



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

### South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

## SFY 2014-15 Proposed Funding Plan Changes

### Background

#### Oral Health:

Oral health builds on the current MCDPH oral health and screening services being conducted at the WIC and immunization clinics. First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council contracts with Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS), Office of Oral Health, to provide a model for cost re-imbursement structure for those children who are being seen at either the WIC or immunization clinics who are also AHCCCS eligible. AHCCCS is billed for partial expenses therefore reducing cost of strategy and ensuring the appropriate leverage of funding. DHS subcontracts with The Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health, and together have successfully implemented the first pilot year of implementation with success. The second component for the oral health strategy, established a partnership with Phoenix College's School of Dental Hygiene and School of Nursing, where the two schools collaborate to conduct community based oral health screening, varnishing and education. Phoenix College interfaces with Quality First enrolled child care centers and family, friend, and neighbor providers to layer services for children impacted by other strategies in the region—thus building systemic integration of services for children ages 0-5.

#### Family Resource Centers:

To date, the South Phoenix Region is experiencing an increased level of coordination, collaboration, and partnership driven by the common purpose—to serve families and children in the region. Currently- funded family resource centers make connections with home visitation providers in the region such as Maricopa County Department of Public Health (Pre/post natal and Nurse Family Partnership), Southwest Human Development (Healthy Families, Nurse Family Partnership), South Phoenix Head Start and Roosevelt School District. Another example of cross program work occurring is a unique partnership and the joint funding of the Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center located at located at the Martin Luther King School. The Early Learning Center Campus draws on a variety of resources and partners to share a campus that provides a host of early learning and education opportunities for children and families. Head Start/City of Phoenix, First Things First, and Roosevelt Elementary School District, as well as corporate sponsors, all help to fund an excellent example of coordination and collaboration. This level of collaboration and partnership has been the direct result of First Things First funding and joint involvement with community stakeholders—systems are being created in the South Phoenix region.

**Health Professional Recruitment-Stipends /Loan Forgiveness Strategy:**

The “First Things First Early Childhood Therapist Incentives Program” is a South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council flagship strategy that has two components: Loan Repayment and Stipends. The purpose of these programs is to provide incentives for Speech/Language Pathologists, Occupational and Physical Therapists, Child Psychologists, and Mental Health Specialists who provide early childhood development services to children birth through age 5 in specified areas of Arizona as determined by the First Things First (FTF) regional councils.

DHS has three therapists interested in serving the South Phoenix Region with the support of the Incentives Program. DHS has been unable to approve these additional applications due to a lack of funding. SFY14 budget provided funding for one new therapist and the position was filled with a contract for a new SLP contract which started on 7/1/13.

**The following is a summary of the three early childhood therapists trying to obtain consideration for the Incentive Program:**

- A new speech and language pathologist employed by Arizona School of the Deaf and Blind (ASDB)
- A new speech and language pathologist working with children birth to 3 years old receiving services through the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP)
- A new graduate of the Master’s program in Infant Family Practice at Arizona State University

**The following is a summary of the 11 therapists serving in South Phoenix under contract with the Incentives Program – each receives the Loan Repayment and Stipend:**

- 5 SLPs -2 employed in schools, 2 employed with AzEIP, 1 employed with ASDB
- 2 OTs, 1 employed in a school, 1 with employed with AzEIP
- 1 PT, employed with AzEIP (1 PT employed with AzEIP terminated the contract 6/30/13 due to a medical condition and will not be extending to the 3rd year)
- 2 Mental Health Specialists, both employed in schools
- 1 Child Psychologist employed in a school

## **Purpose and Recommendations**

### Proposed Contract Amendments and Strategy Increases for SFY14 and SFY15

- A. **Strategy: Oral Health**, increase the strategy allotment by \$3,000 for SFY14 (current fiscal year) and SFY15, bringing oral health strategy total to \$603,000. Increase grant funding with ADHS from 406,853 to \$490,464 for SFY14 and SFY15. In the pilot year (SFY13) the budget for SFY14 was developed by grantee and approved by regional council and board. However, a recent request from the grantee indicated that the budget was incorrectly estimated. The increase will ensure a full 12 months of service delivery, an increase from 10 months in SFY13, in partnership with the subcontracted grantee MCDPH Office of Oral health.
- B. **Strategy: Family Resource Center**, \$80,000 increase to strategy allotment for SFY14 (current fiscal year) and \$50,000 for SFY15 to expand the current level of services with FRC grantees. Several opportunities for expansions have been suggested for the Family Resource Centers in the region. Potential opportunities include additional parent education programming, additional literacy programming, and potential expansion of public/private partnerships. This increase in the strategy budget changes the SFY14 allotment from \$1,162,970 to \$1,242,970 and the SFY15 allotment from \$1,162,970 to \$1,212,970. The budget increase allows for consideration of opportunities. Any actual changes to grants will require Regional Council and Board consideration and approvals (once identified and defined).
- C. **Strategy: Recruitment-Stipends /Loan Forgiveness**, additional \$63,493 in SFY14 (current fiscal year) and SFY15 to contract three additional health professionals to serve in the South Phoenix region, bringing the number of professionals to 14. Regional Council funding will be \$364,387 in SFY14 and SFY15.