

2013

ANNUAL REPORT



NORTH PIMA
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 North Pima region includes mostly suburban and rural areas in northern Pima County.

Regional Council Members

Scott Ingram,
Chair

Annabel Ratley, *Vice Chair*

Angela Hitt

Dr. Eliza Holland

Amber Jones

Naomi Karp

Sherri Rosalik

Dr. Jill Rosenzweig

A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR REGION

Demographics

15,361

Number of Kids Under 6 in Region

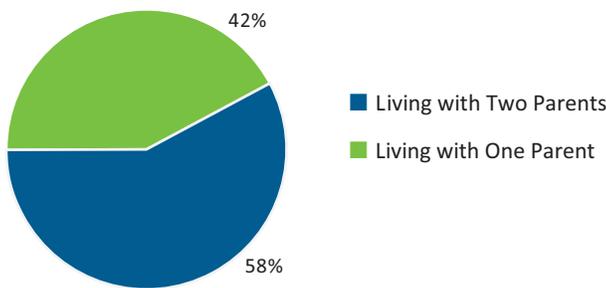
5,939

Number of Households with Kids Under 6

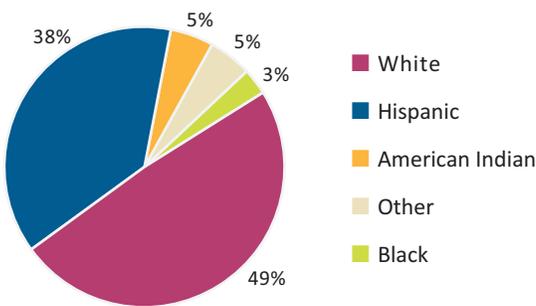
7%

Percentage of Young Kids in Poverty

Living Arrangements of Kids Under 6 in Pima County



Ethnic Breakdown of Kids Under 6 in Pima County



Education

67%

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

26%

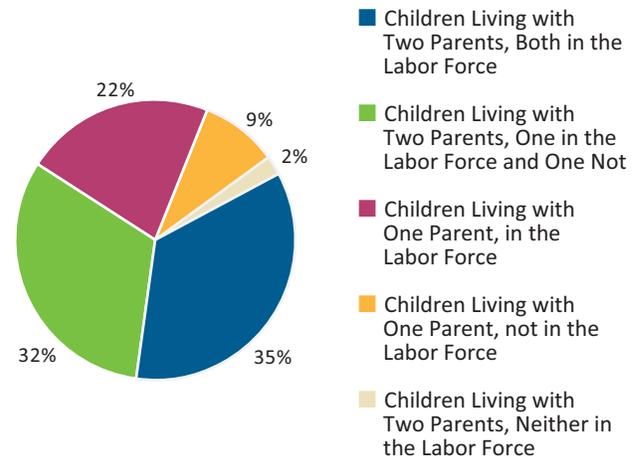
Percentage of Pima County 3rd Grade Students Not Passing AIMS in Reading

Economics

\$56,808

Median Family Income in Pima County

Employment Status of Pima County Parents with Young Kids



Health

7%

Young Children in Pima County without Health Insurance

OUR REGION'S PRIORITIES

Research regarding children 5 and younger in the North Pima 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 region 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.

Professional Development: Many children spend the day being cared for by adults other than their parents. 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 to incentives to keep the best teachers working with our youngest kids.

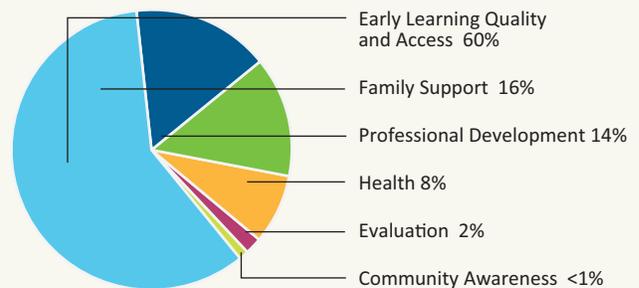
Family Support: The region recognizes parents as the first and most important teachers in their child's life, and funds a range of programs to strengthen families. The programs are voluntary and are offered in a variety of settings to best meet the needs of families – from community-based play groups for families who were interested in learning more about child development to in-home visitation from nurses for families who face multiple challenges.

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

Early Learning Quality and Access	\$1,565,039
Family Support	405,251
Professional Development	357,359
Health	196,271
Evaluation	59,769
Community Awareness	12,513
TOTAL	\$2,596,202



OUR REGION'S IMPACT

Parents as Partners

Before she was a parent, Angie was a grade school teacher with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. But a parenting education program taught her an important lesson: what school-aged children need to learn is very different than what preschool aged children need. "Don't skip ahead, or (kids 5 and younger) won't have the experiences they need to develop now and draw from later in life," Angie said. In fact, about 90% of brain development happens before kindergarten, and early experiences lay the foundation for success in school and in life.

Angie joined Marana Parents as Teachers when her daughter, Delaney, was 6 months-old. At first, Angie thought, "Do I really need to do this? I *studied* education. But there's so much I didn't know. (Now) I can have the information I need to make decisions and meet my children's needs."



Smart Support

Jordana Saletan is a supervisor with Smart Support, a program funded by First Things First to work with child care providers to help them meet the social emotional needs of the children in their care. In addition to supporting providers with issues specific to individual children, the program works with teachers and the centers so that ALL children benefit. Those benefits include teachers who are more aware of how they and the classroom environment impact kids' learning and caregivers who feel better prepared to handle everyday challenges in their classroom, especially ones related to behavior.

In several instances, a teacher who has experienced Smart Support and moved from one child care setting to another has requested Smart Support at the new site. "The knowledge and experience gets carried forward," Saletan explained, "and the impact this support has on the children in our community is powerful and lasting."

189

FAMILIES ENJOY STRONGER, MORE SUPPORTIVE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

1934

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

2198

PARENT KITS DISTRIBUTED

47

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

21

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS RECEIVED COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO EXPAND THEIR SKILLS WORKING WITH YOUNG KIDS

22

CHILD CARE CENTERS RECEIVED CONSULTATION TO BETTER SUPPORT YOUNG KIDS SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

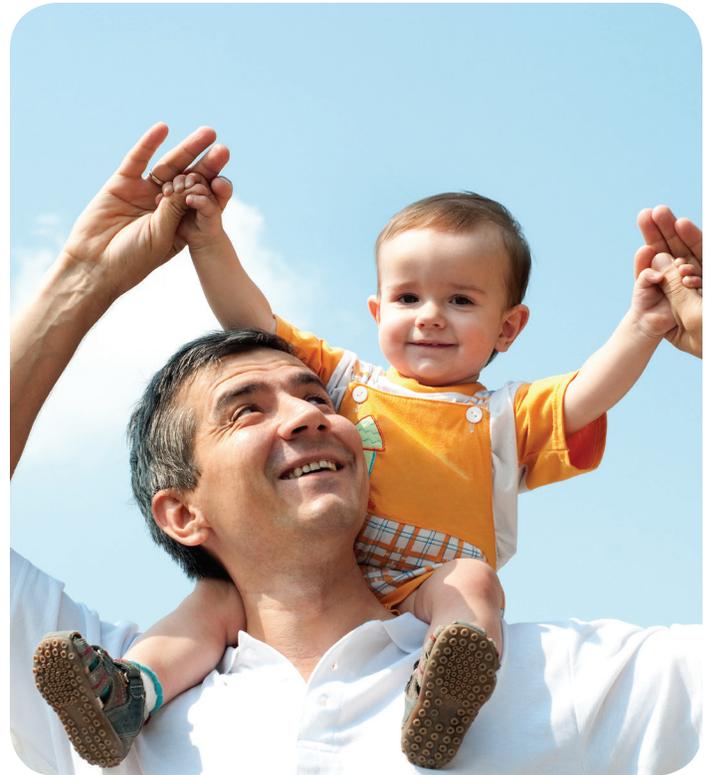
MOVING FORWARD

The regional council is committed to improving outcomes for children across Southern Arizona. Relationships between regional councils and our community partners build the foundation upon which the early childhood system is built. Coordinated services help families gain the tools they need to get their young children ready for school and ensure they will experience lifelong success.

Collaboration between FTF regions in the southeast regional area is an important way to ensure ease of access to services and supports for families.

Professional development opportunities for early childhood educators improve quality in early education programs. With this knowledge, the five regions in Pima County embraced a professional development model which is now working across the county to provide ongoing learning opportunities for teachers and is tied to college credit. The regions look forward to continuing their support for this model and are excited to watch early care and education programs in the community improve their quality.

Regional council members will continue working together to streamline processes and improve the quality of and access to services for families to ensure that young children are ready for school and set for life.



Grantees – FY2013

- Arizona Board of Regents for and on behalf of University of Arizona
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Association for Supportive Child Care
- Child and Family Resources Inc.
- Pima County Health Department
- Southwest Human Development
- Sunnyside School District
- United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Valley of the Sun United Way

North Pima Regional Partnership Council

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