

## Meeting Minutes

### **#1. Call to Order/Welcome**

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council was held on Monday September 08, 2014 at the Santa Cruz Provisional College Board Conference Room, 2021 North Grand Avenue, Nogales, Arizona 85621. Chair Bill Kirkpatrick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. He welcomed and thanked Senior Director Erin Lyons for attending and Ms. Sue Nielsen, Provisional College Director, for the meeting space. He asked each member to introduce themselves, indicating their seat.

### **Members Present**

Chair Bill Kirkpatrick, Danna Gallardo, Fr. Patrick Maitrejean, and Erika Garcia

### **Members Attending Telephonically**

Vice-Chair Karen Woodford, Karen Guilmette, and David Verdugo

### **Members Absent**

Chris Ciruli, Veronica Santillo, and Melisa Lunderville

### **#2. Approval of the Minutes**

Chair Kirkpatrick directed everyone to the draft of the minutes of August 04, 2014 and asked if there was a motion to approve. Member Gallardo made a motion to approve the minutes Member Garcia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **#3. Call to the Public**

Ms. Beth Hopkins, Coordinator of the Recruitment into the Field Strategy at Cochise College, welcomed everyone to the Santa Cruz Provisional College where Early Childhood Education classes are taught. She shared the successes of the scholarship program.

Ms. Darcy Dixon, Director of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Santa Cruz, spoke on behalf of Hannah Masangu, Child Care Health Consultant for the Santa Cruz Region. She provided an overview of Ms. Masangu's duties and caseload in the region including emergency preparedness, active play and nutrition. The work of the CCHC is not seen as part of the data report.

County Superintendent of Schools, Alfredo Velasquez, also welcomed everyone to the Santa Cruz Provisional College and heartily thanked the Regional Council for all of their efforts in the region. He feels that they have already made a difference and more is to come. He emphasized the importance of making people aware of early childhood education and kindergarten readiness.

### **#4. Presentation and Discussion FY 2014 Q4 Data Report**

Chair Kirkpatrick asked Regional Director Francisco Padilla to lead everyone through the provided report. Director Padilla explained that the Family Resource Center's number of families attending classes at the centers is still duplicated, but they have exceeded their Contracted Service Units. Debbie Curley, Family Resource Center Director, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, added that she will be able to provide actual numbers to the Regional Council on a monthly basis to clarify.

He continued to review each grantee and strategy. He pointed out that Community Based Parent Education, which falls under the Family Resource Centers, did not have Contracted Service Units (CSU) assigned in Fiscal Year 2014 but do have a CSU of 250 for Fiscal Year 2015.

He expounded on the Home Visiting data, CSU's had been met, dis-enrollments were equal to new enrollments. Developmental and Sensory Screening is a secondary strategy of the grantee. There currently is no CSU for that item but there will be in Fiscal Year 2015.

Oral Health has surpassed their CSU's for screenings and varnish applications for children birth – 5, but still experience difficulty meeting the screenings required for expectant mothers. One thought from Director Padilla is that there are many who seek prenatal services in Tucson. A lowering of the CSU's may be discussed for the upcoming RFGA.

Recruitment into the Field has met their CSU of 18 with enrollment meeting graduations/dis-enrollment.

Quality First is meeting CSU's and going well in the region.

#### **#5 Discussion: Strategic Planning for Funding Cycle Fiscal Year 16 - Fiscal Year 18**

Directing everyone to Attachment 3, Chair Kirkpatrick asked Director Padilla to lead the discussion. The State Board will release final Fiscal Year 2016 regional allocations at their September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Strategic Planning can begin prior to that with provided estimates. He expressed that the Regional Council should consider their previously determined Prioritized Needs in light of which strategies best meet the desired outcomes in addressing those needs. They also can factor in the School Readiness Indicators and their respective benchmarks established for Indicators 2 and 10. He provided highlights from the recent Needs and Assets Report explaining that both the highlighted Needs and the Assets should be valuable in their Strategic Planning discussions. There was some discussion, questions were asked and answered. Chair Kirkpatrick suggested a workgroup or study session where community input would be available. Senior Director Erin Lyons explained that under new legal guidance previous Workgroups would be slightly altered to become Special Meetings with an agenda item where community input would be sought. Director Padilla said that he would be emailing Regional Council members with date options. It was stressed that a quorum would be required at any Special meetings, just like a Regular meeting. He will also be seeking Regional Priority considerations from Regional Council members in advance of the meetings.

#### **#6. Regional Director's Report**

Director Padilla updated everyone on the Birth to Five Community Forum Group's meetings and reminded them that this is an outgrowth of the systems building work that is part of First Things First's goals. He also reviewed expenses and showed that the region expended at 94.3%, a desirable percentage for the council.

#### **#7. Regional Council and Staff Announcements**

Chair Kirkpatrick and Members Maitrejean and Garcia enjoyed the recent Summit and shared their highlights. Member Gallardo thanked Debbie Curley for coming into the Juvenile Detention Facility to offer the Power of Parenting classes to her inmate students.

#### **#8. Recommended Future Agenda Items**

none

#### **#9. Meeting Reminder/Adjourn**

Chair Kirkpatrick reminded everyone that the next regular meeting would be held on October 6, 2014 at 3:30 p.m., at the Calabasas Middle School Library, 131 Camino Maricopa, Rio Rico, AZ 85648. A motion to adjourn was made by Member Gallardo and seconded by Member Maitrejean. Motion carried, 5:26 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Faubion

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **#1. Call to Order/Welcome**

The Special Meeting of the First Things First Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council was held on Thursday September 25, 2014 at the San Cayetano Elementary School Reading Room, 1412 West Frontage Road, Rio Rico, Arizona 85648. Chair Bill Kirkpatrick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. He welcomed and thanked Senior Director Erin Lyons, Eleanor Droegemeier, Regional Director for Pima South and Jessica Brisson, Pima North Regional Director for attending. He then thanked Ms. Berenice Rodriguez, Principal, for the meeting space. He asked each member to introduce themselves, indicating their seat.

### **Members Present**

Chair Bill Kirkpatrick, Vice-Chair Karen Woodford, Danna Gallardo, Fr. Patrick Maitrejean, Veronica Santillo and Chris Ciruli

### **Members Attending Telephonically**

Erika Garcia

### **Members Absent**

David Verdugo, Karen Guilmette and Dr. Melisa Lunderville

### **#2. Strategic Planning Discussion: Identifying Goal Areas and Priorities for State Fiscal Years 2016 through 2018**

Chair Kirkpatrick reminded the Regional Council that each fall all 28 regions of the state engage in strategic planning for the coming fiscal year. This year is slightly different in that the Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Years 2016-2018 is to be developed. Today's meeting would concentrate on establishing or reestablishing the Regional Priorities. He then asked Regional Director Francisco Padilla to lead the Regional Council through this agenda item.

Director Padilla reviewed the SFY2013-2015 Regional Priorities. He explained that they should also be thinking about both their funded and unfunded approaches to address these Priorities. He also gave the Regional Council members a review of the FTF Statewide Strategic Direction. He added that it was possible to specify to a priority that was still viable. Questions were asked and answered, there was some discussion and clarifications made. He again reviewed the Needs and Assets summary points. The Regional Council then divided up into three small groups to discuss Regional Priorities and possible unfunded approaches for SFY2016-SFY2018.

Director Padilla proceeded by breaking up the present Regional Council members into three groups. Following the small group discussions, a member from each group presented the information to the remaining Regional Council members.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Provide access to comprehensive education and support for families.

Regional Council Discussion: This remains a priority for the region.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Increase access for high-quality, affordable early childhood education.

Regional Council Discussion: This remains a priority; the high cost of the Regional Council enrolling additional Quality First homes/centers is still a deterrent for more children to participate. Local Quality First centers are at capacity. Others lack enough scholarships to cover those families not able to pay for childcare or preschool.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Improved access to quality health services.

Regional Council Discussion: This Priority is still appropriate to the region. The strategies in place are doing a good job and collaboration between grantees is evident.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Increase public awareness and community support for early childhood development and health.

Regional Council Discussion: They felt that this was still relevant but suggested that even more emphasis on reaching teen parents and grandparents raising children would be beneficial. There was discussion regarding the need for more information to be available in Spanish.

SFY2013-2015 Priority- Improve coordination and communication of services.

Regional Council Discussion: This remains a Regional Council priority but several felt that additional effort to translate more information into Spanish was desirable.

Following the paired discussions, the whole Regional Council reviewed the priorities in relationship to the current strategies which address each need along with the current unfunded approaches. Director Padilla advised the Regional Council that he would calculate the results of the prioritization and present them at the next meeting.

Chair Kirkpatrick then opened up the discussion and asked for questions or comments from the public. A meeting attendee introduced herself as Shirley Gibb, and explained her background with early childhood development and her current involvement with St. Andrews Children's Clinic in Nogales and the Nogales Lion's Club. She said that there is available a vision checking instrument, a type of digital camera purchased with grant funds, has proven to be 90% accurate. Several Lion's Club members have been trained in the use. It is effective screening for ages 6 months through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. They would like to volunteer their vision screening services to the preschools of the Santa Cruz Region. Director Padilla will connect with Ms. Gibb and discuss the potential.

### **#3. Adjourn**

Chair Kirkpatrick thanked everyone for their time and reminded everyone of the next Regular Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council meeting. The meeting will be held on October 6, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at the Calabasas Middle School Library 131 Camino Maricopa, Rio Rico, Arizona 85648. Member Gallardo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Santillo. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Faubion

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014



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**Santa Cruz Fiscal Years  
2013-2015 Review of Strategic  
Direction**

**Attachment #3A**

Strategy	Contract Service Units/ Actual	Expenditures FY2014	Narrative and Numerical Data	Strategic Direction FY13-15
Family Resource Centers	Families Served: 250 Actual: 1,518	98%	Consistently met and exceeded target service numbers. The grantee continued to add classes to their curriculum and most are offered at all three Family Resource Centers in the region.	The regional council elected to maintain the funding in FY15 to the grantee. The Family Resource Centers continue to be a sense of pride for the regional council as they continue to make their curriculum more robust and offer more classes for parents and their children.
Home Visitation	Families: 75 Actual: 99	89%	Consistently exceeded target service numbers. The grantee consistently looked to increase its outreach to families, especially in the more rural parts of the region to ensure families receive services across the region.	The regional council elected to fund at a stable level across the funding cycle.
Oral Health	Expectant mothers receiving oral screening: 200 Actual: 128 Children receiving oral screening: 2,000 Actual: 2,497 Children receiving fluoride varnish application: 2,000 Actual: 2,497	99%	Consistently exceeded target service numbers. The grantee struggled in FY14 to recruit and screen expectant mothers and came up short of their Contract Service Unit of 200. All other contract service units were met and exceeded thanks to the continued outreach work of the grantee in reaching more children in the more rural areas of the region, including Patagonia, Elgin, and Sonoita.	The regional council elected to fund at a stable level across the funding cycle.

Quality First (Including QF Coaching, Academy, Warmlines, Scholarships, TEACH Scholarships, and CCHC)	Centers 3 Homes 4 Actual: 3 4	QF: 82%  Scholarships: 86%  CCHC: 96%  TEACH: State Board funded	For FY14, the council decided to add two new Quality First centers in the region. The funding was expended extremely well and target number of slots was exceeded. The regional council was able to maintain the number of centers and homes participating in FY15.	The regional council is committed to increasing access to high quality early care and education settings in the region. The council was able to increase their level of support in FY14 with the addition of 2 centers and maintain level support in FY15.
Recruitment Into the Field	Scholarships: 18 Actual: 18	97%	Consistently met and exceeded target service numbers. The regional council has been satisfied with the work of the grantee and continues to see this “grow your own” strategy as important to the entire community.	The regional council elected to maintain the funding in FY15 to the grantee.
Statewide Evaluation	N/A	26%	Statewide Evaluation includes the studies and evaluation work which inform the FTF Board and the 28 Regional Partnership Councils. Examples include: the baseline Needs and Assets reports, specific focused studies, and statewide research and evaluation on the developing early childhood system.	The regional council is committed to ensuring—through the use of evaluative data—the strategies they are funding are making an impact in their community.
Media	N/A	98%	The region funded Media dollars which were used for a mix of outdoor, radio, movie theater, and online advertising.	This strategy aims at increasing public awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health via a media campaign that draws viewers/listeners to the ReadyAZKids.com web site.
Community Awareness	N/A	83%	Due to the fact that the regional area in Southern Arizona had a sufficient amount of educational reinforcement items, this strategy was not fully expended in the fiscal year.	This strategy provides access to a variety of community-based activities and materials to increase public awareness on the importance or early childhood development and health through participation in community events, and the dissemination of educational materials.



Attachment #3B

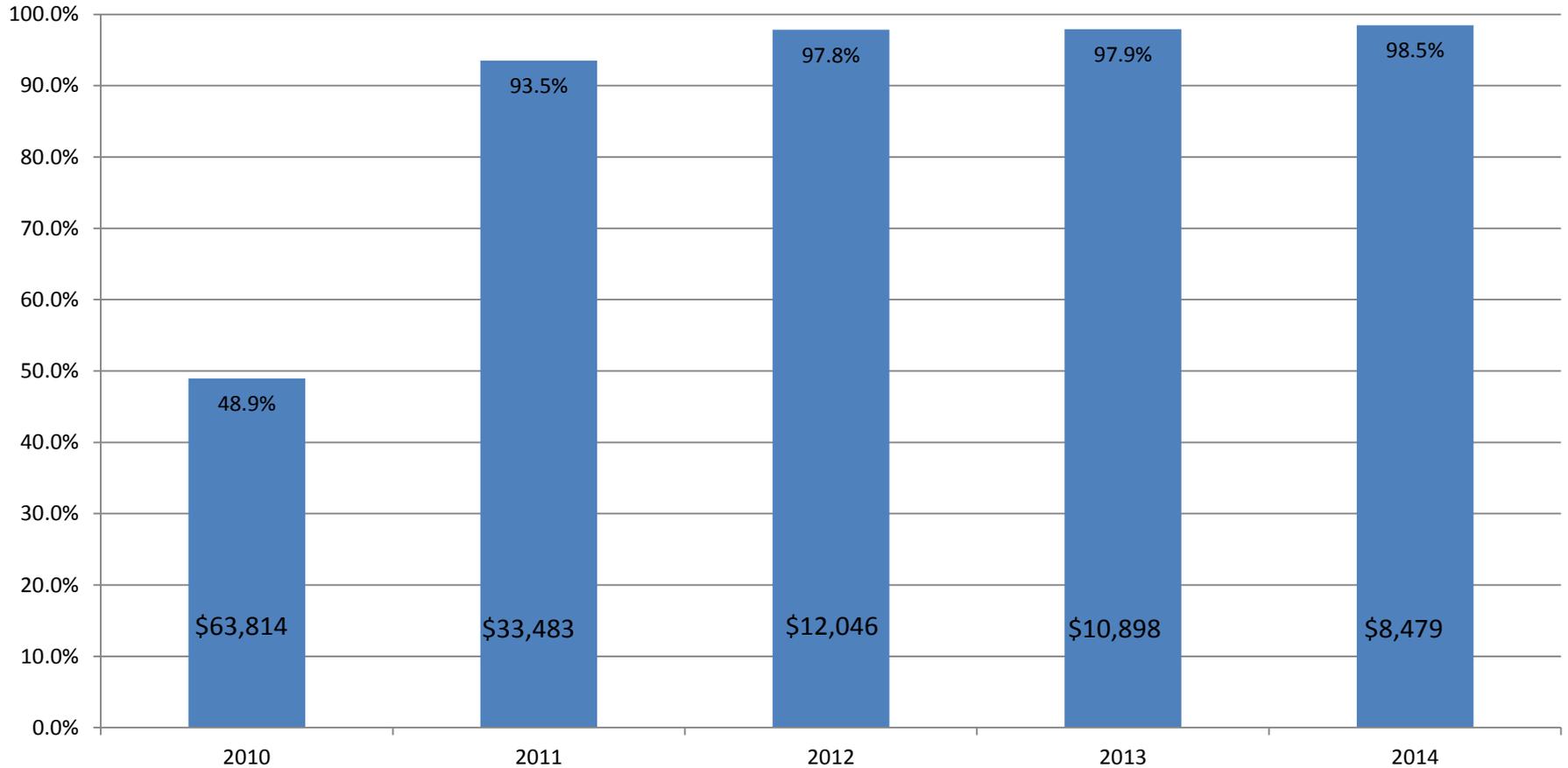
# Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council

## October 6, 2014

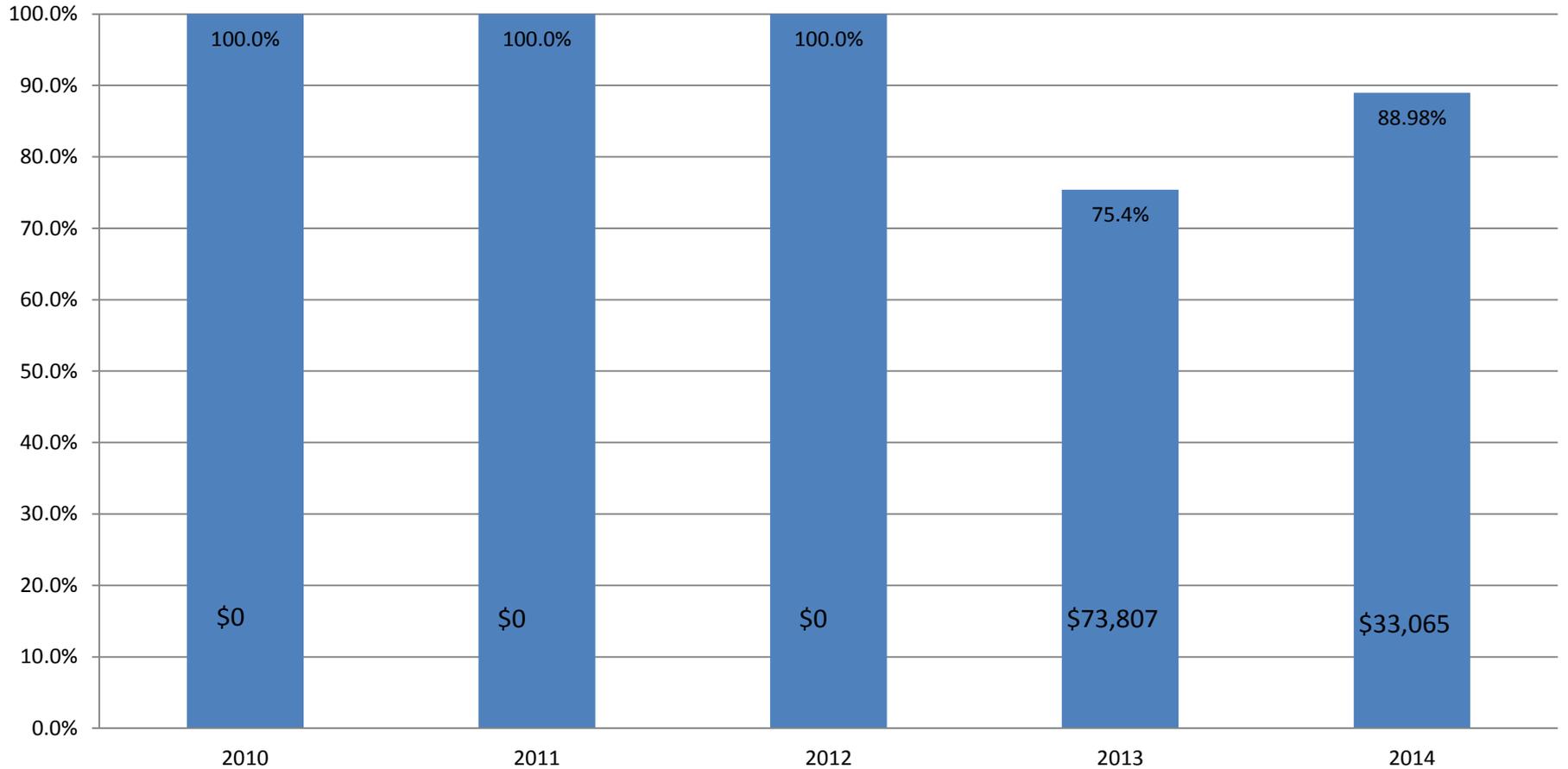


FIRST THINGS FIRST

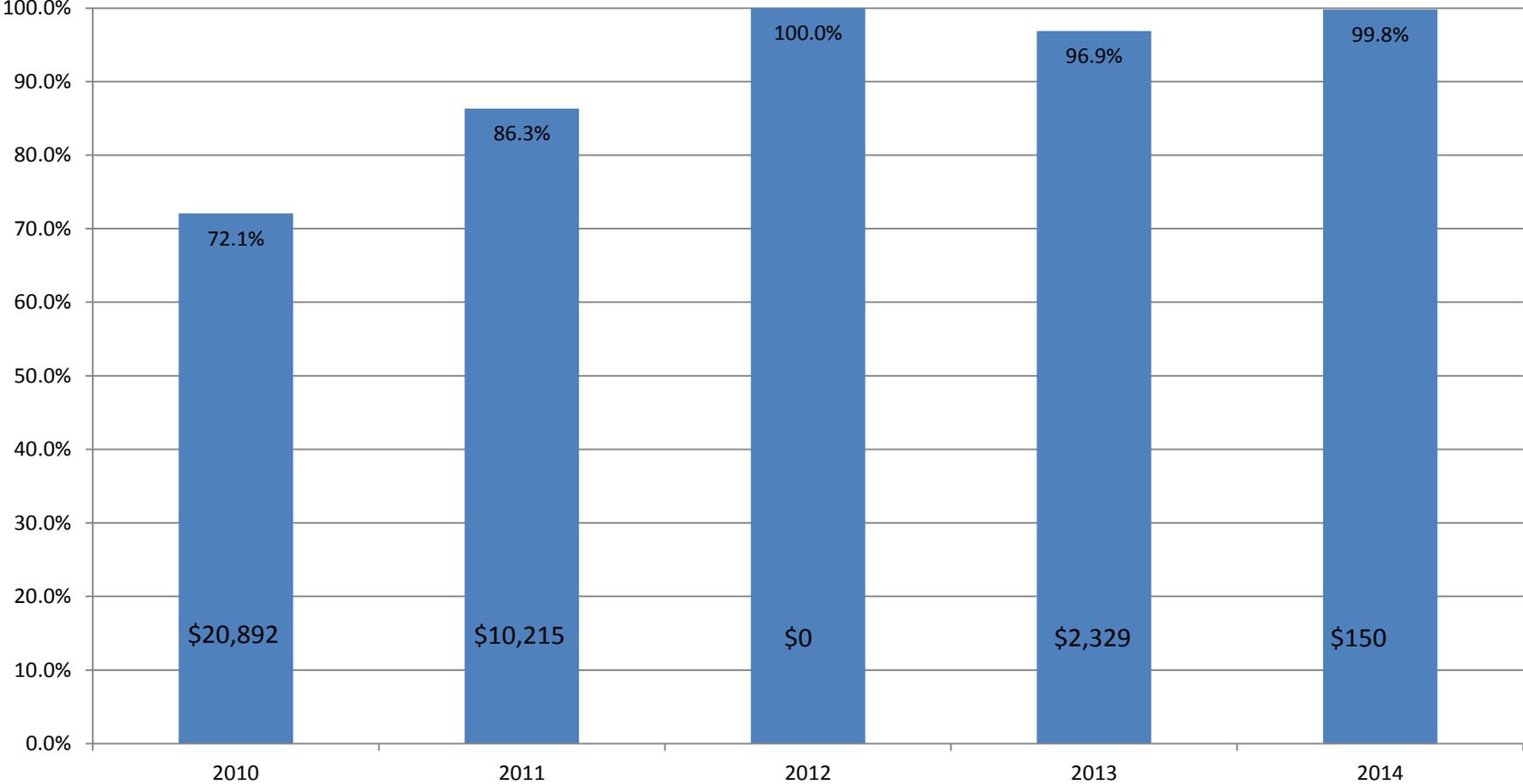
# Family Resource Center Expense Variance



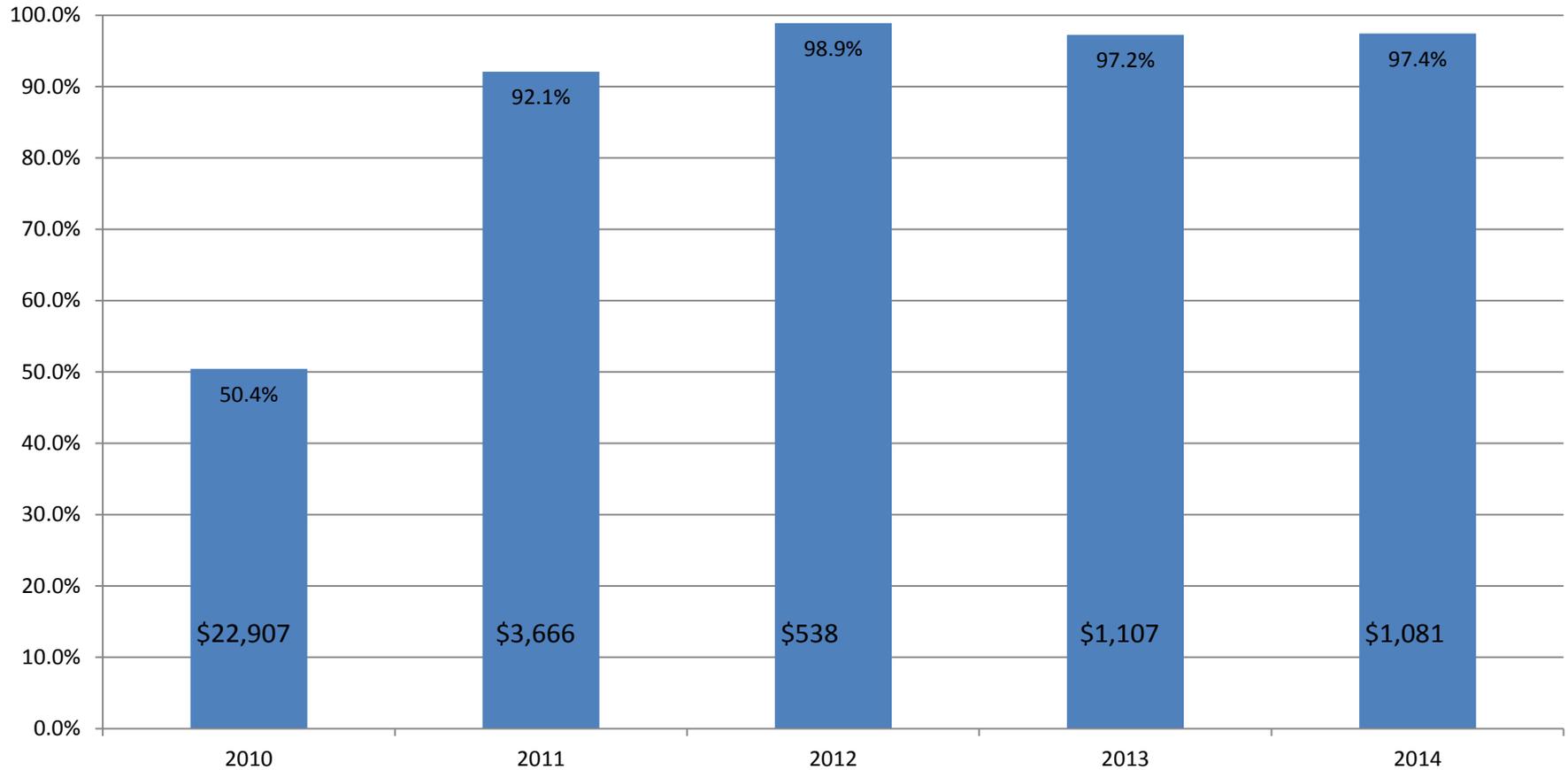
# Home Visitation Expense Variance



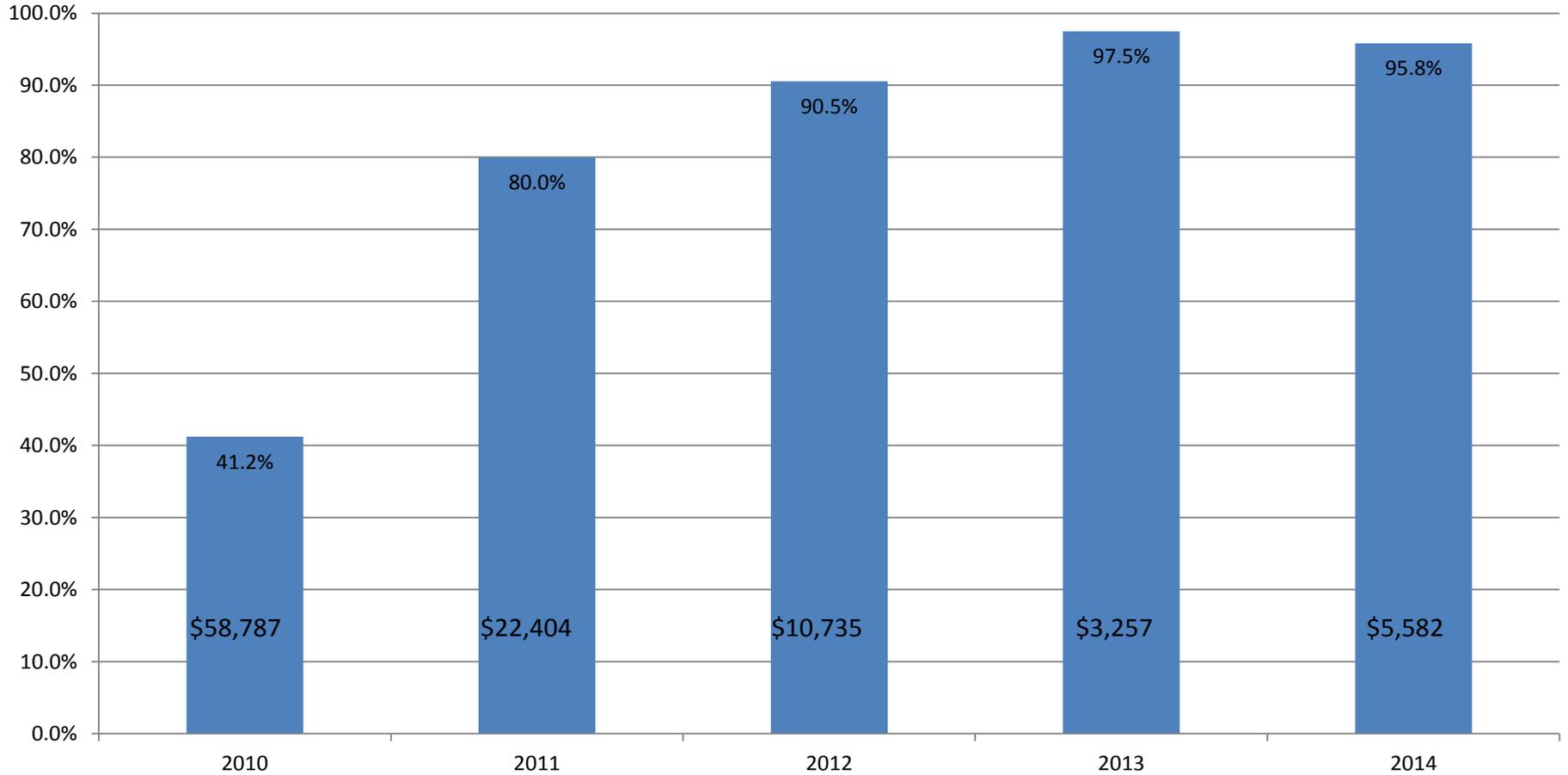
# Oral Health Expense Variance



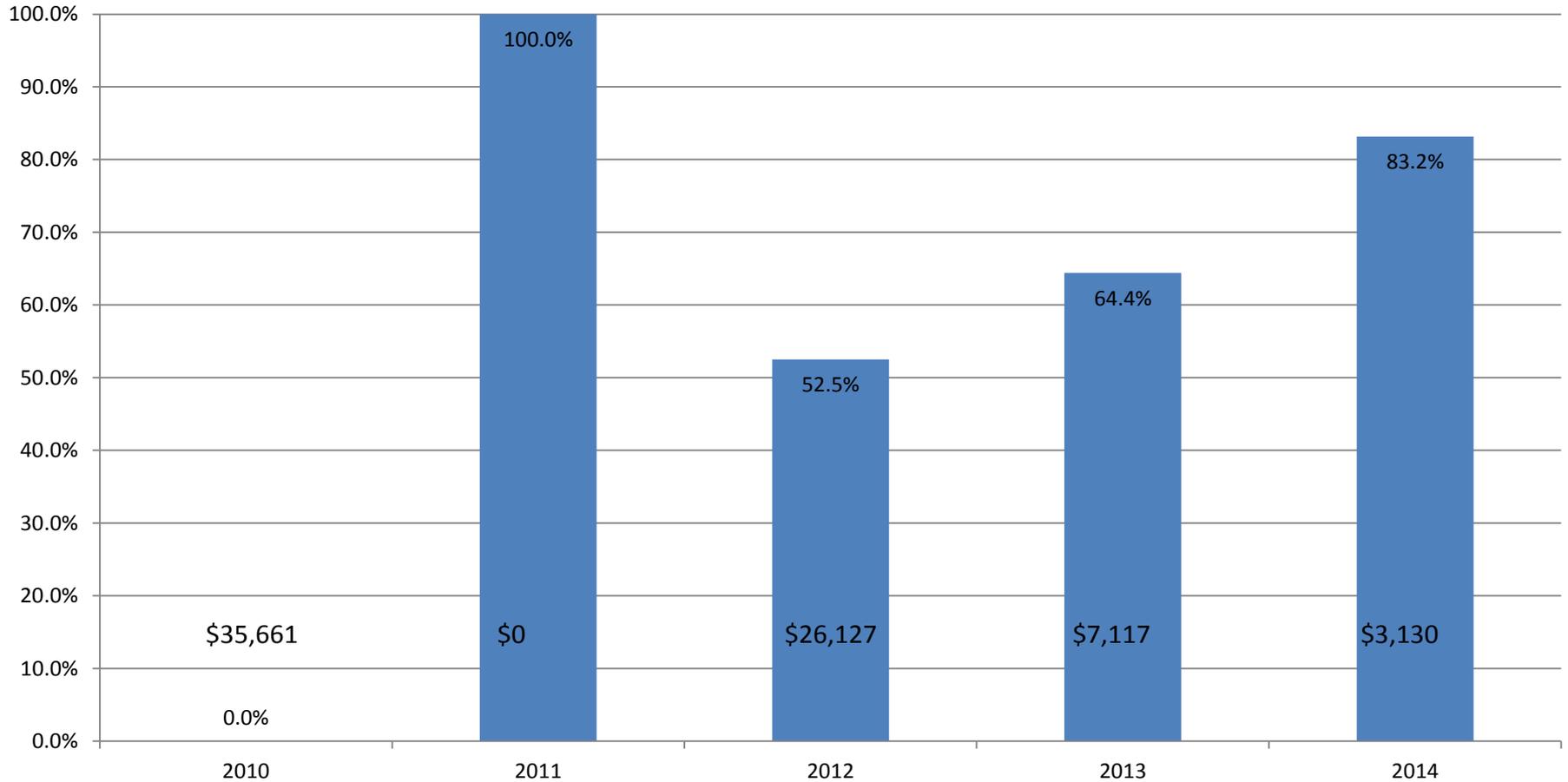
# Recruitment Into the Field Expense Variance



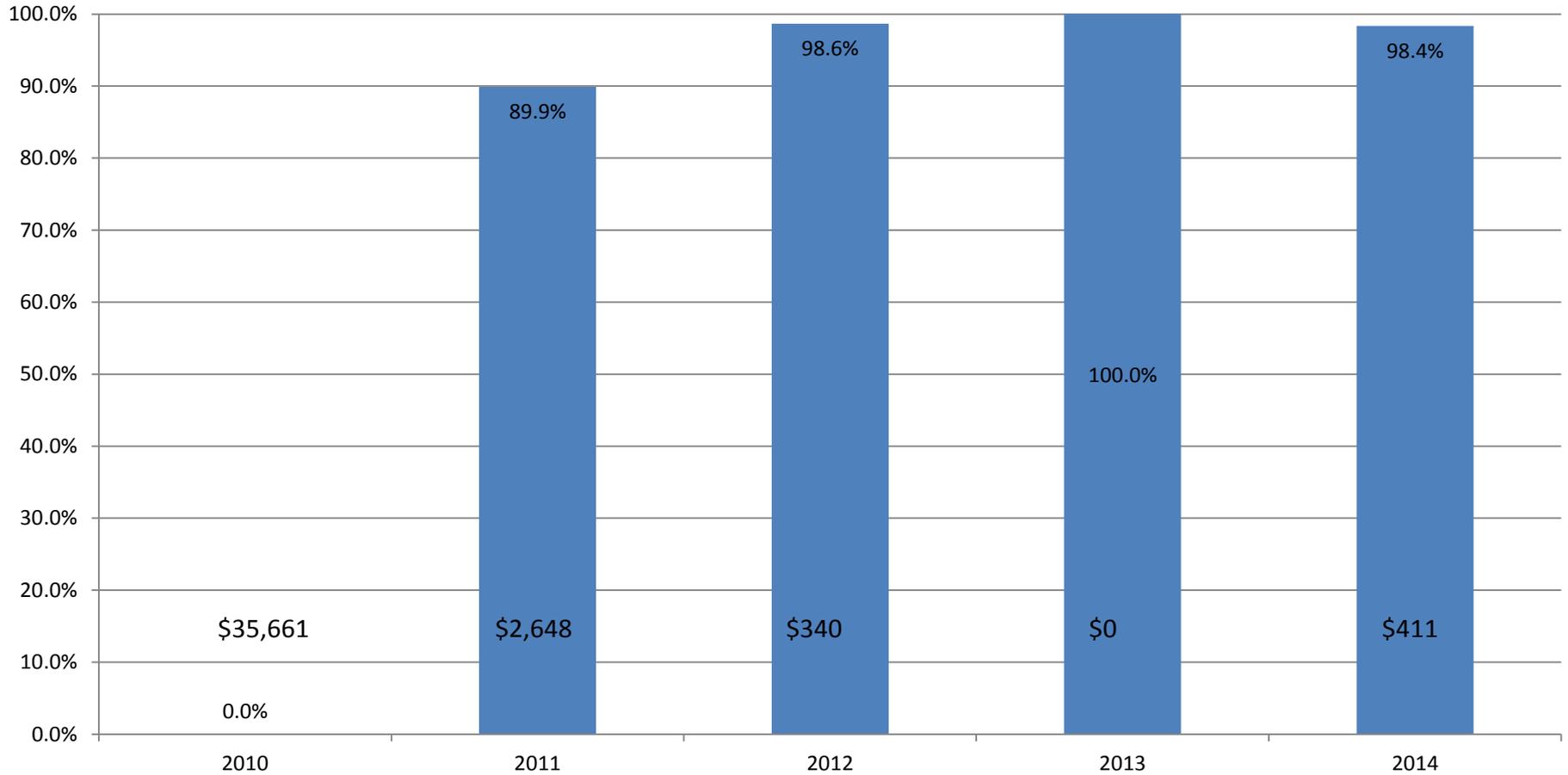
# CCHC Expense Variance



# Community Awareness Expense Variance



# Media Expense Variance





**FY 2015 – 2016  
Santa Cruz  
Funding Plan Summary**

Allocations and Funding Sources	2015		2016 ESTIMATED
FY Allocation	\$1,289,789		\$243,958
Population Based Allocation	\$744,046		\$159,034
Discretionary Allocation	\$416,700		\$408,810
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	\$129,043		\$0
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$552,340		\$448,368
<b>Total Regional Council Funds Available</b>	<b>\$1,842,129</b>		<b>\$1,260,170</b>
Strategies	Allotted	Awarded	Proposed Allotment
Child Care Health Consultation	\$133,380	\$133,379	\$
Community Awareness	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$
Community Outreach			
Family Resource Centers	\$555,000	\$555,000	\$
Home Visitation	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$
Media	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$
Oral Health	\$74,800	\$74,800	\$
Quality First Academy	\$6,580	\$6,580	\$
Quality First Child Care Health	\$2,538	\$1,817	\$
Quality First Coaching & Incentives	\$82,442	\$77,692	\$
Quality First Inclusion Warmline	\$1,470	\$1,297	\$
Quality First Mental Health	\$1,512	\$1,512	\$
Quality First Warmline Traige	\$4,104	\$4,104	\$
Quality First Scholarships	\$190,159	\$190,159	\$
Recruitment into Field	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$
Scholarships TEACH	-		-
Statewide Evaluation	\$88,157	\$88,157	\$67,472
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,527,142</b>	<b>\$1,521,497</b>	<b>\$</b>

	Grantee Name	Allotment		YTD Expense	Expense Variance	Award Expended % of Award Expended	Allotment Expended % of Allotment	Reimbursement Activity	
		Total Allotment	Awarded					Pending	Paid (Last 30 Days)
<b>Community</b>	<b>Community Awareness Strategy</b>	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$18	\$19,982	0.1%	0.1%		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$20,000	\$18	\$19,982	0.1%			
	<b>Media Strategy</b>	\$25,000	\$25,000	-	\$25,000	0.0%	0.0%		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$25,000	-	\$25,000	0.0%			
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>\$44,968</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>		
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Statewide Evaluation Strategy</b>	\$88,157	\$88,157	\$88,157	-	100.0%	100.0%		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$88,157	\$88,157	-	100.0%			
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$88,157</b>	<b>\$88,157</b>	<b>\$88,157</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		
<b>Family Support</b>	<b>Family Resource Centers Strategy</b>	\$555,000	\$555,000	-	\$555,000	0.0%	0.0%		
	The University of Arizona Santa Cruz		\$555,000	-	\$555,000	0.0%			
	<b>Home Visitation Strategy</b>	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$20,647	\$279,353	6.9%	6.9%		\$20,647
	Arizona Department of Economic Security		\$11,398	-	\$11,398	0.0%			
	Child and Family Resources Inc.		\$288,602	\$20,647	\$267,955	7.2%			\$20,647
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$855,000</b>	<b>\$855,000</b>	<b>\$20,647</b>	<b>\$834,353</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>		<b>\$20,647</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>Child Care Health Consultation</b>	\$133,380	\$133,379	\$8,720	\$124,660	6.5%	6.5%		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$8,320	\$8,320	-	100.0%			
	Maricopa County Department of Public Health		\$2,853	-	\$2,853	0.0%			
	Pima County Health Department		\$5,187	\$399	\$4,788	7.7%			
	The University of Arizona Santa Cruz		\$117,019	-	\$117,019	0.0%			
	<b>Oral Health Strategy</b>	\$74,800	\$74,800	\$6,155	\$68,645	8.2%	8.2%		\$6,155
	Mariposa Community Health Center		\$74,800	\$6,155	\$68,645	8.2%			\$6,155
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$208,180</b>	<b>\$208,179</b>	<b>\$14,875</b>	<b>\$193,305</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>		<b>\$6,155</b>
<b>Professional</b>	<b>Recruitment into Field Strategy</b>	\$42,000	\$42,000	-	\$42,000	0.0%	0.0%		
	Cochise College		\$42,000	-	\$42,000	0.0%			
	<b>Scholarships TEACH Strategy</b>	\$0	-	-	-	0.0%	0.0%		
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>		
<b>Quality and Access</b>	<b>Quality First Academy Strategy</b>	\$6,580	\$6,580	\$243	\$6,337	3.7%	3.7%		\$243
	Southwest Human Development		\$6,580	\$243	\$6,337	3.7%			\$243
	<b>Quality First Child Care Health</b>	\$2,538	\$1,817	-	\$1,817	0.0%	0.0%		
	University of Arizona Cooperative Extension		\$1,817	-	\$1,817	0.0%			
	<b>Quality First Coaching &amp; Incentives</b>	\$82,442	\$77,692	\$19,275	\$58,417	24.8%	23.4%		
	Valley of the Sun United Way		\$77,692	\$19,275	\$58,417	24.8%			
	<b>Quality First Inclusion Warmline</b>	\$1,470	\$1,297	-	\$1,297	0.0%	0.0%	\$90	
	Southwest Human Development		\$1,297	-	\$1,297	0.0%		\$90	
	<b>Quality First Mental Health</b>	\$1,512	\$1,512	\$124	\$1,388	8.2%	8.2%		\$124
	Southwest Human Development		\$1,512	\$124	\$1,388	8.2%			\$124
	<b>Quality First Scholarships Strategy</b>	\$190,159	\$190,159	\$49,320	\$140,840	25.9%	25.9%		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)		\$1,706	\$1,706	-	100.0%			
	Valley of the Sun United Way		\$188,453	\$47,614	\$140,840	25.3%			
	<b>Quality First Warmline Triage</b>	\$4,104	\$4,104	\$306	\$3,798	7.5%	7.5%		\$306
Southwest Human Development		\$4,104	\$306	\$3,798	7.5%			\$306	
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$288,805</b>	<b>\$283,161</b>	<b>\$69,268</b>	<b>\$213,892</b>	<b>24.5%</b>	<b>24.0%</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$674</b>
	<b>Overall Total:</b>	<b>\$1,527,142</b>	<b>\$1,521,497</b>	<b>\$192,992</b>	<b>\$1,328,505</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$27,477</b>

## ***Regional Director's Report*** ***October 6, 2014***

### ***Regional Updates***

#### **Expenditure Report (See attachment)**

- ❖ As of September 26<sup>th</sup>, our grantees had expensed their Fiscal Year 2015 awarded funds at 12.7%, which you can see circled at the bottom of the expenditure report.

#### **Birth to 5 Community Forum**

- ❖ The Birth to 5 Community Partners held a meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm at the Santa Cruz Provisional College.
- ❖ The topic area discussed was behavioral health services for families with children aged 0-5 in the Santa Cruz region.
- ❖ We had 4 guest speakers from the behavioral health agencies AZCA, CIA, Corazon and Pinal Hispanic and over 35 attendees from across the region.
- ❖ Highlights included:
  - The need for behavioral health services in the Santa Cruz Region
  - Presentations from various service providers that inform others on what they do
  - Possible service gaps within Behavioral Health as it relates to children birth to 5.

#### **Federal Preschool Development Grant Community Meetings**

- ❖ A representative from the Arizona Department of Education was here on Thursday, September 25 and Friday September 26 to present information to school district representatives and child care providers on a Federal Preschool Development Grant.
- ❖ Santa Cruz has been identified as a "High Needs Area," so the Santa Cruz Region would benefit if the state received this grant.
- ❖ More information will be provided as we receive it.

### ***Statewide Updates***

#### **First Things First State Board Meeting September 29-30<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ Due to several of our State Board members having unavoidable scheduling conflicts, the State Board was not able to establish a quorum for the board meeting that was to be held in Yuma on September 30<sup>th</sup>, necessitating the cancelation of the meeting. However, because there were several business items that still required the Board's attention, they scheduled a short telephonic board meeting for Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the 8th floor conference room.

#### **First Things First 2014 Annual Report**

- ❖ The First Things First 2014 Annual Report was published on September 19<sup>th</sup> and emailed to Regional Partnership Council members.
- ❖ The report illustrates how Arizona's commitment to early childhood is making a difference for infants, toddlers and preschoolers across the state, and how FTF is doing its part to get more Arizona kids ready for success in kindergarten and beyond.
- ❖ The annual report is attached to this Director's report as well.

### ***Upcoming Events***

- ❖ November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council Meeting.

# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

# THINK YOU KNOW FIRST THINGS FIRST?



While many Arizonans recognize First Things First as a crucial partner in enhancing school readiness for young children, they may not realize just how much First Things First invests in local communities. That's because First Things First largely partners with successful programs to expand their capacity to strengthen families. Below is a sample of the community-based programs whose crucial work has been supported through funding from First Things First.

## Arizona Kith and Kin Project

Information and support for relatives, friends and neighbors caring for young kids.

## Arizona Parent Kit

Free information for all new parents to support their child's healthy development.

## Baby Smarts

Voluntary, home-based parenting education and support.

## Best for Babies

Improves outcomes for infants in the child welfare system.

## Birth to 5 Helpline

Toll-free statewide hotline that answers caregivers' toughest parenting questions.

## Bright Beginnings

Voluntary, home-based parenting education and support.

## Building Bright Futures

Voluntary, home-based parenting education and support.

## Early Steps to School Success

Voluntary, home-based parenting education and support.

## Family Resource Centers

Community-based information, training and referrals for families.

## First Teeth First

Oral health screenings and application of preventative fluoride varnishes.

## Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Tools for grandparents raising infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

## Growing Up Great

Community-based parenting classes for families of kids 5 and younger.

## Healthy Families

Voluntary, home-based parenting education and support.

## Healthy Smiles

Oral health screenings and application of preventative fluoride varnishes.

## Healthy Steps

Developmental screening and tools to help parents meet their child's health needs.

## Imagination Library

Tips for parents to promote literacy and free monthly books for young kids to take home.

## KinderCamp

Kindergarten transition program for children who did not have access to preschool.

## My Child's Ready

Voluntary, home-based parenting education and support.

## Nurse Family Partnership

Voluntary, home-based parenting education and support.

## Parents as Teachers

Voluntary, home-based parenting education and support.

## Professional Career Pathways

Increases the skills of professionals working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

## Professional REWARD\$

Stipends to reward longevity and keep the best teachers working with our youngest kids.

## Quality First

Improves the quality of child care and preschool and provides scholarships for kids to attend quality early learning programs.

## Raising A Reader

Highlights the importance of early literacy and gives parents tools to support language development.

## Reach Out and Read

Partners with pediatricians to encourage early literacy.

## Safety, Nutrition, Activity, and Care for Kids (SNACK)

Promotes nutrition and physical activity in child care settings.

## Smart Support

Helps child care settings meet the social-emotional needs of kids in their care.

## Smart Smiles

Oral health screenings and application of preventative fluoride varnishes.

## T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Arizona

Increases the skills of professionals working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

## Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services

Supports pregnant or parenting teens in a healthy delivery and effective parenting.

# STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

It is a generally accepted maxim that the easiest (and least expensive) problem to fix is the one you prevent in the first place.

Many Arizonans already know First Things First as a crucial part of an early childhood system that works to close the school readiness gap and improve outcomes for all children by ensuring that more kids arrive at kindergarten ready to meet our state's high expectations.

But, when Arizona found itself facing a child welfare crisis – brought about in part by skyrocketing reports of child abuse or neglect and a sharp decline in resources to help struggling families – First Things First's role in the broader prevention and early intervention system became more apparent.

The programs funded by First Things First – like scholarships that help more kids birth to 5 years old access quality early learning programs and keep them safe while their parents work; screenings that identify learning delays early on; and, voluntary, home- or community-based coaching to help parents and grandparents learn how to create stable, nurturing environments for their children – strengthen families and communities throughout Arizona.

The data and stories in this report highlight some of First Things First's successes in the past year. These are just a few examples of what is possible when we commit ourselves to ensuring that children have the support they need in their crucial early years.

This report also highlights some of the challenges faced by kids 5 and younger throughout our state – and the proven strategies that can turn those statistics around – for children and for Arizona.

First Things First looks forward to our continued partnership with families and communities across Arizona – and to the future collaborations that will expand this crucial work on behalf of young children. We all have a shared responsibility to ensure children arrive at school ready to be successful. By working together, we can build a brighter future for our kids and for Arizona.

Sincerely,



**Janice L. Decker**

*Board Chair*  
First Things First

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice L. Decker".



**Sam Leyvas**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
First Things First

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Leyvas".

# SCHOOL SUCCESS STARTS EARLY



The job of getting kids ready for school starts the day they are born. About 90% of a child's critical brain development happens before kindergarten. Because of this, a child's early experiences lay the foundation for their success in school and in life.

For example, did you know that gaps in children's vocabulary start to appear at the age of about 18 months, and that a child's vocabulary, attention and general knowledge at ages 3 and 4 are good predictors of reading comprehension at ages 9 and 10?

Study after study shows that kids with quality early childhood experiences score higher on school readiness assessments and do better in school. They are less likely to need special education or remediation services and more likely to graduate and advance in to college and successful careers. They also tend to be healthier and demand less from the public welfare system.

The snapshot on next page shows some of the economic, education and health challenges young children in Arizona face. Some of these challenges – such as poverty, lack of access to early learning, and unidentified developmental delays – have been shown to impact children's school readiness.

The good news is that all of these challenges can be overcome. By ensuring that families have the tools they need to feel confident in their role as their child's first teacher, expanding access to early education through quality child care and preschool, and identifying health and development issues early on, we can ensure that children are prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond!

## First Things First State Board

Janice L. Decker, Chair

Dr. Pamela Powell, Vice Chair

Nadine Mathis Basha, Member

Gayle Burns, Member

Steven W. Lynn, Member

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Vivian Saunders, Member

Ruth Solomon, Member

*Ex-Officio Members*

Clarence H. Carter, Director, DES

Will Humble, Director, ADHS

John Huppenthal, Superintendent, ADE

# A SNAPSHOT OF ARIZONA'S CHILDREN

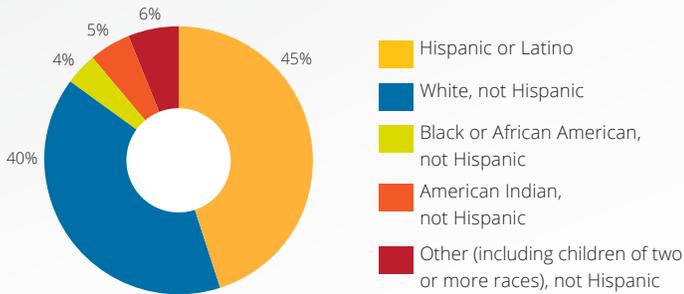


## DEMOGRAPHICS

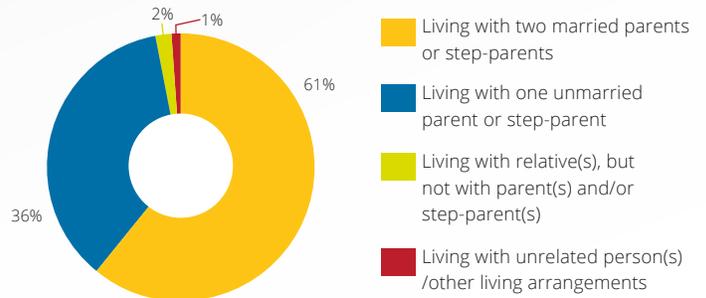
546,649 Number of kids under 6 in Arizona

384,441 Households with kids under 6

### Ethnic breakdown of kids under 6



### Living arrangements of kids under 6



## EDUCATION

66% Percentage of 3-4 year-olds who don't go to preschool

23% Percent of 3rd grade students not passing AIMS in reading (2014)

25% Percentage of teens who don't graduate high school in four years



## HEALTH

9% Babies born to teen mothers

25% Percentage of Arizona infants/toddlers with untreated tooth decay (2009)

< 50% Percentage of children with developmental delays identified before starting school

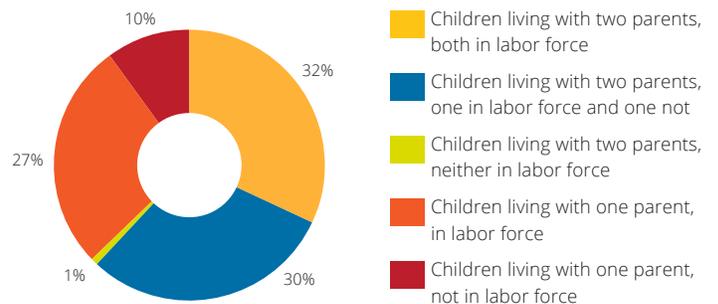


## ECONOMICS

26% Percentage of young kids in poverty

139,423 Number of children (0-5) living in poverty

### Employment status of parents with young kids



# OUR PRIORITIES

**Strengthening Families:** Strong families are the building blocks of a strong society. First Things First's programs ensure that parents have choices when it comes to making decisions about what's best for their children. Programs are available in a variety of settings and at the level that meets the family's needs – from drop-in classes at community-based resource centers to more intensive, one-on-one support at home.

**Quality Child Care and Preschool:** Children exposed to high quality early education 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 works to improve the quality of child care and preschool. Through our website – QualityFirstAZ.com – parents can get information and tools to help them choose quality early learning settings that meet their families' needs. First Things First also funds scholarships that help more young kids access quality child care or preschool and keep them safe while their parents work.

**Preventative Health:** Undetected developmental delays or early childhood medical conditions that are left untreated can impact a child's development and learning later on. First Things First funds screening and outreach programs that help identify potential issues early on and refer families to resources that give them options for promoting their child's health and well-being. First Things First also funds oral health screenings and fluoride varnishes for young children – and education for their families – to prevent dental problems (a major cause of school absences later on).

**Workforce Development and Training:** A child's interactions with adult caregivers greatly impact brain development and school readiness. First Things First funds a variety of professional development opportunities to expand the skills of those working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers, including scholarships to increase access to higher education for child care professionals and incentives to keep the best teachers working with our youngest kids.

**Community Awareness:** We all have a shared responsibility to ensure that children arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed. First Things First works at the grassroots level to ensure that families and communities have the information and tools they need to actively support the education and health of their youngest children.



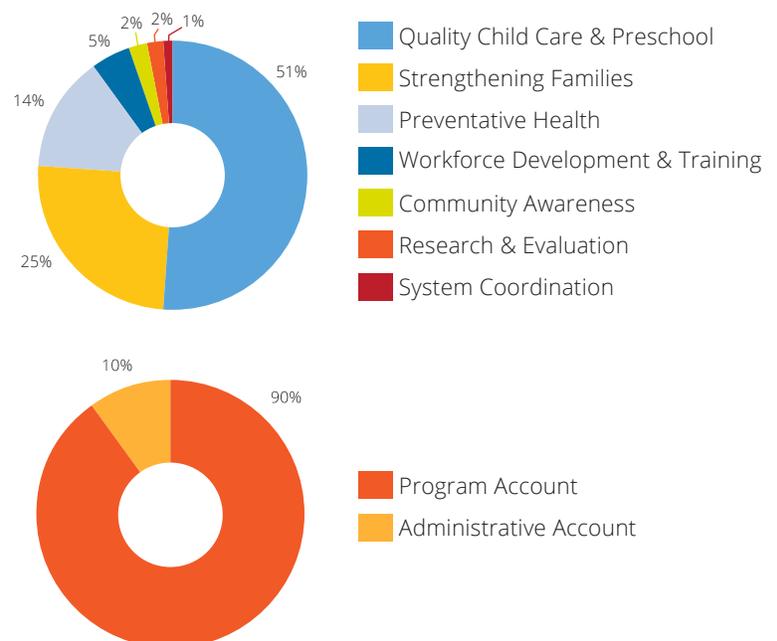
## STATEWIDE FINANCIAL REPORT

### FY2014 Expenditures by Goal Area

Quality Child Care & Preschool	\$72,802,875.11
Strengthening Families	\$35,271,855.15
Preventative Health	\$19,824,335.34
Workforce Development & Training	\$6,771,912.08
Community Awareness	\$3,263,006.80
Research & Evaluation	\$2,517,579.51
System Coordination	\$1,455,922.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$141,907,486.68</b>

### FY2014 Revenues by Fund

Program Account	\$117,555,239.80
Administrative Account	\$13,046,382.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$130,601,621.91</b>





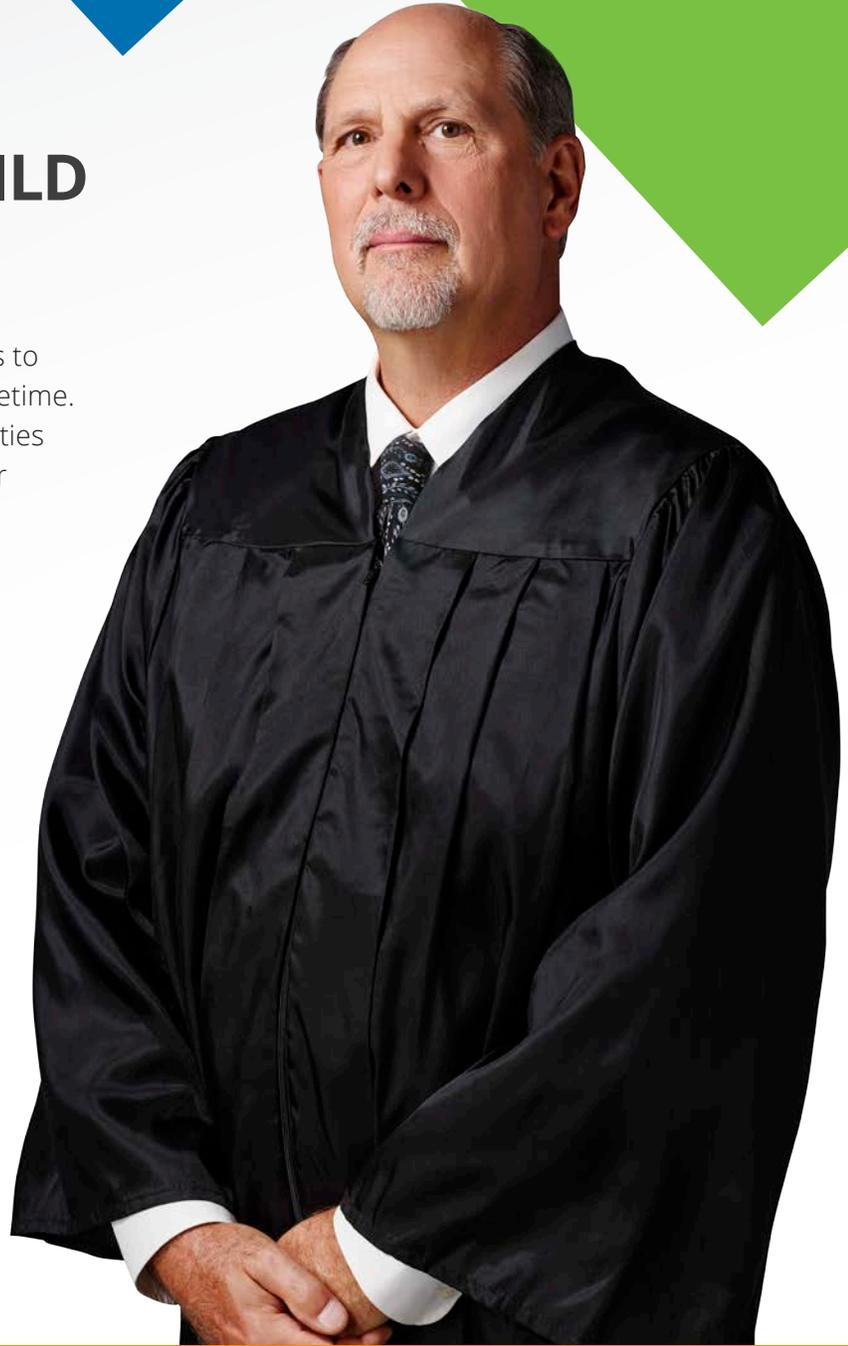
# COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS



# STRONG FAMILIES BUILD A STRONG SOCIETY

“As a juvenile court judge, I know that what happens to kids in their early years sets the foundation for a lifetime. That’s why First Things First partners with communities across Arizona to strengthen families and empower parents in their role as their child’s first teacher.”

**Judge Richard Weiss**



## FISCAL YEAR 2014 SERVICE NUMBERS

**70,364** Parent kits distributed

**66,786** Caregivers attended voluntary classes in community-based settings on topics such as parenting skills, child development, literacy and nutrition



# IMPACT ACROSS ARIZONA

## Foster Family Finds Support

Brian and Jessica\* knew their 2-year-old foster son needed some help – he had delayed speech and would throw intense temper tantrums any time his routine was disrupted. When their son was found ineligible for services provided through the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP), their foster licensing agency referred them to Parent Coaching and Support Services (PCSS), a program funded by First Things First in eastern Maricopa County.

Through PCSS – which is administered by Southwest Human Development – a parent coach worked with the family to complete assessments on their son and get him started in occupational and speech therapy. Three months later, he was re-assessed and found eligible to receive early intervention services through AZEIP.

The parent coach also completed assessments on the family's 1-year-old foster daughter, who was unsteady in walking and running and had trouble with fine motor skills, like picking up small objects. In addition to the developmental screenings, coaches in the program also worked with the family during regular visits to the home to discover ways to help their children learn. The family also had the opportunity to participate in parent and child play groups and receive guidance on child development and common parental concerns.

"There's always room for improvement to help your child learn," said Jessica. "This program provides you the resources to be a better parent, especially if you have concerns about your child's development." Nadine, program manager for PCSS, said, "Parents should listen to their inner voice telling them that something is not right – because they know their child best – and seek out services."

\*Names changed due to confidentiality concerns.



## FISCAL YEAR 2014 SERVICE NUMBERS

**7,453** Arizona families enjoyed stronger, more supportive parent-child relationships through home-based parenting education and support

**101,114** Families accessed early childhood information, training or referrals through family resource centers

# TEACHERS KNOW SCHOOL SUCCESS BEGINS AT BIRTH

"As a teacher, I know that crucial skills like motivation, self-discipline and focus take root in the early years. That's why First Things First helps many of Arizona's young kids receive the quality early education, health care and family support they need to be ready for school and set for life."

**Nicole Teyechea McNeil**  
Teacher



## FISCAL YEAR 2014 SERVICE NUMBERS

19,492

Infants, toddlers and preschoolers received scholarships to access child care and early learning programs

48,697

Children had access to a higher standard of early learning programs (child care and preschool) through Quality First



# IMPACT ACROSS ARIZONA

## Scholarship Keeps Preschooler Learning, Dad Working

How does a single father raise three little girls and hold a job? For one Safford dad, a Quality First scholarship made all the difference.

“Josh came into my office explaining he needed child care for his youngest daughter,” said Corrina, preschool director at First United Methodist Preschool Daycare Program. “His babysitter had bailed out on him, and he was actually bringing (4-year-old) Kylee to work with him. He was afraid of losing his job.”

The family was new to the community. Josh had taken a cut in pay for a new job that allowed him more time with his daughters since he would no longer have to work weekends. He found that there was room for Kylee in the preschool program and that the family also qualified for a scholarship.

Quality First Scholarships are available to qualifying families whose children attend child care and preschool settings that meet First Thing First’s quality standards. The scholarships help families earning below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level afford high-quality early learning experiences for their young children.

“As I drove away from the building on Kylee’s first day of child care, I stopped the car in the parking lot and just broke down,” said Josh. “I finally felt relief. My child was in a safe place with people who cared for her. I can’t describe the feeling. At last we were headed in the right direction.”

Josh is a believer in paying it forward. He noticed that the church had received new basketball equipment but had no court. Josh’s boss agreed to provide the equipment to build a court at no cost. Josh and other volunteers worked on Saturdays to build the court, which is also used for the preschool kids to ride their tricycles. “I feel so good about giving back to this program,” he said. “My family owes them so much.”



## FISCAL YEAR 2014 SERVICE NUMBERS

**1,552** Stipends to reward longevity and continuous learning among early childhood teachers

**693** Early childhood teachers received scholarships to expand their skills working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers

# 90% OF A CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

"As a pediatrician, I know positive, nurturing experiences in a child's first five years lay the foundation for a lifetime. That's why First Things First partners with communities across Arizona to strengthen families and support the health and learning of our youngest children."

**Dr. Lyndy Jones**  
Pediatrician



## FISCAL YEAR 2014 SERVICE NUMBERS

**16,721** Screenings completed to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues in young kids and prevent learning challenges later on

**11,984** Children benefited from trainings for child care providers to help them meet the social-emotional needs of kids in their care

# IMPACT ACROSS ARIZONA

## Screening Reveals Need for Corrective Oral Surgery for Preschooler

A routine oral health screening led to oral surgery and changes in family food choices for one Navajo Nation preschooler.

An oral health screening sponsored by First Things First at a Tuba City preschool revealed extensive decay in the teeth of one preschooler. The child's family was referred to a dentist, who later performed oral surgery on the child due to the extent of the decay.

Many people are not aware that decay in first teeth can cause problems with jaw and language development, speech delays, nutritional deficiencies and, if left untreated, chronic absences when young kids enter school.

Preschool teacher Catrina said the child's mother told her that, without the screening, she probably would not have taken the child to the dentist.

Catrina said since the screening, the preschooler's family has committed to changing the child's eating habits to prevent future dental decay and practicing good oral health.

"It has changed their eating habits and the snacks (the child) brings to school," Catrina said.



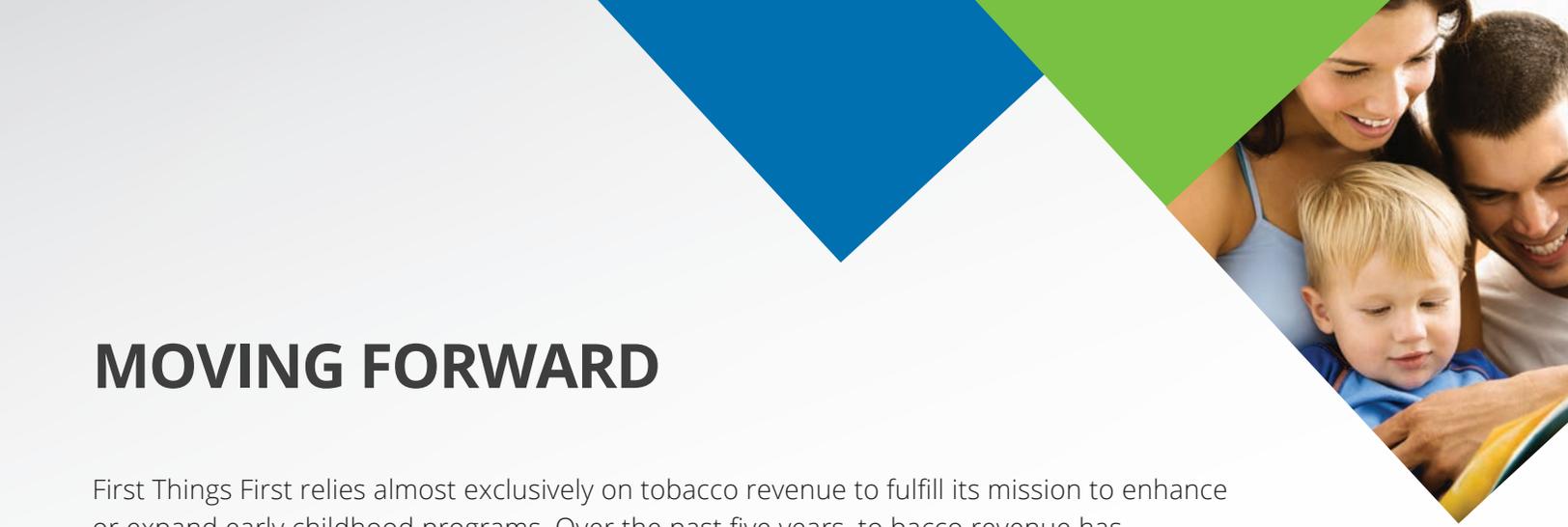
## FISCAL YEAR 2014 SERVICE NUMBERS

47,119

Oral health screenings administered to children statewide

42,057

Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against dental decay



## MOVING FORWARD

First Things First relies almost exclusively on tobacco revenue to fulfill its mission to enhance or expand early childhood programs. Over the past five years, tobacco revenue has decreased by about 23%, meaning that the organization has \$39 million less to work with on an annual basis than when it started.

The statewide Board has taken several proactive steps to maximize the sustainability of these funds and look for new partnership opportunities. First Things First's thoughtful and strategic approach to budgeting – which is based on analysis of spending over the past five years, as well as projected future tobacco revenues – ensures the stability of a base level of funding for the next decade.

At the same time, First Things First will continue its efforts in the broader community to increase the resources available to support early childhood programs, including expanding promising public/private partnerships.

But, ensuring that the resources exist to fulfill Arizona's commitment to our youngest kids is more than any one organization can achieve. First Things First will continue to work with policymakers, educators, business leaders and philanthropic organizations to increase investment in areas that can yield the greatest return: the health and education of our youngest children.

Because everyone benefits when children arrive at school healthy and ready to be successful.



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

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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