

# 2013

ANNUAL REPORT



NORTHEAST 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 Northeast Maricopa region includes Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Fountain Hills, Carefree, Cave Creek, Rio Verde, including the tribal lands of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.**

## Regional Council Members

Patricia VanMaanen,  
*Chair*

Marie Raymond,  
*Vice Chair*

Joanne Meehan

Bill Myhr

Mary Permoda

Jenny Stahl

Stuart Turgel

Dana Vela

## Tribal Leadership

**Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation**

**Tribal Council**

Ruben Balderas, *President*

# A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR REGION

## Demographics

**17,258**

Number of Kids Under 6 in Region

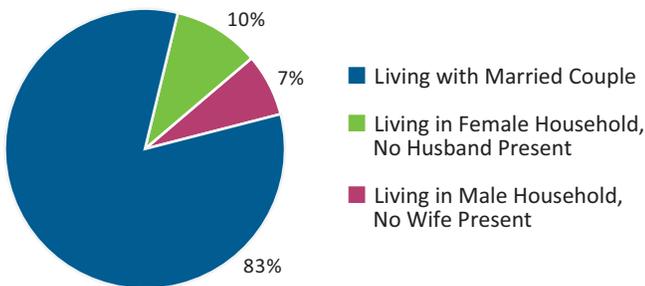
**5%**

Percentage of Households with Kids Under 6

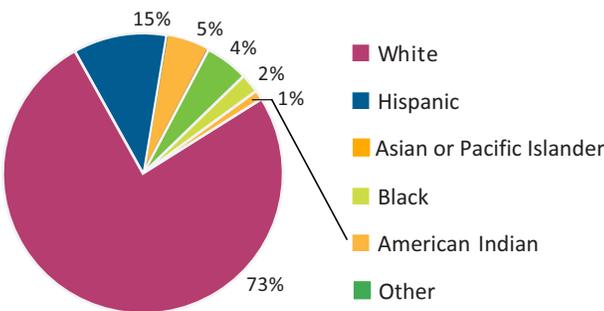
**10.5%**

Percentage of Young Kids in Poverty

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

**7-18%**

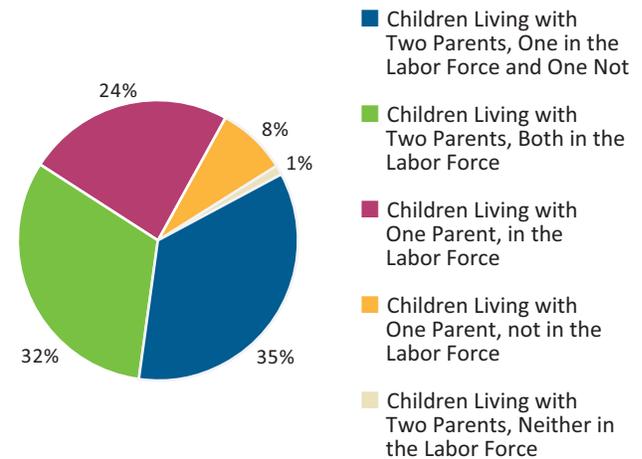
Percentage of 3rd Grade Students Not Passing AIMS in Reading (depending on district)

## Economics

**\$30,000-\$140,000**

Median Family Income (depending on city)

Employment Status of Parents with Young Kids in Maricopa County



## Health

**12.8%**

Children 19 and Younger without Health Insurance

# OUR REGION'S PRIORITIES

Research regarding children 5 and younger in the Northeast 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 partners with parents to help them feel more confident in their role as their child's first teacher. All programs are voluntary and offered in a variety of settings to best meet the families' needs – from community-based parent education with a focus on literacy to home-based programs that help parents feel more confident supporting the healthy development of their child. The Parent Coaching and Support Services program provides support for parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers with suspected developmental delays who are not eligible for publicly-funded early intervention services. Services include home visits, parent child playgroups and information about community resources.



**Quality of and Access to Early Learning:** 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.

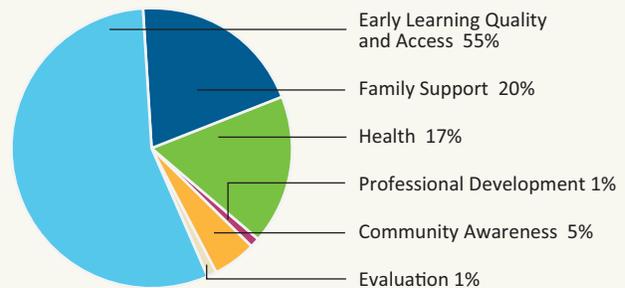
**Health:** Untreated tooth decay can cause speech delays in the early years and may contribute to school absences later on. The region funds screenings for children 5 and younger to detect decay, fluoride varnishes to prevent dental disease, and information to parents on the importance of oral health for young kids. In addition, as part of efforts to improve the quality of early learning programs, consultants work with child care providers to enhance children's health and well-being and staff's skills in nurturing the social-emotional development of every child.

## Financial Report

### EXPENDITURES BY GOAL AREA – FY2013

Early Learning Quality and Access	\$1,541,137
Family Support	574,705
Health	486,049
Community Awareness	150,084
Professional Development	29,256
Evaluation	28,523

**TOTAL** **\$2,809,754**



# OUR REGION'S IMPACT

## Local Libraries Offer Hints, Help or Just a Hand with Parenting

Libraries in Northeast Maricopa are teaming up to improve early literacy and child development among families with children from birth to 5.

“Many families in our community lack the support of an extended family,” said Marie Raymond, the early literacy coordinator at the Scottsdale Public Library. “Facing the increasing stress of life today, they are in need of information on child rearing, child development, and early education.”

With a parent education and literacy grant from the Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, Scottsdale Public Library along with the Desert Foothills Library, Fountain Hills Branch Library, Fort McDowell Tribal Library and the Paiute Neighborhood Center are offering Knowing and Growing classes.

Knowing and Growing classes provide education and training for families on early literacy, parenting, and child development. Parents and children attend the classes together. More than 2,256 adults and their children have participated in the classes since they began.



## Never Too Young for Good Dental Health

Tooth decay is among the most common health issues affecting young children. If not addressed, that decay can lead to failure to thrive, speech delays and trouble concentrating in school.

The Northeast Maricopa Region's oral health strategy provides education and outreach to families on the importance of obtaining timely oral health care for children and providing dental screenings and fluoride varnish. The program decreases preventable oral health problems in young children. Dental clinics are held in child care centers, elementary schools, libraries and community centers.

Kimberly Richards, Maricopa County's First Teeth First program coordinator, said 95 percent of parents surveyed said they were so satisfied with the program, they planned to bring their children back for a checkup in six months. “The most important thing that parents learned was one of the easiest for parents to work on which was the importance of brushing/ helping brush and cleaning teeth,” she said.

**5209**

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

**4578**

PARENT KITS DISTRIBUTED

**895**

ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN

**818**

FLUORIDE VARNISHES APPLIED TO PROTECT AGAINST TOOTH DECAY

**329**

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

# MOVING FORWARD

In fiscal year 2014, the Northeast Maricopa Regional Council will continue its commitment to programs that improve educational and health outcomes for young kids in the region, and look for new opportunities to expand those programs. In addition, the council will continue to work with community partners to identify and fill gaps in the early childhood system.

For example, although considered a region with a high socio-economic standard of living, more than one in ten children birth through 4 in Northeast Maricopa live in poverty. Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate nutrition. This is harmful to any individual, but food insecurity is particularly devastating to children and can lead to long-term consequences, including poor physical and mental health, difficulty learning, increased school absences, and lower test scores. Although this need is currently outside the scope of the Regional Council's work, it is still crucial and must be addressed by the community working together. Everyone benefits when children come to school healthy and ready to succeed.



## Grantees – FY2013

- Arizona Department of Education
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Association for Supportive Child Care
- City of Scottsdale
- Pima County Health Department
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- Southwest Human Development
- Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
- Valley of the Sun United Way

## Northeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

1839 South Alma School Road, Suite 100  
Mesa, AZ 85210

### Wendy Sabatini, Regional Director

Phone: (602) 771-4982 | Fax: (480) 755-2263  
wsabatini@azftf.gov

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