FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: Federal Grants and Activities Update

BACKGROUND: 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.

Federal Grants Awarded

FY2011 Awarded Amount	FY2011 Expended Amount	Grant Description	Comments
$150,000	$0	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.	• The ECCS was renewed with a total award of $150,000. The grant period is June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012. • The 2011 grant proposal directs available grant funds to support planning for and development of Arizona's early care and education professional development system including a multipurpose information system. • A request for unexpended funding from the prior year has been requested for use in this project year. We expect an approval by early December.
$2,489,746*	$390,204	These grant funds support the Quality First Pilot and the development and dissemination of the Infant/Toddler Guidelines, Birth to Five Program Guidelines, and Early Learning standards. FTF also applied for and received supplemental funds and was awarded an additional $164,000 that support the work of the FTF Advisory Committees – Health, Early Learning and Family Support & Literacy.	• The work contracted to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for the curriculum development and training for the *Early Learning Guidelines, Birth to Three Developmental Guidelines and Birth to Five Program Guidelines* is underway. • The *Birth to Three Developmental Guidelines* document is posted for review by stakeholders and other interested members of the public. A series of focus groups are also being held to receive feedback on these guidelines. Approved guidelines will be posted on the ADE website for access by early care and education providers. The Program Guidelines will be distributed in conjunction with the Guidelines training.

			• SAC grant funds have and will continue to support the work of the FTF Early Learning, Family Support and Health advisory committees.
In-kind technical assistance	NA	FTF receives technical assistance regarding expanding and integrating Early Head Start as part of the early childhood system so that more infants and toddlers have access to and receive high-quality early care and education services.	• Arizona is among five states (AR, CO, HI, and MS) selected for this second round of technical assistance provided by Zero to Three. The Arizona team includes Judy Walruff, Mary Reinwasser, Bonnie Williams, Amy Corriveau, Mary Ellen Cunningham, and Karen Bulkeley. • In early 2012, Zero to Three will bring a consultation team to Arizona for a two day onsite TA session. The focus of the TA will be on implementing a statewide, cross-agency home visiting system.
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's 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.	• In addition to an annual formula grant, ADHS successfully competed for a home visitation expansion grant and was awarded 9.3M per year for four years. Only nine of these awards were funded nationwide and Arizona was one of three states awarded the full amount available These funds will allow for expansion of home visitation services to all 31 of Community Health Analysis Areas identified as "high need" in the original application for funds. • ADHS is moving forward to implement either Healthy Families and/or Nurse Family Partnership programs. Among the first areas to be funded are those in the Casa Grande/Coolidge area, the greater Tucson area, Holbrook, Winslow, and three areas in central Maricopa County. • ADHS is coordinating implementation with current FTF and DES home visiting programs. • Additional communities will be added in accordance with the grant proposal and time lines established. • Expansion grant funds were also approved to support statewide system building.

Award notices are expected in mid-December	NA	FTF is 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 on October 18, 2011. RTTT/ELC is intended to encourage states to develop bold and comprehensive plans for raising the quality of early learning programs. In order to promote school readiness Arizona's High-Quality Plan addressed six bold, interconnected goals: 1. To increase the number of Children with High Needs in high-quality settings and provide parents with more choices, we will expand our TQRIS to raise the quality of the settings in which Children with High Needs are currently served and increase the number of Children with High Needs in our highest-quality programs. 2. To ensure that more of our settings are high-quality, promote early learning outcomes, and support school readiness for Children with High Needs, we will expand effective use of early learning standards and infant toddler guidelines. 3. To ensure that more parents know about the importance of quality preschool, are aware of their choices, and are involved in preparing their children for success in school, we will invest in parental engagement and language and literacy development within early learning and community-based programs, particularly among English language learners and families living on tribal lands. 4. To ensure that more early care and education professionals provide high-quality care and education, we will remove structural barriers to higher education and star a statewide network of technical assistance centers. 5. To allow us to more accurately measure our results and hold ourselves accountable for continuous	• Arizona's $70M proposal was among 37 submitted by 35 states and 2 territories. • Grant awards are expected to be announced in mid-December, but no later than December 31, 2011. • Grant period is December 31, 2011 through December 2015.

		improvement, we will develop the capacity to collect and use data system-wide to inform decisions that affect children's lives by implementing a statewide Kindergarten Entry Assessment and a statewide, interoperable data system. 6. And to ensure that we can carry out our commitments, we will strengthen system integration, governance, and public support for early care and education.	