

2013
ANNUAL REPORT



COCONINO
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.

First Things First respects the sovereignty of all Arizona tribes. Tribes may elect to have their tribal lands treated as a separate region by the statewide FTF Board; or, tribes may elect to participate in the designated geographical region in which their tribal lands are located. The Coconino Region includes the greater Flagstaff area, Williams, Winslow, Grand Canyon/Tusayan, Page, Fredonia and the tribal lands of three sovereign nations – the Havasupai Tribe, the Hopi Tribe and the Kaibab Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe.

Regional Council Members

Kevin Brown, <i>Chair</i>	Noreen Sakiestewa
Amanda Guay, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Sherri Slayton
Agnes Chamberlain	Paula Stefani
Allen Chapa	Debbie Winlock
Beth Johndrow	
Mary Morgan	

Tribal Leadership

Don E. Watahomigie,
Chairman, Havasupai Tribe

LeRoy N. Shingoitewa,
Chairman, Hopi Tribe

Manual Savala,
*Chairman, Kaibab Band of
the Paiute Indian Tribe*

A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR REGION

Demographics

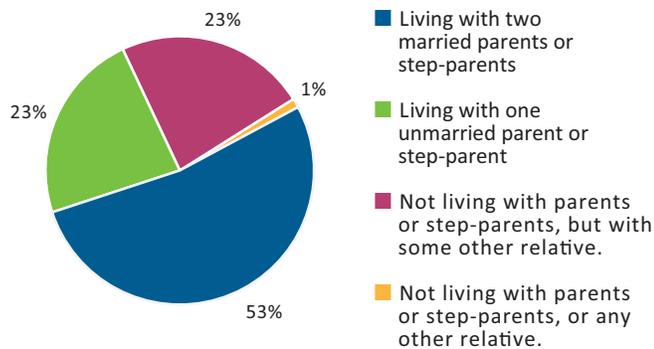
10,454

Number of Kids Under 6 in Region

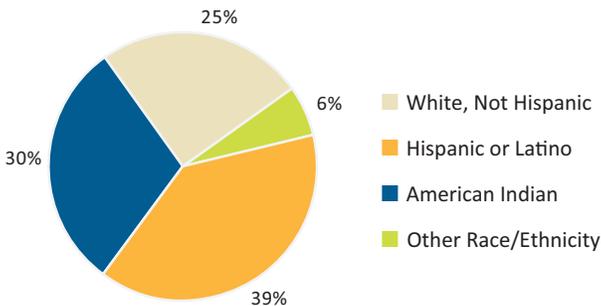
8%

Percentage of Regional Population Under 6

Living Arrangements of Kids Under 6



Ethnic Breakdown of Kids Under 6



23%

Percentage of Young Kids in Poverty

Education

67%

Percentage of 3-4 Year-olds in region who don't go to preschool

33%

Percent of 3rd grade students not passing AIMS in reading

39.9%

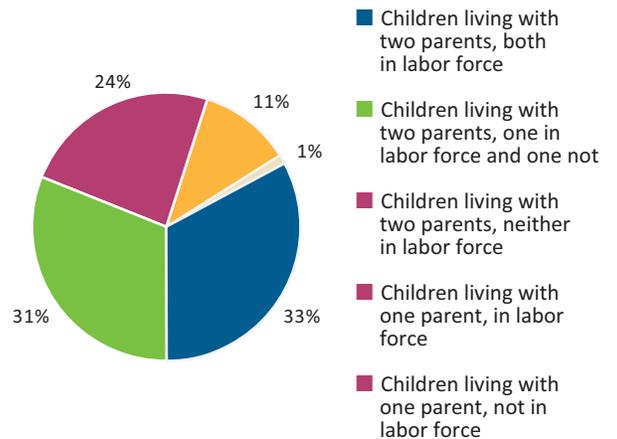
Percent of families in the region that use center or home-base childcare providers for kids under 6.

Economics

\$75,502

Median Family Income

Employment Status of Coconino County Parents with young kids



23%

Children birth through 5 living in poverty

Health

9.4%

Young Children without Health Insurance

OUR REGION'S PRIORITIES

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

Access to Quality Child Care – Research shows that 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. The regional council has addressed the need for high quality early learning by funding strategies to improve the quality of child care in the region and expand the skills of early educators working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. In addition, the region has funded scholarships that allow more children ages 5 and younger to access early learning programs.



Family Support- Parents are the first and most important teachers in their child’s life. The regional council funds home visitation and parent education programs for families who face multiple challenges or who simply want to learn more about how to support their child’s development and health.

Professional Development- The region 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.

Health - Access to quality health care is a vital component for optimal development during a child’s earliest years. The regional council funds oral health education, oral health screenings and application of fluoride varnishes to prevent tooth decay and ensure that children with dental issues are referred for follow-up care.

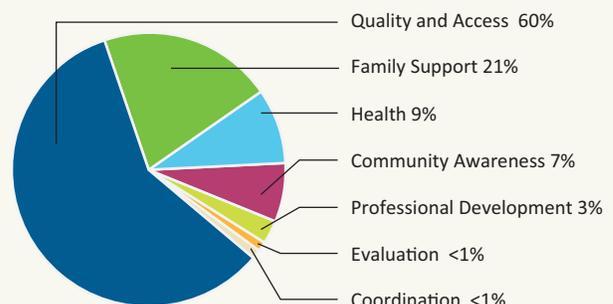
Community Outreach and Awareness: Awareness of the importance of early childhood is crucial so that all stakeholders can do their part to support school readiness. The Community Outreach and Awareness strategy provides grassroots support and engagement to increase parent and community awareness of the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

Financial Report

EXPENDITURES BY GOAL AREA – FY2013

Quality and Access	\$1,074,662
Family Support	364,321
Health	165,210
Community Awareness	119,563
Professional Development	46,628
Coordination	5,099
Evaluation	573

TOTAL **\$1,776,055**



OUR REGION'S IMPACT

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

In a classroom at Fredonia Elementary School, some young children are sitting at a computer playing a phonics game; some are shaping objects out of play dough; other children are building with Legos. It is summertime and 20 kids are getting a jump start to kindergarten in the KinderCamp program.

KinderCamp is funded by the Coconino Regional Council to help children with little or no access to preschool prepare for the transition to kindergarten. The strategy gives children an opportunity to catch up on important social and developmental skills that will help as they start school, like raising their hand and learning beside other children. During the summer, 200 children benefited from this positive kindergarten transition program in many Coconino region communities, including Page, Fredonia, Winslow, Williams, and Flagstaff.

“They are learning foundational skills that prepare them for the classroom and help eliminate the achievement gap,” said Dr. Robert Kelty, Coconino County Superintendent of Schools. “Our impact is visible when children start their first day excited and ready to start school.”



A Quality Place to Learn and Play

When Melissa Salazar could not find high quality child care for her kids, she decided to open her own home-based child care in Winslow. Melissa wanted to give the 10 children in her care the best possible education, so she enrolled in the Quality First program.

“It has opened doors I never thought would. Without Quality First, I wouldn’t have these things,” said Melissa with appreciation for the age appropriate learning materials the program helped her buy.

Across the Coconino Region 14 centers and 6 homes, like Melissa’s, have benefited from coaching and training, tuition assistance for teachers to take college courses in child development, provide scholarships to help children attend her program, and health and safety consultation.

As a result of Quality First, more than 700 children are benefitting from a higher standard of child care. Through Quality First improvements, Melissa’s goal for a quality center is becoming a reality.

86

FAMILIES ENJOY STRONGER, MORE SUPPORTIVE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

1112

ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN

18

CHILD CARE CENTERS AND HOMES OFFER CHILDREN A HIGHER STANDARD OF CHILD CARE THROUGH QUALITY FIRST

124

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

852

FLUORIDE VARNISHES APPLIED TO PROTECT AGAINST TOOTH DECAY

MOVING FORWARD

The Coconino Regional Partnership Council will continue to prioritize strategies that improve education, development and health outcomes for all young children in the region and look for opportunities to advance coordination and collaboration of services through existing and new partnerships.

In order to impact families in smaller and underserved communities, the Coconino Regional Council is expanding some strategies to reach the more rural areas in the region, including Fredonia, Grand Canyon, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indian tribal lands and Hopi tribal lands. Through home visitation, community-based parent training and other programs, new family support and child care provider services will be available in these high-need communities.

The regional council will continue its commitment to improve early literacy and health outcomes for young children in order to build a stronger, more solid foundation for our children so they will all arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed!



Grantees – FY2013

- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Association for Supportive Child Care
- Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., dba Parenting Arizona
- Coconino County Public Health Services District
- Coconino County Superintendent of Schools
- The Havasupai Tribe
- Pima County Health Department
- Southwest Human Development
- The Hopi Tribe
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Valley of the Sun United Way

Coconino Regional Partnership Council

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