FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide and Signature Strategies Report
Federal Grants and Activities Update

BACKGROUND: The Statewide and Signature Strategies Report provides updated financial information on FY 2012 expenditures as of September 12, 2012, and program performance information for FY 2012 Quarter 4 for strategies funded through statewide program funds, and other strategies and programs developed or substantially supported by First Things First.

The Federal Grant and Activities Report provides an updated summary of grant awards, expenditures and progress for grants awarded to First Things First, grants that include First Things First in a partnership role, and potential grant opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION: The CEO recommends approval of these reports.

Early Learning					
: Expenditures as of September 12, 2012					
2012 otted ount	FY2012 Awarded Amount	FY2012 Expended Amount	FY2012 Contracted Service #	FY 2012 Actual Service # (Data as of June 30, 2012 – End of Quarter 4)	Comments
56,250 426,150)82,400	$ 6,180,339 $ 13,426,150 $ 20,082,400	$ 5,932,831 $ 11,051,842 $ 16,984,674	**Statewide: 256** Centers: 186 Homes: 70 **Regional: 626** Centers: 457 Homes: 169 **Total: 882** Centers: 643 Homes: 239	**Statewide: 227** Centers, 173 Homes, 54 **Regional: 533** Centers, 415 Homes, 118 **Total: 760** Centers, 588 Homes, 172	Quality First is a comprehensive initiative that provides support, funding and education to qualified centers and homes to improve the quality of early care and education for children younger than five years. The Quality First model includes assessment, coaching, T.E.A.C.H., Child Care Health Consultation and financial incentives for quality improvement. The rating component of Quality First is being implemented in FY12. *Statewide funded programs that were vacated during the year were not re-filled. Of the 42 Regional centers that were not filled, 14 were due to a pending MOA to provide services and the rest were due to lack of applicants in the system. The 51 Regional home vacancies were due to lack of applicants in the system. A recruitment plan for FY13 is being executed to ensure recruitment of applicants for available slots.*
)8,300 27,752 36,052	$ 813,636 $ 4,146,700 $ 4,960,336	$ 385,352 $ 1,211,344 $ 1,596,695	**Statewide: 413** participating scholars **Regional: 1078** participating scholars **Total: 2121** participating scholars	**Statewide: 110** participating scholars **Regional: 500** participating scholars **Total: 610** participating scholars	T.E.A.C.H. ARIZONA is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides early care and education professionals with access to college coursework leading to a degree or certificate in early childhood education. T.E.A.C.H. provides financial support for books, tuition, travel stipends and time off from work to attend class and complete assignments, and a financial bonus upon completion of college coursework. *Based on performance in the previous three quarters, T.E.A.C.H. ended FY12 as expected with both expenditures and service numbers at around 30%. A focused round of clarifications prior to awarding for FY13 along with the creation of specific guidance documents for strategy implementation and the addition of college liaisons to support scholars, there is*

Early Learning					
: Expenditures as of September 12, 2012			FY2012 Contracted Service #	FY 2012 Actual Service # (Data as of June 30, 2012 – End of Quarter 4)	Comments
2012 otted ıount	FY2012 Awarded Amount	FY2012 Expended Amount			
					expectation to see actual numbers more aligned to targeted numbers in FY13.
73,750	$ 2,573,750	$ 1,749,379	**Regional: 1078** incentive awards distributed	**Regional: 1348** incentive awards distributed	FTF Professional REWARD$ helps retain good teachers to promote continuity of teachers and caregivers working with young children. REWARD$ offers financial awards to early childhood teachers based on educational achievement, wages earned and hours worked per week and requires a commitment from participants to remain in their current employment.
176,359	$ 22,062,259	$ 21,464,734	**Regional: 2875** children	**Regional: 5806** children	Quality First Scholarships help low-income families who are working, looking for work or improving their work skills through training or education afford high quality learning programs for their young children. These scholarships are available to early care and education providers enrolled in Quality First (or on the waiting list) and support providers in maintaining a quality program. *Actual number of children serviced is higher due to part-time status of some children, and child turnover.*
564,579	$ 10,200,144	$ 9,223,883	**Regional:** Public school-district Pre-K sites: **67** Private/public community partner Pre-K sites: **37** **Total FTF funded Pre-K students: 2125**	**Regional:** Public school-district Pre-K sites: **75** Private/public community partner Pre-K sites: **49** **Total FTF funded Pre-K students: 3166**	Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships help low-income families access high quality center and classroom-based programs for their children during the two years prior to kindergarten entry. These scholarships are available to public school and community-based early care and education providers and this strategy includes mentoring to facilitate systemic partnerships between public schools and community-based providers. *Actual number of pre-K students is higher due to part-time status of some students.*

Family Support and Literacy					
Expenditures as of September 12, 2012			FY2012 Contracted Service #	FY 2012 Actual Service # (Data as of June 30, 2012 – End of Quarter 4)	Comments
2012 otted ount	FY2012 Awarded Amount	FY2012 Expended Amount			
00,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 1,056,966	**Statewide: 65,000** kits distributed	**Statewide: 61,126** kits distributed	Arizona Parent Kits are given statewide to all families with newborns as they leave the birthing hospital or center. The kits include an 80-page Arizona Parents Guide, six DVDs on early childhood development and health topics and a new book for parents to read with their baby.
0,000	$ 90,000	$ 80,764	**Statewide: 3,300** calls received	**Statewide: 3,148** calls received	The Birth to Five Helpline free service using a toll-free number (1-877-705-KIDS) with experts to answer any family's questions or address concerns on early childhood development for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Questions can also be submitted online at www.swhd.org/get-help/birth-to-five-helpline.
94,962	$ 190,606	$ 166,024	**Statewide: 30** participating practices	**Statewide: 31** participating practices	Reach Out and Read is delivered through medical practices, by training doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud. It also provides books to children at pediatric check-ups from six months to five years of age, with a special focus on children growing up in poverty. The books are used to promote age-appropriate literacy skills and as a tool to discuss developmental issues with parents and families during the medical visit. **Statewide funding supports strategy administration plus 30 participating medical provider office/clinics. Several Councils provide supplemental regional funding for the statewide component of this strategy.*
71,285	$ 270,566	$ 257,273			
56,247	$ 461,172	$ 423,297	**Total**: 30 participating practices	**Total**: 31 participating practices	

Health

Expenditures as of September 12, 2012			FY2012 Contracted Service #	FY 2012 Actual Service # (Data as of June 30, 2012 – End of Quarter 4)	Comments
2012 otted ount	FY2012 Awarded Amount	FY2012 Expended Amount			
44,000	$ 984,532	$ 624,741	**Statewide QF: 238**	**Statewide QF: 131**	Child Care Health Consultants are nurses and child health experts who work with early care and education settings to provide teachers and staff with information and guidance to assure the health and safety of children in the program. This strategy provides onsite, email and phone consultation, staff training and referrals to community health resources. *Expenditures and non-QF use of CCHC continue to be low. Some of the CCHC positions were not filled. The CCHC model and amount of funding for this strategy has been adjusted in FY13 in response to this trend over the past 3 years and a FTF CCHC Program Manager was hired, who will work closely with contracted CCHCs on recruitment.*
12,000	$ 5,209,909	$ 3,279,546	**Regional QF and non-QF: 1675**	**Regional QF and non QF: 366**	
56,000	$ 6,194,441	$ 3,904,287	**Total: 1913** centers and homes	**Total: 497** centers and homes	
78,125	$ 5,277,625	$ 4,738,523	**Regional: 287** Centers: 215 Homes: 72	**Regional: 300** Centers: 288 Homes: 12	Mental Health Consultants are highly skilled early childhood mental health professionals with specialized training in young children's social-emotional development and how to support early care and education professionals. This strategy provides onsite training and guidance to staff and families to promote children engaged in learning, effective communication skills with children and families, and effective management of children's challenging behaviors. *Child care homes continue to have low utilization of mental health consultation. There is greater difficulty in having a mental health practitioner accepted into home based child care.*
0,000	$ 390,000	$ 355,700	**Statewide: 50** participating practices	**Statewide: 36** participating practices	Physician Education and Outreach improves the quality of health care for young children by providing technical assistance and support to medical practices and clinics, including using a medical home model, best practices, developmental screening, referral to early intervention services and identifying community resources that support child development.
9,000	$ 374,500	$ 251,694	**Regional: 24**	**Regional: 23** participating practices	

Health					
Expenditures as of September 12, 2012					
2012 otted ount	FY2012 Awarded Amount	FY2012 Expended Amount	FY2012 Contracted Service #	FY 2012 Actual Service # (Data as of June 30, 2012 – End of Quarter 4)	Comments
9,000	$ 764,500	$ 607,394	participating practices **Total: 74** participating practices	**Total: 59** participating practices	
0,000	$ 350,000	$ 347,492	**Statewide: 12** students receiving financial support	**Statewide: 12** students receiving financial support	Therapist Scholarships are used to increase the number of speech language therapists with specialized knowledge and skills to work with young children. Scholars are provided tuition to complete a Master's level program with specialized coursework, and upon graduation, must commit to two years of service with birth to five populations in Arizona.

FTF Grants Report –October 2012

Federal Grants Awarded			
FY2013 Awarded Amount	**FY2013 Expended Amount**	**Grant Description**	**Comments**
$150,000	$2,686	The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant provides federal funding to help states build and integrate early childhood services systems with a focus on the five key areas of Early Care and Education, Family Support, Health Care/Medical Homes, Social Emotional Development/Mental Health, and Parenting Education. This is year three of a three year grant cycle.	• ECCS grantee states were notified in May that a one year (June 1, 2012 – May 2013) no-cost extension of grant funds has been approved to complete planned grant activities. This extension will support the continued planning and development Arizona's early care and education professional development system. • A Professional Development (PD) System-Building Workgroup convened in January will advance portions of the infrastructure work proposed in Arizona's Race to the Top -- Early Learning Challenge application including revision of Arizona's Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework, designing a professional development website and registry, and working with institutes of higher education to develop a streamlined progression of early childhood degrees and credentials. • On July 19, 2012, an overview of professional development system building and an update of the PD Workgroup's proposed process for developing an actionable 2-year System-Building Work Plan were presented to the Program Committee of the Board. • A target date Of December 4th is established for completion of this plan.
$2,489,746*	$1,440,320**	This formula-funded grant was made available through application to all 50 states. These funds are used ongoing to support	• The work contracted to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for curriculum development and training

		dissemination of the Birth to Five Program Guidelines and Early Learning Standards, and will be used in FY 13 to launch professional development and dissemination for the new Infant/Toddler Developmental Guidelines. FTF also applied for and received supplemental funds and was awarded an additional $164,000 that supports the work of the FTF Advisory Committees – Health, Early Learning and Family Support & Literacy.	for the Infant/Toddler Developmental Guidelines, Program Guidelines for High Quality Early Education: Birth through Kindergarten and Early Learning Standards continues as outlined in the grant proposal. • The Infant Toddler Guidelines are printed and ready for distribution. ADE is implementing a training schedule. • Training continues on Early Learning Standards and for High Quality Early Education: Birth through Kindergarten. The Arizona Department of Education has conducted 21 *Introduction to Program Guideline* trainings from August 2011 to July 2012 with 711 participants. • SAC grant funds continue to support the work of the FTF Early Learning, Family Support and Health advisory committees.
Awarded to ADHS Awarded to ADHS		The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) establishes a home visiting grant program for states administered through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) as a new section of the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) block grant program. Grantees are required to use an evidence-based program model with a benchmark component that measures: improvement in maternal and child health, childhood injury prevention, school readiness and achievement, crime or domestic violence, family economic self-sufficiency, and coordination with community resources and supports. Under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act, Arizona is eligible for non-compete formula grants annually for five years. Governor Brewer designated the Arizona Department of Health Services to submit and implement Arizona's proposal for this grant program. FTF is a partner agency in the implementation of these grants.	• Partnership agreements with DES and FTF have been completed to expand home visitation through existing FTF home visiting contracts and Requests for Grant Applications (RFGAs). • Benchmarks for progress associated with this grant are now approved and Home Visiting services funded through this grant are now implemented in fifteen of the Community Health Analysis Areas (CHAAs). • As part of the capacity building efforts, a web site is under development that will be available to local home visiting coalitions. Plans are for the web site to house local information for home visitors on training, services and activities. The first phase includes general information about home visiting for the public. • A professional development conference for home visitors occurred on September 19 and 20, 2012 at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix. Home visiting professionals attended at no cost. • Planning is beginning to add the next quartile of Community Health Analysis Areas. • The Home Visiting Task Force continues to meet monthly

			to address both implementation of this grant and a statewide home visiting system.
	NA	FTF was the lead agency for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge and together with state agency and community-based partners submitted the state application in October 2011. RTTT/ELC is intended to encourage states to develop bold and comprehensive plans for raising the quality of early learning programs.	• In the second round of the RTTT-ELC just announced, five additional states, Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wisconsin, were invited to apply for $133 million of FY12 funding from the RTTT initiative. These five states will each be eligible to apply for up to 50 percent of the last potential award amount. The $133 million for 2012 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge State grants will come from a larger $550 million fund provided by Congress through the Department of Education's fiscal year 2012 budget, with additional dollars from the 2012 appropriation going toward a new district-level Race to the Top competition.
		Promise Neighborhoods is a competitive grant program that supports cradle-to-career services designed to improve educational and developmental outcomes for students in distressed urban and rural neighborhoods. Evidence shows that children who are low-income and grow up in high-poverty neighborhoods face education and life challenges above and beyond those faced by children who are low-income and grow up in neighborhoods with low levels of poverty. Promise Neighborhoods support the transformation of high-poverty communities into communities of opportunity. Congress has appropriated $60 million to support a new set of planning grants and implementation grants as well as the continuation of support for existing implementation grantees. Up to 7 implementation grants and 14 new planning grants will be awarded. The percentage amount of match remains the same for planning applicants—50% of the grant award, which includes public and private sources. The match amount for implementation applicants is 100% of the grant award, which also includes public and private sources, and 10% of which must come from private sources. Rural and tribal applicants are only required to provide half of the match requirement (25% for planning grants and 50% for implementation grants). Federal agency contributions, under	• The Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council participated as a steering committee member to submit an application for a Promise Neighborhood grant. Steering committee members include representatives from the Tempe Union and Tempe Elementary School Districts, the City of Tempe, Tempe Community Council, East Valley Boys & Girls Club, Rio Salado College, and Mountain Park Health Center. • The grant was submitted August 24, 2012. Grant awards are expected in December 2012.

		both competitions, can be used to meet the match. The deadline to issue awards is December 31, 2012.	