

2013  
ANNUAL REPORT



CENTRAL MARICOPA  
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL



FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

# Why Early Childhood Matters

**Research shows that 80% of a child's brain is formed by age 3; more than 90% by age 5. Because of this rapid development, what happens to children in the early years lays the foundation for a lifetime.** Research has demonstrated that kids with quality early childhood experiences do better in school. They are more likely to advance into college and successful careers. They also tend to be healthier and demand less from the public welfare system.

On November 7, 2006, Arizonans made a historic decision on behalf of our state's smallest citizens. By majority vote, they made a commitment to all Arizona children 5 and younger: that kids would have the tools they need to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.

The voters backed that promise with an 80-cent per pack increase on tobacco products, so some reliable funding for early childhood services for our youngest children would be available.

The initiative also created the statewide First Things First Board and the 31 regional partnership councils that share the responsibility of ensuring that these early childhood funds are spent on strategies that will result in improved education and health outcomes for kids 5 and younger.

Not all children have the same needs; and voters designed First Things First to meet the diverse needs of Arizona communities. Decisions about which early education



and health strategies will be funded are made by the 31 regional partnership councils made up of community volunteers. Each regional council member represents a specific segment of the community that has a stake in ensuring that our children grow up to be healthy productive adults, including: parents, tribal representatives, educators, health professionals, business leaders, philanthropists and leaders of faith communities. The regional councils study the challenges faced by children in their communities and the resources that exist to help kids in their area. Because of all these factors, the regional councils know best what their kids need.

**The Central Maricopa region includes the cities and towns of Tempe, Chandler, Guadalupe and Ahwatukee.**

## Regional Council Members

Maureen Duane, <i>Chair</i>	Beth Haas
Genoveva Acosta-Bueno, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Kathy Halter
Lyra Contreras	Zita Johnson
Mara Funke	Frank Narducci
Trinity Donovan	Tina Wilson
Karen Emery	

# A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR REGION

## Demographics

**37,448**

Number of Kids Under 6 in Region

**27,389**

Number of Households with Kids Under 6

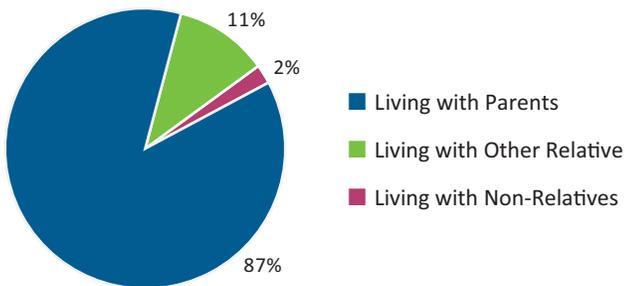
**14%**

Percentage of Households with Kids Under 6

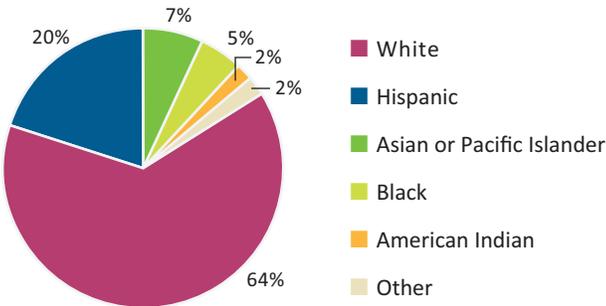
**11-63%**

Percentage of Young Kids in Poverty (depending on city/town)

Living Arrangements of Kids Under 6



Ethnic Breakdown of Kids Under 6



## Education

**67%**

Percentage of 3- to 4-Year-Olds Statewide Who Don't Go to Preschool

**11-20%**

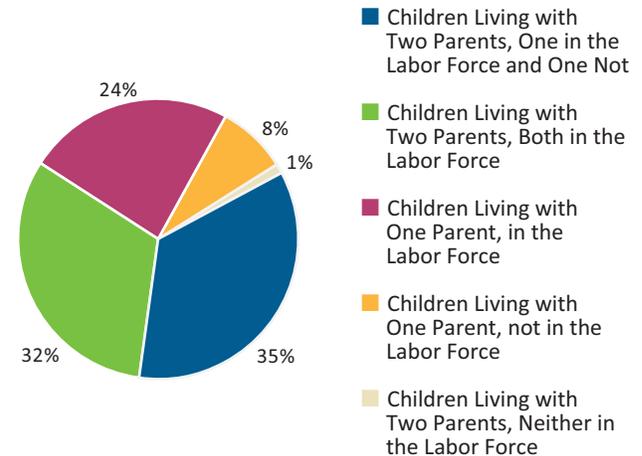
Percentage of 3rd Grade Students Not Passing AIMS in Reading (depending on district)

## Economics

**\$45,946-80,004**

Median Family Income (depending on city/town)

Employment Status of Parents with Young Kids in Maricopa County



## Health

**6-8%**

Young Children without Health Insurance (depending on city)

**19%**

Percentage of Children in the Region with Untreated Tooth Decay

# OUR REGION'S PRIORITIES

Research regarding children 5 and younger in the Central Maricopa region revealed the need for the following programs to promote optimal development and school readiness:

**Family Support:** Strong families are the cornerstone of strong communities. The region offers a continuum of voluntary programs that help build parents' confidence in their role as their child's first teachers. From community-based parent education at family resource centers to home visitation, parents get the support they want in ways that work best for them and their families.

**Quality of and Access to Early Learning:** The high cost of child care means that many young kids in the region may miss out on early learning opportunities. The region funds scholarships to help infants, toddlers and preschoolers access early learning through child care providers committed to quality improvement. In addition, a variety of professional development opportunities and scholarships are available to early child care professionals in the region to help them expand their skills working with young kids.

**Health:** Untreated tooth decay can cause speech delays in the early years and may contribute to school absences later on. The region funds screenings for children 5 and younger to detect decay, fluoride varnishes to prevent dental disease, and information to parents on the importance of oral health for young kids.

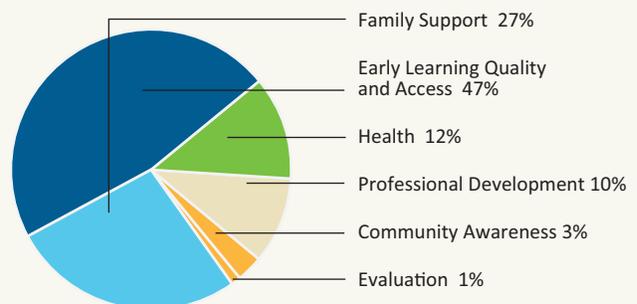
**Community Outreach and Awareness:** Awareness of the importance of early childhood is crucial so that all stakeholders can do their part to support school readiness. The Community Outreach and Awareness strategy provides grassroots support and engagement to increase parent and community awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.



## Financial Report

### EXPENDITURES BY GOAL AREA – FY2013

Family Support	\$2,149,542
Early Learning Quality and Access	3,673,435
Health	979,294
Professional Development	780,249
Community Awareness	244,374
Evaluation	49,839
Coordination	12,999
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,876,733</b>



# OUR REGION'S IMPACT

## Frustrated Mom Learns New Parenting Skills

When Adam was 4, he would hit, bite, and pull the hair of other children. Eventually, he was asked to leave his preschool because the teachers could not handle his behavior. Frustrated, his mother Ana enrolled in a 6-week basic parenting class called *1,2,3,4 Parents* offered at the Thrive to Five Family Resource Center.

The resource center is funded by the Central Maricopa region. The goal is to strengthen families by providing community-based access to programs such as Parent Education.

Ana discovered the importance of getting down on Adam's level to speak with him eye to eye to comfort and reassure him, so he felt safe and secure. Now a kindergartner, Adam grins and waves enthusiastically to his mom as he walks calmly in line with his classmates. His teachers report Adam is doing well in class and interacts well with his peers.



## Treating Tooth Decay Early Prevents School Absences Later On

Untreated tooth decay can cause speech delays and failure to thrive in young children and may contribute to school absences and poor self-esteem later on. "Kids should visit the dentist as soon as that first tooth comes in," said Megan Miks, Program Manager of the Early Childhood Oral Health Prevention Program for Chandler Regional Medical Center.

The Central Maricopa region's oral health strategy is intended to provide comprehensive approaches to ensuring children are healthy. The region funds screenings for children 5 and younger to detect decay, fluoride varnishes to prevent dental disease, and information to parents on the importance of oral health for young kids.

One of the most successful components of the program is the awareness it has brought to parents and other caregivers about the importance of oral health prevention activities and decreasing preventable oral health problems in young children.

**217**

FAMILIES ENJOY STRONGER, MORE SUPPORTIVE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

**9,570**

PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND CAREGIVERS ATTENDED VOLUNTARY CLASSES IN COMMUNITY-BASED SETTINGS ON TOPICS SUCH AS PARENTING SKILLS, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, LITERACY AND NUTRITION

**3,332**

NUMBER OF PARENT KITS DISTRIBUTED

**1,808**

ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN

**1601**

FLUORIDE VARNISHES APPLIED TO PROTECT AGAINST TOOTH DECAY

**992**

INFANTS, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS TO ACCESS EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

# MOVING FORWARD

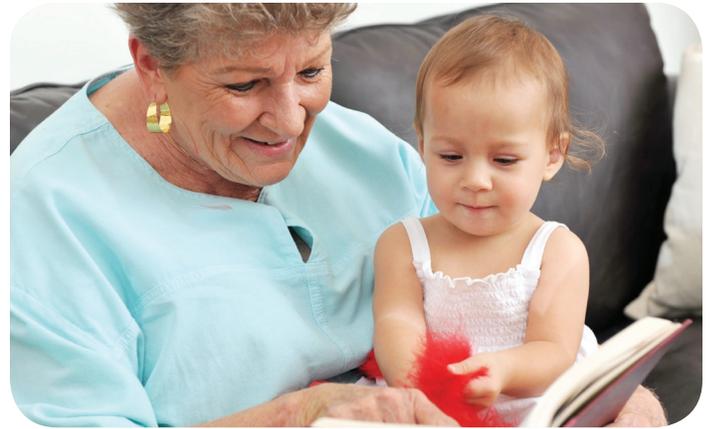
The Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council will continue its commitment to programs that improve the educational and health outcomes for young kids in the region, and look for new opportunities to expand those programs.

There continue to be challenges to fully serving the needs of families with young children in the region; low immunization rates; lack of affordable, high quality child care; few supports for adolescent parents; and, a high concentration of grandparents raising grandchildren.

These issues informed the decision about currently funded programs, including a strong network of family resource centers that offer numerous resources to families; support to improve the quality of early learning programs and young children's access to those programs; and, oral health resources for young kids. In addition, there is a strong sense of community in the towns that comprise the region and a spirit of cooperation among regional providers – both of which are crucial to building a coordinated, effective early childhood system in the region.

In 2013, the regional council will further focus its efforts toward populations that have been traditionally under-served, including grandparents raising grandchildren, adolescent parents, and families from the town of Guadalupe.

In addition, the council remains committed to increasing the coordination of services and communication with businesses and communities about the importance of helping children arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.



## Grantees – FY2012

- American Academy of Pediatrics – AZ Chapter
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Arizona Department of Education
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Arizona Partnership for Children, L.L.P.
- Arizona's Children Association
- Association for Supportive Child Care
- Central Arizona College
- Chandler Christian Community Center
- Chandler Unified School District
- Child Crisis Center
- City of Chandler Police Department
- Dignity Health Foundation - East Valley
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- MCCCDC – Paradise Valley Community College
- Pima County Health Department
- Southwest Human Development
- Tempe Community Action Agency
- Tempe Community Council
- United Food Bank
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Valley of the Sun United Way

## Central Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

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