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# SFY 2012 Regional Funding Plan

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Graham/Greenlee  
Regional Partnership  
Council

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Submitted to the  
First Things First State Board  
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**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

**GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**  
**SFY 2012 FUNDING PLAN**  
**July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

- I. Regional Allocation Summary (Funds Available)**
  
- II. Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012**
  - A. Progress with SFY 2010 and SFY 2011 Funding Plans; And SFY 2012 Planning
  - B. Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments
  - C. Changes in funding levels for strategies from SFY 2011 to SFY 2012
  
- III. System Building Impact**

**Appendix**  
New Strategy Worksheet

**Section I**

**Regional Allocation Summary**

The following chart shows the total available funds to the Regional Council, by funding sources.

<b>Allocations and Funding Sources</b>	<b>SFY 2010</b>	<b>SFY 2011</b>	<b>SFY 2012</b>
Population Based Allocation	<b>\$441,450.00</b>	<b>\$435,301.00</b>	<b>\$434,818.00</b>
Discretionary Allocation	<b>\$268,932.00</b>	<b>\$217,847.00</b>	<b>\$263,145.00</b>
Other (FTF fund balance addition)		<b>\$95,432.79</b>	<b>\$90,660.63</b>
Additional Income (other than FTF tobacco tax)	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Carry Forward from Previous Year</b>		<b>\$104,783.18</b>	<b>(\$14,858.34)</b>
<b>Total Regional Council Funds Available</b>	<b>\$710,382.00</b>	<b>\$853,363.97</b>	<b>\$773,765.29</b>

## Section II

### **Progress with SFY 2010 and 2011 Funding Plans And SFY 2012 Planning**

For 2012 planning, Regional Councils are asked to review the strategies from years prior while they consider direction for SFY 2012. At their September 2010 meeting, the First Things First Board adopted five priorities recommended by the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force for First Things First action within the next one to three years. These priorities represent the roles for which FTF will establish measurable benchmarks and devote resources in order to achieve results for Arizona's young children and their families. They identify services which could be funded at both state and regional levels. Throughout this 2012 Regional Funding Plan, there are references to these priorities. They are:

**Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings** - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education programs.

**Supports and Services for Families** - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

**Building Public Awareness and Support** - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.

**Professional Development System** - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.

**Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services** - Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.

In addition, the Task Force recommended that FTF take a leadership role in three priorities that focus on program and process development at the state level. These are:

**Early Childhood System Funding** – Secure, coordinate, and advocate for resources required to develop and sustain the early childhood system. [This does not mean that FTF would be the sole funder of the early childhood system, but would take an active role in helping to increase and coordinate available resources.]

**Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation** - Convene partners and provide leadership in the development and implementation of a comprehensive early care and education system that is aligned both across the spectrum of settings and with the full continuum of the educational system.

**Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment** - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and implementation of quality standards for early childhood care and education programs and related curricula and assessments. [This is integral to improving the quality of early care and education settings.]

**Section II A**

The table below provides a summary of the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council’s prioritized needs and strategies for SFY 2012, as well as information on progress in SFY 2010 and SFY 2011.

<b>PRIORITY NEED 1: Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings</b>						
<b>Description:</b> There is a need for more affordable, high-quality and accessible early care and education in the region.						
<b>Strategy: Quality First (Statewide)</b>						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Quality First - Expand the number of programs participating in the Quality First Quality Improvement and Rating System						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
Centers	3	3	2	3	3	3
Homes	Not part of Regional Strategy					
TEACH (QF) Scholars	6	6	0	6	6	6
CCHC (QF) Centers	3	0	0	3	0	3
CCHC (QF) Homes	Not part of Regional Strategy					
<b>Strategy: Child Care Scholarships (Statewide)</b>						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Quality First Scholarships – Child care scholarships to address access to early care and education.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
Children	54	54	54	17	17	18
<b>Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction</b>						
<b>1. Strategy Success</b> A child care center in Greenlee County, the only regulated center in the county, and another child care center in Graham County have completed their Quality First applications. The enrollment of these two centers will not only fill the remaining regionally funded and statewide funded slots, but will ensure that all of the child care centers in the region, with the exception of Head Start, are enrolled in Quality First. It was the Regional Council’s intent to fund Quality First for centers only as to impact the maximum number of children in out-of-home care. Quality First Scholarships have been extremely successful in the Graham/Greenlee Region, allowing children to remain in safe, stable care while their parents go back to school or look for work after regional layoffs.						
<b>2. Strategy Challenges</b> Quality First implementation has been challenging due to delays in getting an agreement in place to provide Child Care Health Consultation. Due to lack of capacity in the region to provide these services, plans are currently being discussed with a potential service provider to expand into our region.						

<b>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</b>						
Strategies will continue with a slight allocation increase of \$29,000 to Quality First Scholarships.						
<b>4. First Things First Priorities</b>						
These strategies address <b>Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings</b> – The FTF Statewide Priority to convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education programs.						
<b>PRIORITY NEED 2: Supports and Services for Families</b>						
<b>Description:</b> There is a need to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood and a parent’s role in supporting health and development.						
<b>Strategy: Home Visitation</b>						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Home Visitation - Expand existing programs that focus on parent education, support, and resources including increase of home visiting and parent mentoring programs, with an emphasis on expanding into Greenlee County.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
Families	55	55	58	110	110	110
<b>Strategy: Community-based Literacy</b>						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Early Childhood Literacy Project - Early Childhood Literacy Project to provide support for parents to promote language acquisition, literacy and school readiness and to increase parent involvement and family literacy through book distribution and community based trainings.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
Families	500	500	*4312	500	500	500
Children	1500	1500	**4849	2000	2000	2000
Books	***N/A	***N/A	***14,566	***N/A	***N/A	20,000
*May include duplicated count of families due to attendance at multiple trainings.						
**May include duplicated count of children due to all children enrolled in the book club being reported each month.						
***Books were not targeted or contracted service units for FY2010 or FY2011.						
<b>Strategy: Reach Out and Read</b>						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Reach Out and Read - Fund the Reach Out and Read Program for one family practice physician office in the Graham/Greenlee Region.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
Practitioners		Not a Regional Strategy in 2010 and 2011				5
Books		Not a Regional Strategy in 2010 and 2011				1,750

<b>Strategy: Food Insecurity</b>						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Food Assistance and Nutrition - Support the region's families who have been impacted by the economic crisis by expanding access to nutritious food and providing resources and information that support the needs of families with children birth through age five.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
<b>Food Boxes</b>	149	149	358	1,000	1,000	1,500
<b>Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction</b>						
<b>1. Strategy Success</b> From an emergency response in FY 2010 to regionally funded strategies in FY 2011, home visiting and food assistance are positively impacting at risk families with young children in the region. Reaching families in Greenlee County, where home visiting services and food assistance have never been offered before, has been a great accomplishment. The Early Childhood Literacy Project is a favorite of young children in the region who eagerly await their books in the mail each month. All three continuing strategies exceeded their service target numbers.						
<b>2. Strategy Challenges</b> None to report						
<b>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</b> Continue strategies with a slight allocation increase to the Food Insecurity strategy. Add a new strategy, Reach Out and Read.						
<b>4. First Things First Priorities</b> These strategies address <b>Supports and Services for Families</b> – The FTF Statewide Priority to convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.						
<b>PRIORITY NEED 3: Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services</b>						
<b>Description:</b> There is a need to increase access to high quality health care services for young children and their families in the region.						
<b>Strategy: Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (Multi-region)</b>						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Therapist Incentives - Increase the number of therapists (speech, OT, PT) with expertise in the zero to five populations, by offering stipends and/or loan forgiveness.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
<b>Therapists</b>	2	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Strategy: Oral Health</b>						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Oral Health - Increase young children's access to preventative dental care through oral health screenings, applying fluoride varnishes, and referring children for follow-up treatment.						

Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Children	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			1000	Not yet contracted in SFY 2011	650
<b>Summary of Progress and Challenges</b> <b>Rationale for Changes to SFY12</b> <b>Alignment with Strategic Direction</b>						
<b>1. Strategy Success:</b> Therapist Incentives are funded through a statewide contract with Arizona Department of Health Services as the Administrative home. ADHS has developed a detailed and strategic marketing plan that will allow a more effective outreach to the target audience. A new website has been developed <a href="http://www.ftfincincentives.com">www.ftfincincentives.com</a> , as well as a program marketing/outreach flyer.						
<b>2. Strategy Challenges:</b> Limited outreach has been a barrier in the successful implementation of the therapist incentive marketing plan. Opportunities for outreach, such as participating in on-campus events and licensing board conferences, have been challenging because of the lack of dedicated staff to implement these activities. Identifying an agency to administer the oral health strategy continues to be a challenge. Due to lack of capacity in the region, plans are currently being discussed with two potential service providers to expand their services into the Graham/Greenlee Region.						
<b>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</b> Continue strategies with allocation decrease to Oral Health and Therapist Incentives						
<b>4. First Things First Priorities</b> These strategies address <b>Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services</b> – The FTF Statewide Priority to collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.						
<b>PRIORITY NEED 4: Building Public Awareness and Support</b>						
<b>Description:</b> There is a need to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers and the public.						
<b>Strategy: Community Outreach (Statewide) (FTF Directed)</b>						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Community Outreach – Increase public awareness of, and support for, early childhood issues through a Community Outreach Liaison and a media campaign.						
<b>Summary of Progress and Challenges</b> <b>Rationale for Changes to SFY12</b> <b>Alignment with Strategic Direction</b>						
<b>1. Strategy Success:</b> The hiring of a community outreach consultant proved to be very successful. Accomplishments with this strategy include, 58 Champions, 29 presentations to 561 community members, six stories posted on the First Things First story bank, and 2 feature articles about First Things First published in local newspapers.						
<b>2. Strategy Challenges:</b> No challenges.						

**3. Strategy Changes for 2012:**

Continue the strategy without modification

**4. First Things First Priorities:**

These strategies address **Building Public Awareness and Support** – The FTF Statewide Priority to convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.

GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL  
Regional Funding Plan

**Section II B Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments**

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council Operational Plan Funding Summary					2012 Proposed Allotments
	2010		2011		2012
FY Allocation	\$710,382.00		\$748,580.79		\$788,623.63
Carry Forward From Previous Year	na		\$104,783.18		(\$14,858.34)*
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$710,382.00</b>		<b>\$853,363.97</b>		<b>\$773,765.29</b>
Strategies	Allotted	Expended	Allotted	Awarded	Proposed
<b>Quality and Access</b>					
Quality First (Statewide)	\$57,590.00	\$39,121.38	\$75,923.00	\$65,873.00	\$67,500.00
Child Care Health Consultation (Statewide)	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,667.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
Scholarships TEACH (Statewide)	\$19,080.00	\$2,858.35	\$19,080.00	\$18,434.00	\$9,900.00
Child Care Scholarships * (Statewide)	\$193,402.00	\$167,981.74*	\$94,000.00	\$94,000.00	\$123,000.00
<b>Family Support</b>					
Home Visitation	\$152,249.00	\$136,723.93	\$300,000.00	\$299,937.00	\$300,000.00
Community-based Literacy	\$100,000.00	\$93,807.37	\$110,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$110,000.00
Reach Out and Read	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Food Insecurity	\$3,280.00	\$3,275.32	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>Health</b>					
Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (Multi-region)	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$17,250.00
Oral Health	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00
<b>Community Awareness</b>					
Community Outreach (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	\$12,298.00	\$17,000.00
Communications	\$15,000.00	\$7,695.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Media	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Evaluation</b>					
Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,874.87	\$31,874.87	\$0.00
Needs and Assets	\$4,500.00	\$2,925.00	\$2,383.26	\$2,383.26	\$0.00
Parent Kits - Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,543.79	\$0.00	\$0.00
Arizona Health Survey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,254.95	\$1,254.95	\$0.00
Child Care Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,194.83	\$3,194.83	\$0.00
Children’s Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.61	\$300.61	\$0.00
2012 Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42,945.00
Resource Distribution - Parent Kits (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$1,210.00	\$1,210.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$706,311.00</b>	<b>\$605,598.82</b>	<b>\$868,222.31</b>	<b>\$724,550.52</b>	<b>\$799,595.00</b>
<b>Carry Forward to Following Year</b>		<b>\$104,783.18</b>	<b>(\$14,858.34)*</b>		<b>(\$25,829.71)*</b>
<p>Note: *The Graham/Greenlee budget shows a deficit beginning SFY 2011 due to the 2010 Child Care Scholarships line item. The final 2010 expenses were less than forwarded to the grantee, therefore the funding has since been returned to FTF and a credit in the amount of \$63,777.05 will later be reflected in the 2011 Graham/Greenlee expenditures. Once SFY 2011 is reconciled, the credited amount will resolve these deficit circumstances for the SFY 2011 year end budget and into SFY 2012, eliminating the SFY 2012 year end deficit.</p>					

GRAHAM/GREENLEE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL  
Regional Funding Plan

**Section II C Provide information about changes in funding level for strategies from 2011 to 2012**

Strategy Name	Previous Funding Amount (SFY 2011)	New Funding Amount (SFY 2012)	Rationale for Change in Funding
Quality First	\$88,440	\$89,400	The allocation reflects the increase in cost of this strategy. Target numbers will remain the same.
Quality First Scholarships	\$94,000	\$123,000	Rates have been increased for SFY 2012. In addition, the Council has maintained the current 17 slots for children utilizing the scholarships in the Graham/Greenlee Region and added 1 additional slot.
Reach Out and Read	\$0	\$5,000	This is a new strategy for SFY 2012.
Food Insecurity	\$10,000	\$15,000	The increase reflects the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council's desire to increase funding for this strategy which continues to be a need in the region.
Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness	\$75,000	\$17,250	The original amount allocated in SFY 2011 will cover 1 therapist within the Region for two years. This allocation is to cover administrative and programmatic fees only for SFY 2012.
Oral Health	\$120,000	\$80,000	This is a new strategy for SFY 2011. To date, a grantee to administer this strategy has not been identified; rolling over funds into SFY 2012 is anticipated.
Carry Forward	(\$14,858.34)	(\$25,829.71)	<p>The Graham/Greenlee Regional Funding Plan is reflecting a deficit due to a late return (credit) of funds from the FY 2010 Child Care Scholarship Strategy.</p> <p>Once the final reconciliation of the FY 2011 budget is complete, it is anticipated that the FY 2011 Carry Forward will be at least \$48,918.71. With these adjustments in place, the FY 2012 Carry Forward will be at least \$37,947.34.</p> <p>In addition to this Carry Forward, the Regional Council anticipates between \$75,000- \$150,000 in additional unexpended carry forward available by the end of FY 2012. The use of this carry forward from FY 2012 will allow priority programs to continue with level or increased funding in FY 2013.</p>

### **Section III**

#### **System Building Impact**

Throughout the development of the SFY 2012 Funding Plan, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council envisioned an early childhood system that provides services and assistance to meet the varying needs of young children and their families across the region. To this end, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has developed a plan which acknowledges that all families should have access to universal services such as high-quality parenting and support information as well as affordable early care and education. Some families will require more targeted services that address risk factors and still others may require intensive services to support their child's healthy growth and development.

The 2008 and 2010 Needs and Assets Reports painted a picture of limited access to quality early care and education, inadequate access to parenting information and resources to support children's healthy growth and development, and the lack of health professionals with specialized knowledge of children birth through age five. In addition, unemployment continues to greatly impact families in the region. Therefore, the Regional Council considered the following factors when developing the SFY 2012 Funding Plan: basic infrastructure needed to build an early childhood development and health system, the appropriate scope and reach of our identified strategies and how the continued economic climate impacts children and families in the region.

The Graham Greenlee Regional Council believes that children and families can best be supported in the context of the family setting and by providing family support via a child centered, family focused approach. Thus, in developing strategies the Regional Council specifically addressed the need for varying levels of family support. Ranging from universal to more intensive methodologies, the continuum of services proposed will build on families' strengths while laying a solid foundation of support to all families with young children.

This continuum of evidence-based practices starts with the universal, multi-age literacy strategy and increases in intensity and focus to the comprehensive home visitation program. Any family with a child birth through age five and child care programs servicing this age group will have access to the Early Childhood Literacy Project offered through the local community library system. In an effort to maximize the reach of the program effort, collaboration will occur with additional community agencies such as early care and education programs; home visiting programs; food assistance and nutrition program; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); and those sponsoring community events. The distribution of high quality children's books encourages family and caregiver bonding, as well as early literacy, as families begin their own

home library collections and providers receive in-service early literacy training. This strategy supports early literacy skills and increases school readiness as it empowers child care providers with training and resources and honors parents as their child's first teacher with activities and other supportive programming.

Some families will be in need of more focused support, therefore, the proposed family support continuum includes a home visitation strategy that intentionally addresses the needs of families at a more targeted level of support. Research has shown that home visitation programs that are intended to address parent/child outcomes related to child abuse and neglect, have a high success rate. The emphasis in home visitation is to stabilize the family, prevent child abuse and neglect, and provide information and resources based on the individual needs of the specific family. The additional in-home supports provided to high risk families through these programs have decreased the incidences of abuse and neglect. These services are targeted only to those families that need this additional level of support. Specifically, home visitors provide parenting and other needed supports as identified by the family as well as link them to other resources and information that are applicable and appropriate for each family in the program. For example, if childhood hunger is identified during a home visit, the home visitor will network with organizations that address food insecurities and direct the family to the local food program implementing the food assistance and nutrition strategy. The development of early literacy skills and family bonding is addressed by expanding the Early Childhood Literacy Project to families in their homes, encouraging and modeling reading habits to parents, and enrolling them in this early literacy program. Likewise, home visitors refer families to oral health and therapist services.

To provide even more support to families experiencing hardship due to the economic downturn, layoffs and other social stressors, the Regional Council has developed a family support strategy that will additionally assist vulnerable families at a more intensive level. The emphasis of this strategy is to support the regional families who have been impacted by the economic crisis by expanding access to nutritious food and providing resources and referral information.

Supporting families in the Graham/Greenlee Region means supporting them in different settings, in different ways, and with different levels of intensity. The coordinated services of our family support continuum have the potential to provide direct service to nearly 91 percent of all children birth through age five and their families residing in the Graham/Greenlee Region.

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council recognizes the need to build an early childhood development and health system for the children and families in our region that complements system building on a statewide level and that recognizes the unique character

and traditions of our region. Building an infrastructure to address the needs of young children in the region is a high priority of the Regional Council.

One of the identified needs in the region is oral health. Currently, 100 percent of the 936 children, birth through age five, who qualify for state assisted healthcare (AHCCCS) cannot access oral health services because there are no local providers that accept AHCCCS insurance. The Oral Health strategy is designed to increase children's access to preventative dental care through oral health screenings, applying fluoride varnishes and referring them for follow-up treatment. Identifying an agency to administer the oral health strategy continues to be a challenge. Additional needs for infrastructure building, has prompted the Regional Council to develop a strategy that addresses the shortage of local speech, occupational and physical therapists. It is the intent of the Regional Council to support the continuation of therapist services for young children in our region by meeting the needs of families with children birth through age five who have suspected or identified developmental delays. The Regional Council's intent is to develop an infrastructure that provides assurance that services are not interrupted and that they will be available to future generations of Graham/Greenlee children and their families. The Regional Council seeks to impact 100 percent of children birth through age five in need of therapist services.

Understanding that the most likely place for a child to receive care other than the home is in a regulated or lawfully unregulated child care program, the Regional Council supports an investment in the improvement of quality of care in out-of-home settings and the continuing professional development of the early childhood workforce. Considerable evidence suggests that more capable and qualified professionals will provide improved care for children resulting in better developmental outcomes. Therefore, to impact the quality of care universally for children birth through age five in our region, the Regional Council will continue to financially support three centers in Quality First, in addition to the two centers and three home providers currently funded by the statewide Quality First Program. This will allow us to reach 100 percent of the child care centers in our region, with the exception of the Head Start Programs, and to focus resources to secondary caregivers. In this way, we are able to complement the vast array of family support strategies provided to primary caregivers.

It is the Regional Council's intent, with its SFY 2012 Funding Plan, to continue making systemic change to services for young children and their families through coordination and family support, building on the existing assets in the region such as quality early literacy projects and home visitation programs, and addressing unmet needs such as the lack of oral health services and the shortage of therapists. Throughout the region, child care, early education, health and social services are fragmented, with minimal coordination of services. This makes it difficult for both families and service providers to navigate the various services and systems of services. As

part of the implementation of the SFY 2011 Funding Plan, the strategies were carefully aligned and all grantees, including those with Interagency Service Agreements, are required to participate in regional collaboration efforts, as well as cross regional efforts.

The strategies presented in this funding plan focus on building and sustaining the capacity and the coordination of local programs to engage in the ongoing work of community change in a joint, rather than an isolated, approach.

Further, the Regional Council has established workgroups that will continue to collaborate with community partners to further regional coordination efforts throughout the next year. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council will continue to work with community partners to create a system that builds and sustains coordination and collaboration among the network of early childhood and health programs and services in the region. This will include licensed child care providers, preschool programs, food programs, libraries, and home visiting programs, as well as the informal networks of people or associations within neighborhoods in which families participate to build a web of social support. The goal is to produce higher quality services and obtain better outcomes for our children through a system of early childhood development that is intentional and coordinated. It is important to note that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council anticipates continued funding for these priority strategies in SFY 2013.

## Appendix Strategy Worksheet

### **Strategy Name: Reach Out and Read**

**Strategy Description: Expand the capacity of early childhood language and literacy programs to provide support and services to children birth to five years and their families.**

“Reading aloud is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading. Early language skills, the foundation for later reading ability, are based primarily on language exposure and human interaction – parents and other adults talking to young children. The more words parents use when speaking to an infant, the greater the size of the child’s vocabulary at age three. Many children from low income families hear fewer words and learn fewer words and their limited vocabularies essentially leave them language delayed at school entry, which places them at educational risk. Of all parent-child activities, reading aloud provides the richest exposure to language, so promotion of reading aloud, especially for children from more disadvantage backgrounds, holds greater promise for strengthening school readiness and laying a strong foundation for future educational success.”

Reach Out and Read (ROR) is a national nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud in pediatric exam rooms across the nation. The program trains doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud and to give books to children at pediatric checkups from 6 months to 5 years of age, with a special focus on children growing up in poverty. By building on a unique relationship between parents and medical providers, Reach Out and Read helps families and communities encourage early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success in reading. An outcome of ROR is to have each participating child enter kindergarten with a home library of at least 10 books, and family members who understand the importance of reading aloud to their children, “The single most important activity for building....skills essential for reading success appears to be reading aloud to children.” Research demonstrates that ROR impacts the frequency of parental book reading, increases children’s expressive and receptive vocabulary, increases the number of books in the home, and increases reports of books reading as one of the child’s favorite activities.

Children who have early learning skills as they enter kindergarten do better in school, are more likely to graduate with a high school diploma, and more successful in their careers, and are less likely to be involved in crimes and drugs. A recent study showed that of those children who were not read to prior to kindergarten, only 6% of them performed well on standardized tests in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Typically, children who are unprepared for kindergarten do not make up the initial learning gap.

According to the Graham/Greenlee 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report, nearly 20% of parents in the region reported that they had not read to their children in the previous week and believe that children's capacity for learning is pretty much set from birth and cannot be greatly increased or decreased by how the parents interact with them. Of the kindergarten children tested in the region, 70% tested below the benchmark in early literacy as measured by DIBELS.

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council will amend the Statewide contract to implement this strategy in the region.

<b>Goal Area:</b> Family Support				
<b>Goal:</b> FTF will increase the availability, quality and diversity of relevant resources that support language and literacy development for young children and their families.				
<b>Key Measures:</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of families of children birth through age five who report they maintain language and literacy rich home environment (e.g. children hear language throughout the day, children have opportunities for listening and talking with family members, books and other literacy tools and materials are available and accessible to children).</li> <li>• Percentage of families with children birth through age five who report reading to their children daily in their primary language.</li> </ul>				
<b>Target Population:</b>				
Children 6 months through age five in the region.				
<b>Regional Council Target Service Numbers</b>	<b>units</b>	<b>SFY 2011</b>	<b>SFY 2012</b>	<b>SFY 2013</b>
	Practitioners participating	N/A	5	5
	Books delivered	N/A	1,750	1,750
<b>Performance Measures:</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total number of medical practitioners participating in Reach Out and Read model/proposed service numbers</li> <li>2. Total number of books distributed/proposed service numbers</li> </ol>				
<b>SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy</b>				
<b>TOTAL ALLOTMENT for proposed strategy</b>		\$5,000.00		
<b>Budget Justification/Estimates of Costs:</b>				
Reach Out and Read budget justification – \$5,000.00 for books only.				