

2013

ANNUAL REPORT



YAVAPAI
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 Yavapai region encompasses all of Yavapai County, including the tribal lands of the Yavapai Apache Nation, as well as a portion of the City of Sedona that is in Coconino County.

Regional Council Members

Kathy Watson, *Chair*

Anne Babinsky-Rawlings,
Vice Chair

Sherry Birch

Julie Hall Allison

Sarah Lienau

Angela Bradshaw Napper

Juanita Setzer

Ophelia Tewawina

Tribal Leadership

Tribal Council

David Kwail, *Chairman*

A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR REGION

Demographics

12,703

Number of Kids Under 6 in Region

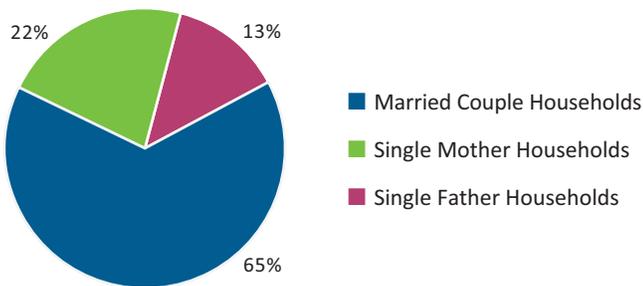
8,854

Number of Households with Kids Under 6

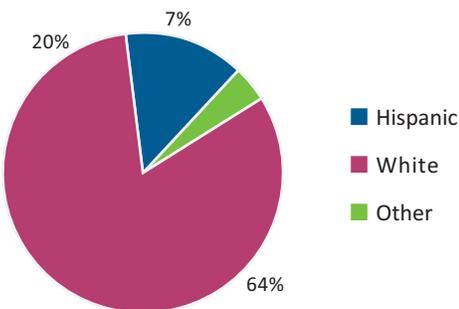
25%

Percentage of Young Kids in Poverty

Living Arrangements of Kids Under 6



Ethnic Breakdown of Kids Under 6



Education

69%

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

22%

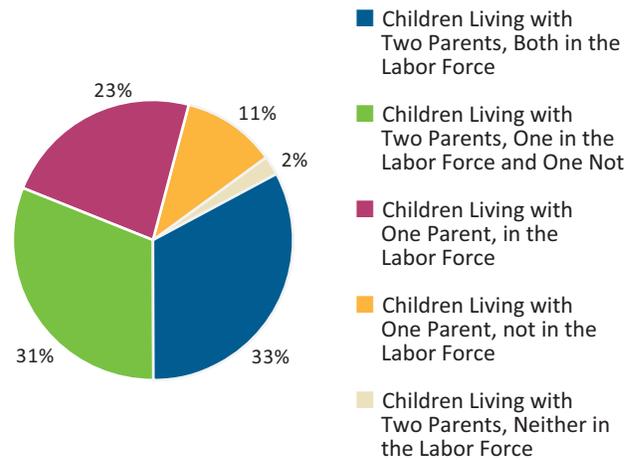
Percentage of 3rd Grade Students Not Passing AIMS in Reading

Economics

\$53,499

Median Family Income

Employment Status of Parents with Young Kids



Health

15%

Young Children without Health Insurance

69%

Percentage of Children 19 to 35 Months Old Without Recommended Vaccinations

OUR REGION'S PRIORITIES

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

Quality of and Access to Early Learning: Due to the high cost of child care, many young children in the region may not have access to early education programs that prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond. The council funds scholarships that allow infants, toddlers and preschoolers to attend early learning programs with child care providers committed to quality improvement. The council also funds scholarships to help teachers in those programs expand their skills working with kids 5 and younger.

Family Support: Strong families are the cornerstone of strong communities. The Yavapai Regional Council partners with parents to help them feel more confident in their role as their child's first teacher. Funded programs include voluntary home visitation programs; parenting education classes; the Little Kids Book, a countywide resource guide for families with young children; and community-based early literacy programs.

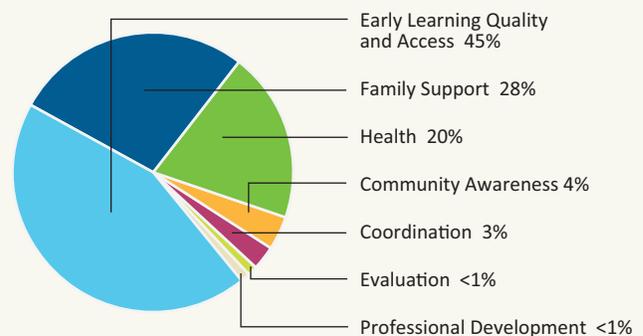
Health: Good health is an important part of a child's ability to develop, learn and reach their potential. The Yavapai Regional Partnership Council funds a prenatal outreach program that works to address our region's teen pregnancy rate, low number of prenatal visits, and strikingly low immunization rate. Collaborating with early learning programs, the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council also funds consultants to enhance child health and well-being and to expand staff's skills in meeting the social and emotional needs of all children in their 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 includes 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	\$1,618,265
Family Support	1,020,466
Health	706,337
Community Awareness	131,404
Coordination	92,500
Evaluation	30,583
Professional Development	13,447
TOTAL	\$3,613,002



OUR REGION'S IMPACT

Raising a Reader

“Early literacy is a huge factor in children’s future school success,” said Renee Smith, Director of Village Christian Preschool in Sedona. The preschool participates in Raising a Reader, a free early literacy program funded by the Yavapai Regional Council. Raising a Reader partners with early learning programs to encourage families to read more at home. Every week, children bring home bags filled with books to read with their families, and exchange the books for new ones the following week.

Debbie Metzger, mother of five year old Benjamin, said her son was proud to bring home his very own bag of books each week. Raising a Reader strengthened his love of books and enthusiasm for reading, qualities that will help him succeed in school and beyond. “If you love to read, you love to learn,” said Metzger said.



Improving Quality in Early Learning

The Del E. Webb Family Enrichment Center, a preschool in Prescott, is committed to improving the quality of their early learning program by participating in Quality First.

Through Quality First, the Del E. Webb Center receives support in areas that research shows help children thrive, as well as scholarships for 17 children of low-income families to attend the center.

Caroline Paiano, mother of energetic 2-year-old Emily, is impressed with the education her daughter receives at the center. “Emily is learning how to function in a group of her peers and how to follow a routine,” Paiano said. “She’s learning to love books and art. She’s learning independence.” All of these things, Paiano explained, are preparing Emily for future success in school.

184

FAMILIES ENJOY STRONGER, MORE SUPPORTIVE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

3684

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

1316

PARENT KITS DISTRIBUTED

400

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

29

EARLY EDUCATORS RECEIVED COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO EXPAND THEIR SKILLS WORKING WITH INFANTS, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS

24

BIRTH TO FIVE HELPLINE CALLS ANSWERED

MOVING FORWARD

The Yavapai Regional Partnership 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.

The strategies being implemented across the region create new opportunities for service providers to work together to build a more responsive early childhood system, which includes community members and service providers that are actively engaged in addressing the needs of children, birth to 5 years old.

The region will continue its commitment to strengthening families by offering an array of programs to meet the diverse needs and desires of families. In addition, the region will partner with communities to establish public-private partnerships that increase young children's access to early learning programs that prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

The region also will explore community partnerships to address needs of young children that are outside the region's scope and have long-term implications for children's health and learning. Those include better support for young kids involved with the child welfare system, increasing the number of young kids who have the recommended childhood immunizations, and meeting the nutritional needs of families with young kids.



Grantees – FY2013

- Arizona Board of Regents for and on behalf of University of Arizona
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Arizona's Children Association
- Association for Supportive Child Care
- Beaver Creek School District
- Coalition for Compassion and Justice
- Community Counts (formerly Youth Count)
- Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District #6
- Pima County Health Department
- Prevent Child Abuse Arizona
- Southwest Human Development
- Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
- United Way of Yavapai County
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Valley of the Sun United Way
- Yavapai College
- Yavapai County Community Health Services
- Yavapai Regional Medical Center
- Yavapai-Apache Nation

Yavapai Regional Partnership Council

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