FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

Allocations and Funding Sources	2013	Recommendations to the Board FY13 Strategies and Allotments
FY Allocation	$538,369	
Population Based Allocation	$302,369	
Discretionary Allocation	$167,666	
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	$68,334	
Carry Forward From Previous Year	$663,686	
Total Regional Council Funds Available	**$1,202,055**	
Strategies	**Proposed Allotment**	
Quality First *(statewide)*	$121,917	Recommend approval
Child Care Health Consultation *(statewide)*	$17,640	Recommend approval
FTF Professional REWARD$ *(statewide)*	$47,000	Recommend approval
Family, Friends & Neighbors	$54,000	Recommend approval
Native Language Enrichment	$62,539	Recommend approval
Curriculum Development – Parent Education	$47,000	Recommend approval
Developmental and Sensory Screening	$153,000	Recommend approval
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	$150,000	Recommend approval
Service Coordination *(FTF Directed)*	$61,000	Not submitted to the Board for approval
Food Security	$10,000	Recommend approval
Parent Outreach and Awareness	$40,000	Recommend approval
Media *(statewide)*	$7,468	Recommend approval
Statewide Evaluation *(statewide)*	$15,105	Recommend approval
Proposed Allotment Total:	**$786,669**	
Total Unallotted	**$415,386**	

SAN CARLOS APACHE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Regional Funding Plan
Three Year Strategic Direction
SFY 2013-2015

I. Regional Allocation Summary

Funds Available State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2012- 2015

II. Review of SFY 2012 Funding Plan

A. Review of SFY 2012 Priorities
B. Strategies and Units of Service Review
C. Funding Summary Review
D. Review of Progress

III. Three Year Strategic Direction: SFY 2013-2015 Regional Funding Plan

A. Overview: Setting the Strategic Direction
B. Regional Priorities, Selected FTF Indicators and Priority Roles, and Strategies to Achieve Outcomes
C. Strategy Descriptions including Target Populations and Funding Levels
D. Proposed Funding Summary

Section I.

Regional Allocation Summary
Funds Available State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2012- 2015

San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

Allocations and Funding Sources	2012	2013	2014	2015
FY Allocation	**$532,984**	**$538,369**	**$539,446**	**$541,469**
Population Based Allocation	$310,304	$302,369	*(fy14 and fy15 allocations are estimates only, for purposes of planning)*	
Discretionary Allocation	$172,523	$167,666		
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	$50,157	$68,334	$539,446	$541,469
Carry Forward From Previous Year	**$829,546**	**$663,686**	**$415,386**	**$208,631**
Total Regional Council Funds	**$1,362,530**	**$1,202,055**	**$954,832**	**$750,100**

Section II.
Review of SFY 2012 Funding Plan

II A. SFY 2012 Regional Partnership Council Priorities

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council's strategic planning process has always honored the idea that many of the issues of the community can be answered by returning to Apache culture and looking for answers among their own community.

In the spirit of looking for answers among their own people, the Regional Council honored the oral traditions of the Tribe by holding community listening sessions to gather input from community members and key stakeholders in the region. By doing so the Regional Council has been able to utilize the information received to develop a plan that was most effective to building the region's early childhood system.

In SFY2010 the Regional Council identified the following priorities:

1. Increased quality early care and education opportunities for children birth through age five
2. Child rearing practices that reflect the values of the San Carlos Apache Tribe
3. Early screening for health and developmental delays for young children
4. Outreach, education and intervention on nutrition and prevention of childhood obesity and diabetes
5. Public awareness of ECE and coordinated efforts among early childhood service providers to provide for enhanced, effective and collaborative family support and health services.
6. Limited access to support services and information about child development for families of young children
7. Limited support and services for families who are experiencing financial hardships and are unable to provide nutritional requirements for their children's success

Knowing that it will take time for the development of an early childhood system in the region the Regional Council has been clear in its desire to continue to move forward with its priorities set forth in the beginning of the strategic planning process. It has also been the desire of the Regional Council to continue to move forward with strategies in the region that they initially started with, even if it meant that the foundational work had to be laid out first, prior to implementation.

II B. SFY 2012 Strategies and Units of Service Review

San Carlos Apache Units of Service by Strategy		
Strategy Description	Fiscal Year 2012	
	Targeted Units	Contracted Units
Quality First Strategy		
Number of center based providers served	3	6
Number of home based providers served	1	2
Scholarships TEACH Strategy		
Number of professionals receiving scholarships	8	7
Child Care Health Consultation Strategy		
Number of center based providers served	3	0
Number of home based providers served	1	0
FTF Professional REWARD$ Strategy		
Number of incentive awards distributed	25	20
Family, Friends & Neighbors Strategy		
Number of home based providers served	10	0
Native Language Enrichment Strategy		
Number of children served	329	0
Number of participating professionals	30	30
Curriculum Development--Parent Education		
No service units		
Developmental and Sensory Screening Strategy		
Number of children receiving screening	60	60
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity Strategy		
Number of children served	65	150
Number of participating adults	65	150
Service Coordination		
No service units		
Food Security Strategy		
Number of food boxes distributed	280	0
Statewide Evaluation		
No service units		

Notes:

Quality First Service Numbers:

The Quality First strategy has Target Service Units of Homes and Centers. For this unique strategy, the Contracted Service Numbers will show as twice as much in comparison to the Targeted Service Numbers. This is due to implementation of the strategy through two service contracts (one for QF Coaching/Incentives, and a second for QF Assessments).

II C. SFY 2012 Funding Summary Review

FY 2012 San Carlos Apache Funding Plan Summary		
Allocations and Funding Sources	**2012**	
FY Allocation		**$532,984**
Population Based Allocation		$310,304
Discretionary Allocation		$172,523
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)		$50,157
Carry Forward From Previous Year		**$829,546**
Total Regional Council Funds Available		**$1,362,530**
Strategies	**Allotted**	**Awarded**
Quality First	$90,000	$81,000
Scholarships TEACH	$13,200	$13,200
Child Care Health Consultation	$16,000	
FTF Professional REWARD$	$47,000	$47,000
Family, Friends & Neighbors	$54,000	
Native Language Enrichment	$62,539	$62,539
Curriculum Development – Parent Education	$47,000	
Developmental and Sensory Screening	$153,000	$153,000
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	$130,000	$129,978
Service Coordination	$61,000	
Food Security	$10,000	
Statewide Evaluation	$15,105	$15,105
Total Allotted/Awarded/Expended:	**$698,844**	**$501,822**
Total Unallotted/Unawarded/Unexpended:	**$663,686**	**$860,708**

II D. Review of Progress

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council has made great strides in working to build an early childhood system in the San Carlos Apache region that is reflective of the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health System yet inclusive of cultural concepts and traditions of the community. Most notably the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council's approach to developing its SFY 2012 Funding Plan was based on the Apache cultural concept of interconnectedness, meaning that all things are related and focused to address the social, physical, mental and spiritual components from a relational world view. The foundational work of relationship building in working with the San Carlos Apache Tribe has been very important and it is in this area that the Regional Council has made great progress.

Relationship building with the Tribe has been strengthened as a result of the intent of the Regional Council's decision to respect the authority of the San Carlos Apache Tribal Council in carrying out all elements of their funding plan. To this end, the Regional Council has provided formal reports during regularly scheduled Tribal Education Committee meetings, has met informally with Tribal Council members, Tribal Directors and Program Managers and has sought the appropriate Tribal approval for all activities of the Regional Council.

Maintaining and nurturing the existing relationships with Tribal programs and developing new relationships with the vast array of other Tribal programs has been key in working with the Tribe in government-to-government agreements—which has proven to be the most effective way of implementing strategies in the San Carlos Apache Region.

Through the continued implementation of the San Carlos Apache Early Childhood Development and Health Collaborative budding relationships with state and federal programs have increased. This service coordination strategy has brought together tribal, state and federal programs to expand or enhance the coordination and integration of regional data, programs, services and resources for young children and their families. Collaborative members have also been able to showcase their programs and services which has opened the doors for collaboration and coordination opportunities. The greatest achievement in this effort has been the awareness of First Things First San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council strategies, presentations of First Things First grantees and programs and services of the Collaborative members. With public awareness of Early Childhood Education and coordinated efforts among early childhood service providers to provide enhanced, effective and collaborative family support and health services as a priority need in the SF2012 Funding Plan the Regional Council advanced their work around relationship building in the region.

The Collaborative currently meets on a quarterly basis and is 50 members strong. As a result of the foundational work done in the region the Collaborative has experienced an increase in its membership and has resulted in networking and collaboration which has led to an awareness of programs such as Quality First and Professional REWARD$. Because the top priority need was an increased interest in the quality of early care and education opportunities for children birth through age five in the region, there were an unprecedented amount of applications received from child care providers interested in Quality First. All available Quality First slots are on track to be filled in the region by January 2012. First Things First Professional REWARD$ strategy has achieved 100% of its target service units.

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council did not want to overlook the importance of the child rearing practices that are reflective of the San Carlos Apache Tribal values and have therefore made this their second highest priority need for the region. The Native Language Enrichment strategy took longer to start up due to lack of community capacity building within the Tribe. At the end of SF2011 significant movement was made towards completing the government-to-government grant agreement because the San Carlos Apache Tribe created and established the Language Preservation Department. With renewed

focus and momentum the grant agreement was completed, approved by the appropriate parties and implementation has started.

The Curriculum Development–Parent Education strategy has not moved to implementation. This strategy has been assigned by the Tribe to a department who did not demonstrate interest in moving forward with the government-to-government agreement. This prompted the Regional Council to respectfully ask the Tribe to re-assign this strategy to a department they felt has the capacity to move it into implementation. In working with the Tribe, the Tribal Social Services Department has been identified to implement this strategy.

Early screening for health and developmental delays for young children is a priority need for the Regional Council and they strategically planned for children and families residing in specific districts in the region to be able to receive screenings without having to worry about transportation. A government-to-government agreement that has been completed and has begun implementation is the Developmental and Sensory Screening strategy. Soon the region's children and families will be able to participate in the screenings that will be offered in the district they reside in. This would alleviate the burden of parents having to find transportation to the local Indian Health Services for screening where the waiting for services is often so long that parents are discouraged to even seek services for their children. To address the transportation barrier, a component of this strategy is a mobile unit that will offer services at locations that are easy to access for parents.

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council's priority need of outreach, education and intervention on nutrition and prevention of childhood obesity and diabetes has resulted in a very successful Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity strategy in the region. Quarter 4 data obtained from narrative reporting indicated that the grantee has served over 380 children and over 280 adults. As a result, the Regional Council increased the target service units during the renewal process for this strategy and requested that services be expanded to the Bylas community.

Knowing that so many families in the region are living in poverty and because the Needs and Assets Report indicated that parents were having difficulty purchasing food for their children, the Regional Council continued the Food Security strategy. The challenges for this strategy were identifying a service provider and the lack of infrastructure and community capacity to implement this strategy. In working with the Tribe, the Tribal Social Services Department has been identified to implement this strategy. A government-to-government agreement is moving forward this year.

The Regional Council considered a Parent Education Community-Based Training strategy. This strategy was never fully developed and it is the intent of the Regional Council to not move forward with this strategy any longer for SF2013-2015.

Section III.
Three Year Strategic Direction: SFY 2013-2015 Regional Funding Plan

III A. Overview

Setting the Strategic Direction
The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council's approach to their strategic plan was to look at where their region is today with regards to the birth through five population and their families. The Regional Council looked at their strategic planning with the consideration of their San Carlos Apache Community and the input they have to offer towards helping prepare children to be ready for school and set for life. They gathered insight from the Early Childhood Development and Health Collaborative and from each other in order to capture what the San Carlos Apache Community offers or is unable to offer to young children and their families. The Regional Council took a look at where they came from and where they currently are in determining their strategic direction.

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council is committed to laying a foundation for an early childhood development system that connects the social, physical, mental and spiritual elements of life in establishing a holistic continuum of care for young children. The Regional Council's goal is to ensure that all children, birth through five in the region achieve wellness through the development of a strong sense of cultural identity and a solid foundation of early childhood development and health. The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council believes that every child has the ability to develop capacities in these four interrelated areas or elements of life. To this end, the Regional Council was intentional in designing strategies that would ensure these four elements are connected and work together to achieve balance.

Based on a review of information, the Regional Council continued the prioritized needs of previous years. The prioritized needs are as follows:

- Priority Need 1: increased quality early care and education opportunities for children birth through age five
- Priority Need 2: child rearing practices that reflect the values of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. Native language enrichment curriculum development –parent education
- Priority Need 3: early screening for health and developmental delays for young children

- Priority Need 4: outreach, education and intervention on nutrition and prevention of childhood obesity and diabetes
- Priority Need 5: public awareness of ECE and coordinated efforts among early childhood service providers to provide for enhanced, effective and collaborative family support and health services
- Priority Need 6: limited access to support services and information about child development for families of young children
- Priority Need 7: limited support and services for families who are experiencing financial hardships and are unable to provide nutritional requirements for their children's success

The Regional Council reviewed the data in the 2010 Needs and Assets Report and the prioritized needs will address some of the findings for the region. Some of the key findings are as follows:

Early Care and Education (Quality and Access) data from the Regional Needs and Assets Report shows that:

a) Insufficient opportunities to place children in quality early child care settings:
   • Each of the 33 home-based providers surveyed stated that they do not receive any type of training or education regarding early childhood care.
b) Insufficient access to, or the availability of, early child care and education programs:
   • As of 2009, the total number of children ages birth through five residing in the Region is 1,617, up 54.2% from the total number of children reported in 2008.
   • Capacity levels of center-based early child care programs remain unchanged. Center based early child care programs currently enroll a combined total of 339 children and are at capacity.
c) As a result, 1,278 San Carlos Apache children and their families are without access to center-based early child care and education programs.
   • When asked "What kind of child care providers do you currently use for your child(ren)?", 85.9% of respondents replied that they use family members as child care providers.

Supporting Families

Family Support data from the Regional Needs and Assets Report as it relates to poverty:

• Additionally, 82.3% of San Carlos Apache children live at 200% below the federal poverty level.

b) Family Support as it relates to stress factors and other barriers that affect parenting and early childhood:

• 27% of live births reported for the San Carlos Apache in 2008 were to teen mothers, who are defined as those 19 years of age or younger.

• 32.7% of all live births reported for the San Carlos Apache in 2009 were born to mothers that had not achieved a high school diploma.

Health data from the Regional Needs and Assets Report

a) Limited access to medical care provided by a pediatrician:
   • Of the parents surveyed, 45% listed the San Carlos Hospital as the provider they feel they would access the most regarding early childhood education, health and development. However, the San Carlos Hospital and other Regional clinics share access to only one pediatrician. This critically limits timely access to medical services provided to San Carlos children by a pediatrician.
b) Food insecurity:
   • When survey respondents were asked "What, if anything, is difficult to afford?" 87% responded "Food".

Public Awareness & Collaboration (public information and system coordination) data from the Regional Needs and Assets Report:

a) Lack of collaborative partnerships among Tribal programs serving children and families:

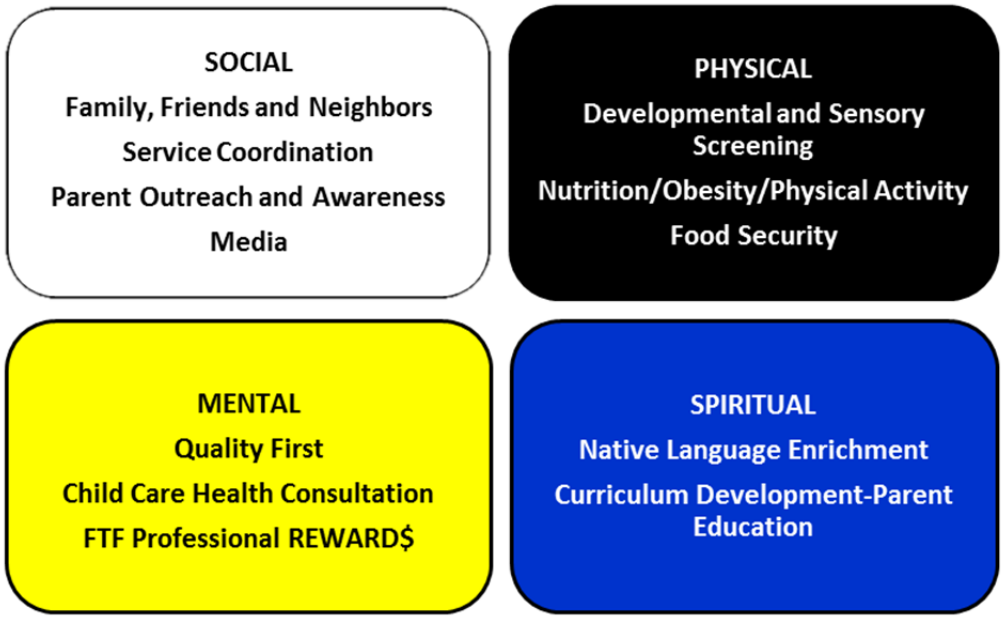
• Over 15 interviews were conducted with representatives of related Tribal service providers, all of which identified the lack of collaborative partnerships among Tribal programs for children and families as a critical barrier to high-quality, service provision.

b) Lack of public awareness related to early childhood health, education and development resources:

• 96.7% of providers, or home-based care givers surveyed feel that parents are not aware of early childhood health, education and development resources.

• 50.5 % of parents surveyed feel that they are not aware of early childhood health, education and development resources available to them.

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council intends to continue making an impact on the children and families through the funded program. The Regional Council would like to continue to ensure all current and future programs and services are accessible to all children and specifically expand to the Bylas community. This then allows them to strive for their goal of reaching all children birth through five in the region. They also would like to reach children who are not already in early care and education programs.



Strategic Approach to System Building

In formulating this funding plan, the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council recognized that the services offered by existing federal and tribal programs in the region, such as the Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, have become focused on providing intensive and targeted services while neglecting the more universal services. With that in mind, all of the strategies of the SFY 2012 San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council funding plan are linked together through a universal approach. The Regional Partnership Council envisions an early childhood system that provides a continuum of services and supports that are universal across all four areas: social, physical, mental, and spiritual. The intent of the Regional Council is to be responsive to all young children and families in the San Carlos Apache region.

Section III B.
Strategic Plan for SFY 2013 – 2015
Regional Priorities, Selected FTF Indicators and Priority Roles, and Strategies to Achieve Outcomes

Regional Priority to be addressed	**School Readiness Indicators** Correlated to the needs and priority roles	**FTF Priority Roles** in the Early Childhood System	**SFY 2013-2015 Strategies**
Limited access to quality, early care and education Limited family support as it relates to home-based child care, parenting skills, poverty and cultural identity High number of children living in poverty Lack of access to health care, specifically appropriate and timely screenings and health care services administered by a pediatrician Limited knowledge and information about the importance of the physical, spiritual, mental and social aspects of a child Lack of partnerships among programs for children and families Limited knowledge and information about the importance of early childhood development and health Children are arriving at schools with limited language and literacy skills	**1. #/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical** **3. #/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with Quality Frist rating of 3-5 stars** **5. % of children with newly identified developmental delays during the kindergarten year** **7. #/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)**	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 education 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. 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. 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.	Quality First (Full Participating <u>without</u> Scholarships including CCHC and TEACH) FTF Professional REWARD$ Family, Friends, and Neighbors Native Language Enrichment Curriculum Development-Parent Education Developmental and Sensory Screening Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity Service Coordination Food Security *Parent Outreach and Awareness *Media (fy13) Statewide Evaluation (*) Indicates new strategy for this Regional Partnership Council

		Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services- Collaborate with partners to support improved nutrition and increased age/developmentally appropriate physical activity levels among young children. 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.	

Section III C.
Strategy Descriptions including Target Populations and Funding Levels

Strategy: Quality First

Strategy Description
Expands the number of children who have access to high quality care and education, including learning materials that are developmentally appropriate, a curriculum focused on early literacy and teachers trained to work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Supports provided to early care and education centers and homes to improve the quality of programs, including: on-site coaching; program assessment; financial resources; teacher education scholarships; and consultants specializing in health and safety practices.

Strategy Narrative
Quality First is Arizona's voluntary quality improvement and rating system designed to improve the quality of early care and education so that young children can begin school safe, healthy and ready to succeed. Quality First does not duplicate or replace, but builds upon state licensing regulations, addressing multiple aspects of early care and education through research-based indicators of quality.

It is the intent of the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council to ensure that all children residing in the San Carlos Apache region have access to high quality early care and education. The Regional Council will increase the number of Quality First center based slots from 4 to 6 center based slots and maintain the home based slot at 1. This will increase the availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education centers in the Gilson Wash, Seven-Mile Wash, Peridot and Bylas Districts of the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation.

The Regional Council did not fund Quality First Child Care Scholarships in SF2012 and they intend on not funding it again for SF2013 because the only two child care centers in the region who charge a fee for care charge a very minimal amount. These centers are owned by the Tribe and set their fees on a sliding scale according to income and family size. A family who falls at the bottom of the scale pays $5 per week per child which breaks down to $1 a day for child care. A family who is at the top of the scale pays $30 per week per child which breaks down to $6 a day for child care. A family who falls off the scale pays at the most $75 per week per child and at the lowest $40 per week per child OR pays daily fees according to attendance for the month.

Target Population Description
There are approximately 339 children ages birth through five enrolled in the 7 early care and education programs in the region. As the early care and education programs are becoming more aware of Quality First, more early care and education programs have applied to Quality First prompting the Regional Council to increase the number of slots funded with the increase of slots it would allow for all children in early care and education programs to be served in Quality First enrolled centers.

Target Service Units - Quality First	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Number of center based providers served	6	6	6
Number of home based providers served	1	1	1
Funding Levels	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Quality First	$121,917	$121,917	$121,917
Child Care Health Consultation	$17,640	$17,640	$17,640
Scholarships TEACH	$0	$0	$0
QF Child Care Scholarships	$0	$0	$0

Target Service Units - Child Care Health Consultation	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Number of center based providers served	6	6	6
Number of home based providers served	1	1	1
Target Service Units - Scholarships TEACH			
Number of professionals receiving scholarships	13	13	13
Target Service Units - QF Child Care Scholarships			
Number of children receiving scholarships	0	0	0

Strategy: FTF Professional REWARD$

Strategy Description
Improves retention of early care and education professional by rewarding longevity and continuous improvement of their skills through financial incentives.

Strategy Narrative
FTF Professional REWARD$ is a compensation and retention strategy for the early care and education workforce, acknowledges and rewards progressive education, educational attainment and commitment to continuous employment at a qualified early care and education setting that provides services to children birth through age 5.

The Regional Council is committed to high quality early care and education. This is addressed through this strategy through both the retention of early care and education professionals which allows for consistency in care and incentivizing them for their educational attainment which allows for an increase in their educational qualifications directly impacting the quality of educational services for young children in the region.

Target Population Description
The target population for this strategy is early care and education professionals who have achieved certification in early care and education or related field. There are approximately 37 early care and education professionals in the region.

The San Carlos Apache Region has been reaching 100 percent of its target service units for this strategy since its initial implementation. The Regional Council has opted to increase the target service units for this strategy in an effort to recognize more early care and education professionals and retain them in the field. As a result, 92% of the early care and education workforce will be reached through this strategy.

Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Number of incentive awards distributed	34	34	34
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$47,000	$47,000	$47,000

Strategy: Family, Friends and Neighbors

Strategy Description

Improves the quality of care and education that children receive in unregulated child care homes; provides support to family, friend and neighbor caregivers that include training and financial resources.

Strategy Narrative

The San Carlos Needs and Assets Report revealed that there are 1,617 children ages birth through five who reside in the region. The existing early care and education programs have an enrollment of 339 children leaving 1,278 children without care and access to early education. San Carlos Apache families have limited child care options so they rely heavily on family members for child care. While no data on unregulated care is available, it can be inferred that many of the children in the region are being cared for in unregulated homes, or by family members. Further, it would seem that families in the San Carlos Apache Region overwhelmingly select home-based child care for their young children.

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council acknowledges that Apache children are social learners, who traditionally have always been at the side of elders and families in learning situations. Therefore, education is not a separate experience for the San Carlos Apache people. To support this concept, this strategy is intended to address the following:

- Provide outreach and training that will increase or improve skills for home-based, lawfully unregulated, early care and education providers who care for children of family, friends and neighbors
- Build capacity by encouraging and supporting regulation of Family, Friend and Neighbor care providers in alignment with Tribal and state protocols for those providers who voluntarily request to become regulated
- Provide support for, and increase the quality of Family, Friend and Neighbor care providers by providing information, materials, and equipment that support children's health, safety, and early development

Expand quality child care slots by providing support and training to existing and new Family, Friend and Neighbor care providers, encouraging the opening of new regulated childcare homes, and promoting quality improvement for all regulated and unregulated childcare homes

Target Population Description

The target population for this strategy is lawfully unregulated, early care and education providers who care for children of family, friends and neighbors in the region. While no data on the number of home-based early care and education providers is available the San Carlos Needs and Assets Report reveals that among survey participants 85.9% of the respondents replied that they use family members as child care providers.

National estimates suggest that as many as 60 percent of all children need child care due to parent's employment and of these, as many as 50 percent of children ages 5 and under are cared for in home-based settings.

Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Number of home based providers served	10	10	10
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$54,000	$54,000	$54,000

Strategy: Native Language Enrichment

Strategy Description

Connects children in tribal communities to their native language and culture in the critical early years. Provides materials, awareness and outreach to promote native language and cultural acquisition for the young children of Tribal families.

Strategy Narrative

The purpose of this strategy is to assist in strengthening families through the use of culturally centered child rearing practices for parents with young children. The San Carlos Apache Tribe has a very rich culture however, due to the oral tradition and tribal history there is currently no comprehensive written account or overview of its culture and/or cultural values as it relates to young children. First Things First's Native Language Enrichment strategy funds the training of early care and education (ECE) providers to support native language and cultural acquisition for the young children of Native American families in child care, early Head Start/Head Start or other group settings as part of the regular programming and curriculum. As providers are trained, they can work with children in the classroom or home care settings and provide family informational sessions or other family engagement activities. This strategy focuses on expanding Apache language and cultural preservation into early childhood education programs throughout the region.

Target Population Description

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council would like to continue to reach 30 (81%) of the early care and education professionals in SFY2013-2015 as well as targeting all children enrolled in early care and education programs in the region which the Needs and Assets report shows as 339 children served in these settings.

Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Number of children served	329	329	329
Number of participating professionals	30	30	30
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$62,539	$62,539	$62,539

Strategy: Curriculum Development-Parent Education

Strategy Description

Helps families of young children enhance their parenting skills. Research, develop, and deliver effective parent education for specific target populations and where no appropriate curriculum exists.

Strategy Narrative

This strategy will help develop an Apache Parent Curriculum that will design and implement a parent education curriculum that is reflective of the culture and values of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. Through research, strategic planning exercises, and key informant interviews, the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council has discovered that there are many established parent education programs that provide services to families in the region. However, many of these programs use a standardized curriculum that does not consider the cultural dynamics and values that may be prevalent in Apache families.

Target Population Description

Once an Apache Parent Curriculum is developed, the Regional Council would like to target the entire parenting and family population in the region by delivering the curriculum through existing family support agencies and early care and education programs.

This strategy will be implemented in phases:
Year 1: development of the Apache Parent Curriculum
Year 2: testing of curriculum
Year 3: full curriculum implementation in all early care and education programs in the region

Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
No target service units identified for this strategy			
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$47,000	$47,000	$47,000

Strategy: Developmental and Sensory Screening

Strategy Description

Increases children's access to preventive health care and helps to identify potential learning problems early on. Provides children with developmental, oral, vision, and/or hearing screening and referrals for follow-up services.

Strategy Narrative

Through this strategy, developmental screening is made available to children birth through age five, with an emphasis on early identification of children birth-age three. Screening activities must align with current state systems, AzEIP and IDEA Part B administered through ADE. Screening is conducted in local, easy to access community locations, but not in isolation of the larger medical and educational community as a whole.

The residential communities of the San Carlos Apache Tribe are very remote. To access early child care and/or health services residents of the Seven Mile Wash, Gilson Wash and Peridot Districts must travel to the heart of the San Carlos business district to receive services. Although the Bylas community does have a satellite Indian Health Services Clinic, its geographic location is a considerable distance from some residential neighborhoods, making it extremely difficult for residents to access if they do not have reliable transportation. The communities' access to early health and education care services is further exacerbated by the lack of a public transportation system. This strategy would address the service access barrier by providing a traveling resource for parent education, family support and developmental screenings for young children.

Target Population Description

The target population to be served through this strategy is all children birth to five who are not enrolled in Head Start and reside in the region of the 1,617 children birth to five 233 are enrolled in Head Start leaving 1,384 children birth to five not enrolled in Head Start. This would allow for 80 more children to be screened. Head Start has the capacity to provide these services but cannot provide them to non-enrolled children. Head Start does have the capacity and expertise to expand services to the entire San Carlos Apache communities in all districts.

The Regional Council has increased the target service units in FY2013 as compared to previous funding periods because the funding level in previous years that were set at $153,000 allowed for this strategy to purchase a mobile unit. The Regional Council would not like a drastic decrease in funding for this strategy after the mobile unit is purchased in SF2012 so it is their intention to keep SF2013 funding level at $153,000 with an increase in the number of children receiving screening from 60 to 80. It is the intention of the Regional Council to decrease the funding levels in FY2014 and 2015 and continue to keep the target service units at 80 children or 6% of children birth to five in the region.

Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Number of children receiving screening	80	80	80
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$153,000	$120,000	$120,000

Strategy: Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity

Strategy Description

Improves the health and safety of young children by providing community-based health education on a variety of topics including: healthy food choices and appropriate physical activity. Provides health education focused on obesity prevention to children, families and early care and education professionals.

Strategy Narrative

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council is aware of the increase in childhood obesity in the community and has observed and attributed it to the lack of nutrition and physical activity programs for the children in the region. This need was further supported by anecdotal data produced by an Apache Healthy Foods Survey which suggests that above 60 percent of Apache families including children are pre-diabetic.

Implementation of interventions targeting nutrition, healthy weight and physical exercise into existing community services for children birth to five is of great importance to the Regional Council. It is also the intent of the Regional Council that health education messages including healthy weight and physical activity are distributed on an ongoing and regular basis. It is also the intention of the Regional Council to incorporate early literacy trainings for families of the children served through this strategy.

Target Population Description

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council would like to target 150, or 9%, of children birth to five in the region and their families. Because of the work being done by the current grantee, the Regional Partnership Council has a better picture of how many children and adults they can reach for this strategy.

Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Number of children served	150	150	150
Number of participating adults	150	150	150
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000

Strategy: Service Coordination

Strategy Description

Strengthens and improves the coordination of services and programs for children 5 and younger. Through coordination and collaboration efforts, improves and streamlines processes including applications, service qualifications, service delivery and follow-up for families with young children. Reduces confusion and duplication for service providers and families.

Strategy Narrative

The purpose of this strategy is to increase awareness about early childhood and early childhood development professions, First Things First, and programs and services available to families. Currently, the San Carlos community has no mechanism to identify and address gaps in service, reduce duplication, or to ensure that families are referred to the services that best fit their needs. The community lacks awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health. Parents lack information about early childhood development and the programs and services that are available in the community. To that end, resource and referral and program coordination was identified as a top concern.

The goal of the Early Childhood Development and Health Collaborative is to ensure that all families in the San Carlos region have the information and support they need to be effective parents by creating a coordinated network of services. During the process of formulating the San Carlos Apache Regional Needs and Assets Report, it became apparent from the lack of data and/or access to such data, that no cross-tribal, state and federal program coordination efforts were in place to expand or enhance the coordination and integration of regional data, programs, services and resources for young children and their families. The absence of such a mechanism was also evident during the community discussions hosted by the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council. In a community wide discussion, the participants of the group identified tribal programs and resources as strengths; however, the lack of partnerships amongst programs for children and families was identified as one of the top four weaknesses in the region.

Currently, First Things First regional staff is supporting the implementation of this strategy through coordination meetings with local service providers. The Regional Council will continue to work on further refining this strategy and will present to the First Things First Board for approval at a later time once it has been fully developed.

Target Population Description

The target population includes programs and services on the San Carlos Apache reservation that work to support families of young children such as tribal, state and federal programs including but not limited to: Bylas Wellness Center Prevention Program, Central Arizona College, D.E.S./D.D.D., San Carlos Apache Tribe Department of Health and Human Services, Save The Children—Early Steps to School Success, Easter Seals Blake Foundation, Ft. Thomas Unified School District, San Carlos Apache Tribe Foster Grandparents Program, San Carlos Head Start, Indian Health Services—San Carlos and Bylas Units, Johns Hopkins University, San Carlos Unified School District, San Carlos Youth Council, San Carlos Youth Home, Tribal Social Services, and The Boys & Girls Club of the San Carlos Apache Nation.

Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
No target service units identified for this strategy			
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$61,000	$61,000	$61,000

Strategy: Food Security			
Strategy Description Improves the health and nutrition of children five and younger and their families. Distributes food boxes and basic necessity items to families in need of assistance who have children birth to five years old.			
Strategy Narrative Current programs exist in the San Carlos Apache Region that provides food for the region's families; however, there is a need for more nutritious foods to be provided especially for the region's youngest children and their families. Additionally, economic conditions and transportation barriers have prevented some families from accessing current food service programs.			
Target Population Description The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council would like to 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. There is an increase in the target service units as compared to years past because the Council is using the formula provided by First Things First with a cost of $15 to $20 for a 3 day emergency food box which includes food for children ages one through five years. The Needs and Assets Report reveals that among survey participants 87% of the respondents replied that food was the most difficult "child care supplies" to afford. 500 hundred food boxes would reach approximately 62% of families with young children in the region.			
Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Number of food boxes distributed	500	500	500
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000

Strategy: Parent Outreach & Awareness
Strategy Description Improves child development by educating parents and connecting them to resources and activities that promote healthy growth and school readiness. Provides families with education, materials and connections to resources and activities that promote healthy development and school readiness.
Strategy Narrative The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council would like this strategy to implement Imagination Library for children ages birth to five in the region. The Regional Council knows that children are not arriving to school with the literacy skills they need in order to succeed and they know that a high number of children in the region are living in poverty therefore prompting them to fund this new strategy in SFY2013-2015. The Regional Partnership Council also knows that, as reported in the Needs and Assets report, 32.7% of all live births reported for the region in 2009 were born to mothers that had not achieved a high school diploma causing concern among the Regional Council that mothers may not be as excited to read to their child as they hope. By implementing this strategy it is the hope of the Regional Council that families get excited about reading to their children and have a home environment rich with books.
Target Population Description The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council will target 800 children ages birth to five in the region. This is approximately 50% of the birth to five population. The Regional Council would like intentional collaboration of existing grantees with this strategy in the region.

Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
Number of participating children	800	800	800
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$40,000	$40,000	$40,000

Strategy: Media
Strategy Description Increases public awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health via a media campaign that draws viewers/listeners to the ReadyAZKids.com web site.
Strategy Narrative This strategy will fund paid media advertising. Rather than specific dollar amounts for specific mediums this strategy will have an overall amount for paid advertising in order to give First Things First maximum flexibility to purchase the type(s) of media based on research, the availability of various media, and opportunities that arise to leverage resources to expand the buy in certain media by region or across regions.
Target Population Description This is a universal strategy targeting the community in the entire San Carlos Apache region. The Regional Council has invested in this strategy in FY2013 in an effort to expand the number of community members who are aware of the importance of early childhood. In FY2014, the Regional Council will revisit the strategy to review its success and impact in the region, whether it continues to be a high priority in the Regional Council's goals and determine future funding.

Target Service Units	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
No target service units identified for this strategy			
Funding Level	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**
	$7,468	$0	$0

Strategy: Statewide Evaluation
Strategy Description Statewide Evaluation includes the studies and evaluation work which inform the FTF Board and the 31 Regional Partnership Councils. Examples include: the baseline Needs and Assets reports, specific focused studies, and statewide research and evaluation on the developing early childhood system.
Strategy Narrative First Things First has, and is growing, a multi-level system of research and evaluation strategies designed to be responsive to the informational needs of varied stakeholder groups, including the First Things First Board, Regional Partnership Councils, and Arizona citizens. The research and evaluation system is designed to provide both depth and breadth of high quality information, from collecting programmatic data to evaluating the overall impact of the First Things First Early Childhood System model. The system provides a framework for conducting statewide and regional studies centered on identifying current and changing needs of families and children birth to five, and the impact of programs and strategies across all First Things First priority areas. The First Things First research and evaluation system is a knowledge building system, designed to advance the understanding of needs, activities, and effectiveness. Individually and collectively, research and evaluation strategies generate data and findings which can be used to identify trends and changes in school readiness indicators and therefore to support strategic planning and decision-making which promotes the health and well-being of young children.

Target Service Units	**SFY 13**	**SFY 14**	**SFY 15**
No target service units identified for this strategy			
Funding Level	**SFY 13**	**SFY 14**	**SFY 15**
Statewide Evaluation	$15,105	$15,105	$15,105

Section III D. Proposed Funding Summary
SFY 2013 - 2015 Regional Partnership Council Budget

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

FY 2013 - 2015 San Carlos Apache Funding Plan

Allocations and Funding Sources	2013	2014	2015
FY Allocation	**$538,369**	**$539,446**	**$541,469**
Population Based Allocation	$302,369		
Discretionary Allocation	$167,666		
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	$68,334	$539,446	$541,469
Carry Forward From Previous Year	**$663,686**	**$415,386**	**$208,631**
Total Regional Council Funds Available	**$1,202,055**	**$954,832**	**$750,100**
Strategies	**Proposed Allottment**	**Proposed Allottment**	**Proposed Allottment**
Quality First	$121,917	$121,917	$121,917
Child Care Health Consultation	$17,640	$17,640	$17,640
FTF Professional REWARD$	$47,000	$47,000	$47,000
Family, Friends & Neighbors	$54,000	$54,000	$54,000
Native Language Enrichment	$62,539	$62,539	$62,539
Curriculum Development – Parent Education	$47,000	$47,000	$47,000
Developmental and Sensory Screening	$153,000	$120,000	$120,000
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000
Service Coordination	$61,000	$61,000	$61,000
Food Security	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000
Parent Outreach and Awareness	$40,000	$40,000	$40,000
Media	$7,468		
Statewide Evaluation	$15,105	$15,105	$15,105
Proposed Allotment Total:	**$786,669**	**$746,201**	**$746,201**
Total Unallotted	**$415,386**	**$208,631**	**$3,899**