



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*The right system for bright futures*

### **First Things First Professional REWARD\$ - A Statewide Compensation and Retention Program**

**REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATION**

**FTF-STATE-10-0235-00**

**FACT SHEET**

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#### **WHAT IS THE FIRST THINGS FIRST PROFESSIONAL REWARD\$ PROGRAM?**

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First Things First will fund the successful applicant to be the Administrative Home for FTF Professional REWARD\$, a program that acknowledges and rewards progressive education, educational attainment and commitment to continuous employment at a qualified setting providing services to children birth through age 5. The Administrative Home will function under the direction of FTF to administer FTF Professional REWARD\$ and in collaboration with the 11 FTF Regional Partnership Councils (RPCs) funding incentives to be provided to eligible applicants. There must be an ability to administer additional incentives should additional FTF Regional Partnership Councils choose to fund this strategy in their regions.

FTF has decided to develop a system that is Arizona-specific rather than adopting the national model, WAGE\$<sup>®</sup>. This allows the Arizona model to be fully responsive at a local level without the constraints that come with purchasing a national license. An Arizona specific compensation and retention incentives model can assure full alignment with other components of the state's professional development system, creating, for example, the opportunity to align the staff qualification standards that have been incorporated into *Quality First*, with the compensation and retention incentives model. There will also be a direct link with the T.E.A.C.H.<sup>®</sup> ARIZONA scholarship program, since providers who receive scholarships and complete college coursework may become eligible for FTF Profession REWARD\$ incentives.

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#### **WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE?**

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This is an initial five month contract with an option for renewal for two (2) additional twelve (12) month periods. Total funds available are approximately \$121,529 for the first funding period; and \$383,340, for the second funding period (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011). First Things First reserves the right not to award the entire amount of available funds or to award an

amount that is greater than the posted available funds. Renewal will be contingent upon satisfactory contract performance, evaluation and availability of funds. The 5-month period is estimated to be February 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010. The 12-month period is estimated to be July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. A single award will be made, in order to ensure achievement of First Things First requirements.

## **PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR THE GRANT MAKING PROCESS**

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October 8, 2009	Notice of Intent/Fact Sheet available to the public
October 8, 2009	RFGA available on-line
October 15, 2009	Pre-application Conference 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM at First Things First 8 <sup>th</sup> floor board room, 4000 N. Central Ave., Ste. 800 Phoenix, AZ 85012
November 20, 2009	Applications due to the location listed in the RFGA by 3:00 p.m.
February 1, 2010	Anticipated grant awards made

## **HOW TO GET A COPY OF THE RFGA**

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Please visit the First Things First web site on or after October 7, 2009:

<http://www.azftf.gov/WhatWeDo/Funding/Pages/StatewideGrants.aspx>.

## **QUESTIONS?**

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All questions must be submitted in writing and include FTF-STATE-10-0235-00 in the subject line of the email or on the cover sheet of the fax.

Questions should be submitted to the Grants and Contracts Procurement Specialist via email at [grants@azftf.gov](mailto:grants@azftf.gov) or via fax at (602) 265-0009.