



Bringing it all together: Quality, Access, and Affordability—A Comprehensive Early Care and Education System

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

Comprehensive Model

- Families should have options for early care and education programs.
 - High quality developmental and learning environment appropriate for child
 - Meets health and safety regulations
 - Choice of settings and schedules
 - Available where families live and work
 - Affordable for family budgets

Comprehensive Model for Early Care and Education



Early Care and Education System Reform

- Child centered focus
- Beginning of the educational continuum
- Multi-service delivery options
- Sustainable and adequate funding
- Measurable outcomes



Vision for Arizona's ECE System

Quality Improvement

Rating of Quality

Increase Supply

Make Affordable to All



Supply and Demand for Birth-5

- 306,051 Arizona children under 6 yrs in families with all parents in work force
- 211,053 spaces in Arizona early care and education programs
- 23,115 fewer kids don't have access to programs in 2010
- 278 Arizona program settings that are nationally accredited (out of about 4,000 total)
- 32% of parents nationally rely on family members for care
- 25% of families nationally are experiencing child care-related hardship due to the economic downturn

Quality



Quality First!

The purpose of this “signature” FTF program is to **improve the quality** of early care and education so young children can begin school safe, healthy and ready to succeed, and so **parents have information and choices of quality settings** for their children.



Quality First System Elements

- ★ Pre and Post Assessment
- ★ Coaching
- ★ Substantial Financial Incentives
- ★ T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Arizona Scholarships
- ★ Child Care Health Consultation
- ★ Assessment for Star Rating

Access and Affordability



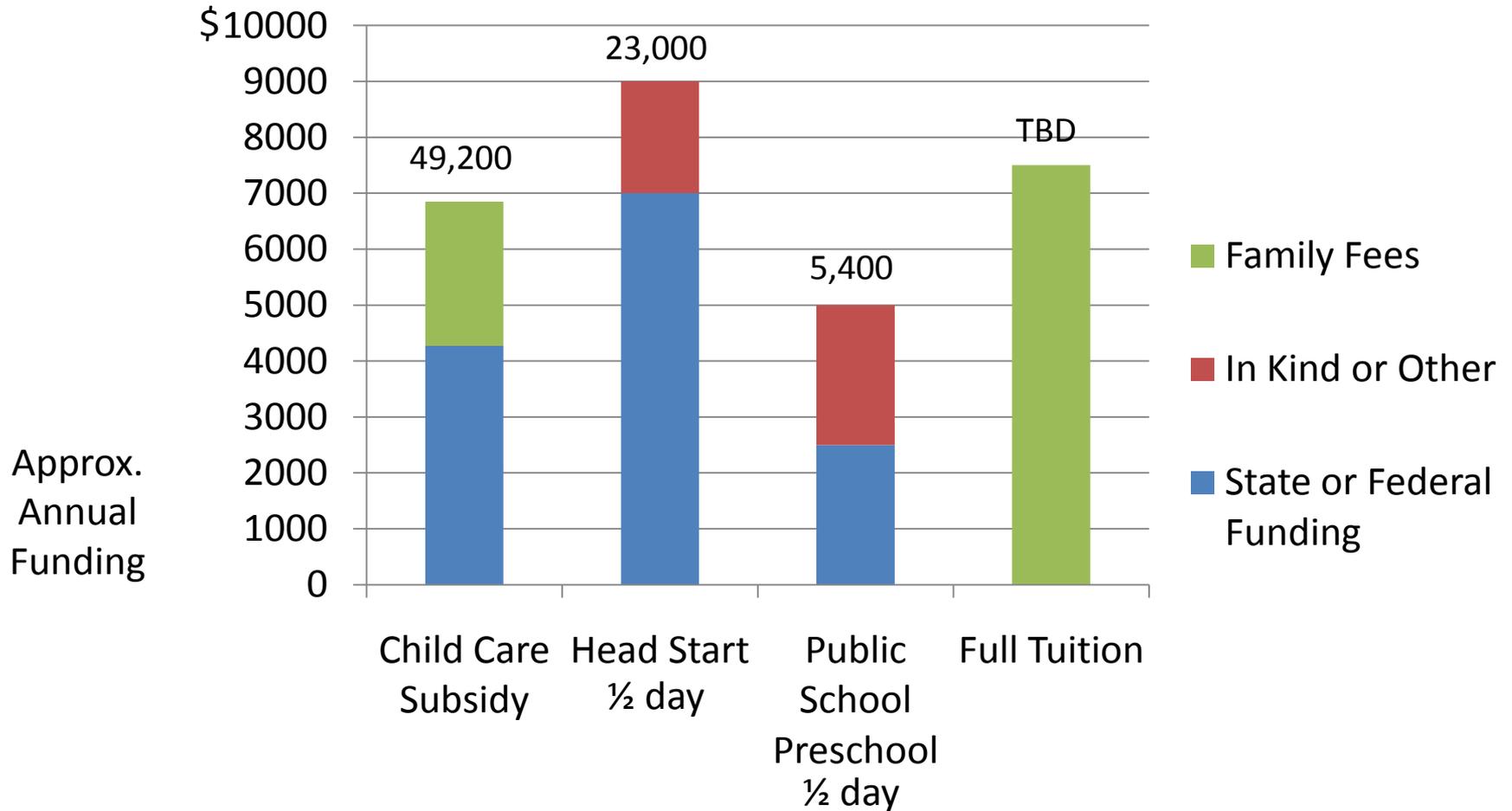
Access and Affordability

Child Care
Scholarships

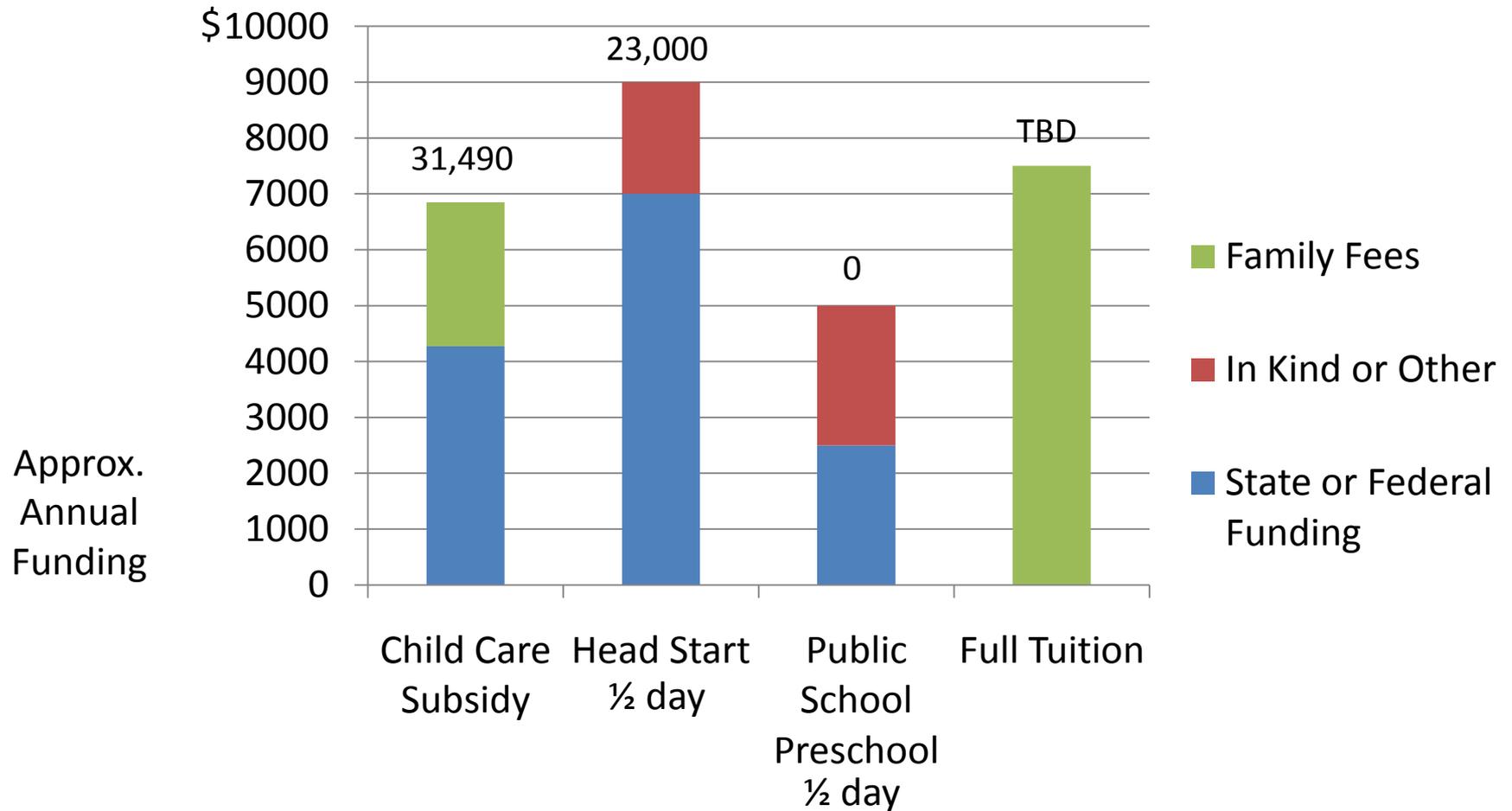
Pre-K Expansion



FY 2008 Children in Early Care and Education



FY 2010 Children in Early Care and Education



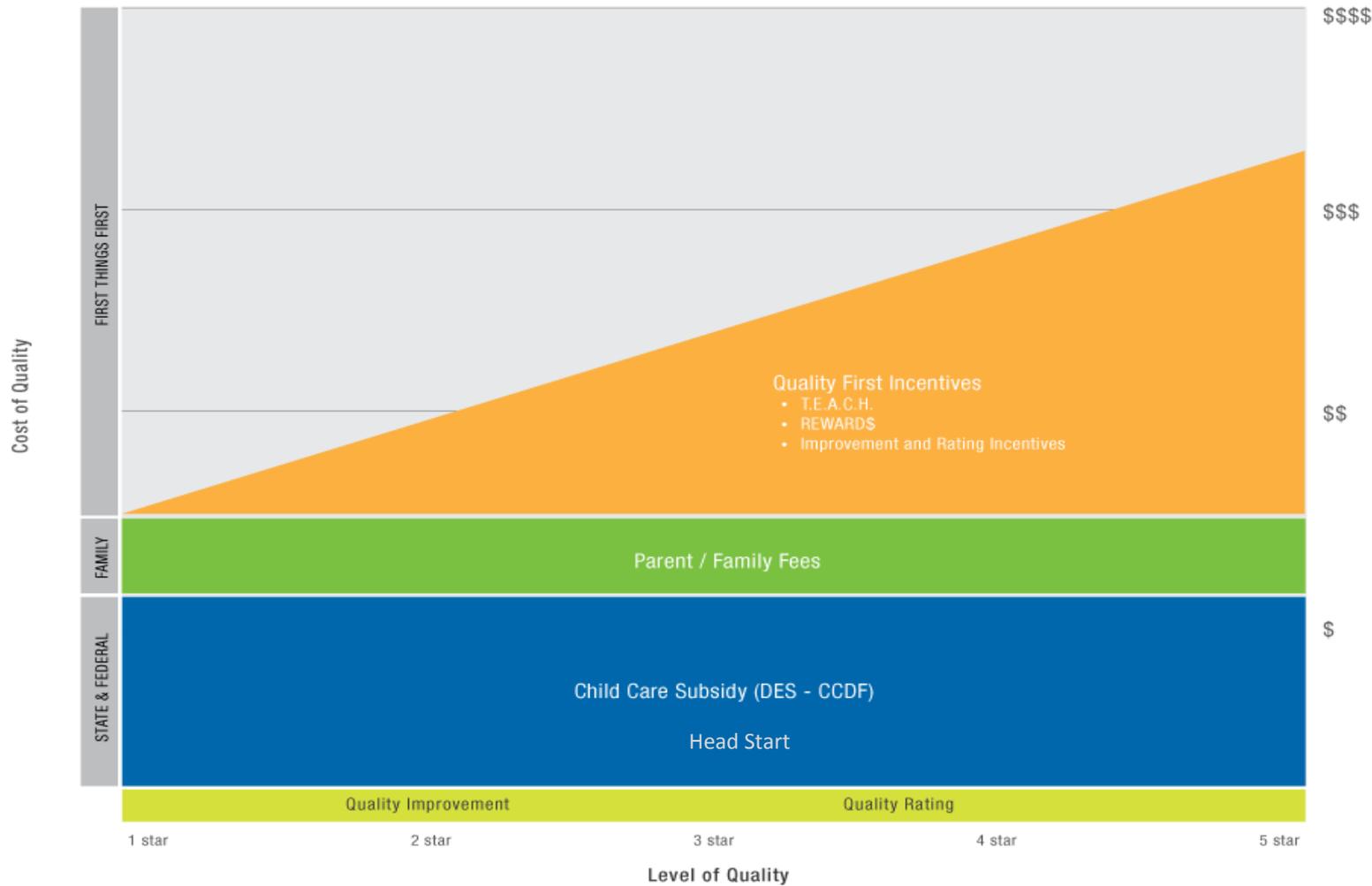
First Things First's Role In Financing Quality Early Care and Education (Long Term)



First Things First's Role In Financing Quality Early Care and Education (Long Term)



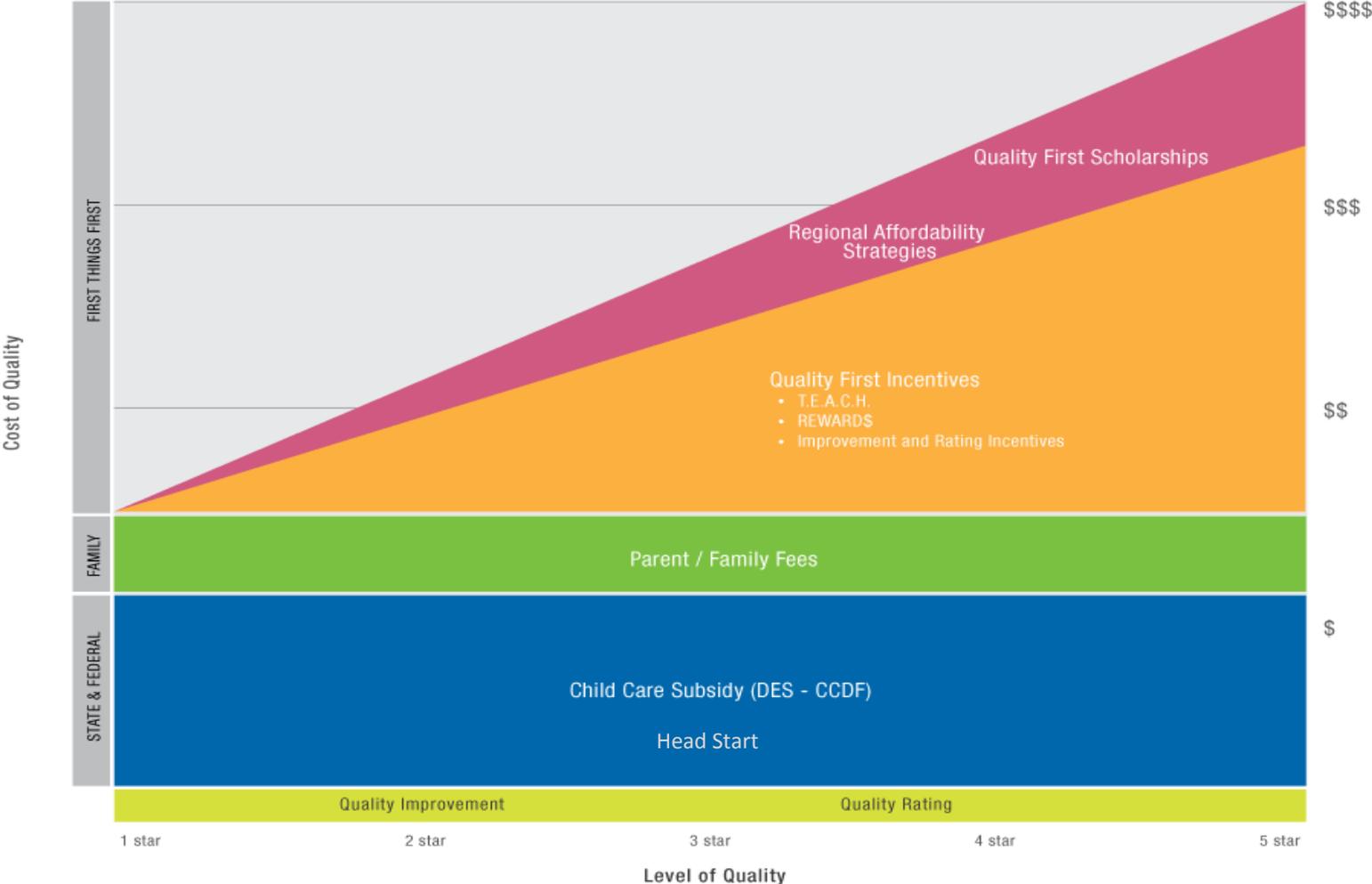
First Things First's Role In Financing Quality Early Care and Education (Long Term)



First Things First's Role In Financing Quality Early Care and Education (Short Term)



First Things First's Role In Financing Quality Early Care and Education (Long Term)



Comprehensive Model

- Bringing it all together so that early care and education programs are:
 - High quality developmental and learning environment appropriate for child, meeting health and safety regulations;
 - Available where families live and work, providing choice of settings and schedules
 - Affordable for family budgets

Questions?

