonoita and Elgin.

South Phoenix – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The South Phoenix Region includes the far West Valley's Agua Fria River basin at 122nd Avenue south of Camelback Road and as far east as 48th Street and Baseline Road.

South Pima – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The South Pima region includes mostly rural areas in southern Pima County.

Southeast Maricopa – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Southeast Maricopa Region includes the city of Mesa and the towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek.

Southwest Maricopa – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Southwest Maricopa Region includes the cities of the Southwest Valley – Avondale, Tolleson, Goodyear, Buckeye, Litchfield Park – as well as Gila Bend and Tonopah.

Tohono O'odham Nation – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Tohono O'odham Nation Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

White Mountain Apache Tribe – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The White Mountain Apache Tribe Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

Yavapai – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Yavapai Region encompasses all of Yavapai County, including the tribal lands of the Yavapai Apache Nation, as well as a portion of the City of Sedona that is in Coconino County.

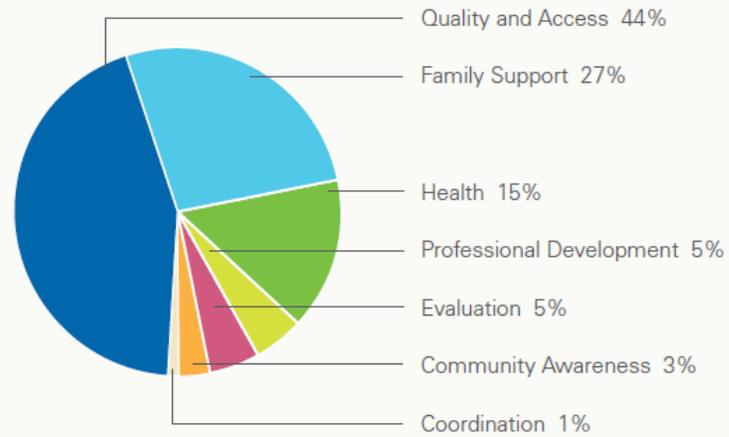
Yuma – FY13 expenditures = \$x

The Yuma Region includes greater Yuma County, including the tribal lands of the Quechan Indian Tribe.

Financial Report

	FY 2012
EXPENDITURES BY GOAL AREA	
Quality Access	\$ 50,431,700
Family Support	30,777,400
Health	17,931,300
Professional Development	5,845,700
Evaluation	5,412,400
Community Awareness	4,077,200
Coordination	1,017,700
Total	\$ 115,493,400

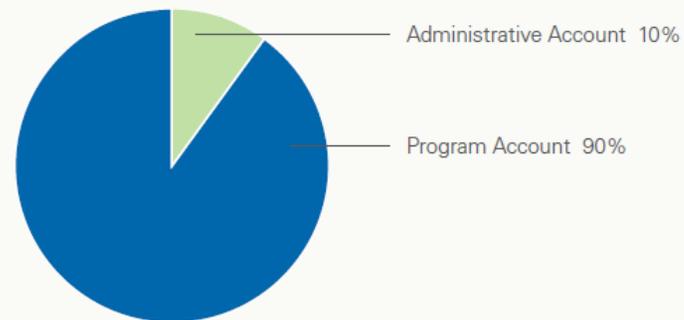
EXPENDITURES BY GOAL AREA



FIRST THINGS FIRST REVENUES

Administrative Account	\$ 13,293,400
Program Account	119,640,500
Total	\$ 132,933,900

FIRST THINGS FIRST REVENUE



Note: At the time of printing, the final reconciliation of FY2012 expenditures was not complete. As such, expenditures reported include June plus those expenditures reconciled as part of the state's Period 13, but are not inclusive of final adjustments that tie the appropriation year to the fiscal year under an accrual accounting methodology. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

The First Things First annual report is produced and submitted in accordance with A.R.S. §8-1192 A(4) and is distributed in accordance with section 41-4153.

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: FY2015 Budget and Allocation Methodology Guidance

BACKGROUND:

The Board will set the budget for FY15 at their September 30, 2013 meeting. As part of this process, the Board will set the allocation to be used in creating FY15 Funding Plans. These plans will be presented at the Board's January 2014 meeting.

There are a number of policy considerations which impact the both the budget and allocations. By discussing these issues prior to the September meeting, the Board is able to provide staff with guidance on how the FY15 budget and allocations should be presented at the September 30th.

DETAIL:

At the June 2013 meeting the Board approved a revised estimate for FY14 tobacco collections of \$122.2 million. This was a decrease from the sustainability model projections of \$11.6 million. Since these revenues form the basis for the FY15 budget, and considering FY15 is the last year in the three-year funding plan cycle, the Board also directed that this decrease in revenue be accounted for through a draw on the Program Fund Balance.

In addition, the Board previously directed (in its discussion of the sustainability plan) that \$898,700 in Administrative Fund Balance be drawn down and used in support of that budget.

This \$134.7 million, in conjunction with estimated interest earnings, serves as the starting point for creating the FY15 budget and allocations.

Considerations:

- 1) As part of the FY14 budget, the Board decided to draw down \$3.6 million of the Program Fund Balance to support the increased costs associated with the evaluation efforts outlined in the report of the National Panel. FY15 represents the high-point in terms of anticipated costs associated with the work outlined in the National Panel report. As such, the draw in FY15 would need to be \$4,542,000 to cover this cost.

By drawing down these dollars, the Board would be continuing its practice of keeping revenues in relation to budgeted expenditures as stable as possible during the three-year funding plan cycle.

- **Interim CEO recommends approving a \$4,542,000 draw-down.**

- 2) Population counts used for the distributing the regional Program budget between regions will be based on the regions (and regional boundaries) approved by the Board at their June and July 2013 meetings. The only potential change to this will be if a tribal nation, with tribal lands in Arizona, chooses to opt-in or out of a region that has been established by the Board for FY15.

In determining the populations (as well as the literal boundary/edge), FTF has historically relied on a method that overlaid zip code information with both census data as well as geography. This has historically been the best option available to FTF in drawing boundary lines as well as for deriving counts of children in the various regions. While this was the best available option, it has a number of inherent challenges which centered on the reality that zip codes are fluid markers designed and intended for use by the US postal service in the delivery of mail.

As such, FTF has been working to move to a system that is “geo-based” and is more in line with how partner (and feeder) organizations collect and report data. For FY15 and beyond, regional boundaries and population counts now can be defined by census blocks and tracks. These are actual geo-coded spaces that relate to specific points on a map at the longitude and latitude level. Census and American Community Survey data is reported and tied specifically to these geo-coded spaces. This new methodology allows for a much more exact accounting of populations and boundaries.

- **Interim CEO recommends populations counts and regional boundaries/edges be made using the now available census block and track data as opposed to the historic zip code methodology.**
- 3) A limitation of using zip codes to define regions and ultimately calculate populations within regions, was that age data was only available/relatable for zero (0) through age four (4). Under the block and track method, child counts can now be made using zero (0) through age five (5). Counts could still be done based on the 0-4 figures, however 0-5 allocation counts are aligned with figures presented in most other reports FTF produces including Needs and Assets.
 - **Interim CEO recommends allocation counts be based on zero (0) through age five (5) figures.**
 - 4) 2010 Census data is now three years old. FTF derives its core population figures from this source. Historically the Board has “aged” the population figures it uses in making allocations, as the Census releases updates. These updates represent a mathematical aging of the original data based on sampling that is done in an attempt to provide more relevant/current figures than those in the original census file.

The first significant update is not due out until December 2013. With an end of September meeting, the new figures will not be available in time to use in the Board’s budget setting process.

- **Interim CEO recommends waiting until the FY16 allocation process to use the updated data-sets. This would require the use of current data-sets in the FY15 allocation process.**

- 5) As part of the Funding Plan process, regions have already presented FY15 estimates/plans. These plans include both revenue and expenditure projections. Expenditure plans largely represent a simple continuation of that which was originally set for FY13 and continued into FY14. In some instances, based on previous revenue (and therefore allocation) projections there were some deficits projected by FY15 year end.

As FY15 proposed allocations are put in place, funding plans can be updated to account for new revenues (based on the above direction as well as actual FY13 ending balances). These updated plans will provide new insight as to whether any regions remain in a deficit position prior to beginning their FY15 Funding Plan work.

For FY14, when this situation occurred the Board directed staff to draw down the funds necessary to bring to zero those regions which displayed a deficit. This was done because these projected deficits were primarily a function of:

- allocation methodology changes,
- program cost changes (particularly QF and QF Scholarship costs) and,
- the Board no longer drawing down approximately \$15 million in Program Fund Balance in an effort to first see Regional fund balances drop.

In an effort to again ensure service delivery (spending) plans are not disrupted mid planning cycle, the Board may wish to direct staff to draw down the funds necessary to ensure no region begins the FY15 Funding Plan process in a negative ending position. In FY14 this required a \$1.75 million draw. Unfortunately, no estimate of what this figure would be for FY15 is available at this time.

- **Interim CEO recommends that the Board plan for a telephonic meeting before its regularly scheduled September/October meeting to review and consider draw-down estimates. Drawing down funds would help ensure no region starts the FY15 Funding Plan process with a projected year end deficit.**



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Quality First Website Launch Update

BACKGROUND: On August 20, First Thing First launched a new website – QualityFirstAZ.com – designed to increase awareness among parents and providers about the importance of quality in early learning. The website also includes tools to help families make decisions about quality child care and preschool that meets their needs, and information for providers on things they can do to enhance the quality of their learning programs.

The website launch is just the beginning of what will be a year-long effort encompassing all First Things First communications vehicles to build awareness of the importance of quality.

The attached documents include:

- Core Messages and Elevator Speeches – which help FTF staff and stakeholders talk consistently about the importance of quality and the role of Quality First
- Marketing Toolkit Summary – a description of some of the tools that will be available to providers to help them highlight their participation in Quality First and answer families' questions about how their efforts improve early learning for children.

RECOMMENDATION: For informational purposes only.



STARTING THE CONVERSATION

The tools below are provided to help First Things First stakeholders start conversations about the importance of quality in child care and preschool settings. Elevator speeches are a means to capture someone's attention and inspire them want to learn more about the importance of early learning, its components, and the role of Quality First. The core messages are the top points we want to be sure are conveyed in any communication opportunity. FTF stakeholders are encouraged to use these tools – and others that will be developed by the Communications staff – to enhance the consistency and effectiveness of their community conversations about quality early learning.

ELEVATOR SPEECHES

30 second

90% of a child's brain develops by age 5. That's why it's so important to make sure that those caring for young kids – from parents to child care providers and preschool teachers – have the support they need to provide the positive nurturing experiences that promote learning. Quality First – a signature program of First Things First – partners with child care and preschool providers to make quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as education for teachers to expand their skills in working with young children. It also supports parents with information about what to look for in quality child care and preschool that goes beyond health and safety to include a nurturing environment that supports their child's learning. Everyone benefits when kids are successful in school. By improving the quality of child care and early learning, we give young kids the tools they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond!

60 second

90% of a child's brain develops by age 5. That's why it's so important to make sure that those caring for young kids – including parents, child care providers and preschool teachers – have the support they need to provide the positive nurturing experiences that promote learning.

Quality First – a signature program of First Things First – partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning statewide. Quality First funds quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as education for teachers to expand their skills in working with young children and coaching to help providers create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child.

Through QualityFirstAZ.com, Quality First offers parents information about the importance of quality early care and education and what to look for in child care settings and preschools that promote learning. The website includes simple tools to help parents make informed decisions about quality child care and preschools that meet their family's needs, like checklists of questions to ask providers and a listing of early care and education providers around the state that participate in Quality First.

Everyone benefits when kids are successful in school. By improving the quality of child care and early learning, we give young kids the tools they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond!

CORE MESSAGES ABOUT QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD

90% of a child's brain develops before age 5. The positive, nurturing relationships young kids have with adults – from parents to child care and early learning professionals – shape their learning now and throughout their lives.

Parents are their child's first and best teacher. In Arizona, we know that that 60% of children live in families where all of the adults work. So, most children spend their day learning from other adults.

Quality child care and early learning settings help children develop skills – like motivation, self-control, focus, and self-esteem – that are crucial to their success now and once they enter school.

Quality in child care and early learning settings builds on basic health and safety to include: teachers who know how to work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers; learning environments that encourage creativity and imaginative play; and, positive, nurturing relationships that give young kids the individual attention they need.

CORE MESSAGES ABOUT QUALITY FIRST

Quality may not always be easy for families to spot or for providers to achieve. That's where Quality First can help.

Quality First is a signature program of First Things First that partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona.

Quality First works with child care and preschool providers to make quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as education for teachers to expand their skills in working with young children and coaching to help providers create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child.

Through QualityFirstAZ.com, Quality First offers parents information about the importance of quality early care and education and what to look for in child care and preschool settings that promote learning.

The Quality First website includes simple tools to help parents make informed decisions about quality child care and preschool settings that meet their family's needs, including checklists of questions to ask providers and a listing of early care and education providers around the state that participate in Quality First.

Everyone benefits when kids are successful in school. By improving the quality of early learning, we give young kids the tools they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond!

MARKETING TOOLKIT

Over the course of the next several weeks, all providers participating in Quality First will receive a Marketing Toolkit, which includes the tools and tips they need to highlight their Quality First participation. Each toolkit includes: signs and graphics to catch the eyes of visiting families and start conversations about quality early care and education; guidelines for using the Quality First logo; tips on how to talk with families and the community about Quality First; and, sample press releases for announcing programmatic milestones.

Sample Materials

Star Rating Certificate and Frame

Each enrolled participant will receive a framed certificate with their most up-to-date public rating. If they do not yet have a public rating, their certificate will highlight their commitment to quality improvement.

Providers are required to display the certificate in a place visible to the public.



Wall Sign

This attractive, sturdy sign announces the provider's participation in Quality First and their commitment to improving the quality. Each sign includes a pad of tear-off reminders for interested families to visit QualityFirstAZ.com for more information.

Window Cling

Providers will also receive Quality First window clings. These conversation starters can be displayed on the inside of a window, facing out.

