

GOAL AREA: QUALITY, ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY

STRATEGY NAME: EXPANSION: START-UP AND/OR CAPITAL EXPENSE

GOAL: FTF will increase availability and affordability of quality early care and education settings.			
STRATEGY SUMMARY	EVIDENCE / RESEARCH	CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION	COST
<p>First Things First has identified a need to increase the number of children who receive high quality early care and education services in order to improve young children’s success in school and beyond in certain areas of the state. High quality early childhood services are strongly linked to both academic and life-skills success among children, especially those from families with several risk factors such as low income, low education levels of parents/caregivers, etc. Regional funding will support the expansion of programming for those children who may not otherwise have access to high quality early care and education - in particular neighborhoods or localities where there is a lack of licensed and/or certified providers.</p> <p>Expansion Start-Up programs are those in which children will not be enrolled in the program until after October 1 of the fiscal year. Their goal is to expand a community’s capacity to serve more children in quality early care and education settings.</p> <p>While various models exist, most include one or more of the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaching and technical assistance by mentors to plan a new classroom or program site; • Licensing or certification fees; 	<p>There are multiple longitudinal studies showing that investments in high-quality pre-kindergarten programs improve both short- and long-term outcomes for children. Improvements include school success, high school graduation, college attendance and improved earnings. Negative outcomes are reduced such as involvement in the criminal justice system, grade repetition and high school dropout rates.</p>	<p>During the past three years expansion strategies have proven difficult to implement due to the current economic environment. System-wide under-enrollment precipitated by fewer children receiving DES subsidies and higher unemployment means that most providers throughout the state have available child care slots.</p> <p>However there are sometimes remote areas of the state or underserved neighborhoods where an increase in child care or preschool slots is warranted. Start-up costs may include equipping and licensing a classroom and/or playground, hiring and training qualified staff, and in some cases building or renovating space.</p> <p>The length of time required for a start-up program will vary, depending upon the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether a classroom and outdoor area are available or will require capital building or renovation; • Availability of equipment and materials versus a need to purchase and await their delivery; • Site is already licensed or must submit an application to DHS Child Care Licensing; • Familiarity of the school district or private provider with early childhood programming, such as providing preschool or infant/toddler services; • Time required to hire and train qualified staff. <p>Based upon previous experiences with this strategy, Expansion: Start-Up typically takes at least 6 months and may require up to 12 months before children are able to be enrolled and begin school.</p> <p>A thorough analysis should be conducted when considering</p>	<p>The cost of this strategy varies according to the type of expansion and the specific needs of a region. Major capital expansion is clearly more expensive than equipping an already existing classroom and playground.</p> <p>Examples of costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start up (see components under Strategy Summary): \$15,000 - \$150,000 • *Prek Scholarships only if children will enroll during the expansion year: \$54,000 - \$86,400 <p>(Cost for quality improvement coaching is covered within the start-up budget, which may include Pre-K Scholarships as well.)</p> <p>Expansion of Pre-Kindergarten is typically negotiated with the AZ</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility improvement grants to equip a new setting or renovate / expand an existing site; • Capital improvement or construction (the FTF capital improvement policy must be followed and requires matching funds); • Personnel to plan and assist with the start-up and enrollment of children. <p>Expansion Start-Up may be restricted to public school districts only if there are no other viable options for preschool or child care within a community. If there are other child care options, but they do not meet the demand for services, Expansion Start-Up opportunities must be offered to all viable service providers.</p>		<p>Expansion Start-Up in order to identify already existing community child care providers, the capacity of those community providers – school or private – to serve more children and the need for technical assistance and support to achieve quality care and education. If the start-up is a pre-kindergarten program in which children will receive PreK Scholarships, the program is required to achieve at least 3 stars in Quality First during the year following start-up.</p> <p>When funding Expansion Start-Up, a regional council must also plan to allot funding for Quality First, either full participation or rating only with access to either QF Child Care or Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships for the following year. In many cases, full participation may be the best option for providing additional support to help a new program achieve 3-5 stars. Exceptions in which rating only might be considered would be: the public or private provider is already enrolled in Quality First or is very experienced in providing high quality early care and education for the target population. This will help ensure that the new program or classroom is able to successfully achieve quality.</p> <p>Regional councils may elect to focus on a subpopulation within the birth to five age range such as infants and toddlers or preschoolers. If this Expansion StartUp strategy is designed to increase the number of preschool slots within a public school due to lack of availability within a specific geographical area, the strategy is typically facilitated through the contract between FTF and the Arizona Department of Education. In addition, if the start up targets preschoolers and the expansion will take 6 months or less with children enrolling that same year, the expansion plan may include funds for PreK Scholarships during the expansion year.</p>	<p>Department of Education, who will estimate costs after a site visit and discussion with the school district personnel.</p> <p>Looking ahead, the cost for Quality First full participation (FP) or rating only (RO) for the following fiscal year will need to be allotted for each expansion start-up site. For example: if Expansion Start-up is funded for a site in FY14, funding would be required for FY15 for Quality First FP or RO along with scholarships (QF or Pre-K).</p>
---	--	--	---

*Scholarship Cost Examples: Variables would be ½ time or full time, number of children and number of months.

\$600/child x 18 children x 5 months = \$54,000

\$600/child x 18 children x 8 months = \$86,400

**EXPANSION: START-UP AND/OR CAPITAL EXPENSE
FY 2014**

Pre-K Start-Up Only	Pre-K Start-Up Plus Scholarships	Quality First Implications and Choices
<p>No children enrolled during fiscal year Contract with ADE to facilitate start-up Possible components of contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for equipment and materials • Coaching / mentoring • Funding for licensing and/or certification • Capital and building expenses • Personnel <p>No funding for QF (Rating Only or Full Participation)</p>	<p>Children are enrolled during fiscal year Contract with ADE to facilitate start-up and coaching Possible components of contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for equipment and materials • Coaching / mentoring • Funding for licensing and/or certification • Capital and building expenses • Personnel • Pre-Kindergarten scholarships (pro-rated) <p>No funding for QF (RO or FP) Must fund Pre-K and QF (RO or FP) in second year Must be rated 3-5 stars to retain Pre-K scholarship in third year</p>	<p>If already enrolled in QF, must be rated 3-5 stars to receive Expansion: Start-Up</p> <p>If not enrolled in QF and in Start-Up only, must be enrolled in QF (RO or FP) the second year and rated 3-5 stars to receive Pre-K scholarships the third year.</p> <p>If not enrolled in QF and in Start-Up Plus Scholarships, must be enrolled in QF (RO or FP) the second year and rated 3-5 stars to receive Pre-K scholarships the third year.</p>