



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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September 6, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Lynn,

The Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council is seeking your approval for the following: 1) to make changes to the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council's SFY2012 Regional Funding Plan; 2) to enter into contract with the Dysart Unified School District, the Glendale Union High School District, and the Peoria Unified School District for the implementation of the region's High School Tech Professional Development strategy; and 3) make a contract amendment to the Needs and Assets contract with the Southwest Institute for Families and Children.

New and Revised Strategies:

First, the proposed changes to the Regional Partnership Council's SFY 2012 Funding Plan consist of an increase in funding to regional strategy ***Regional Evaluation (Needs and Assets)*** and a reduction in carry forward dollars in the amount of \$25,000. The attached *Funding Plan Summary* reflects how the proposed changes will impact the Regional Funding Plan Budget.

At the August 19, 2011 regular meeting of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, the Council voted to utilize carry forward dollars to increase its allotment to strategy ***Regional Evaluation (Needs and Assets)*** from \$15,000 to \$40,000. The allotment increase was approved with the intent that the additional \$25,000 would allow the Regional Partnership Council to conduct additional data collection.

Contract Amendments:

Next, the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council would like permission to amend its SFY2012 Needs and Assets contract with the Southwest Institute for Families and Children. This is a regional contract that the Council would like to amend by increasing funding in the amount of \$25,000. Additional funding to the contract will allow for the collection and analysis of additional data around current developmental screening activities in the region.

Government Agreements:

Finally, the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council would like permission to enter into three new regional government agreements. The government agreements for your consideration are contracts between the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council and the Dysart Unified School District in the amount of \$18,058, the Glendale Union High School District in the

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amount of \$18,058, and the Peoria Unified School District in the amount of \$90,290. The government agreements would support the regional strategy **High School Tech PD**, an early care and education workforce recruitment strategy.

At the June 17, 2011 regular meeting of the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, the Council voted to approve each of the proposed government agreements. The intent of the Regional Partnership Council is to support the efforts of local Early Childhood Career and Technical Education programs. The proposed government agreements will provide support to all of the local school districts offering an Early Childhood Career and Technical Education program to high school students living within the Northwest Maricopa Region. The three school districts support programming in eight valley high schools. The eight high schools are as follows: Apollo High School, Cactus High School, Centennial High School, Dysart High School, Ironwood High School, Mountain Ridge High School, Peoria High School, and Sunrise Mountain High School. The target service number per school is 25 participating professionals, reaching a combined total of 200 participating professional s.

This strategy, **High School Tech PD**, represents a major first step in ensuring that the Northwest Maricopa Region has an adequate supply of qualified caregivers and teachers who can provide young children with the early learning boost they need to succeed in school and in life. It is anticipated that this investment will increase the participating high school student's marketability once he or she enters the workforce and increase the participating student's confidence in his or her chosen career path. Finally, it is anticipated that this investment will also improve the quality of Regional Early Childhood Career and Technical Education programs, improve the competencies of instructional staff, and increase collaboration among local high schools, local community colleges, and local early childhood providers.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah J. Pischke, EdD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Deborah Pischke, Council Chair

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council