

2013
ANNUAL REPORT



SOUTHEAST 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 Southeast Maricopa region includes the city of Mesa and the towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek.

Regional Council Members

Dr. Julie Sallquist, <i>Chair</i>	Maggie Pfaffenberger
Dr. Jack Dillenberg, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Christine Scarpati
Erica Alexander	Dee Tamminen
Anna David	Detza Van Bogaert
Sherreis Moreland	Rev. David Wade

A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR REGION

Demographics

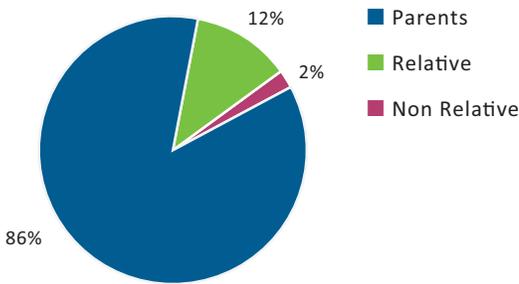
68,524

Number of Kids Under 6 in Region

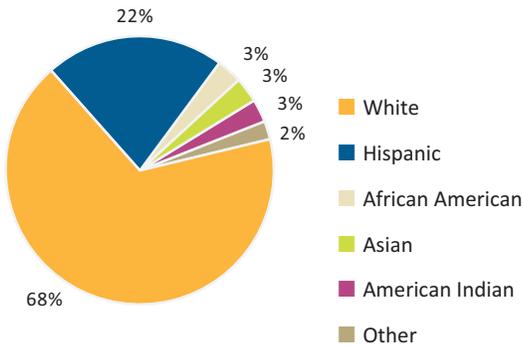
18%

Households with Kids Under 6:

Living Arrangements for Children 6 and under



Ethnic Breakdown of Kids



6-20%

Percentage of Young Kids in Poverty:

Education

67%

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

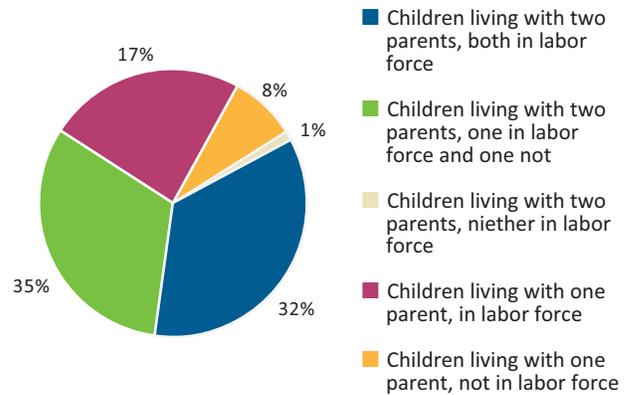
11-26%

Percent of 3rd grade students not passing AIMS in reading

Economics

\$26,377-\$97,879

Median Family Income



Health

10%

Percentage of Young Children without Health Insurance

OUR REGION'S PRIORITIES

Research regarding children 5 and younger in the Southeast Maricopa 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.



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 resource centers and trainings for families who were interested in learning more about child development to in-home visitation from nurses or other early childhood professionals for families who face multiple challenges.

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 - The region's health strategies aims to help families access preventative screenings to detect any oral health or medical issues early on. Funding is also provided to empower families to follow up on needed services or treatments.

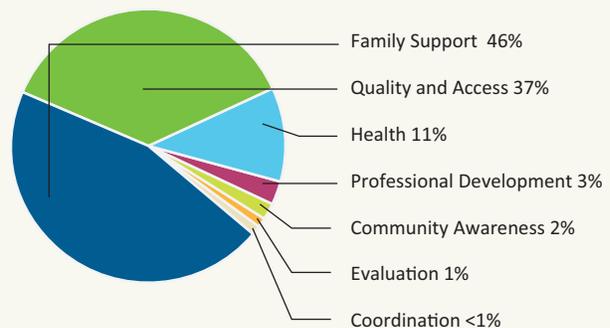
Community Outreach and Awareness - Awareness of the importance of early childhood is crucial so that all stakeholders can do their part to support school readiness. The Community Outreach and Awareness strategy provides grassroots support and engagement to increase parent and community awareness of the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

Financial Report

EXPENDITURES BY GOAL AREA – FY2013

Family Support	\$4,819,138
Quality Access	3,882,638
Health	1,202,155
Professional Development	268,072
Community Awareness	223,523
Evaluation	73,528
Coordination	12,999

TOTAL **\$10,482,052**



OUR REGION'S IMPACT

Smiling All the Way to School

Dental issues when kids are young can lead to serious health and learning problems later on. Studies have found that untreated dental issues- which often start in early childhood- are among the leading causes of school absenteeism. When kids miss school, they can fall farther and farther behind.

The Southeast Maricopa Region's oral health strategy is designed to prevent tooth decay. Field clinics are set up at preschools, health centers, and immunization clinics where children get dental checkups and fluoride varnishes while parents learn the importance of taking care of their children's teeth.

"The earlier a child receives oral health care, the less likely they are to develop cavities and other long term complications that prevent children from focusing in the classroom. Short and simple- oral health screening and education programs help children arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed" said Jack Dillenberg-Dean of the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health.



Defying Doctors' Expectations

Tonya Kubacki of Gilbert knows first-hand how hard it can be to make sure that your child has a fighting chance. Just a few short years ago, Tonya was told by schools and her son's pediatrician that her son, Merrik, would never be able to speak normally without expensive speech therapy. Unable to afford this expensive therapy, Tonya was unwilling to accept this diagnosis, and set out to find a solution.

Tonya saw an ad for the My Child's Ready home visitation program and called to see if the family qualified. A few phone calls and an application later, Merrik was quickly accepted into the My Child's Ready program and began receiving semi-weekly visits from his family support specialist.

"Not only did MCR help Merrik, it helped the family become closer" Tonya said. Merrik now speaks as well as other children his age and is ready for kindergarten.

1319

FAMILIES ENJOY STRONGER, MORE SUPPORTIVE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

2214

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

1761

ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN

1570

FLUORIDE VARNISHES APPLIED TO PROTECT AGAINST TOOTH DECAY

903

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

3814

CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF CHILD CARE THROUGH QUALITY FIRST

2931

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN PROVIDED RESOURCES AND REFERRAL INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY AVAILABLE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

MOVING FORWARD

The regional council recognizes the importance of building a sustainable early childhood system that is responsive to the varying needs of young children and families across the region and ensures that all children have access to the tools that will help them succeed in school and in life.

The regional council will continue to move forward with its funded strategies. It will also seek out partnerships that maximize its resources and allow more children to start kindergarten prepared to succeed.



Grantees – FY2013

- 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
- Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.
- Child Crisis Center
- Dignity Health Foundation – East Valley
- Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- Pima County Health Department
- Southwest Human Development
- United Food Bank
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Valley of the Sun United Way

Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

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