
2010 NEEDS & ASSETS REPORT
CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION
August 30, 2010



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Message from the Chair:

The past two years have been rewarding for the First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, as we delivered on our mission to build better futures for young children and their families. During the past year, we have touched many lives of young children and their families.

The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council will continue to advocate and provide opportunities as indicated throughout this report.

Our strategic direction has been guided by the Needs and Assets reports, specifically created for the Central Phoenix Region in 2008 and the new 2010 report. The Needs and Assets reports are vital to our continued work in building a true integrated early childhood system for our young children and our overall future. The Central Phoenix Regional Council would like to thank our Needs and Assets vendors MGT of America, Inc. and Children's Action Alliance for their knowledge, expertise and analysis of the Central Phoenix region. The new report will help guide our decisions as we move forward for young children and their families within the Central Phoenix region.

Going forward, the First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council is committed to meeting the needs of young children by providing essential services and advocating for social change.

Thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers and community partners, First Things First is making a real difference in the lives of our youngest citizens and throughout the entire State.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Judi Gottschalk, Chair
Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

Introductory Summary and Acknowledgments

First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

The way in which children develop from infancy to well functioning members of society will always be a critical subject matter. Understanding the processes of early childhood development is crucial to our ability to foster each child's optimal development and thus, in turn, is fundamental to all aspects of wellbeing of our communities, society and the State of Arizona.

This Needs and Assets Report for the Central Phoenix Geographic Region provides a clear statistical analysis and helps us in understanding the needs, gaps and assets for young children and points to ways in which children and families can be supported. The needs young children and families face are outlined in the executive summary and documented in further detail in the full report.

The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in young children and empowering parents, grandparents, and caregivers to advocate for services and programs within the region. This report provides basic data points that will aid the Council's decisions and funding allocations; while building a true comprehensive statewide early childhood system.

Acknowledgments:

The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council owes special gratitude to the agencies and key stakeholders who participated in numerous work sessions and community forums throughout the past two years. The success of First Things First was due, in large measure, to the contributions of numerous individuals who gave their time, skill, support, knowledge and expertise.

To the current and past members of the Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, your dedication, commitment and extreme passion has guided the work of making a difference in the lives of young children and families within the region. Our continued work will only aid in the direction of building a true comprehensive early childhood system for the betterment of young children within the region and the entire State.

We also want to thank the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona State Immunization Information System, the Arizona Department of Education and School Districts across the State of Arizona, the American Community Survey, the Arizona Head Start Association, the Office of Head Start, and Head Start and Early Head Start Programs across the State of Arizona, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System for their contribution of data for this report.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2010, MGT of America, Inc. (MGT) was awarded a contract by the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, also known as First Things First (FTF), to provide a Regional Needs and Assets Report for the Central Phoenix Region. MGT teamed with Children's Action Alliance for this important engagement. The report synthesizes relevant community data to help inform the FTF Regional Council in decision-making.

Methodology

The methodology used to prepare the Regional Needs and Assets Report is described in this section.

The focus of the report is a collection and meaningful analyses of informative data indicators. The Needs and Assets Report includes an emphasis on the Council's existing "assets," that is, the institutions or organizations within the region that can be strengthened, expanded, and/or partnered with to support early childhood activities.

Primary Data Collection

Local regional data have been of the utmost importance to the success of this project. The team collected qualitative primary data to reflect the personal views of regional participants and the unique features of the region.

Three methods were used for primary data collection:

1. Web-based stakeholder surveys.
2. Telephone interviews.
3. Stakeholder meetings.

Web-based Stakeholder Surveys

The team worked closely with FTF staff and Regional Coordinators and Managers to collect contact information from compiled lists of early care and development stakeholders in the region. The team supplemented these stakeholders with information obtained from key organizations, such as medical centers, school principals, food banks, libraries, and WIC centers.

FTF provided MGT with 2,360 e-mail addresses for early care and development stakeholders in Maricopa County. E-mails were sent to each contact seeking participation in the survey portion of this study. Respondents were asked to indicate the communities that they serve, and many indicated that they serve communities across multiple regions.

The survey was initiated in April 2010 following revisions based on input from Regional Council Members. The surveys focused on qualitative data from stakeholders about early childhood needs and assets in their local community. Survey respondents were asked to provide information and/or data sources that will contribute further to the reports. Results of the survey are located in **Appendix A** of this report.

Telephone Interviews

The team conducted individual telephone interviews with stakeholders in each region to obtain additional information and perspectives on early childhood needs and assets. In addition to early childhood professionals, the team interviewed parents and neighborhood leaders. Some of the interview input was provided in written form, rather than over the phone.

A summary of the responses is located in **Appendix B** of this report.

Stakeholder Group Interviews

Group meetings were held with community stakeholders. These group interviews involved organizations providing relevant services in the region and other select community members. These meetings provided additional relevant information, perceptions, and opinions of services considered assets as well as potential barriers or unmet needs of the community.

A summary of the responses is located in **Appendix B** of this report.

Secondary Data Collection and Analysis

The team worked with FTF and other Arizona and national data sources for indicators in the Regional Needs and Assets Report template provided in the FTF solicitation. The team worked closely with Regional Coordinators and Managers to identify local sources of documented information. Examples of national and regional sources included in this report are as follows:

- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.
- Arizona Department of Economic Security.
- Arizona Department of Health Services.
- Arizona Department of Education.
- American Community Survey.
- Arizona Head Start Association and National Head Start.

Report Overview

Central Phoenix is a diverse region with significant economic challenges. While there are areas of wealth in the City of Phoenix and in the Madison School District, many families with young children in the other school districts in the region have very low incomes.

The racial, ethnic, and language diversity in the region is striking. In most areas of the region, the majority of children who are younger than five are Hispanic – with more than 70 percent in Alhambra, Balsz, Creighton, and Phoenix Elementary School Districts. A higher percentage of young children in this region were born in other countries compared to three percent countywide. In the Osborn School District, the rate was five times the countywide rate, with 15 percent of young children being born in another country. In the City of Phoenix, half of the children younger than six have at least one foreign born parent, while the percentages are even higher in the Alhambra, Creighton, and Balsz School Districts. The data for children participating in Head Start show that Spanish is the first language for a large percentage of children, and many children in the region live in families where adults do not speak English well. More than one out of five households in the Alhambra and Phoenix Elementary School Districts have no one over the age of 14 who spoke English well, compared to fewer than one out of 10 in Maricopa County.

There are family stresses in the region. Young children in this region are less likely to live with two parents than children countywide. In the Phoenix Elementary School District, more than one out of three young children live with a single mother (compared to just over one out of five in Maricopa County). In the City of Phoenix, one out of 10 children younger than six live in a household headed by their grandparents, a rate slightly higher than Maricopa County. In the Phoenix Elementary School District, nearly one out of five young children live with their grandparents.

Families in the region earn low incomes: the median income for families with young children is below the median in Maricopa County in each locality in the region except for the Madison School District. Families living in the Alhambra, Balsz, and Creighton School Districts have median incomes that are less than half of the median in Maricopa County. Child poverty rates are very high for all types of families. More than one out of five White, two-parent families with young children are poor throughout much of the region.

The region faces many economic challenges. The unemployment rate in the City of Phoenix more than doubled as it did for Maricopa County between 2005 and 2010, but the unemployment rate in Phoenix is higher than the countywide rate. The number of children five and younger receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF cash assistance) grew at nearly twice the rate of the statewide increase between 2007 and 2010. Community input indicates that families are being turned away from many services due to wait-lists and a lack of funding.

The need for access to high quality, affordable child care is strong throughout the region. Only nine percent of child care providers have a national accreditation or recognition, indicating that they meet specified quality standards. In Phoenix, nearly two-thirds of the households with children younger than 18 had all parents in the labor force – indicating a large need for child care. The number of children receiving subsidies for child care dropped by 38 percent between 2009 and 2010, reflecting the state budget cuts that closed the door to any qualified, low-income working families who applied.

Preschool enrollment was low in most of the region (as low as 167 per 1,000 children, age 0 to 5), compared to Maricopa County (308 per 1,000). The Balsz and Madison School Districts had higher preschool enrollment rates. In 2010, 718 four year old children were enrolled in preschool through the state-funded Early Childhood Block Grant program. This funding has been completely eliminated for the 2010-11 school year.

There are notable weaknesses in the community infrastructure in the region. Only 13 percent of schools in the region were excelling or highly performing on the Arizona Learns profile, compared to 34 percent statewide. More than one out of five schools in the region were underperforming or failing. Also, parts of the region are considered medically underserved, and measures from the Department of Health Services show that families in the area have low access to primary healthcare. The number of school-based clinics in the region dropped between 2002 and 2009. The region has high rates of children without health insurance: 20 percent in the City of Phoenix and 27 percent in the Creighton School District compared to 16 percent in Maricopa County. More than one in three children (35%) in Phoenix relies on publicly funded healthcare coverage – a rate much higher than the countywide rate (29%).

Community members value many assets in the region, including the school districts, Head Start, libraries, hospitals, and social services. The quality of services was noted, but they are not available consistently for the families who need them. Community input also focused heavily on the need for cultural and linguistic competency in services in the region. With diverse populations and a great deal of fear about immigration laws, services must be delivered with “cultural brokering” to be effective.

The input from the community through the online survey, stakeholder meetings, and telephone interviews all point to a great demand for quality improvements in child care and financial assistance for parents needing child care. More than one out of three respondents to the online survey said that child care services are not meeting the needs of families in the community, and 71 percent identified cost as the single most important barrier in child care. More than half of respondents said that high quality child care and child care subsidies are services that are missing in the region. One of the top two recommendations in the survey for First Things First funding is to increase access to quality early education services.

Community members also emphasized a need to improve awareness among parents about early education needs and available services. Both formal reports and stakeholder meetings identified the value of making information available in a more systematic way to both parents and providers. There was a strong emphasis on making it easier for families to obtain services.

Community input identified services brought to families in their homes as a high priority. Existing home visiting services were named as assets, and participants in the stakeholder meetings and telephone interviews recommended making home visiting more available in the region. Thirty percent of the respondents to the online survey named parent support and education as the top priority for First Things First funding.

The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council recommended more than \$14.6 million in contracts earlier this month for fiscal year 2011. This will give young children in the Central Phoenix region the tools they need to have a fair start in life. A list of grant awards for First Things First can be found in **Appendix E**.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of the Central Phoenix Region

The City of Phoenix, located in Maricopa County, covers more than 517 square miles and has a population of over 1.5 million, ranking it the fifth largest city in the country and the largest capital city in terms of population.

The FTF Board established three regions in the City of Phoenix: North, Central, and South. The Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council boundary reaches as far North as Glendale Avenue. In the West, it extends to 43rd Avenue. The East boundary of the region reaches to the eastern edge of the City of Phoenix near 64th Street. The South side of the region spans all the way to Broadway Road. The Central Phoenix Region includes neighborhoods as diverse as Arcadia, the North Central Corridor, the State Capitol, and the East Van Buren Street Corridor. The Central Phoenix Region includes the following ZIP codes: 85003, 85004, 85006, 85007, 85008, 85012, 85013, 85014, 85015, 85016, 85017, 85018, 85019, and 85034.

Seven elementary school districts fall into the Central Phoenix Region. They include Alhambra School District, Balsz School District, Creighton School District, Madison School District, Osborn School District, Phoenix Elementary School District, and the Wilson School District.

Many prominent attractions exist within the Central Phoenix Region, including the State Capitol, the Phoenix Zoo, the Phoenix Children’s Museum, Burton Barr Library, and Chase Field. The Central Phoenix Region includes several large medical facilities, including St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix Children’s Hospital, Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, and Mountain Park Health Center. Many organizations and private businesses are headquartered in Phoenix. State and local government are the dominant employers in the region. This is an area that has abundant retail services, and the sales and retail industries are a leading sector in the region.

1.2 Preliminary Analyses

As part of the Needs and Assets data collection, the team reviewed multiple reports, databases, and environmental scans related to children and families in Maricopa County and in the region. This section presents highlights of relevant information from these reports that are not covered elsewhere.

1.2.1 Head Start

According to a 2007 Valley of the Sun United Way report, parents expressed that they are typically satisfied with the availability of Head Start programs in their area and with the local child care centers, many of which accept the subsidy vouchers from the Department

of Economic Security. Many other early child care programs in the Central Phoenix Region are offered by faith-based organizations. There are 14 identified resources for early childhood professional development in South and Central Phoenix.

Most children enrolled in Head Start also have access to medical services. The 2010 Head Start report from Phoenix indicates that many families utilize free or sliding scale clinics for family care: 79.3 percent of parents had identified a healthcare clinic, 6.4 percent used more than one clinic, and 12.3 percent reported that they do not have an identified clinic. Almost half of the parents reported that they do not access medical care because of the difficulty in affording healthcare for themselves, even when their children were covered (such as through KidsCare or AHCCCS). They also reported dissatisfaction with the physician and not knowing where to go for healthcare.

1.2.2 Early Intervention for Developmental Delays

According to the 2009 environmental scan of Project LAUNCH, a major challenge in the Central Phoenix Region, as well as in the entire City of Phoenix, is the assessment and early identification of health and developmental problems in children. Certain programs are in place, such as the Ages and Stages Program, that successfully address prevention and intervention measures, but these programs are too small and limited to fully meet the needs of the region. Current strategies to help families address developmental difficulties early are proving promising, such as linking families with a behavioral health technician/case manager to help them navigate the system from the beginning.

Head Start is addressing the challenge of developmental delays. Of the children enrolled in Phoenix Head Start, 40 percent have moderate developmental delays and 35.6 percent have speech and language impairments. The number of children under the age of five with disabilities receiving Supplementary Security Income (SSI) has increased by 26.9 percent since 2007. More than 300 children enrolled in Head Start for the 2008-09 school year were part of an Individual Education Plan that can address each child's specific developmental needs.

The public school system also faces challenges in identifying and addressing developmental delays and learning problems. Parents who participated in community forums expressed that they felt if they did not identify a learning problem with their child early, it would pass unnoticed for much of the school year. In other words, if the parents did not call attention to a problem, the public schools in the region would not be the ones to identify a child's disability. Even when a problem is noticed, parents must undergo a long and strenuous process before their child receives services.

1.2.3 Child Care

Consistent with most areas of Maricopa County, parents expressed that their top worry is finding high quality affordable child care. Although Head Start offers hundreds of children within the region early education, there are still many families who earn just above the required income for Head Start and cannot afford quality early childhood

education. Even for families that do qualify for Head Start or DES-subsidized child care, there are long wait-lists for these services.

1.2.4 Cultural Competence

The Central Phoenix Region has a very diverse population. Parents perceive this diversity as an advantage, helping their children to understand different cultures, ideas, and perspectives. However, this diversity can also lead to difficulty in accessing services due to language and cultural barriers. There is a great need for cultural and linguistic competence among service providers who serve parents who do not speak English; parents need culturally aware and preferably bilingual “mentors” who can help them navigate the school and healthcare and behavioral health systems.

References

City of Phoenix, Annual Report Head Start Program, 2008-09.
City of Phoenix, Community Action Program Community Needs Assessment, Human Services Department, Community Services Division, April 2009.
City of Phoenix, Head Start Report, 2010.
Project LAUNCH: TAPESTRY, Arizona’s Local Environmental Scan, May 29, 2009.

1.3 Methodology

The methodology used to prepare the Regional Needs and Assets Report is described in this section.

The focus of the report is a collection and meaningful analyses of informative data indicators. The Needs and Assets Report includes an emphasis on the Council’s existing “assets,” that is, the institutions or organizations within the region that can be strengthened, expanded, and/or partnered with to support early childhood activities.

1.3.1 Primary Data Collection and Analysis

Local regional data have been of the utmost importance to the success of this project. The team collected qualitative primary data to reflect the personal views of regional participants and the unique features of the region.

The team coordinated with First Things First staff and Regional Coordinators and Managers to develop the survey instruments and to collect survey respondent contact information. A master list of potential respondents was created that consisted of early care and development stakeholders in each region. A draft survey was presented to two focus groups on March 25 and 26, 2010 during meetings that were accessible through teleconferencing and “Live Meeting” format. Input was synthesized and incorporated into the survey design, and the final version was converted into a web-based application in late March and early April.

Pilot testing began in early April and the online survey was provided to all respondents on April 22, 2010. Some key features of the survey include the ability for respondents to provide information about multiple communities, edit responses as needed up until the final closing deadline, and review their survey completion status using a “completion matrix.” The survey period was extended for an additional week following a request for an extension. The survey period ended on May 25, 2010, and 99 respondents provided survey input about the Central Phoenix Region. Survey responses can be found in **Appendix A**.

1.3.2 Telephone Interviews

The team conducted individual telephone interviews with up to 14 people in each region to obtain additional information and perspectives on early childhood needs and assets. In addition to early childhood professionals, the team interviewed parents and neighborhood leaders. Some of the interview input was provided in written form, rather than over the phone.

A summary of the responses is located in **Appendix B** of this report.

1.3.3 Stakeholder Group Interviews

Group meetings were held with community stakeholders. These group interviews involved organizations providing relevant services in the region and other select community members. These meetings provided additional relevant information, perceptions, and opinions of services considered assets, as well as potential barriers or unmet needs of the community.

A summary of the responses is located in **Appendix B** of this report.

1.3.4 Secondary Data Collection and Analysis

The team worked with FTF and other Arizona and national data sources for indicators in the Regional Needs and Assets Report template provided in the FTF solicitation. The team worked closely with regional coordinators and managers to identify local sources of documented information. Examples of national and regional sources included in this report are as follows:

- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.
- Arizona Department of Economic Security.
- Arizona Department of Health Services.
- Arizona Department of Education.
- American Community Survey.
- Arizona Head Start Association and National Head Start.

Many of the analyses included in the successive chapters of this report rely on American Community Survey (ACS) data published by the U.S. Census Bureau. The information presented for each topic area reflects the most current and geographically comprehensive

data available through this source. More specifically, three particular databases were used to generate the tables: 1) three-year average estimates covering the 2006-08 period, 2) single-year estimates for the year 2008, and, 3) single year estimates for the year 2005 (used as a historic reference point to calculate change). Items noted as “Most Recent Estimates” reflect either the three-year average estimate for the demographic statistic over the 2006-08 period or, if unavailable, the single-year estimate for the year 2008. Alternately, items denoted as "3-Year Trend" indicate the percentage change in the demographic component between the single-year estimates for the years 2005 and 2008.

As noted, data from ACS are presented for the most specific geographies available for each data element. ACS will not publish results when population totals are insufficient (too small) to allow for reliable estimation; therefore, localities depicted for respective analyses will vary from exhibit to exhibit. In addition to national-, state-, and county-level data, geographies available through the ACS at the sub-FTF regional level include cities, towns, and school districts. Note that the data shown for school districts does not refer to the students enrolled in school there; it covers all residents living within the geographic boundaries of the school districts. Because the boundaries of the cities and school districts do not match the First Things First regional boundaries, the exhibits include several geographies to best reflect the characteristics of the region. Some of these geographies overlap and include residents outside the region. Maps detailing ZIP code and school district locales, as well as foster home availability, are included as **Appendix D**.

The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council recommended more than \$14.6 million in contracts earlier this month for fiscal year 2011. This will give young children in the Central Phoenix region the tools they need to have a fair start in life. A list of grant awards for First Things First can be found in **Appendix E**

2.0 THE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN LIVING IN THE CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION

This chapter presents data and analysis regarding families and children living in the region.

2.1 General Population Trends

Exhibit 2-1 presents an analysis of the population of children age five and under being served. As shown:

- There was significant growth in young children as a share of the population in the City of Phoenix.

**EXHIBIT 2-1
PERCENTAGE, NUMBER, AND CHANGE IN POPULATION
AGE 0 TO 5 YEARS**

AREA	POPULATION AGE 0-5		
	Most Recent Data	Percent of Total Population (All Ages)	3-Year Trend
Alhambra Elementary District	*	*	*
Balsz Elementary District	2,784	9.8%	*
Creighton Elementary District	7,383	10.2%	-6.1%
Madison Elementary District	2,949	5.2%	*
Osborn Elementary District	3,602	9.4%	*
Phoenix Elementary District	4,509	8.1%	*
City of Phoenix, Arizona	133,300	9.1%	15.2%
Maricopa County	324,159	8.4%	11.3%
Arizona	500,031	7.9%	12.1%
United States	20,672,826	6.9%	3.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 2-2 presents data relevant to the diversity of the population of children under five. As shown:

- Compared to Maricopa County and the state, large Hispanic/Latino populations are observed in all areas of this region except in the Madison Elementary District.
- The City of Phoenix has also experienced tremendous growth in its share of the African American young child population.

**EXHIBIT 2-2
RACE AND ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE**

AREA	PERCENT UNDER 5 YEARS (MOST RECENT DATA)					PERCENT CHANGE (3-YEAR TREND)			
	Race				Ethnicity	Race			Ethnicity
	White	African American	Native American	Other -OR- Unable to Estimate	Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	White	African American	Native American	Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)
Alhambra Elementary District	61.7%	5.7%	*	32.6%	83.3%	53.3%	*	*	52.6%
Balsz Elementary District	78.4%	*	*	21.6%	73.8%	*	*	*	*
Creighton Elementary District	69.4%	*	*	30.6%	78.0%	-2.2%	*	*	-15.5%
Madison Elementary District	70.9%	*	*	29.1%	40.7%	*	*	*	*
Osborn Elementary District	56.9%	*	*	43.1%	53.6%	*	*	*	*
Phoenix Elementary District	72.7%	*	*	27.3%	80.3%	*	*	*	*
City of Phoenix	70.4%	6.2%	2.2%	21.2%	61.7%	28.0%	103.7%	-28.1%	13.6%
Maricopa County	73.4%	4.9%	2.4%	19.3%	47.2%	20.9%	61.3%	-12.4%	19.4%
Arizona	69.3%	4.2%	5.5%	21.1%	45.7%	20.8%	59.8%	-13.6%	19.4%
United States	66.9%	13.6%	0.9%	18.6%	24.6%	4.9%	-3.8%	6.5%	16.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 2-3 presents data relevant to children with potential cultural and linguistic challenges. As shown:

- All localities in the region had higher percentages of children under six who are foreign born than either Maricopa County (2.8%) or Arizona (2.2%). In the Osborn Elementary District, nearly 15 percent of the children under six were born outside the U.S.

**EXHIBIT 2-3
CHILDREN UNDER SIX WHO ARE FOREIGN BORN**

AREA	PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6
	Most Recent Data
Alhambra Elementary District	5.0%
Balsz Elementary District	5.1%
Madison Elementary District	3.2%
Osborn Elementary District	14.7%
Phoenix Elementary District	5.2%
City of Phoenix	3.9%
Maricopa County	2.8%
Arizona	2.2%
United States	1.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Exhibit 2-4 also presents data relevant to children with potential cultural and linguistic challenges. As shown:

- All localities, with the exception of the Madison Elementary District, had a higher percentage of children under six with at least one foreign born parent than either Maricopa County (36.6%) or Arizona (31.7%).
- In the Balsz Elementary District, nearly three-quarters of the children under six have at least one foreign born parent.

**EXHIBIT 2-4
CHILDREN UNDER SIX WITH AT LEAST ONE FOREIGN BORN PARENT**

AREA	PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6
	Most Recent Data
Alhambra Elementary District	67.4%
Balsz Elementary District	73.8%
Creighton Elementary District	68.6%
Madison Elementary District	17.2%
Osborn Elementary District	51.0%
Phoenix Elementary District	61.9%
City of Phoenix	50.3%
Maricopa County	36.6%
Arizona	31.7%
United States	24.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

2.2 Additional Population Characteristics

Exhibit 2-5 presents data about the age and ethnicity of mothers giving birth in Maricopa County and Arizona. As shown:

- The proportion of births in Maricopa County to teen mothers stayed approximately the same between 2005 and 2008 (between 11% and 12%).
- The proportion of teen births was much higher for many non-White and Hispanic mothers as compared to White, non-Hispanic.

**EXHIBIT 2-5
BIRTHS BY AGE AND ETHNICITY**

AREA		2005						2008					
		Total	Mother's Age Group					Total	Mother's Age Group				
			<15	15-17	18-19	20+	Unknown		<15	15-17	18-19	20+	Unknown
Maricopa County	Total	62,232	0.2%	4.1%	7.3%	88.4%	0.0%	62,667	0.15%	4.1%	7.3%	88.5%	0.0%
	White Non-Hispanic	26130	0.0%	1.5%	4.2%	94.2%	0.0%	26,201	0.02%	1.6%	4.5%	93.8%	0.0%
	Hispanic or Latino	28318	0.4%	6.5%	9.9%	83.2%	0.0%	28,319	0.26%	6.5%	9.8%	83.4%	0.0%
	Black or African American	2697	0.1%	5.9%	10.1%	83.8%	0.0%	3,272	0.28%	4.8%	10.1%	84.8%	0.0%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	1,817	0.4%	6.3%	11.8%	81.5%	0.0%	1,940	0.21%	5.4%	10.2%	84.3%	0.0%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2133	0.0%	1.0%	1.9%	97.0%	0.0%	2,605	0.04%	0.5%	2.2%	97.2%	0.0%
	Other/Unknown	1137	0.0%	3.0%	7.1%	89.9%	0.0%	330	0.00%	3.9%	4.2%	91.2%	0.6%
Arizona	Total	95,798	0.2%	4.4%	7.9%	87.5%	0.0%	99,215	0.16%	4.2%	7.9%	87.7%	0.0%
	White Non-Hispanic	39,657	0.0%	1.8%	5.1%	93.1%	0.0%	41,925	0.04%	1.8%	5.3%	92.9%	0.0%
	Hispanic or Latino	42,156	0.3%	6.5%	10.3%	82.9%	0.0%	42,639	0.26%	6.4%	10.2%	83.2%	0.0%
	Black or African American	3,450	0.2%	5.8%	10.5%	83.5%	0.0%	4,301	0.28%	4.7%	10.3%	84.7%	0.0%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	6,293	0.3%	7.6%	11.2%	80.9%	0.0%	6,362	0.35%	6.4%	11.9%	81.4%	0.0%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2,805	0.0%	1.0%	2.4%	96.6%	0.0%	3,425	0.03%	0.8%	2.5%	96.7%	0.0%
	Other/Unknown	1,437	0.1%	2.9%	6.2%	90.8%	0.0%	563	0.00%	3.7%	4.4%	91.5%	0.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services.

Exhibit 2-6 presents data relevant to the diversity of the population for children under five. As shown:

- More than one out of three families with young children in the region are single parent families, higher than the rate countywide.
- Two-parent households with children under five are declining across races and ethnicities, while households led by single fathers are increasing.

**EXHIBIT 2-6
TYPES OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER FIVE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY**

AREA	PERCENT OF FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN UNDER 5 (MOST RECENT DATA)						PERCENT CHANGE IN TYPES OF FAMILIES (3-YEAR TREND)					
	All Races & Ethnicities			Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)			All Races & Ethnicities			Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)		
	Two-Parent	Single Parent (Male)	Single Parent (Female)	Two-Parent	Single Parent (Male)	Single Parent (Female)	Two-Parent	Single Parent (Male)	Single Parent (Female)	Two-Parent	Single Parent (Male)	Single Parent (Female)
Alhambra Elementary District	58.5%	11.3%	30.3%	62.3%	9.1%	28.6%	-10.5%	*	7.8%	*	*	*
Creighton Elementary District	62.9%	9.3%	27.7%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Phoenix Elementary District	50.9%	12.0%	37.1%	49.6%	13.5%	36.9%	*	*	*	*	*	*
City of Phoenix	66.0%	10.0%	24.0%	65.6%	11.7%	22.6%	-6.7%	9.5%	-9.9%	-11.2%	3.6%	-2.0%
Maricopa County	71.3%	8.5%	20.3%	66.5%	10.8%	22.7%	-10.0%	4.6%	-2.6%	-9.2%	-6.3%	17.2%
Arizona	68.4%	9.0%	22.6%	63.9%	10.4%	25.7%	-8.4%	2.8%	2.0%	-12.1%	-4.5%	17.2%
United States	69.6%	7.5%	22.9%	65.3%	11.1%	23.7%	-0.8%	4.1%	2.7%	3.7%	4.1%	6.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 2-7 presents data relevant to children being raised by their grandparents. These families often have challenges due to the health and financial needs of grandparents and the circumstances that led to the children living with them. As shown:

- The percentages of children under six living with grandparents in much of the region is above the countywide rate of nine percent.
- The Phoenix Elementary District had the highest rate at 17.7 percent, while the Creighton Elementary District had the lowest at 5.5 percent.

EXHIBIT 2-7
CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS

AREA	PERCENT OF TOTAL CHILDREN UNDER 6
	Most Recent Data
Alhambra Elementary District	10.2%
Creighton Elementary District	5.5%
Osborn Elementary District	11.6%
Phoenix Elementary District	17.7%
City of Phoenix	10.1%
Maricopa County	9.0%
Arizona	11.2%
United States	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Exhibit 2-8 shows the educational level of mothers who gave birth within the last 12 months. As shown:

- The region has a very high percentage of babies born to women with less than a high school education – more than half in the Alhambra and Phoenix Elementary School Districts.
- More than six out of ten babies born in the City of Phoenix had mothers with a high school education or less, compared to just over half countywide.

**EXHIBIT 2-8
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF WOMEN WHO GAVE BIRTH IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS**

AREA	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT RATES OF WOMEN WHO GAVE BIRTH IN LAST 12 MONTHS									
	Less than High School		High School or Equivalent		Some College or AA Degree		Bachelor's Degree		Graduate/ Professional Degree	
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Alhambra Elementary District	54.8%	*	26.6%	*	17.7%	*	*	*	*	*
Creighton Elementary District	43.9%	-13.8%	41.9%	5.1%	7.5%	*	*	*	*	*
Madison Elementary District	30.7%	*	*	*	16.4%	*	*	*	*	*
Osborn Elementary District	35.9%	*	23.3%	*	23.9%	*	14.5%	*	*	*
Phoenix Elementary District	59.4%	*	10.6%	*	11.9%	*	*	*	*	*
City of Phoenix	35.5%	9.5%	26.7%	-30.0%	21.2%	4.5%	11.7%	28.8%	4.9%	115.1%
Maricopa County	27.5%	13.3%	24.2%	-23.8%	26.7%	1.4%	14.7%	17.2%	6.8%	11.6%
Arizona	25.3%	-1.6%	26.1%	-20.9%	30.0%	13.8%	12.4%	15.1%	6.3%	15.4%
United States	17.8%	-7.6%	25.9%	-8.3%	29.2%	11.5%	18.2%	-2.1%	9.0%	9.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 2-9 presents the percentage of households in which all parents in the home are either employed or seeking employment, indicating a likely need for child care. As shown:

- The percentages for Alhambra Elementary District and Phoenix are lower than the county and state averages, with Phoenix showing a slight increase over the three-year period.

**EXHIBIT 2-9
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN WHICH ALL PARENTS ARE IN THE
LABOR FORCE**

AREA	PERCENT OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18**	
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Alhambra Elementary District	55.8%	*
City of Phoenix	64.1%	1.9%
Maricopa County	66.9%	3.5%
Arizona	67.2%	5.1%
United States	71.0%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

** Represents all households with all parents employed or seeking employment as a proportion of total households with children under the age of 18.

Single mothers who work or are seeking employment are more likely to need child care services. As shown in **Exhibit 2-10**:

- In the City of Phoenix, 51.6 percent of single mothers were in the workforce, compared to 55 percent in Maricopa County.

EXHIBIT 2-10
SINGLE MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF SINGLE MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE**
	Most Recent Data
Alhambra Elementary District	41.8%
City of Phoenix	51.6%
Maricopa County	55.0%
Arizona	56.0%
United States	60.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

** Single mothers (ages 20-64) with children under the age of six who are employed or seeking employment as a proportion of total single mothers (age 20-64) of children under the age of six.

As defined by the Census Bureau, a linguistically isolated household is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English, or (2) speaks a non-English language and speaks English "very well." In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English. As shown in **Exhibit 2-11**:

- Linguistic isolation in Alhambra (24.3%) and Phoenix (20.2%) Elementary Districts is nearly triple the county and state averages.
- Alternately, only 2.9 percent of households in the Madison Elementary District were classified as linguistically isolated.

**EXHIBIT 2-11
LINGUISTIC ISOLATION OF HOUSEHOLDS**

AREA	PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED	
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Alhambra Elementary District	24.3%	*
Balsz Elementary District	13.8%	*
Creighton Elementary District	18.5%	*
Madison Elementary District	2.9%	*
Osborn Elementary District	10.6%	*
Phoenix Elementary District	20.2%	*
City of Phoenix	11.7%	-0.1%
Maricopa County	7.5%	-0.4%
Arizona	6.7%	-0.2%
United States	4.8%	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

*Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Note: Data presented in this exhibit are based on available figures for total households, not only households with children.

Exhibit 2-12 presents data on the primary language of children enrolled in the Head Start Program. As shown:

- Based on 2006-07 enrollments, Spanish was the most common primary language for children in the City of Phoenix programs: 51.7 percent in Early Head Start and 66.7 percent of children in Head Start.
- Statewide, 56 percent of the children in Head Start spoke Spanish as their primary language.

**EXHIBIT 2-12
HEAD START ENROLLMENT BY PRIMARY LANGUAGE, 2006-07**

AREA	LANGUAGES	EARLY HEAD START ENROLLMENT		HEAD START ENROLLMENT	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
City of Phoenix	English	389	48.3%	2,426	31.4%
	Spanish	416	51.7%	5,146	66.7%
	Central/South American and Mexican	0	0.0%	12	0.2%
	Caribbean Languages	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Middle Eastern/South Asian Languages	0	0.0%	58	0.8%
	East Asian Languages	0	0.0%	30	0.4%
	Native North American/Alaska Native	0	0.0%	4	0.1%
	Pacific Island Languages	0	0.0%	8	0.1%
	European and Slavic Languages	0	0.0%	10	0.1%
	Other Languages	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	African Languages	0	0.0%	25	0.3%
	Unspecified	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Arizona	English	914	52.4%	6,261
Spanish		825	47.3%	8,213	56.0%
Central/South American and Mexican		0	0.0%	12	0.1%
Caribbean Languages		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Middle Eastern/South Asian Languages		0	0.0%	74	0.5%
East Asian Languages		1	0.1%	43	0.3%
Native North American/Alaska Native		2	0.1%	9	0.1%
Pacific Island Languages		0	0.0%	8	0.1%
European and Slavic Languages		0	0.0%	13	0.1%
Other Languages		1	0.1%	2	0.0%
African Languages		1	0.1%	38	0.3%
Unspecified		1	0.1%	4	0.0%

Source: Arizona Department of Education.

2.3 Economic Circumstances

Children with unemployed parents may face additional stresses. As shown in **Exhibits 2-13** and **2-14**:

- From January-June 2007 to January-June 2009, the number of unemployment insurance claimants in Maricopa County, the Central Phoenix Region, and the state of Arizona dramatically increased. Maricopa County experienced the greatest increase, more than the state or the region.
- The unemployment rate in the City of Phoenix more than doubled between 2005 and 2010, as it did countywide.
- The unemployment rate in Phoenix is higher than in Maricopa County.

EXHIBIT 2-13 NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

AREA	JANUARY-JUNE 2007	JANUARY-JUNE 2009	PERCENT CHANGE
Central Phoenix Region	4,722	13,239	180.4%
Maricopa County	40,890	130,251	218.5%
Arizona	87,083	231,628	166.0%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

EXHIBIT 2-14 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

AREA	TOTAL EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS MARCH 2010	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MARCH 2005	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE MARCH 2010	UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENT CHANGE
City of Phoenix	780,746	4.9%	10.2%	108.2%
Maricopa County	1,822,752	4.1%	8.7%	112.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Exhibit 2-15 presents data on the number of children (birth to age five) who are homeless and living in transitional or emergency shelters. This includes homeless children whose last permanent address was in the Central Phoenix Region. As shown:

- The number of homeless children from the region living in shelters grew by 65 percent, increasing from 237 children to 391 children.

**EXHIBIT 2-15
HOMELESS CHILDREN LIVING IN SHELTERS**

AREA	HOMELESS CHILDREN AGE 0 TO 5		
	2007	2009	PERCENT CHANGE
Central Phoenix Region	237	391	65.0%
Sum of FTF Maricopa Regions**	724	1,188	64.1%

Source: Maricopa Homeless Management Information System.

** Includes all data reported for ZIP codes encompassed by Central Phoenix, South Phoenix, North Phoenix, Central Maricopa, Northeast Maricopa, Northwest Maricopa, Southeast Maricopa, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and Southwest Maricopa FTF regions.

Exhibit 2-16 indicates the median income of families with children. As shown:

- Families in the region earn low incomes. The median income for families with young children is generally below the median in Maricopa County (except for the median for two-parent families in the Madison Elementary District).
- Two-parent families living in the Alhambra, Balsz, and Creighton Elementary Districts have median incomes that are less than half of the median income in Maricopa County.
- Median incomes rose between 2005 and 2008 in Phoenix and Maricopa County.
- Median incomes fell in the Creighton Elementary District over the three-year period

**EXHIBIT 2-16
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 BY FAMILY TYPE**

AREA	MEDIAN PERSONAL INCOME, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18					
	Married Couples		Single Parent, Male		Single Parent, Female	
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Alhambra Elementary District	\$36,792	-2.6%	\$26,991	-16.7%	\$16,808	5.9%
Balsz Elementary District	\$31,999	*	\$19,464	*	\$21,616	*
Creighton Elementary District	\$31,757	-11.0%	\$24,940	-24.6%	\$14,845	-35.0%
Madison Elementary District	\$95,837	*	\$41,384	*	\$25,956	*
Osborn Elementary District	\$57,486	*	\$31,563	*	\$19,494	*
Phoenix Elementary District	\$49,066	*	\$31,540	*	\$11,106	*
City of Phoenix	\$64,878	16.4%	\$37,306	10.2%	\$27,367	30.3%
Maricopa County	\$78,381	12.4%	\$42,272	12.0%	\$31,333	25.2%
Arizona	\$73,039	13.3%	\$39,197	11.3%	\$27,091	11.2%
United States	\$78,924	13.6%	\$38,160	7.3%	\$24,786	13.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Federal poverty guidelines vary by the size of the family and are adjusted each year for inflation. As issued by the Department of Health and Human Services for 2009, the threshold for a single person is \$10,830 per year, and increases by \$3,740 with each additional family member. Families are considered to be living in poverty if their income is below \$14,570 for a family of two, \$18,310 for a family of three, and \$22,050 for a family of four.

Exhibit 2-17 provides data related to children living below the poverty level, which can create numerous risks for child development. As shown:

- Poverty rates for families with young children in the region are very high for all types of families.
- More than one out of five White, two-parent families with young children are poor throughout much of the region. Poverty rates are even higher for single parent families.

**EXHIBIT 2-17
POVERTY STATUS OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER FIVE**

AREA	PERCENT OF TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL (MOST RECENT DATA)						PERCENT OF SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL (MOST RECENT DATA)					
	Race of Householder			Ethnicity	All Races/Ethnicities		Race of Householder			Ethnicity	All Races/Ethnicities	
	White	African American	Native American	Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	Total, Two Parents	Percent Change 3-Year Trend	White	African American	Native American	Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	Total, One Parent	Percent Change 3-Year Trend
Alhambra Elementary District	33.9%	*	*	34.3%	31.3%	48.2%	*	*	*	63.1%	57.3%	*
Balsz Elementary District	*	*	*	*	34.8%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Creighton Elementary District	42.7%	*	*	48.3%	42.8%	*	59.8%	*	*	*	52.1%	*
Madison Elementary District	*	*	*	*	7.1%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Osborn Elementary District	23.4%	*	*	*	30.2%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Phoenix Elementary District	23.4%	*	*	33.5%	26.9%	*	*	*	*	65.7%	58.9%	*
City of Phoenix	16.8%	11.2%	26.5%	26.0%	17.4%	10.2%	42.6%	45.9%	43.7%	44.5%	41.4%	-2.6%
Maricopa County	10.3%	7.0%	16.5%	21.3%	10.9%	-0.9%	37.5%	45.6%	38.1%	43.4%	37.4%	-4.5%
Arizona	10.1%	6.0%	24.0%	20.7%	11.2%	-11.5%	40.4%	44.5%	48.6%	47.6%	41.6%	-2.4%
United States	7.4%	10.9%	18.8%	19.4%	8.7%	-3.4%	39.8%	50.6%	50.4%	45.7%	43.4%	-3.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Section Summary

There is great diversity in the region, with large percentages of young children who are Hispanic and African American and more than half of young children with at least one foreign born parent. There are also high rates of households where no adult speaks English well. These demographics emphasize the need for strategies and grantees that have the cultural competence and language capacity to connect with families.

The economic challenges in the region are striking: median incomes are low and poverty rates are high. Compared to Maricopa County, many babies in the region are born to mothers with little education, and many young children live in single parent families. The region can benefit from strategies that focus on families most at risk, such as home visiting services and services for families in crisis.

2.4 Educational Indicators

Exhibit 2-18 shows the academic achievement among schools in the region. As shown:

- For 2008-09, nearly half of the schools in the Central Phoenix Region were rated as Performing while only four percent were Excelling.
- More than one in five schools in the region were rated as Underperforming or Failing, compared to only three percent of schools statewide.

**EXHIBIT 2-18
AZ LEARNS PROFILE**

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SCHOOLS BY AIMS RATING 2008-09					
	Excelling	Highly Performing	Performing Plus	Performing	Underperforming	Failing to Meet Academic Standards
Central Phoenix Region	4.3%	8.7%	17.4%	47.8%	19.6%	2.2%
Arizona	22.0%	14.2%	37.9%	22.8%	1.9%	1.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Education 2010. AZ's Instrument to Measure Standard (AIMS) Results. Retrieved March 31, 2010 from Arizona Department of Education. <http://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/AIMSResults/>.

Charter schools are not included in the analysis.

AZ LEARNS is the Arizona Department of Education's school accountability system. Each school is labeled based on students AIMS test scores, state baseline goals, and yearly progress.

3.0 THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM IN THE CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION

3.1 Early Care and Education

Exhibit 3-1 shows data related to child care providers in the region participating in the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program. As shown:

- From 2008 to 2010, the number of centers grew from 169 to 199, an increase of 17.8 percent.

**EXHIBIT 3-1
CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SUMMARY STATISTICS**

CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION	2008	2010	PERCENT CHANGE
Number of Providers	169	199	17.75%
Total Capacity	11,567	13,208	14.19%
Capacity per Provider	68.44	66.37	-3.03%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-2 presents the availability of state-regulated child care in the region. The Department of Health Services (DHS) licenses and inspects child care centers, and also certifies home-based child care businesses with five to 10 children, called “child care group homes.” The Department of Economic Security (DES) certifies and monitors home-based child care businesses with four or fewer children that participate in the child care subsidy program. There are many home-based child care providers that are not certified by DES or DHS and are not included here. As shown:

- The majority of providers in the Central Phoenix Region are licensed centers.
- DES certified homes greatly decreased by 110 during the past two years.

**EXHIBIT 3-2
NUMBER OF LICENSED/CERTIFIED CENTERS/HOMES**

AREA	DHS LICENSED CENTERS	DES CERTIFIED HOMES	GROUP HOMES	TOTAL
Central Phoenix 2008	126	141	14	281
Central Phoenix 2010	132	31	18	181
2008-10 Change	6	-110	4	-100

Source: Department of Health Services, Child Care Resource and Referral, May 2010.

Many schools participate in the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) program to assist families in need. State funding for the ECBG preschool was eliminated in January 2010. Therefore, no more preschool students can enroll through this funding source. As shown in **Exhibit 3-3**:

- ECBG preschool enrollment increased in the region between 2005 and 2010.
- Five school districts in the region relied on ECBG funding for preschool classrooms in 2010.
- Phoenix Elementary School District was the only district with an enrollment decrease (16.7%), based on available data.

**EXHIBIT 3-3
EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT (ECBG) PROGRAM PUBLIC SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

AREA	ECBG ENROLLMENT LEVELS				PERCENT CHANGE 2005-10
	2005		2010		
	Number Enrolled in Preschool	Percent of Total ECBG Enrollment	Number Enrolled in Preschool	Percent of Total ECBG Enrollment	
Alhambra Elementary District	120	40.0%	120	100.0%	0.0%
Balsz Elementary District	65	59.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Madison Elementary District	180	26.5%	228	100.0%	26.7%
Osborn Elementary District	90	88.2%	136	72.3%	51.1%
Phoenix Elementary District	120	100.0%	100	100.0%	-16.7%
Wilson School District	25	18.5%	134	100.0%	436.0%
SUM, Regional Districts	600	41.5%	718	93.2%	19.7%

Source: Arizona Department of Education: Student Services, 2008, 2010. Early Childhood Block Grant Reports: ECBG Enrollment Report data pulled on April 2, 2010 (Unpublished Report).

N/A indicates that the data were not available.

Exhibit 3-4 presents data related to the number of children enrolled in preschool, nursery school, or kindergarten. As shown:

- Enrollment rates were high in the Madison and Balsz Elementary Districts.
- In other parts of the region, enrollment rates were substantially below the countywide rate.

**EXHIBIT 3-4
NUMBER OF CHILDREN (AGE THREE AND OVER) ENROLLED IN
NURSERY, PRESCHOOL, OR KINDERGARTEN PER 1,000 CHILDREN****

AREA	ENROLLMENT PER 1,000 CHILDREN**
	Most Recent Data
Alhambra Elementary District	229
Balsz Elementary District	363
Creighton Elementary District	274
Madison Elementary District	495
Osborn Elementary District	167
Phoenix Elementary District	275
City of Phoenix	289
Maricopa County	308
Arizona	314
United States	383

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

** Total enrollments by children ages three and over in nursery, preschool, or kindergarten per 1,000 children (age five years and under).

Exhibit 3-5 presents data related to the percentage of children enrolled in preschool, nursery school, or kindergarten who live in families with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). FPL guidelines vary by the size of the family and are adjusted each year for inflation. As issued by the Department of Health and Human Services for 2009, families are considered to be living in poverty if their income is below \$14,570 for a family of two; \$18,310 for a family of three; and \$22,050 for a family of four. As shown:

- Very high percentages of children enrolled in preschool were from poor families living in Alhambra, Balsz, Creighton, Osborn, and Phoenix Elementary Districts, exceeding the county and statewide rates.

EXHIBIT 3-5
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN (AGE THREE AND OVER) ENROLLED IN
PRESCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL, OR KINDERGARTEN WHO FALL
BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL)

AREA	PERCENT ENROLLED BELOW FPL	PERCENT CHANGE
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Alhambra Elementary District	35.5%	-21.6%
Balsz Elementary District	41.1%	*
Creighton Elementary District	40.7%	12.8%
Madison Elementary District	15.6%	*
Osborn Elementary District	42.0%	*
Phoenix Elementary District	43.6%	*
City of Phoenix	25.0%	11.8%
Maricopa County	16.9%	14.6%
Arizona	19.1%	-0.5%
United States	17.6%	-2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 3-6 provides data related to the number of pregnant women and children enrolled in the Head Start Program. As shown:

- In the Central Phoenix Region, nearly 6,000 children are enrolled in all area Head Start Programs, with Maricopa and Southwest Human Development having the largest enrollments in the area.

EXHIBIT 3-6
HEAD START NUMBER OF PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN SERVED
2007-08

AREA	PROGRAM NAME	TYPE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PREGNANT WOMEN	TOTAL ENROLLMENT
Central Phoenix Region	Alhambra Head Start	Head Start	511	0	511
	Booker T. Washington Child Development Center	Head Start	229	0	229
	Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.	Early Head Start	76	15	91
	Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.	Migrant Head Start	753	0	753
	City of Phoenix Head Start Program	Head Start	604	0	604
	Greater Phoenix Urban League	Head Start	482	0	482
	Maricopa Head Start	Head Start	1,461	0	1,461
	Maricopa Head Start	Early Head Start	168	10	178
	Southwest Human Development, Head Start	Head Start	1,123	0	1,123
	Southwest Human Development, Head Start	Early Head Start	353	18	371
	Wilson Head Start	Head Start	183	0	183

Source: Head Start Program Information Report, 2007-08. Profile Report-Individual Program Level (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-7 provides information about child care providers in the region who have earned accreditation or recognition from a national organization, indicating that they meet specified quality standards. As shown:

- In the Central Phoenix Region, the National Association of Child Care Professionals (NAC) had the largest share of accredited/recognized area providers with seven, followed by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and National Association for the Education of Young Children with five each.
- The percentage of total regulated providers with accreditation or recognition grew from six percent in 2008 to nine percent in 2010.

**EXHIBIT 3-7
RECOGNIZED AREA PROVIDERS**

ACCREDITATION/ RECOGNITION	NUMBER OF ACCREDITED/RECOGNIZED AREA PROVIDERS								ACCREDITATIONS PER APPROVED PROVIDER TOTAL**
	AMI	AMS	ACSI	NAC	NAEYC	NECPA	NAFCC	TOTAL	
2008	0	0	0	6	11	1	0	18	0.06
2010	0	0	5	7	5	0	0	17	0.09
2008-10 Change	0	0	5	1	-6	-1	0	-1	0.03

Sources: Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), American Montessori Society (AMS), Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), National Association of Child Care Professionals (NAC), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), 2010.

** Number of approved providers per **Exhibit 3-2**.

In spring 2010, MGT administered a web-based stakeholder survey completed by early care and development stakeholders in the Central Phoenix Region. The survey was designed to identify the extent to which community needs are being met, the effects of budget cuts on service provision, services that may be lacking, and barriers to services. Survey topics included child care, education, literacy development, special needs, health services, and social services. **Appendix A** provides survey response rates for each survey item within each section of the survey. Group meetings and personal interviews were conducted throughout the Central Phoenix Region, which provided supplemental data to further explore the topic areas. Summaries of the group meetings and personal interviews can be found in **Appendix B**. A summary of key survey findings, as well as group meetings and interview findings directly related to early care and education, is presented in this section of the report.

Respondents rated (on a scale from Excellent to Very Poor) the extent to which services met the needs of children (birth through age five) and their families within their community for four areas related to early care and education. **Exhibit 3-8** shows the percentage of responses within the region indicating that needs were well met (provided a rating of Good to Excellent) and the percentage reporting that needs were not well met (provided a rating of Poor or Very Poor). Needs were least met in the areas of child care and child and family literacy development services. According to group meeting and personal interview participants, there are a number of needs that are not being met, with affordable and quality child care being the greatest need.

**EXHIBIT 3-8
MEETING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEEDS**

SERVICE AREAS	GOOD TO EXCELLENT	POOR OR VERY POOR
Child Care	40.3%	38.7%
Educational Services	41.8%	29.1%
Child/Family Literacy Development	41.3%	36.9%
Special Needs	32.6%	28.5%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Total number of responses ranged from 46 to 62 across areas.

3.1.1 Barriers

Survey respondents were also asked to select the single most important barrier to children and families receiving services. The most important barriers identified that related to educational services included awareness of services, cost of services, and not having enough services. Some of the barriers mentioned in the personal interviews and group meetings included transportation, fear of deportation, language barriers, literacy, eligibility requirements, and service availability/wait-lists. **Exhibit 3-9** shows the most frequent responses.

**EXHIBIT 3-9
SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION BARRIERS**

SERVICE AREAS	SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BARRIER
Child Care	Cost (71.0%)
Educational Services	Awareness (30.9%)
Child/Family Literacy Development	Awareness (47.8%)
Special Needs	Awareness (34.7%)

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Total number of responses ranged from 46 to 62 across areas.

3.1.2 Budget Cuts

Survey respondents rated the effect of budget cuts on early care and education services from having no impact to having a very high impact. Budget cuts were perceived to be a significant factor within each of the educational service areas surveyed. As shown in **Exhibit 3-10**, approximately 46 percent to 87 percent of responses indicated that budget cuts had a high or very high impact on services. Budget cuts were reported to have the most substantial impact on child care services. Group participants expressed that budget cuts were considered a barrier to receiving services for children (age five and under) and their families as well.

EXHIBIT 3-10
IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION AREAS

SERVICE AREAS	HIGH/VERY HIGH IMPACT
Child Care	87.1%
Educational Services	60.0%
Child/Family Literacy Development Services	48.9%
Special Needs	45.8%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Total number of responses ranged from 46 to 62 across areas.

3.1.3 Missing Services

Survey respondents indicated which early care and education services were missing from their community. Across the region, there are gaps in services. Shown in **Exhibit 3-11**, the most frequently cited missing service was high quality child care, followed by child care subsidies. Other missing services mentioned by group meeting and interview participants included:

- Parent Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Pre-Birth Health Care
- Services for Disabled and Special Needs Children
- Mental Health Services (such as pre-screenings and evaluations)
- Nutrition Services
- Immunizations
- Head Start
- Funding for Native American Programs

EXHIBIT 3-11
MISSING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

MISSING EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AREAS	PERCENT MISSING
Early childhood literacy programs	43.5%
High quality child care	58.7%
High quality child care that provides alternative hours of operation	45.7%
Child care subsidies	54.3%
Pre-Kindergarten	39.1%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Total number of responses was 46.

Organizations providing leadership and services in the Central Phoenix Region serve as assets within the community. Survey participants identified assets in the form of key organizations who provide strong leadership within their community for the provision of Early Care and Education services. These organizations are included in **Exhibit 3-12**.

**EXHIBIT 3-12
ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING STRONG LEADERSHIP IN THE AREA OF
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

A Stepping Stone Foundation	Leaps and Bounds, Pre-kindergarten
Alhambra School District	readiness program, Arizona State University
Arizona Department of Education	Maricopa County
Arizona Literacy and Learning Center	Palomino Elementary Schools
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)	Partner in Participation
AZEIP	Phoenix Day
AZAAP	Phoenix Indian Center
Birth-5 Helpline	Phoenix Public Library
Blake Foundation	Phoenix Rescue Mission
Brain Development Boxes	Public Libraries
Central Arizona Colleges	Raising Special Kids
Child & Family Resources, Inc.	Reach Out and Read
Child and Family Services	Readiness Basket
Child Care Resource and Referral	Rise
Children’s Action Alliance	Saint Mary’s Food Bank
City of Phoenix Head Start	SARRC
Department of Economic Security	Southwest Human Development
Early Head Start	Special Kids
First Things First	Tapestry Project Young Child Wellness Council
Head Start	Terros
Homeward Bound	Unlimited Potential in South Phoenix
Homeward Bound Kids Corner	Valley of Sun School Readiness Kits
Hope 6	Valley of the Sun United Way
Inclusion Program First Things First	Women’s Health Coalition of Central Phoenix
KidsCare	YMCA
Kith and Kin (ASCC)	

Sources: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010; stakeholder interview responses, group meeting and personal interview responses, 2010.

3.1.4 Section Summary

Head Start provides a strong early childhood asset in the region. However, community input and the data indicate very high needs for greater access to high quality child care. The T.E.A.C.H. AZ scholarships for the professional education of child care teachers and the Quality First child care coaching and classroom improvement project will promote higher quality care. More than one out of three respondents to the online survey said that child care needs are not met and identified cost as the major barrier. Child care subsidies are a missing service in the region, and families could greatly benefit from child care scholarships and other affordability strategies. Preschool enrollment in most of the region is extremely low. There was a substantial decrease in the number of home-based child care businesses certified by the Department of Economic Security and a small decrease in the number of providers achieving national recognition.

3.2 Supporting Families

This section of the report displays information about children and families receiving a variety of support services.

Exhibit 3-13 shows the number of children and families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, known as TANF. This benefit is monthly cash assistance (welfare) for parents and children who have extremely low incomes. The benefits are time-limited, and parents must meet specific requirements to obtain the benefits. As shown:

- The number of children (five and younger) receiving TANF grew at nearly twice the rate of the statewide increase between 2007 and 2010.

**EXHIBIT 3-13
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)**

AREA	TANF CHILDREN (AGE 0 - 5)			TANF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN (AGE 0 - 5)		
	January 2007	January 2010	Percent Change	January 2007	January 2010	Percent Change
Central Phoenix Region	2,610	3,319	27.16%	2,053	2,458	19.73%
Arizona	20,867	23,866	14.37%	16,511	18,129	9.80%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-14 shows the number of children and families who qualify for and receive Child Care Assistance. The assistance, which functions like a voucher, is available to parents with children (12 and younger) who need child care and meet certain income and other requirements. Parents can use the voucher to pay for child care they choose. Parents have to pay an amount in addition to the voucher that depends on their income and their child care. The value of the voucher, however, is still based on the actual costs of child care in 2000; therefore, parents and providers have to pay the difference. Since February 2009, no qualified, low-income, working parents have been able to sign up for the subsidy because of budget cuts. As shown:

- The number of children receiving subsidies for child care dropped by 38 percent between 2009 and 2010 due to state budget cuts.

**EXHIBIT 3-14
CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

AREA	JANUARY 2009				JANUARY 2010			
	Number Of Families Eligible	Number Of Children Eligible	Number Of Families Who Received Assistance	Number Of Children Who Received Assistance	Number Of Families Eligible	Number Of Children Eligible	Number Of Families Who Received Assistance	Number Of Children Who Received Assistance
Central Phoenix Region	2,217	3,319	1,765	2,467	1,319	1,968	1,089	1,532
Arizona	26,257	38,126	21,377	29,089	15,833	23,244	13,014	17,891

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-15 depicts the number of children removed from their homes by Child Protective Services (CPS) due to abuse and neglect. This shows the concentration of CPS cases in certain areas. When children are removed from their own homes, the goal is to place them with relatives or with foster families who live in the same or nearby neighborhoods. This helps to promote stability in school, offers more familiarity and less stress for the child, and that allows the child to visit with parents and siblings. This exhibit compares by ZIP code the number of children removed from their homes and the availability of foster homes. Each ZIP code is labeled as having a shortage or balance of foster homes. As shown:

- Overall, this region has very few foster homes available; as a result, there is a very large shortage of available foster homes for the number of children removed from their families.
- In the Central Phoenix Region, ZIP codes 85008 and 85015 have the largest number of removals. These areas also have the greatest shortage of available foster homes for these removals. ZIP code 85015 is in the area of Interstate 17 and Camelback Road and ZIP code 85008 is in the McDowell Road and 32nd Street area.
- Maps detailing the availability of foster homes by ZIP code and school district are included at the conclusion of this report as **Appendix D**.

EXHIBIT 3-15
AVAILABILITY OF FOSTER HOME PLACEMENTS AS RELATED TO CHILD
REMOVALS IN THE CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION
2009

ZIP CODE	NUMBER OF REMOVALS	NUMBER OF FOSTER HOMES	NUMBER OF REMOVALS (EXCLUDING CHILDREN PLACED WITH RELATIVES)	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FOSTER HOMES AND REMOVALS (EXCLUDING CHILDREN PLACED WITH RELATIVES)	DESCRIPTION
85003	20	1	12	-11	Shortage of foster homes
85004	11	0	6	-6	Shortage of foster homes
85007	25	6	16	-10	Shortage of foster homes
85008	113	8	97	-89	Greatest shortage of foster homes
85012	5	2	4	-2	Balance of foster homes and children
85013	30	12	22	-10	Shortage of foster homes
85014	35	7	20	-13	Shortage of foster homes
85015	133	11	88	-77	Greatest shortage of foster homes
85016	41	8	25	-17	Large shortage of foster homes
85017	100	8	66	-58	Very large shortage of foster homes
85018	18	8	9	-1	Balance of foster homes and children
85019	67	13	28	-15	Shortage of foster homes
85034	27	1	22	-21	Large shortage of foster homes
Central Phoenix Region Total	625	85	415	-330	

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-16 shows the number of mothers, babies, and children participating in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program. This federally-funded service is available to pregnant women and mothers with their children (birth through age four) who meet specific income guidelines. As shown:

- The number of WIC participants increased between 2005 and 2009, increasing 36.9 percent for women and 26.7 percent for children.

EXHIBIT 3-16
WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) PARTICIPATION

AREA	2005		2009		PERCENT CHANGE 2005-09	
	Women	Children	Women	Children	Women	Children
Central Phoenix Region	4,783	9,756	6,549	12,363	36.9%	26.7%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, 2005, 2007, and 2009. Arizona Women, Infants, and Children data pulled April 22, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

A summary of key survey findings related to family support services are presented in this section of the report. Survey respondents rated (on a scale from Excellent to Very Poor) the extent to which family support services met the needs of other children (birth through age five) and their families within their community for three related areas. **Exhibit 3-17** shows the percentage of responses within the region indicating that needs were well met (provided a rating of Good to Excellent) and the percentage reporting that needs were not well met (provided a rating of Poor or Very Poor).

EXHIBIT 3-17
MEETING NEEDS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT

SERVICE AREAS	GOOD TO EXCELLENT	POOR OR VERY POOR
Parenting Support/Education	42.4%	33.9%
Child/Family Literacy Development	41.3%	36.9%
Social Services	38.8%	32.6%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Total number of responses ranged from 49 to 59 across areas.

3.2.1 Barriers

Survey respondents were also asked to select the single most important barrier to families receiving support services. Awareness was the single most important barrier reported for family support services. **Exhibit 3-18** shows the most frequent responses. Group meeting participants cited needs in the areas of parent education, literacy development, and family support services.

EXHIBIT 3-18
SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BARRIER TO FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

SERVICE AREAS	SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BARRIER
Parenting Support/Education	Awareness (40.7%)
Child/Family Literacy Development	Awareness (47.8%)
Social Services	Awareness (34.7%)

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Total number of responses ranged from 49 to 59 across areas.

3.2.2 Budget Cuts

Survey respondents rated the effect of budget cuts on family support services from having no impact to having a very high impact. Budget cuts were a significant factor within each family support area surveyed. Shown in **Exhibit 3-19**, approximately half of the respondents indicated that budget cuts had a high or very high impact on services.

EXHIBIT 3-19 IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

SERVICE AREAS	HIGH/VERY HIGH IMPACT
Parenting Support/Education	57.6%
Child/Family Literacy Development	48.9%
Social Services	55.1%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Total number of responses ranged from 49 to 59 across areas.

3.2.3 Missing Services

Survey respondents also indicated which family support services were missing from their community. **Exhibit 3-20** shows the most frequent responses.

EXHIBIT 3-20 MISSING FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

MISSING FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE AREAS	PERCENT MISSING
Support for grandparents raising grandchildren	56.5%
Parent coaching/education	54.3%
Support and educational programs for parents and parenting teens	34.8%
Accessibility to resources that support families with young children	56.5%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Total number of responses was 46.

Organizations providing leadership and services within the Central Phoenix Region serve as assets within the community. Survey participants identified assets in the form of key organizations who provide strong leadership within their community that provide Family Support services. These organizations are included in **Exhibit 3-21**.

EXHIBIT 3-21
ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING STRONG LEADERSHIP IN THE AREA OF
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

A Stepping Stone Foundation	Maricopa County
Alhambra Head Start	Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Alhambra School District	National Association of Social Workers
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)	PAFCO
Black Child and Family Services	Palomino Elementary Schools
Chicanos Por La Causa	Parent University (Mesa Public Schools)
Child & Family Resources, Inc.	Parenting Arizona
Child Crisis Center	Partners in Participation
Churches	Phoenix Day
City of Phoenix Head Start Program	Phoenix Urban League
Child Protective Services (CPS)	Raising Special Kids
Creighton School District - Community Education Department	Readiness Basket
First Things First	SARRC
Friendly House	Southwest Head Start
Head Start	Southwest Human Development
Homeward Bound	Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
John C Lincoln, Desert Mission Programs	University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
John C. Lincoln Health Network	Valle del Sol
Leaps and Bounds; Pre kindergarten readiness program, Arizona State University	Valley of the Sun United Way
	YMCA

Sources: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010; stakeholder interview responses, 2010.

3.2.4 Section Summary

Stress on families in the region is evident by the substantial increase in young children receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (welfare) benefits and the large shortage of foster homes for abused and neglected children. Community input identifies a range of family support services as missing in the region. There are high rates of young children living with their grandparents, and more than half of the respondents to the online survey indicated that support for these families is missing. Some of these needs can be addressed through family support strategies, such as home visiting.

3.3 Health

Additional information is available in **Appendix C** related to data captured during the 2008 Arizona Health Survey. This survey was completed by St. Luke's Health Initiatives and is an additional informative tool for decision-makers.

Research has shown that children with health insurance:

- Have greater access to healthcare, particularly preventive and primary care.

- Are more likely to have well-child visits and vaccinations than uninsured children.
- Are less likely to receive their care in the emergency room.
- Do better in school.

Exhibit 3-22 presents the percentage of children under 18 with and without health insurance coverage. As shown in this exhibit:

- Children in the region rely heavily on public health coverage. More than one in three children in the City of Phoenix have public health coverage, compared to just over one in four countywide.
- In the City of Phoenix and the Alhambra School District, nearly 20 percent of the children have no health coverage, compared to 16 percent countywide.
- The rate of uninsured children is even higher in the Creighton Elementary District, at 27 percent.

**EXHIBIT 3-22
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18**

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 BY INSURANCE COVERAGE/TYPE (MOST RECENT DATA)		
	Insured-Private	Insured-Public	Not Insured
Alhambra Elementary District	19.3%	61.2%	19.6%
Creighton Elementary District	30.6%	43.1%	27.0%
City of Phoenix	46.8%	35.0%	19.7%
Maricopa County	59.6%	26.3%	15.5%
Arizona	56.5%	29.1%	16.2%
United States	64.1%	28.3%	9.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Note: Total in excess of 100 percent due to overlap between public/private insurance segments.

Exhibit 3-23 shows the percentage of births paid with public funds, either with AHCCCS or Indian Health Services. Births are covered by AHCCCS for women who meet certain income qualifications. As shown:

- More than two out of three births in the City of Phoenix were paid by public health coverage, compared to just over half countywide.

**EXHIBIT 3-23
PUBLIC PAYER BIRTHS**

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC PAYER BIRTHS**		
	2006	2008	Percent Change
Phoenix	68.2%	68.1%	-0.1%
Maricopa County	52.0%	53.0%	2.0%
Arizona	53.8%	54.4%	1.1%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Primary Care Area Program Data Sets. <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datasets.html>.

** Percentage of total births paid for by Arizona Health Care Costs Containment System (AHCCCS) or Indian Health Service (IHS).

Adequate prenatal care promotes healthy births. As shown in **Exhibit 3-24**:

- The majority of pregnant women in Maricopa County receive five or more prenatal visits, and this percentage increased slightly between 2005 and 2008.

**EXHIBIT 3-24
NUMBER OF PRENATAL VISITS**

AREA	TOTAL BIRTHS			NO VISITS			1-4 VISITS			5+ VISITS		
	2005	2008	Percent Change	2005 Percent of Total	2008 Percent of Total	Percent Change	2005 Percent of Total	2008 Percent of Total	Percent Change	2005 Percent of Total	2008 Percent of Total	Percent Change
Maricopa County	62,232	62,667	0.7%	1.9%	1.5%	-21.5%	3.5%	2.7%	-20.4%	94.5%	95.6%	1.2%
Arizona	95,798	99,215	3.6%	2.3%	1.8%	-24.6%	4.2%	3.6%	-14.5%	93.3%	94.5%	1.3%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Primary Care Area Program Data Sets. <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datasets.html>.

Children who have health problems early in life are more likely to face other challenges not experienced by their healthier counterparts. As shown in **Exhibit 3-25**:

- From 2005 to 2008, the total number of newborns admitted to newborn intensive care units in Arizona increased from 5,479 to 5,931, an increase of 8.2 percent. There was also an increase in the number of newborns admitted in Maricopa County.

**EXHIBIT 3-25
NUMBER RECEIVING NEONATAL INTENSIVE SERVICES**

AREA	2005			2008			PERCENT CHANGE		
	Total	Gestational Age		Total	Gestational Age		Total	Gestational Age	
		Preterm, <37 Weeks Percent of Total	37 Weeks or More Percent of Total		Preterm, <37 Weeks Percent of Total	37 Weeks or More Percent of Total		Preterm, <37 Weeks Percent of Total	37 Weeks or More Percent of Total
Maricopa County	3,525	60.4%	39.6%	3,768	58.1%	41.9%	6.9%	-3.7%	5.6%
Arizona	5,479	60.5%	39.5%	5,931	59.1%	40.9%	8.2%	-2.2%	3.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Primary Care Area Program Data Sets. <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datasets.html>.

Children who receive the proper immunizations are more likely to be in better health than those children who do not receive these immunizations. As shown in

Exhibit 3-26:

- Vaccination rates in the region for 12 to 24 month old children were slightly below the countywide rate; regional rates for 19 to 35 month old children were slightly above the countywide rate.
- Overall, immunization rates dropped significantly in the region between 2005 and 2009. However, there was a substantial increase in immunization rates for the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine that prevents blood infections, meningitis, and ear infections in young children.

**EXHIBIT 3-26
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS**

AREA	VACCINATIONS 12-24 MONTHS (3:2:2:2)		
	2005	2009	Percent Change
Central Phoenix	70%	63%	-10%
Maricopa County	68%	65%	-4%
Arizona	70%	67%	-6%
United States	73%	68%	-7%
AREA	VACCINATIONS 19-35 MONTHS (4:3:1:3:3:1)		
	2005	2009	Percent Change
Central Phoenix	46%	42%	-10%
Maricopa County	43%	39%	-7%
Arizona	46%	42%	-8%
United States	75%	72%	-4%
AREA	VACCINATIONS 19-35 MONTHS (4:3:1:3:3:1:4)		
	2005	2009	Percent Change
Central Phoenix	26%	38%	44%
Maricopa County	23%	35%	54%
Arizona	26%	38%	48%
United States	N/A	65%	N/A

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, 2005, 2007, and 2009. Arizona State Immunization Information System Database (ASIIS) data pulled on May 4, 2010 (Unpublished Data).

Notes: CDC data is from July 2005 to June 2006 and July 2008 to June 2009. CDC data covers all vaccinations 24 months and prior. The smallest rate of vaccinations was used as the U.S. rate.

3:2:2:2 is three DTaP, two Polio, two Hib, and two Hepatitis B vaccines.

4:3:1:3:3:1 includes four doses diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccines, three doses poliovirus vaccine, one dose measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine, three doses *Haemophilus influenzae* type B vaccine, three doses hepatitis B vaccine, one dose varicella.

4:3:1:3:3:1:4 is 4:3:1:3:3:1 plus ≥ 4 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

N/A indicates that the data were not available.

Exhibit 3-27 presents the percentage of children under six with disabilities and those with disabilities who live in families with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). FPL guidelines vary by the size of the family and are adjusted each year for inflation. As issued by the Department of Health and Human Services for 2009, families are considered to be living in poverty if their income is below \$14,570 for a family of two; \$18,310 for a family of three; and \$22,050 for a family of four. As shown:

- 0.8 percent of Maricopa County children under five have disabilities, and 0.3 percent of those children are below the FPL.
- 0.7 percent of children under the age of five in the City of Phoenix under six have disabilities, and 0.3 percent of those children live in families with incomes below the FPL.

EXHIBIT 3-27
CHILDREN UNDER FIVE WITH DISABILITIES, TOTAL PERCENTAGE AND PERCENTAGE BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL)

AREA	PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 WITH DISABILITIES	PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 WITH DISABILITIES, BELOW FPL
	Most Recent Data	Most Recent Data
Alhambra Elementary District	*	3.5%
City of Phoenix	0.7%	0.3%
Maricopa County	0.8%	0.3%
Arizona	0.8%	0.2%
United States	0.7%	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Children with disabilities who receive an early diagnosis fare better than those children who receive late or no diagnosis. As shown in **Exhibit 3-28**:

- From 2006-07 to 2008-09, the number of children served by the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP) in the region increased from 113 to 313, more than triple the increase statewide.

EXHIBIT 3-28
ARIZONA EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SCREENINGS AND SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/AT RISK FOR DISABILITIES

AREA	AZEIP COUNTS		PERCENT CHANGE
	2006-07	2008-09	2007-09
Central Phoenix Region	113	313	177.0%
Arizona	3,450	5,078	47.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Dental care improves a child's overall health. As shown in **Exhibit 3-29**:

- The majority of children under five in this region have regular visits with the same dental provider.

- Eighty-one percent of parents in this region drive 10 miles or less for their child's dental care.

EXHIBIT 3-29
ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN (AGE 0 – 5)

My child/children (age five and under) have regular visits with the same dental provider.	CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION	STATEWIDE	DIFFERENCE
Strongly agree	60.4%	62.5%	-3.3%
Somewhat agree	15.5%	9.1%	69.8%
Somewhat disagree	5.8%	5.6%	4.8%
Strongly disagree	8.6%	13.1%	-34.5%
Not sure	9.7%	9.8%	-.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	.0%
How many miles do you have to go to get dental care for your children (age five and under)?	CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION	STATEWIDE	DIFFERENCE
Less than 5 miles	64.8%	39.8%	62.6%
5-10 miles	16.1%	23.6%	-31.6%
10-20 miles	5.2%	13.5%	-61.7%
More than 20 miles	2.7%	12.8%	-78.7%
None available	11.2%	10.3%	8.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	.0%

Sources: First Things First: Medical Questions, FY 2008. Community Survey in Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-30 presents the number of services available to those families who have children that do not have health insurance. As shown:

- Arizona has a total of 659 Sliding Fee Clinics available, with 264 clinics residing in Maricopa County.
- The Central Phoenix Region reported a total of 86 clinics in 2010.

**EXHIBIT 3-30
NUMBER OF SLIDING FEE SCALE CLINICS**

AREA	2008	2010	PERCENT CHANGE 2008-10
Central Phoenix Region	N/A	86	N/A
Maricopa County	247	264	6.9%
Arizona	N/A	659	N/A
United States	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/sfsclinics.htm>.

Note: 2008 numbers from FTF Regional Profiles.

N/A indicates that the data were not available.

Exhibit 3-31 presents the number of school-based clinics for those families who have children that do not have health insurance. As shown:

- In 2009, there were 14 school-based clinics in the Central Phoenix Region, which is a decrease of eight clinics since 2002.

**EXHIBIT 3-31
NUMBER OF SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS**

AREA	2002	2009	PERCENT CHANGE
Central Phoenix Region	22	14	-36.4%
Arizona	97	82	-15.5%
Percent of State Total	22.7%	17.1%	-24.7%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, 2009; University of Arizona Rural Health Office, 2002.

Note: Caution should be exercised in comparing 2002 numbers with 2009 numbers, as they were assembled by two different entities, and the criteria for inclusion were not apparent.

Exhibit 3-32 depicts the number of hospitals located in the Central Phoenix Region. As shown:

- The Central Phoenix Region has seven hospitals and six specialty hospitals.

**EXHIBIT 3-32
AREA HOSPITALS**

HOSPITAL	CITY	ZIP CODE
Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center	Phoenix	85006
St Luke's Medical Center	Phoenix	85006
Promise Hospital Of Phoenix	Phoenix	85007
Maricopa Medical Center	Phoenix	85008
Kindred Hospital - Phoenix	Phoenix	85012
St Joseph's Hospital And Medical Center	Phoenix	85013
Phoenix Baptist Hospital	Phoenix	85015
Select Specialty Hospital - Arizona [Phoenix Downtown - 1012 E. Willetta]	Phoenix	85006
Select Specialty Hospital - Phoenix [350 W. Thomas Rd]	Phoenix	85013
Surgical Specialty Hospital Of Arizona	Phoenix	85015
Arizona Heart Hospital	Phoenix	85016
Los Ninos Hospital	Phoenix	85016
Phoenix Children's Hospital	Phoenix	85016

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services.

Exhibit 3-33 provides data on Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) and the Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Note that the names associated with Primary Care Areas may not be instructive as to the precise geographies that are encompassed. In order to determine the appropriate Primary Care Areas for inclusion, maps of FTF regions and Primary Care Areas were overlaid to determine all overlapping jurisdictions. As shown:

- Numerous areas within the region are listed by the state as Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) and have shortages of health professionals.

EXHIBIT 3-33
MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
SHORTAGE AREAS

PRIMARY CARE AREA	PRIMARY CARE SCORE*	ARIZONA MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA (AZMUA)	HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA (HPSA)	FEDERAL MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA/POPULATION (MUA/P)	MUA/P SCORE
Glendale	38	Population Group Low Income (Glendale)	Population Group Low Income (Glendale)	MUA	54.9
Paradise Valley	16	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix Central)	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix Central)	No	
Peoria	14	No	No	MUA (El Mirage)	53.7
Phoenix Central	34	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix Central)	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix Central)	MUP-Low Income, (South Central Phoenix)	59.3
Phoenix South Central	58	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix-South Central)	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix-South Central)	MUP-Low Income (South Central Phoenix)	59.3
				MUA (Rio Salado)	47.3
				MUA (West Phoenix)	59.6
Phoenix Sunnyslope	42	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix Central)	Population Group Low Income (Phoenix Central)	No	

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services.

*Higher Primary Care Scores indicate more severe levels of medical underservice. The primary care score is the sum of the values for a given area in terms of the following components: population to provider ratio, travel time to the nearest primary care facility, percent of the population with income less than 200 percent of poverty level (and 100-200%), percent of uninsured births, ratio of hospital admissions with ambulatory sensitive conditions per 1000 population less than age 65, percentage of low birth rates, the sum of the percentage of births receiving no prenatal care or prenatal care in the second or third trimester, and the percentage of births reporting four or less prenatal care visits, premature mortality, infant mortality, percent minority, and the percent elderly, and unemployment rate above the statewide average. The values for the components of the primary care score can be found at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/pcuindex.pdf>.

**Higher MUA/P scores indicate greater levels of medical service (or less severe underservice). The MUA/P score is based on four variables: ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population, infant mortality rate, percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and percentage of the population age 65 or over. For more on the MUA/P scores, see: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/muaguide.htm>.

A summary of key survey findings related to health services is presented in this section of the report. Survey respondents rated (on a scale from Excellent to Very Poor) the extent to which services met the health needs of children (birth to age five) and their families within their community. Forty-two percent of respondents reported that health needs were well met (provided a rating of Good to Excellent), and 24 percent reported that needs were not well met (provided a rating of Poor or Very Poor). Interviewees and meeting participants expressed that some health service needs are not being met, including health literacy, advocacy, and access to specific services, such as immunizations and specialty care providers.

Survey respondents were also asked to select the single most important barrier to children and families receiving health related services. The single most important barrier cited was cost (36%). Additionally, 60 percent of respondents indicated that budget cuts had a high or very high impact on health services. According to group participants, transportation, a lack of insurance, money, and jobs are also barriers to children and their families receiving needed health services. Participants also mentioned there were not enough health care providers in the community and that many health services are missing in the community, including access to affordable healthcare, behavioral health services, mental health services, oral health services, and health education for parents of children with disabilities and special needs.

Online survey respondents indicated which health services were missing from their community. **Exhibit 3-34** shows the most frequent responses.

**EXHIBIT 3-34
MISSING HEALTH SERVICES**

HEALTH SERVICE AREAS	PERCENT MISSING
Access to free or low cost health services	43.5%
Health promotion and disease prevention education	32.6%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.
Total number of responses was 46.

Organizations providing leadership and services within the Central Phoenix Region serve as assets within the community. Survey participants identified assets in the form of key organizations who provide strong leadership within their community for provision of health services. These organizations are included in **Exhibit 3-35**.

EXHIBIT 3-35
ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING STRONG LEADERSHIP IN THE AREA OF
HEALTH SERVICES

AHCCCS	Native Health
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)	Pediatric Association
Children's Action Alliance	Phoenix Children's Hospital
Community Education Center	Phoenix Day
Department of Health Services	Phoenix Rescue Mission
Early Head Start	Seventh Avenue Clinic
First Things First	Scottsdale Healthcare
Golden Gate Community Center	Scottsdale Healthcare's Neighborhood
Head Start	Outreach Action for Health (NOAH)
March of Dimes	Southwest Human Development
Maricopa County	Urgent Care
MIHS	Valley of the Sun United Way
Mountain Park Health Center	Wesley Health Clinic
	WIC

Sources: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010; stakeholder interview responses, 2010.

Section Summary

There are significant barriers to primary care in the region, including shortages of health professionals. Large percentages of children in the region benefit from public health coverage – like AHCCCS/Medicaid – but the rate of uninsured children remains high compared to Maricopa County. More than two out of three births in the City of Phoenix were paid by public coverage, indicating that women having babies frequently have very low incomes. The drop in the number of school-based clinics and in the immunization rates are cause for concern. A large number of hospitals provide healthcare assets in the region, and current regional strategies include a number of partnerships with hospitals for prenatal outreach and injury prevention. The region is also pursuing several strategies to enhance physician training.

3.4 Public Awareness and Collaboration

A summary of key survey findings directly related to the provision of coordinated services are presented in this section of the report. Survey respondents rated (on a scale from Excellent to Very Poor) the extent to which coordinated services within their community met the needs of their children (birth through age five) and families. Forty-seven percent of respondents reported that needs were well met (provided a rating of Good to Excellent) through coordinated services, and 34 percent reported that needs were not well met (provided a rating of Poor or Very Poor) through coordinated services. Group participants stated that the coordination of services is lacking and that there needs to be more collaboration between the agencies to better serve children and their families.

Survey respondents were also asked to select the single most important barrier to children and families receiving coordinated services. The single most important barrier related to

coordinated services was awareness of services (45.5 percent). Survey respondents were asked to report on two barriers related to coordinated services: eligibility differences among service providers and lack of communication between service providers. The percentage of respondents indicating that these were, in fact, barriers in their community was 40 percent for “eligibility differences among service providers” and 53 percent for “lack of communication between service providers.” Interviewees mentioned that the lack of knowledge on behalf of the provider about what services are available is also a barrier in the region.

Survey respondents rated the effect of budget cuts to coordinated services from having no impact to having a very high impact. Approximately 82 percent of the responses indicated that budget cuts had a high or very high impact on coordinated services.

Respondents also reported on the quality, accessibility, convenience, timeliness, comprehensiveness, and responsiveness of services across all service areas, as well as the degree to which services met the needs of children and families. The percentage of respondents who indicated that services met their needs and the percentage who indicated that services did not meet their needs are shown in **Exhibit 3-36**.

EXHIBIT 3-36
QUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY, COMPREHENSIVENESS, AND
RESPONSIVENESS IN MEETING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEEDS

SERVICE TOPICS	GOOD TO EXCELLENT	POOR OR VERY POOR
Quality of Information	36.4%	17.1%
Accessibility of Information	18.1%	31.3%
Convenience of Services	17.2%	23.3%
Quality of Services	46.4%	7.1%
Timeliness of Services	20.4%	27.3%
Cultural Responsiveness of Services	32.6%	17.4%
Comprehensiveness of Services	24.3%	25.2%
Early Identification of Problems	20.2%	30.3%
Family Centered Practice	27.3%	24.3%
Client Focus	26.3%	19.2%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.
Total number of responses was 99.

Organizations that provide leadership and services in the Central Phoenix Region serve as assets within the community. A variety of programs and services were listed as assets, including:

- Healthcare;
- Immunizations;
- KidsCare;
- Assistance with health insurance application process;
- Nutrition programs;
- Parent education;
- Home visitation programs;
- Injury prevention programs;
- Family resource centers/family support programs;
- Fatherhood programs;
- Support groups for grandparents;
- Early care and education programs (including Head Start, Early Head Start, and literacy programs);
- Child care scholarships and subsidies;
- Quality improvement initiatives;
- Screening and early intervention;
- Information services (including Child Care Resource and Referral, Birth-5 Helpline); and
- Provider education and support (for home and center providers).

Collaborative groups mentioned as assets included the Tapestry Project Young Child Wellness Council, First Things First Regional Councils, and the Women's Health Coalition of Central Phoenix.

Participants thought it would be possible to build on these assets if there were additional funding resources to serve more people, increased availability of certain services (e.g., early intervention following screening), better communication and coordination among

programs, more collaboration, a good source of information on available resources, better outreach (to find children who need services), a greater consistency in language and service delivery, clear and simple eligibility requirements, greater access to families that speak neither English nor Spanish, and better follow-up with service recipients.

Survey participants also identified assets in the form of key organizations that provide strong leadership within their community for coordination of services. These organizations are included in **Exhibit 3-37**.

**EXHIBIT 3-37
ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING STRONG LEADERSHIP IN THE AREA OF
COORDINATED SERVICES**

AHCCCS	International Rescue Committee
Alhambra School District	John C. Lincoln Health Network
Arizona Autism Coalition	Le Petit Academy
Arizona Child Care Association	Leaps and Bounds; Pre-kindergarten readiness program
Arizona Department of Education	Litchfield Elementary School District
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)	Maricopa County
AzAAP	Maricopa County Health Department
AzEIP	New Directions Institute
Catholic Family Services	Palomino Elementary Schools
Central Arizona Colleges	Peoria Unified School District Preschool Program
Chicanos por la Causa	Phoenix Day
Child & Family Resources, Inc.	Paradise Valley Community College
Child Care Resource and Referral	Quality First
Child Crisis Center	Raising Special Kids
Children's Action Alliance	SARRC
Churches	Scottsdale Healthcare
City of Phoenix	Scottsdale School District
City of Phoenix Head Start	South Phoenix Healthy Start
County Head Start	Southwest Human Development
Desert Mission's a program of John C. Lincoln Medical Center	Southwest Network (Don Erickson)
Early Head Start	Sunrise Preschools
First Things First (FTF)	T.E.A.C.H. AZ
Firstcare Avondale Family Resource Center	United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona (0-3)
FitTots	Valley of the Sun United Way
Fountain Hills School District	WIC
Head Start	YMCA
Homeward Bound	

Sources: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010; stakeholder interview responses, 2010.

3.5 Stakeholder Priority for Services

Understanding which service areas are viewed by early care and development stakeholders as most critical for focusing resources will guide FTF's decisions regarding how best to use their limited resources to help children and families within the Central Phoenix Region. To gather this important information, survey respondents were asked to indicate the number one priority area for FTF to focus their resources to help children (birth through age five) and their families. **Exhibit 3-38** shows the percentage of survey respondents reporting that a given priority area was the number one priority for focusing FTF resources. The highest priority areas include increasing access to quality early childhood developmental and health programs and offering parent and family support and education concerning early childhood development and literacy.

EXHIBIT 3-38
PRIORITY FOR FOCUS OF FTF RESOURCES

AREA	NUMBER ONE PRIORITY
Improve the quality of early childhood development and health programs	17.4%
Increase access to quality early childhood developmental and health programs	30.4%
Increase access to preventive health and health screenings for children through age five	4.3%
Offer parent and family support and education concerning early childhood development and literacy	30.4%
Provide professional development and training for early childhood development and literacy	2.2%
Increase coordination of early childhood development and health programs	8.7%
Increase public awareness about the importance of early childhood development and health	6.5%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Interviewees suggested focusing FTF funding priorities in the following areas:

- Child care subsidies;
- Access to specialists, counselors, and therapists;
- Basic needs (food and clothing);
- Concentration on the youngest and most vulnerable populations;
- Early childhood education;
- Graduate-level education;

- Health services;
- Assistance for families to understand Medicaid and program application process;
- Housing assistance;
- Job training;
- Life skills training;
- More pre- and inter-natal care;
- Services for Native American children;
- Single parent assistance;
- Support for grandparents raising grandchildren (many grandparents are raising young children in the region);
- Training families on behavioral issues;
- Training for staff and teachers on what programs are available;
- Using the same funding priorities but removing limitations; and
- Generating public awareness of services.

Section Summary

Community input identifies increased access to quality early education, healthcare, and family support services as top priorities for the region. Respondents to the online survey have identified early childhood literacy programs as a need, and several regional strategies focus on early literacy development with parents and caregivers. Lack of awareness was noted as a substantial barrier to many early care and education services. Families and providers in the region could benefit from information and awareness strategies.

4.0 SUMMARY AND FUTURE DIRECTION

The racial, ethnic, and language diversity in the region is striking. In most areas of the region, the majority of children younger than five are Hispanic – more than 70 percent in Alhambra, Balsz, Creighton, and Phoenix Elementary School Districts. A higher percentage of young children in this region were born in other countries, compared to three percent countywide. In the Osborn School District, the rate was five times the countywide rate, with 15 percent of young children born in another country. In the City of Phoenix, half of the children younger than six have at least one foreign born parent, while the percentages are even higher in the Alhambra, Creighton, and Balsz School Districts. The data for children participating in Head Start show that Spanish is the first language for a large percentage of the children, and many children in the region live in families where adults do not speak English well. More than one out of five households in the Alhambra and Phoenix Elementary School Districts had no one over the age of 14 who spoke English well, compared to fewer than one out of 10 in Maricopa County.

There are family stresses in the region. Young children in this region are less likely to live with two parents than children countywide. In the Phoenix Elementary School District, more than one out of three young children lives with a single mother, compared to just over one out of five in Maricopa County. In the City of Phoenix, one out of 10 children younger than six lives in a household headed by their grandparents – a rate slightly higher than Maricopa County. In the Phoenix Elementary School District, nearly one out of five young children lives with their grandparents.

Families in the region earn low incomes: the median income for families with young children is below the median in Maricopa County in each section of the region except the Madison School District. Families living in the Alhambra, Balsz, and Creighton Elementary Districts have median incomes that are less than half of the median income in Maricopa County. Child poverty rates are very high for all types of families. More than one out of five White, two-parent families with young children are poor throughout much of the region.

The region faces many economic challenges. The unemployment rate in the City of Phoenix more than doubled between 2005 and 2010, as it did for Maricopa County, and the unemployment rate in Phoenix is higher than the countywide rate. The number of children five and younger receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF cash assistance) grew at nearly twice the rate of the statewide increase between 2007 and 2010. Community input indicates that families are being turned away from many services due to long wait-lists and a lack of funding.

The need for access to high quality, affordable child care is strong throughout the region. Only nine percent of child care providers have a national accreditation or recognition, which indicates that they meet specified quality standards. In Phoenix, nearly two-thirds of the households with children younger than 18 had all parents in the labor force – indicating a large need for child care. The number of children receiving subsidies for

child care decreased by 38 percent between 2009 and 2010, reflecting the state budget cuts that closed the door to any qualified, low-income working families who applied.

Preschool enrollment was low in most of the region compared to Maricopa County. The Balsz and Madison Elementary Districts had higher preschool enrollments. In 2010, 718 four year old children were enrolled in preschool through the state-funded Early Childhood Block Grant program. This funding has been completely eliminated for the 2010-11 school year.

There are notable weaknesses in the community's infrastructure in the region. Only 13 percent of schools in the region were rated as Excelling or Highly Performing on the Arizona Learns profile, compared to 34 percent statewide. More than one out of five schools in the region were Underperforming or Failing. Parts of the region are considered medically underserved, and measures from the Department of Health Services show that families in the area have low access to primary health care. The number of school-based clinics in the region decreased between 2002 and 2009. The region also has high rates of children without health insurance: 20 percent in the City of Phoenix and 27 percent in the Creighton Elementary District compared to 16 percent in Maricopa County. More than one in three children in Phoenix relies on publicly-funded healthcare coverage – a rate much higher than the countywide rate.

Community members value many assets in the region, including the school districts, Head Start, libraries, hospitals, and social services. The quality of services was noted, but they are not available consistently for the families who need them. Community input also focused heavily on the need for cultural and linguistic competency in services in the region. With diverse populations and a great deal of fear about immigration laws, services must be delivered with “cultural brokering” to be effective.

The input from the community through the online survey, stakeholder meetings, and telephone interviews all point to a great demand for quality improvements in child care and financial assistance for parents needing child care. More than one out of three respondents to the online survey said that child care services are not meeting the needs of families in the community, and 71 percent identified cost as the single most important barrier in child care. More than half of respondents said that high quality child care and child care subsidies are services that are missing in the region. One of the top two recommendations in the survey for First Things First funding is to increase access to quality early education services.

Community members also emphasized a need to improve awareness among parents about early education needs and available services. Both formal reports and stakeholder meetings identified the value of making information available in a more systematic way to both parents and providers. There also was a strong emphasis on making it easier for families to obtain services.

Community input identified services that are brought to families in their homes as a high priority. Existing home visiting services were named as assets, and participants in the stakeholder meetings and telephone interviews recommended making home visiting

services more available. Thirty percent of the respondents to the online survey named parent support and education as the top priority for First Things First funding.

Future Direction

The data and community input point to several potential priority areas for future First Things First funding in the region.

The current efforts to improve access to quality child care are valued and will help to meet key needs in the region. These include T.E.A.C.H. AZ scholarships for the education of child care teachers, support for caregivers, and the Quality First program to coach child care providers and improve classroom environments and learning. Because the cost of child care was identified as a major barrier and increased access was identified as a top priority, these quality strategies can be supplemented with child care scholarships and other affordability strategies.

Considering the diversity of the region, families would benefit from the investment of cultural competency for professionals as well as training opportunities for people who live in the community to become early childhood teachers or mentors.

Because of the low incomes and high need for social services in the region, there is an opportunity to reach families with young children through other social services networks. The region can consider ways to better integrate early childhood education, parent support, and awareness into existing services that meet basic needs.

There is also great potential to expand access to preschools, quality child care, home visiting services, and parent support services, particularly for parents of newborns.

A powerful indicator of need is the rate to which babies are born to mothers with little education. This is highly correlated with low income, a lack of quality early learning experiences, and poor outcomes in health and education. More than eight out of 10 of the babies born in the Creighton School District had mothers who had a high school education or less – compared to six out of 10 in the City of Phoenix and half in Maricopa County. Some regional resources could be focused on these families who are most at-risk.

Conclusion

Families with young children in the region face many risks, particularly those families with low incomes and parents with little education. Strategies for family support services for families in crisis can be well matched to these needs. Head Start programs, AHCCCS benefits, and hospitals are strong assets in the region and offer opportunities for partnerships to promote healthy child development. There are also opportunities to link early childhood education and parent support with basic social services. Access to affordable early education is a key priority in the region.

APPENDIX A CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION



FIRST THINGS FIRST

NEEDS AND ASSETS SURVEY WEB SITE

DIRECTIONS:

Everyone must complete SECTION ONE: Coordinating Services and SECTION TWO: Questions Specific to Your Community.

Complete SECTIONS 3 through 9 of the survey if you feel you have sufficient knowledge to share your opinions. For those sections of the survey that you **do not feel knowledgeable**, please mark the checkbox provided.

If you serve people in multiple communities, you MAY provide different answers for each community. The [Survey Completion Chart](#) indicates when you have completed a survey section for each of the communities you serve.

Listed below are the sections of the survey:

- [Edit Your Organization's Service Area](#)
- [Section 1: Coordinated Services in Your Community for Children Birth through Age 5 and Their Families](#)
- [Section 2: Questions Specific to Your Community](#)
- [Section 3: Parenting Support/Education Services](#)
- [Section 4: Child Care](#)
- [Section 5: Education](#)
- [Section 6: Literacy Development for Children and Parents](#)
- [Section 7: Services for Children with Special Needs](#)
- [Section 8: Health Services](#)
- [Section 9: Social Services](#)

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Section 1:

Coordinated Services in Your Community for Children Birth Through Age 5 and Their Families

1. Thinking about the **Coordinated Services in your Community** for children birth through age 5 and their families, please rate how well the coordination currently meets families’ needs.

AREA	How well the coordination of services currently meets families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	5.1	4.0	40.4	19.2	23.2	5.1	3.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.0	4.9	37.8	17.3	24.9	9.2	1.9

2. What are the barriers to families getting Coordinated Services in your Community for children birth through age 5? YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.

AREA	Barriers to families getting coordinated services in their community (Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity)												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Services not wanted	Immigration status	Eligibility differences among service providers	Lack of communication between service providers	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	70.7	63.6	45.5	79.8	42.4	30.3	37.4	53.5	13.1	50.5	40.4	52.5	5.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	63.6	68.6	44.1	82.9	50.8	29.8	31.8	48.3	15.3	45.2	35.0	59.1	4.0

3. From the selections you made above, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting **Coordinated Services in Your Community** for children birth through age 5? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Single Most important Barrier (Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity)												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Services not wanted	Immigration status	Eligibility differences among service providers	Lack of communication between service providers	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	3.0	14.1	1.0	45.5	11.1	2.0	2.0	7.1	1.0	7.1	2.0	.0	4.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	3.5	13.2	0.6	53.8	12.7	2.6	0.3	2.1	0.2	5.6	2.6	0.2	2.6

4. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on **Coordinated Services in Your Community** for children birth through age 5 and their families.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	52.5	29.3	6.1	1.0	11.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	56.5	26.0	6.1	0.5	11.0

5. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing **STRONG LEADERSHIP** for **Coordinated Services in the Community** for children birth through age 5 and their families. List this organization(s) in the box below.

List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership in the Central Phoenix Region
YMCA
AHCCCS
Alhambra School District
Arizona Autism Coalition
Arizona Child Care Association
Arizona Department of Education
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
AzAAP
AzEIP
Catholic Family Services
Central Arizona College
Chicanos por la Causa
Child & Family Resources, Inc.
Child Care Resource and Referral
Child Crisis Center
Children's Action Alliance
Churches
City of Phoenix
City of Phoenix Head Start
County Head Start
Desert Mission's a program of John C. Lincoln Medical Center
Early Head Start
First Things First
Firstcare Avondale Family Resource Center
FitTots
Fountain Hills School District
Head Start
Homeward Bound
International Rescue Committee
John C. Lincoln Health Network
John C. Lincoln, (Desert Mission Programs).
Le Petit Academy
Leaps and Bounds ; Pre kindergarten readiness program
Litchfield Elementary School District
Maricopa County
Maricopa County Health Department
New Directions Institute
Palomino Elementary Schools
Peoria Unified School District Preschool Program
Phoenix Day
PVCC
Quality First

Raising Special Kids
SARRC
Scottsdale Healthcare
Scottsdale School District
South Phoenix Healthy Start
Southwest Human Development
Southwest Network (Don Erickson)
Sunrise Preschools
Teach
United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona (0-3)
Valley of the Sun United Way
VSUW
WIC
YMCA

6. Thinking about **ALL SERVICES** currently available for children birth through 5 and their families in **YOUR COMMUNITY**, please rate the degree to which services currently meet families' needs in the areas below.

AREA	Quality of information (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	4.0	13.1	37.4	30.3	6.1	9.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.5	15.4	34.1	27.1	8.7	10.2

AREA	Accessibility of information (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	10.1	21.2	43.4	14.1	4.0	7.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	11.9	21.9	34.0	18.8	4.5	8.9

AREA	Convenience/accessibility of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	5.1	18.2	54.5	12.1	5.1	5.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	6.0	19.6	51.0	13.6	3.6	6.2

AREA	Quality of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	1.0	6.1	35.4	33.3	13.1	11.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.1	2.4	35.2	32.1	19.6	10.7

AREA	Timeliness of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	5.1	22.2	38.4	13.1	7.1	14.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	5.5	22.5	36.2	18.3	10.0	7.6

AREA	Cultural responsiveness of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	4.1	13.3	37.8	21.4	11.2	12.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.4	14.1	36.9	24.1	13.3	11.2

AREA	Comprehensiveness of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	4.0	21.2	40.4	17.2	7.1	10.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	2.8	17.9	37.8	24.6	6.5	10.4

AREA	Early identification of problems (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	6.1	24.2	37.4	17.2	3.0	12.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	6.0	21.4	37.9	19.6	3.7	11.3

AREA	Family centered practice (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	5.1	19.2	37.4	18.2	9.1	11.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.7	17.7	39.0	19.2	10.4	13.1

AREA	Client focus (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	4.0	15.2	37.4	19.2	7.1	17.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.8	16.2	28.8	26.1	7.4	16.7

Section 2:

Questions Specific to Your Community

1. Please rate your level of knowledge of programs supported by First Things First in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Level of knowledge of programs supported by First Things First (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	19.6	8.7	41.3	19.6	10.9	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	18	21.4	35.3	19.7	5.5	0.0	0.0

2. What is the number one priority area for First Things First to focus resources to help children birth through age five and their families in **YOUR COMMUNITY? CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Number one priority area for FTF to focus resources (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Improve the quality of early childhood development and health programs	Increase the access to quality early childhood developmental and health programs	Increase access to preventive health and health screenings for children through age 5	Offer parent and family support and education concerning early childhood development and literacy	Provide professional development and training for early childhood development and literacy	Increase coordination of early childhood development and health programs	Increase public awareness about the importance of early childhood development and health
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	17.4	30.4	4.3	30.4	2.2	8.7	6.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	24	26	4.1	19.7	2.9	9.9	13.5

3. What services are missing in YOUR COMMUNITY for families with children birth through age 5? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

AREA	Services that are missing in the Community (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)											
	Support for grandparents raising grandchildren	Parent coaching/education	Access to free or low cost health services	Early childhood literacy programs	High quality child care	High quality child care that provides alternative hours of operation	Child care subsidies	Pre-Kindergarten	Health promotion and disease prevention education	Support and education programs for pregnant and parenting teens	Accessibility to resources that support families with young children	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	56.5	54.3	43.5	43.5	58.7	45.7	54.3	39.1	32.6	34.8	56.5	6.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	51.7	45.2	49.3	35.6	41.6	39.9	50.2	28.8	32.9	36.5	50.5	3.4

Section 3:

Parenting Support/Education Services for Families with Children Birth Through Age 5

1. Thinking about **Parenting Support/Education Services** for families with children birth through age 5, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Parenting Support/Education Services currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	1.7	13.6	27.1	18.6	28.8	5.1	5.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.0	14.8	22.9	26.1	23.7	1.7	6.9

2. Are there waiting lists or families being turned away due to a shortage of **Parenting Support/Education Services** for families with children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	27.1	15.3	57.6
Total percent within Maricopa County	28.0	19.2	28.0

3. What are the barriers to providing Parenting Support/Education Services for families with children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.

AREA	Barriers to providing Parenting Support/ Education Services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)														
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Services not wanted	No child	Immigration status	Eligibility differences among service providers	Lack of communication between service providers	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	61.0	47.5	32.2	69.5	37.3	13.6	37.3	49.2	18.6	45.8	37.3	0.0	0.0	45.8	3.4
Total percent within Maricopa County	62.7	49.2	36.8	71.2	93.8	17.5	23.5	38.4	21.5	42.6	26.9	0.0	0.0	44.1	5.6

4. From the selections you made above, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to providing **Parenting Support/Education Services** for families with children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Single Most important Barrier (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)														
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Services not wanted	Immigration status	No child care provided	Eligibility differences among service providers	Lack of communication between service providers	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	5.1	8.5	0.0	40.7	11.9	1.7	0.0	5.1	5.1	6.8	3.4	0.0	0.0	6.8	5.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	9.4	14.7	1.4	47.4	8.7	1.9	0.4	0.4	2.2	2.4	4.9	0.0	0.0	2.3	4.0

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on providing **Parenting Support/Education Services** for families with children birth through 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on providing Parenting Support/Education Services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	25.4	32.2	6.8	0.0	35.6
Total percent within Maricopa County	25.9	30.6	637	0.4	36.4

6. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for Parenting Support/Education Services for families with children birth through 5.

List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership in the Central Phoenix Region
A Stepping Stone Foundation
Alhambra Head Start
Alhambra School District
Arizona State University - Leaps and Bounds
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
Black child and family services
Child & Family Resources, Inc.
Child Crisis Center
Churches
Creighton School District - Community Education Department
First Things First
Head Start
Homeward Bound
John C Lincoln, Desert Mission Programs
John C. Lincoln Health Network
Leaps and Bounds ; Pre kindergarten readiness program
Maricopa County
Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Palomino Elementary Schools
Parent University (Mesa Public Schools)
Parenting Arizona
Partners in Participation
Phoenix Day
Raising Special Kids
Readiness Basket
SARRC
Southwest Head Start
Southwest Human Development
Stepping Stones Preschool
SWHD
Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Valley of the Sun United Way

Section 4:

Child Care for Children Birth Through Age 5

1. Thinking about **Child Care** for children birth through age 5, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Child Care for children birth through age 5, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	3.2	6.5	30.6	16.1	27.4	11.3	4.8
Total percent within Maricopa County	2.3	11.9	26.5	14.2	27.9	15.2	1.9

2. Are there waiting lists or children birth through age 5 being turned away due to a shortage of **Child Care** their parents prefer in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	46.8	14.5	38.7
Total percent within Maricopa County	46.8	23.3	29.9

3. What are the barriers for parents to get the Child Care they prefer for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity										
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	Immigration status	Other:
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	37.1	90.3	30.6	35.5	24.2	6.5	17.7	22.6	35.5	29.0	8.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	39.0	89.4	30.2	36.5	21.2	6.2	11.8	16.1	45.0	24.0	8.0

4. From the selections you made above, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier for parents to get the **Child Care** they prefer for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity										
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	Immigration status	Other:
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	4.8	71.0	1.6	9.7	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	3.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.8	76.8	1.9	3.1	1.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	7.2	0.2	3.5

5. Please rate the impact of budget cuts to state child care subsidies for parents to get the **Child Care** they prefer for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts to state child care subsidies for parents to get the Child Care they prefer for children birth through age 5 (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	64.5	22.6	1.6	0.0	11.3
Total percent within Maricopa County	65.8	23.0	3.0	0.1	8.1

6. Please identify recent changes to **Child Care** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY due to the economy and budget cuts. **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting child care changes within each geographic entity							
	Closed child care centers	Fewer child care classrooms	Children of different ages combined in single classroom	Child care teachers laid off	Children staying home alone	Children staying with family, friends, and/or neighbors	Reduced quality or variety of child care	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	43.5	41.9	32.3	62.9	66.1	72.6	51.6	6.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	60.0	40.8	33.3	62.9	67.0	77.5	61.1	6.1

7. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Child Care** for children birth through age 5. List these organization(s) in the box below.

List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership in the Central Phoenix Region
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
Blake Foundation
CAZColleges
Central AZ College
Child and Family Services
First Things First
Kith and
Maricopa County
Southwest Human Development
SWHD
United Way
VSUW
YMCA

Section 5:

Education for Children Birth Through Age 5

1. Thinking about **Educational Services** for children birth through age 5, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Educational Services for children birth through age 5, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	1.8	9.1	30.9	20.0	25.5	3.6	9.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.6	18.3	35.3	21.3	16.7	2.6	5.1

2. Are there waiting lists or families being turned away due to a shortage of **Educational Services** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	30.9	9.1	60.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	23.9	18.0	58.1

3. What are the barriers to families getting Educational Services for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity											
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	60.0	58.2	30.9	58.2	40.0	12.7	23.6	36.4	29.1	34.5	21.8	3.6
Total percent within Maricopa County	49.5	59.9	28.9	57.2	35.5	9.5	14.1	21.7	37.8	24.6	15.6	7.2

4. From the selections you made above, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting Educational Services for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? CHECK ONLY ONE.

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity											
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	7.3	21.8	0.0	30.9	18.2	1.8	1.8	3.6	1.8	3.6	3.6	5.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	8.2	30.1	0.5	29.7	11.2	3.6	1.7	0.4	7.3	1.9	0.9	4.5

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on Educational Services for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on Educational Services for children birth through age 5 (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	38.2	21.8	7.3	0.0	32.7
Total percent within Maricopa County	39.8	22.6	4.1	0.5	32.9

6. List of key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Educational Services** for children birth through 5. List this organization(s) in the box below.

List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership in the Central Phoenix Region
A Stepping Stone Foundation
A.S.U.Leaps and Bounds
A.S.U Office of the Vice President for Education Partnership
AEA
Alhambra Head Start
Alhambra School District
Arizona Child Care Association
Arizona Department of Education
Association for Supportive Child Care
Child and Family Resources, Inc.
Children' Action Alliance
City of Phoenix Head Start
Creighton School District - Community Education Head Start
Homeward Bound
Homeward Bound Kids Corner
Palomino Elementary Schools
Partner in Participation
Phoenix Day
Readiness Basket
Southwest Human Development
United Way
United Way Tool Kits

Section 6:

Literacy Development Services for Children Birth Through Age 5 and Their Families

1. Thinking about **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through age 5 and their families, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Literacy Development Services for children birth through age 5 and their families, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	4.3	8.7	28.3	15.2	21.7	8.7	13.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.1	10.8	41.5	19.3	7.9	6.4	10.0

2. Are there families being turned away due to a shortage of **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there families turned away? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	19.6	17.4	63.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	21.2	14.1	64.7

3. What are the barriers to families getting Literacy Development Services for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY? YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	43.5	32.6	30.4	69.6	23.9	4.3	28.3	47.8	10.9	13.0	26.1	17.4	4.3
Total percent within Maricopa County	37.9	29.4	25.6	69.4	26.3	1.4	21.9	46.8	8.8	9.5	14.6	14.1	0.9

4. From the selections you made above, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	6.5	6.5	2.2	47.8	15.2	2.2	2.2	6.5	2.2	0.0	2.2	0.0	6.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	6.9	4.6	1.7	52.8	15.1	0.3	0.5	10.5	2.4	0.0	1.4	1.0	2.6

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on Literacy Development Services for children birth through age 5 (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	26.7	22.2	4.4	2.2	44.4
Total percent within Maricopa County	20.2	28.8	5.2	3.1	42.7

6. List of key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for Literacy Development Services for children birth through 5. List this organization(s) in the box below.

List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership in the Central Phoenix Region
A Stepping Stone Foundation
Arizona Department of Education
Arizona Language and Literacy Center
Arizona Literacy and Learning Center
Arizona State University - Leaps and Bounds
AZAAP
Brain Development Boxes
City of Phoenix Head Start
Head Start
Homeward Bound
Homeward Bound Kids Corner
Partner in Participation
Phoenix Day
Phoenix Public Library
Public Libraries
Reach Out and Read
Readiness Basket
Southwest Human Development
Stepping Stones Preschool
SWHD- Reach Out and Read.
Unlimited Potential in South Phoenix
Valley of Sun School Readiness Kits
Valley of the Sun United Way

Section 7:

Services for Children Birth Through Age 5 with Special Needs and Their Families

1. Thinking about services for children birth through age 5 with **Special Needs** and their families, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well services for children birth through age 5 with Special Needs and their families, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	0.0	6.1	26.5	14.3	22.4	6.1	24.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	1.1	18.2	25.5	13.9	19.2	9.1	13.0

2. Are there waiting lists or families being turned away due to a shortage of services for children through age 5 with **Special Needs** and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists or families turned away? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	26.5	12.2	61.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	44.8	7.4	47.9

3. What are the barriers to families getting services for children through age 5 with Special Needs in YOUR COMMUNITY? YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	42.9	49.0	32.7	65.3	40.8	28.6	24.5	30.6	18.4	14.3	32.7	22.4	0.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	54.6	54.6	49.9	58.8	62.8	29.1	26.8	36.3	31.1	14.1	26.8	25.4	1.7

4. From the selections you made above, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting services for children through age 5 with Special Needs in YOUR COMMUNITY? CHECK ONLY ONE.

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	2.0	14.3	2.0	34.7	24.5	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.1	2.0	8.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	5.2	13.3	5.6	26.1	34.4	2.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	5.3	1.6	1.1	4.1

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on services for children through age 5 with Special Needs and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on services for children birth through age 5 with Special Needs and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	25.0	20.8	12.5	0.0	41.7
Total percent within Maricopa County	26.4	31.4	11.0	1.3	29.9

6. List of key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for services for children through age 5 with **Special Needs** and their families.

List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership in the Central Phoenix Region
A Stepping Stone Foundation
Alhambra School District
Arizona Department of Education
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
AZ EIP
Child & Family Resources, Inc.
City of Phoenix Head Start
Department of Economic Security
First Things First
Head Start
Inclusion Program First Things First
Leaps and Bounds ; Pre kindergarten readiness program
Maricopa County
Palomino Elementary Schools
Phoenix Day
Raising Special Kids
Rise
SARRC
Southwest Human Development
Special Kids
SWHD
United Way
VSUW

Section 8:

Health Services for Children Birth Through Age 5

1. Thinking about **Health Services** for children birth through age 5, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Health Services for children birth through age 5 and their families, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	2.0	14.0	26.0	24.0	22.0	2.0	10.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	1.3	13.3	27.9	21.6	24.1	4.5	7.3

2. Are there waiting lists or children birth through age 5 turned away due to a shortage of **Health Services** in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists or children turned away? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	28.0	16.0	56.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	34.7	20.6	44.7

3. What are the barriers to children birth through age 5 getting Health Services in YOUR COMMUNITY? YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	68.0	70.0	40.0	50.0	36.0	24.0	32.0	42.0	18.0	18.0	52.0	28.0	6.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	55.5	69.2	39.4	56.9	40.6	28.9	34.3	43.8	23.9	16.5	52.3	26.1	4.8

4. From the selections you made above, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to children birth through age 5 getting **Health Services** in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	6.0	36.0	4.0	20.0	14.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	4.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	6.1	31.1	4.1	20.4	13.4	2.5	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	14.7	0.3	5.8

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on **Health Services** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on Health Services for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	34.0	26.0	10.0	0.0	30.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	52.7	18.2	9.9	0.4	18.7

6. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Health Services** for children birth through age 5. List this organization(s) in the box below.

List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership in the Central Phoenix Region
AHCCCS
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
Children's Action Alliance
Early Head Start
First Things First
Golden Gate Community Center
Head Start
Maricopa County
MIHS
Mountain Park
Mountain Park Health Center
Phoenix Children's Hospital
Scottsdale Healthcare
Scottsdale Healthcare's Neighborhood Outreach Action for Health (NOAH)
Southwest Human Development
SWHD
United Way
VSUW
Wesley Health Clinic

Section 9:

Social Services Support for Children Birth Through Age 5 and Their Families

1. Thinking about **Social Services Support** for children birth through age 5 and their families, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Social Services Support for children birth through age 5 and their families, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	0.0	8.2	30.6	20.4	26.5	6.1	8.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.6	9.0	25.3	23.4	22.3	14.7	4.7

2. Are there waiting lists or children birth through age 5 turned away due to a shortage of **Health Services** in YOUR COMMUNITY?

AREA	Are there Waiting lists or families turned away?? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	34.7	12.2	53.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	38.0	9.8	52.2

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

3. What are the barriers to families getting Social Services Support for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	42.9	40.8	34.7	75.5	38.8	22.4	22.4	26.5	12.2	14.3	32.7	10.2	8.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	45.1	50.1	43.1	76.6	56.7	18.0	21.7	29.1	24.5	16.0	38.8	8.8	5.3

4. From the selections you made above, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting **Social Services Support** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	2.0	8.2	2.0	34.7	30.6	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	10.2	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	5.0	10.4	2.5	24.8	40.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	4.8	0.6	7.3	0.3	2.8

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on **Social Services Support** for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on Social Services Support for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Total percent within Central Phoenix Region	28.6	26.5	8.2	0.0	36.7
Total percent within Maricopa County	46.0	24.4	7.0	0.3	22.4

6. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Social Services Support** for children birth through age 5 and their families. List this organization(s) in the box below.

List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership in the Central Phoenix Region
Alhambra School District
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
Chicanos Por La Causa
City of Phoenix Head Start Program
CPS
First Things First
Friendly House
Head Start
Maricopa County
NASW
PAFCO
Palomino Elementary Schools
Phoenix Day
Phoenix Urban League
Southwest Human Development
SWHD
United Way
Valle del Sol
VSUW
YMCA

APPENDIX B CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

SECTION I. STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Introduction

Meetings were held on June 2nd at the Disability Empowerment Center, and June 3rd at the Crisis Nursery. There were a total of 19 participants, including school-based preschool teachers, public health professionals, social services providers and a childcare center owner.

Assets

A variety of programs and services were mentioned as assets, including healthcare, immunizations, KidsCare, assistance with the health insurance application process, nutrition programs, parent education, home visitation programs, injury prevention programs, family resource centers/family support programs, fatherhood programs, support groups for grandparents, early care and education programs (including Head Start and Early Head Start and literacy programs), childcare scholarships and subsidies, quality improvement initiatives, screening and early intervention, information services (including Child Care Resource and Referral, Birth-5 Helpline), and provider education and support (for home and center providers).

Collaborative groups mentioned as assets included: Tapestry Project Young Child Wellness Council, First Things First Regional Councils, and the Women's Health Coalition of Central Phoenix.

Participants thought it would be possible to build on these assets if there were additional funding to serve more people, more availability of certain services (e.g., early intervention following screening), better communication and coordination among programs, more collaboration, a good source of information on available resources, better outreach (to find children who need services), greater consistency in language and service delivery, clear and simple eligibility requirements, greater access to families that speak neither English nor Spanish, and better follow-through.

Needs

With respect to early care and education, families need access to quality childcare and assistance with payments (subsidies).

With respect to health, families need health literacy, advocacy, and access to a variety of services, including immunizations and specialists with early childhood experience. They also need assistance with the social/emotional development of their children and mental health services. Children need access to screening, diagnosis, and follow-up services. More attention to physical activity and nutrition is also needed.

In order to enhance their confidence and effectiveness as parents, families need parent education, literacy, and support. Grandparents, fathers, military families, single parents, teen parents, and families with children who have special healthcare needs were specifically mentioned.

With respect to basic needs, families need safe and affordable housing, food, and jobs so they can get what their families need. They also need access to legal services, especially related to immigration.

The importance of cultural brokering in all of the above was noted.

Children and their families are being turned away from a variety of services, including shelter care (due to inadequate supply), healthcare (due to lack of insurance, eligibility requirements, and fear), healthcare coverage (due to rules and structure), quality early care and education (due to lack of subsidy, availability, and hours), and basic elements such as food and safe, affordable housing (for many reasons).

Barriers that keep families from getting what they need to support the development, health, and education of their children relate to: awareness of resources, transportation, immigration laws, language, literacy, fear, service availability/wait lists, budget cutbacks, eligibility requirements, lack of childcare while applying for or receiving other services, access to technology, perceptions (that this is not for me and my family), denial that services are needed, culture, and lack of follow-up by both families and providers.

Service gaps can be addressed through increased funding, communication, coordination, collaboration, increased standardization, increased provider knowledge of how to work with diverse populations, clustering services (e.g., co-location, using schools as a hub), and greater public awareness.

Information and Coordination

There was agreement that both families (especially first-time parents and those who have never needed help before) and those who are in a position to refer (e.g., childcare providers, pediatricians) need better access to current and accurate information on early childhood and available resources. Some good sources of information exist but they are not sufficiently well known. It will be important going forward to consider how families access information. For example, many young families get their information via the Internet (e.g., mom blogs) and some of these sources may dispense incorrect information.

Examples were provided of effective communication, coordination, and collaboration among early childhood partners, but it was noted that these exist in “pockets.” First Things First was seen as having the potential to play a leadership role.

Various agencies were listed as providing early childhood leadership. Those mentioned include: Southwest Human Development, Tapestry Project Young Child Wellness Council, Tanner Community Development Corporation, Key Community Center, United Way, Children’s Action Alliance, Phoenix Children’s Hospital, the Association for Supportive Child Care, and the Arizona Child Care Association.

Suggestions and Ideas

A central portal to timely, accurate, and comprehensive information is needed.

It was noted that First Things First faces a dilemma—each region has different needs, but regional differences increase the complexity for families and providers who work across regions. This is further complicated by inconsistency in terminology (different names for the same service and the same name for different services).

It was also noted that many good programs and services have just started up and that time is needed to evaluate their reach and effectiveness.

Priorities for First Things First funding were:

- Quality care and education.
- Health care, including mental health, specialty services, and childcare health consultants.
- Parent education.
- Resource information.

SECTION II. PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Introduction

During the month of June, personal telephone interviews were conducted within the Central Phoenix Region in an effort to encourage core neighborhood leaders to share their insights and opinions about services for children five and under and their families in their perspective community. The targeted population included parents, faith leaders, neighborhood activists, department heads, and leaders of community groups. After numerous attempts to contact stakeholders provided by FTF (via e-mail and phone), 33 provided responses for this report. The interview participants were drawn from the neighborhoods located in, or agencies providing services within, the FTF’s Central

Phoenix Region. Several interviewees chose to provide their responses to the interview questions in written form. Written responses were reviewed and follow-up e-mails or calls were made regarding any needed clarification.

Assets

When asked about services and community efforts that are working well in their communities, interviewees described a number of programs and organizations. Some examples given by interviewees included:

- Early childhood care and assistance, including services provided to vulnerable families for literacy assistance, child abuse prevention, and economic stability.
- Health services for uninsured children, including the nurse partnership program.
- Behavioral health services.
- Programs offering prenatal and inter-natal care services to high-risk mothers.
- Programs that provide food or services for families.
- Social services programs.

Interviewees were also queried about key organizations providing leadership concerning early childhood services in their areas. The following organizations were mentioned:

- First Things First.
- DES.
- Association for Supportive Child Care.
- Southwest Human Development.
- United Way.
- DDS in partnership with AZEIP.
- Department of Health Services.
- Medicaid.
- Phoenix Day Care Nursery.
- WIC.
- Children's Action Alliance.
- Community Education Center.
- Federal Health (Community Health) centers.
- FIMA.
- Food Boxes.
- Friendly House.
- Head Start.
- Hope 6.
- March of Dimes.

- Native Health.
- NCAAD.
- Pediatric Association.
- Phoenix Indian Center.
- Phoenix Rescue Mission.
- Seventh Avenue Clinic.
- St. Mary's Food Bank.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- Terros.
- Urgent Care.

Needs

Interviewees were also asked to describe unmet needs within their communities for children five and under and their families. In this context, they discussed services from which this group may have been turned away or denied as well as the barriers to receiving needed services. The unmet needs provided in the interviews are as follows:

- Childcare services.
- Transportation to reach food and services.
- Early childhood education.
- Head Start.
- Pre-birth healthcare.
- Access to the Internet.
- Funding for Native American programs.
- Funding to help transport donated food and to purchase items to supplement donated foods to ensure nutritional needs are met.
- Grocery store access.
- Guardianship assistance for grandparents.
- Health services.
- Language assistance for Native Americans: Navajo, Apache, Hopi - language barriers can be an issue.
- Legal and justice guidance.

- Preschool.
- Rental assistance.
- Services for special needs children.
- Therapists (OT, speech, behavioral support).

As mentioned, barriers were also discussed both in the context of families being denied services and being effectively prevented from receiving them. Most of the interviewees did not know of any reasons families were being denied or turned away, but they did share what they considered as barriers. At the top of the list was access to transportation to county or community centers and barriers related to pride (fear of having to ask for help) or fear of being deported (both for illegal and legal immigrants).

A lack of awareness that services exist, as well as a lack of awareness about healthy child development, was stated as a barrier preventing families from receiving services.

Information and Coordination

Interviewees were asked how well do they think organizations that serve families with young children are working together to serve young children and their families as well as how this can be improved.

Almost every interviewee stated that families and providers need better information about what types of services and programs are available. Many interviewees stated that because of budget cut-backs, many programs have been discontinued or cut back, and they have no way to determine what services are still available. Several participants mentioned that the FTF regional differences have created a barrier to services and have made it difficult because people move within the city and lose access to vital services.

Additionally, several participants stated that the economic hardships are causing many organizations to work better with one another collaboratively. However, this is driven by individual organizations and is not being organized systematically by any one group. Interviewees were asked to comment on how well families in their community are aware of or know how to find services or resources from which they could benefit. The primary response to this question was that families are not aware of the available services provided or where to locate the services or information that may give them insight on how to qualify for services.

The interviewees suggest that families are becoming more aware slowly. The interviewees expressed that a lot of the information that the families are getting is travelling through word of mouth and that FTF has to continue to blanket the area to ensure families are aware. One interviewee stated that the community needs more training on life skills or services to help families and service providers.

Suggestions and Ideas

Throughout the interviews, the participants were asked to suggest how to improve services for children five and under and their families and how to address these families' unmet needs in their community. The interviewees' suggestions included the following:

- The Governor and Legislature need to provide funding to support healthcare, childcare, and other programs. One person mentioned the need for funding for the Arizona 211 service. Several mentioned the need for childcare subsidies. One person mentioned the need for services to support families and that help promote economic stability, as well as clinicians.
- The community needs more organized job fairs.
- The community needs volunteers to come to the families to teach clients about resources available to them and life skills in the home.
- Several interviewees stated that providers need to communicate more effectively in an organized fashion about what services are available and how to apply for these.
- Other suggestions included:
 - Need for commitment by general public and legislative leadership to put children and families first.
 - Need for more referrals for substance abuse help.
 - Need for more therapists in the state – need to encourage universities to train more than they currently do (about 20 per year).
 - Need to reduce crime, increase beautification of community, and neighbor-to-neighbor relationships.
 - Need more coordination between agencies.
 - Need more programs for the working poor and need to provide services to families in the home – programs that supplement, not supplant, a family life.
- Suggestions for First Things First were that it needs to better coordinate its own programs between regions as it is too difficult to determine what services families are eligible for when families across the street from each other (but in different zip codes) could get different services. Additionally, interviewees reported that FTF needs a public relations firm to repair the damage done politically. The perception among legislators is that FTF sat on the funding without using it for too long. There is a push now to take away some of the FTF funding and return it to the General Fund. FTF needs to educate the public and legislators about why it

took so long to get funds out, and what they have done to address this in the future.

Lastly, interview participants were asked to identify what they felt to be the top priority for FTF funding in their community. The responses are below:

- Childcare subsidies.
- Access to specialists, counselors, and therapists.
- Basic needs – food and clothing.
- Concentration on the youngest and most vulnerable populations.
- Early childhood education.
- Graduate-level education.
- Health services.
- Assistance for families to understand Medicaid and program application process.
- Housing assistance.
- Job training.
- Life skills training.
- More pre- and inter-natal care.
- More public awareness of what's available to families.
- Services for Native American children.
- Single parent assistance.
- Support for grandparents raising grandchildren (many elderly are raising young children).
- Training families on behavioral issues.
- Training for staff and teachers on what programs are available.
- Using the same funding priorities, but remove some of the limits.

APPENDIX C

ST. LUKE'S HEALTH INITIATIVES SURVEY RESULTS

In 2008, the Arizona Health Survey was completed by St. Luke's Health Initiatives. The survey included more than 4,000 households, which makes it one of the most extensive surveys ever undertaken in the state. The purpose of the survey was to help researchers, community leaders, and policy makers understand the health and well-being of Arizona citizens. The results can be used to create new opportunities for Arizona-specific policies, grants, planning, community engagement, and program development.

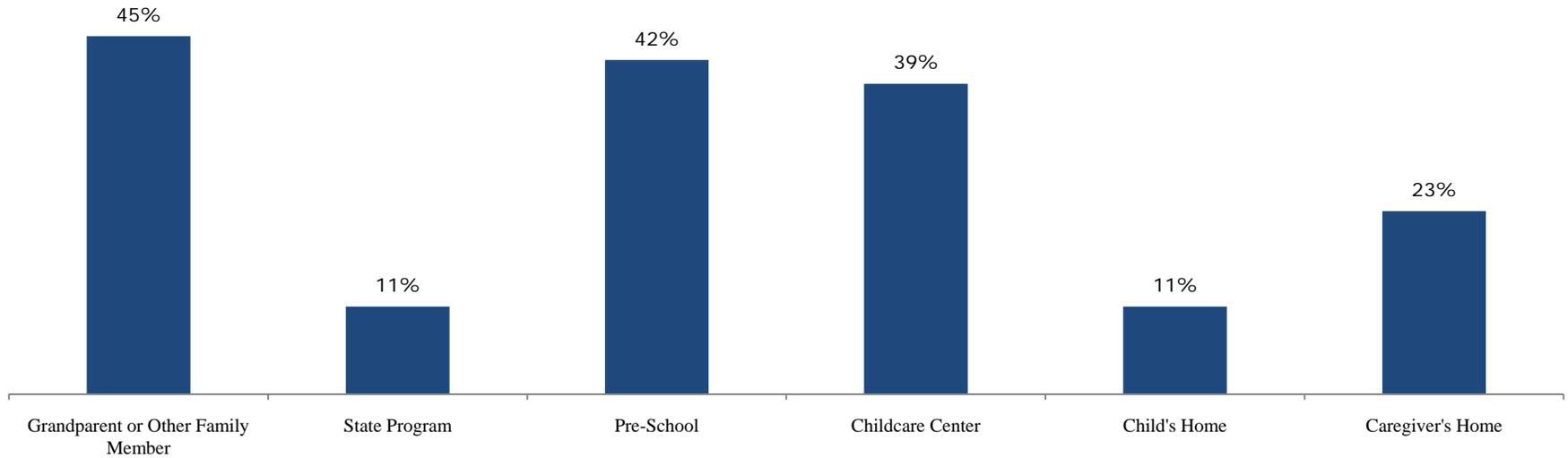
Our area of focus for this report is the child survey, which screened children between the ages of 0 and 12 years old. The adult member of the household with the most knowledge of the child's health was given the survey via telephone. Nearly 650 respondents answered this survey, primarily consisting of Maricopa County residents.

This section highlights a few of the survey questions and responses from these households with children.

Childcare Providers for a Child in a Typical Week

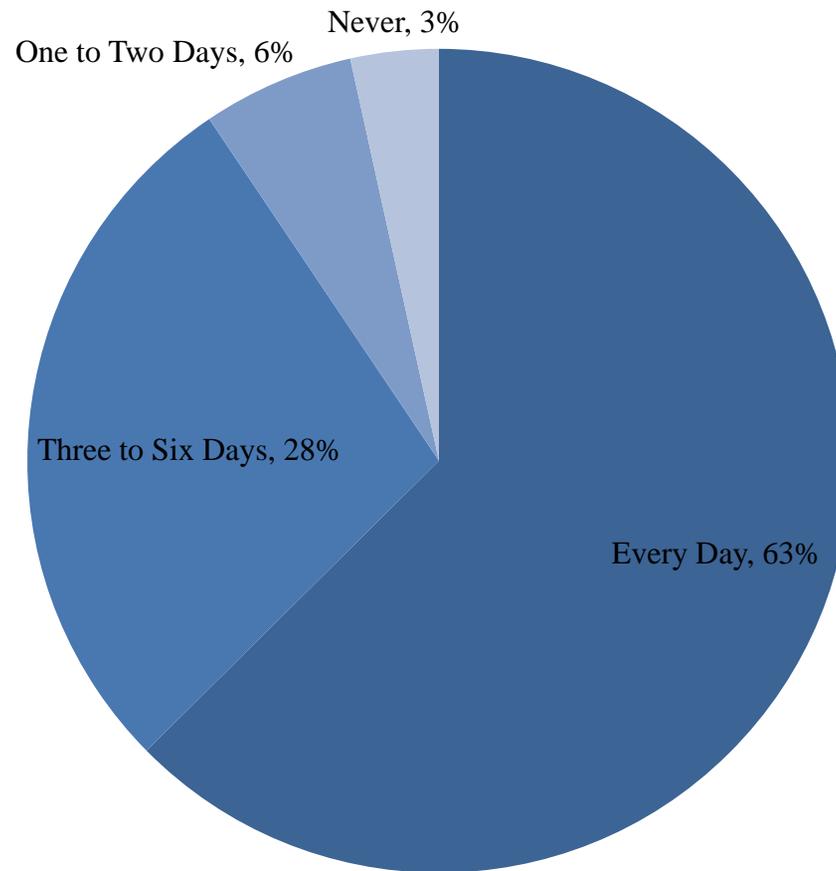
Respondents may choose more than one provider, so these numbers add to more than 100%.

Based on these survey results, the most common child care provider in a typical week was the child's grandparent or other family member. Close behind is the number of children who received care from a pre-school.



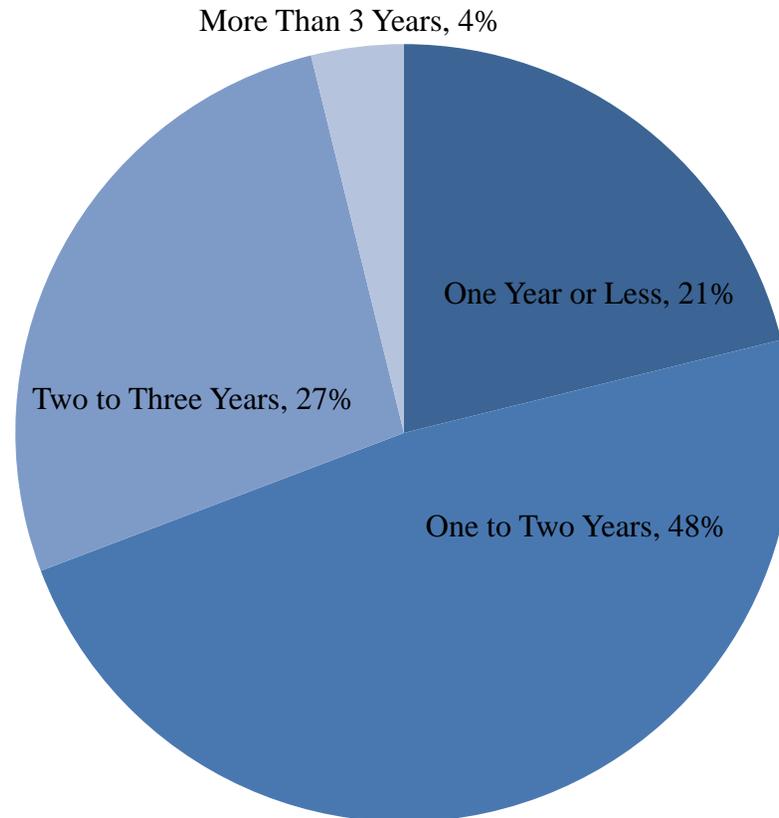
Days Per Week You Read with Your Child

Studies have shown that reading to a child on a frequent basis is an important factor in their literary development. A majority of respondents reported reading to their child on a daily basis.



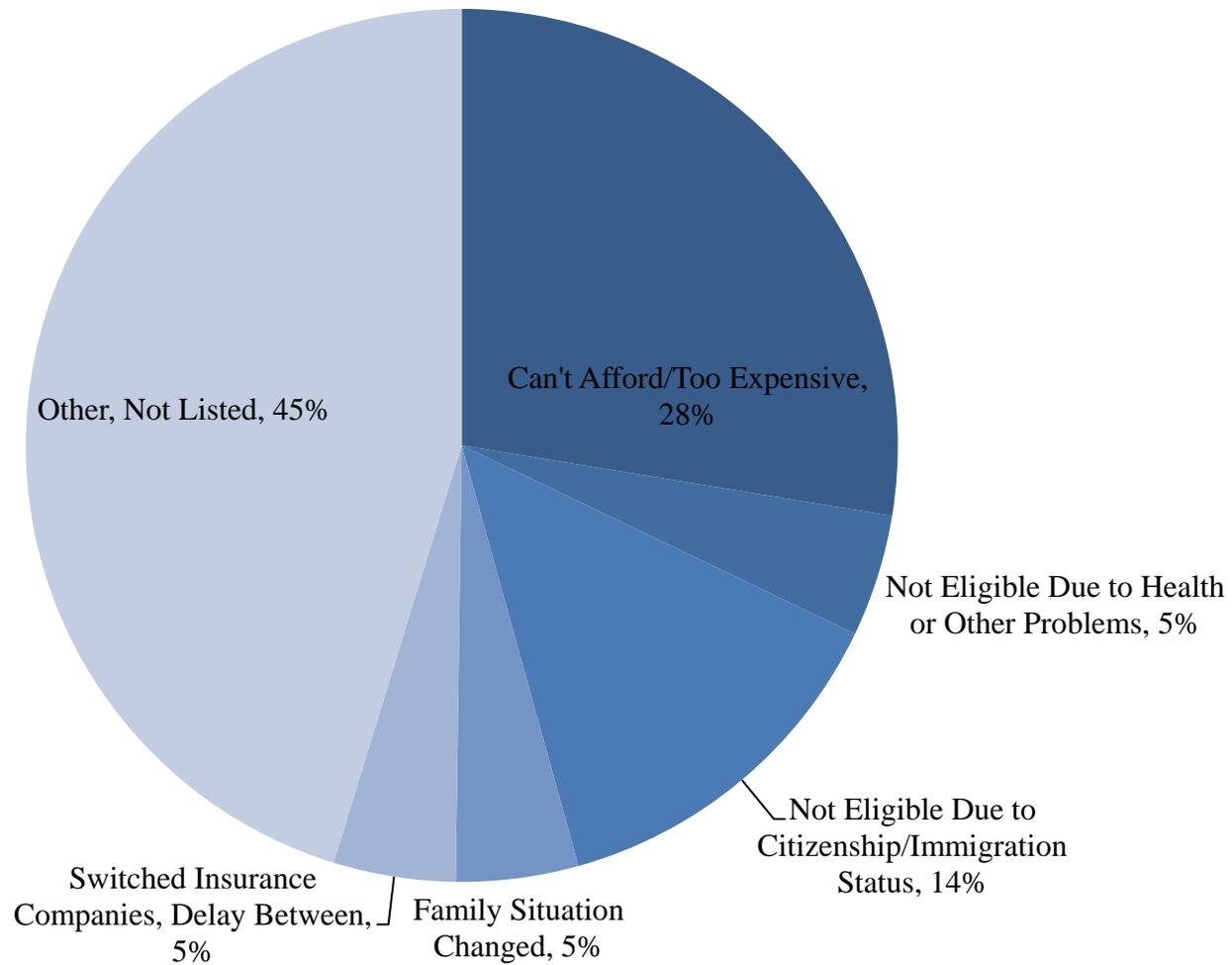
Time Since Last Medical Doctor Visit

Slightly disturbing is the relatively high percentage of children who have not visited a medical doctor within the last two years. A yearly check up is important in identifying health problems the child may have developed.



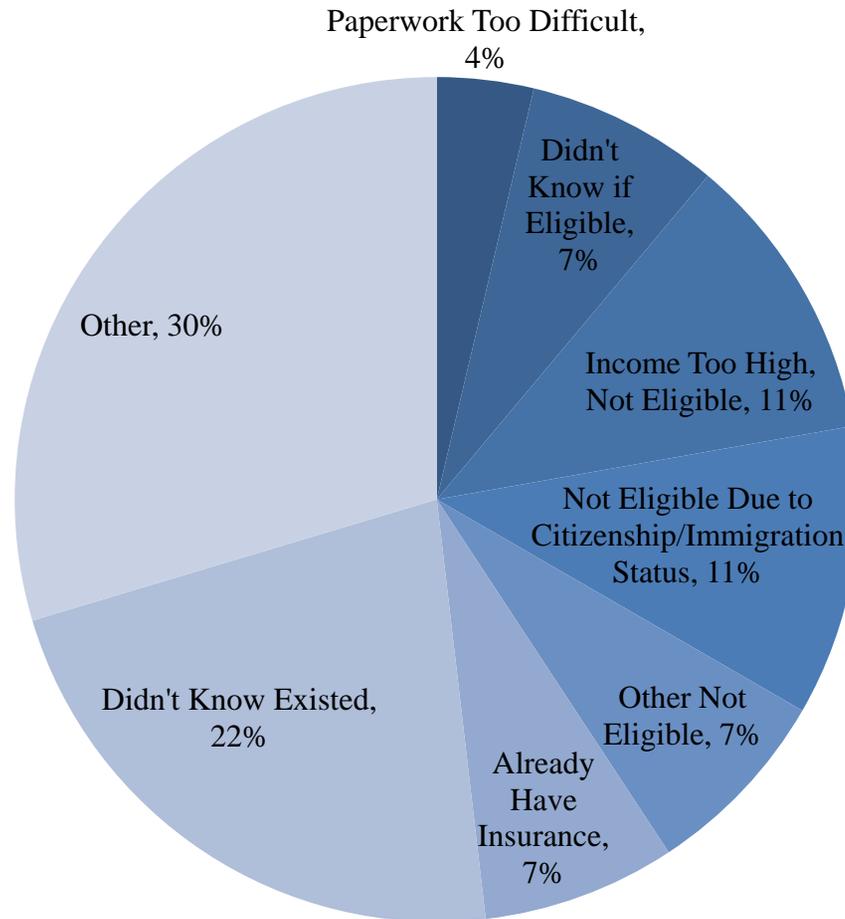
Reason Child Does Not Have Health Insurance

One of the most common reasons for a child not being covered by some type of health insurance was that it was too expensive. This is important because it highlights the need for affordable health insurance options, like KidsCare.



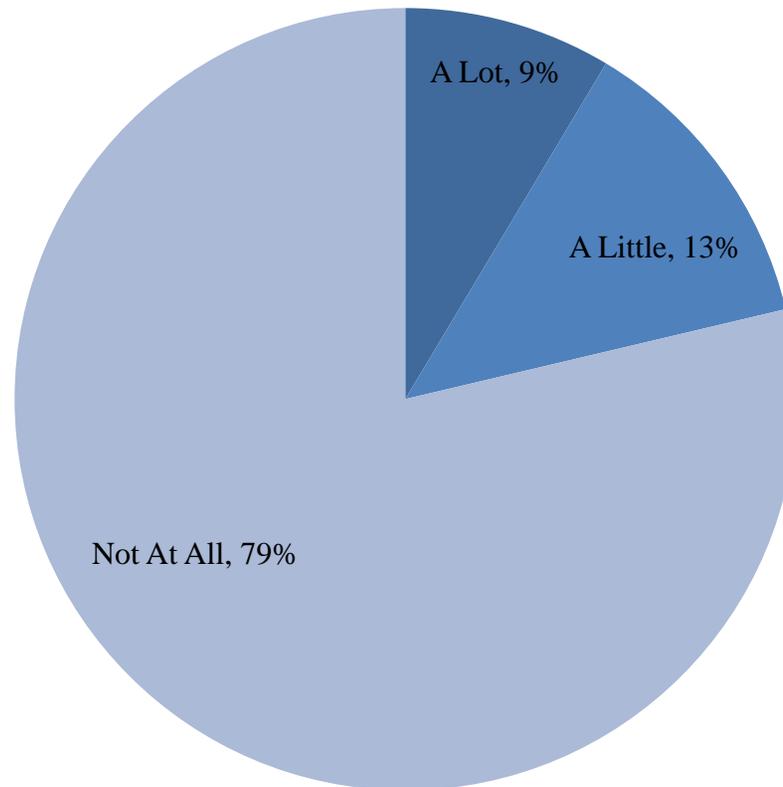
Reason Child is Not Enrolled in KidsCare

A relatively large percentage of children who were not enrolled in KidsCare had not been enrolled because their parent(s) didn't know the program existed. If the KidsCare program starts accepting applications again, this statistic verifies the importance of educating the public about this coverage.



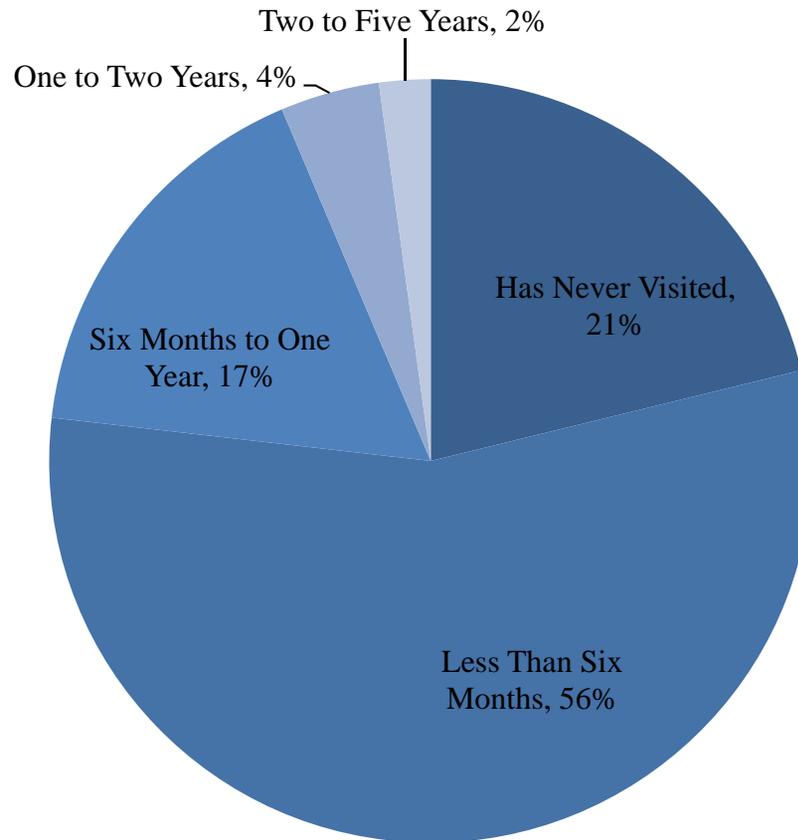
Parents Concern About Their Child's Abilities Compared to Other Children Their Age

Most parents were not concerned at all about their child's abilities compared to other children their age. This does not necessarily mean all of those children are without problems; their parents may not recognize signs of developmental, behavioral or learning delays.



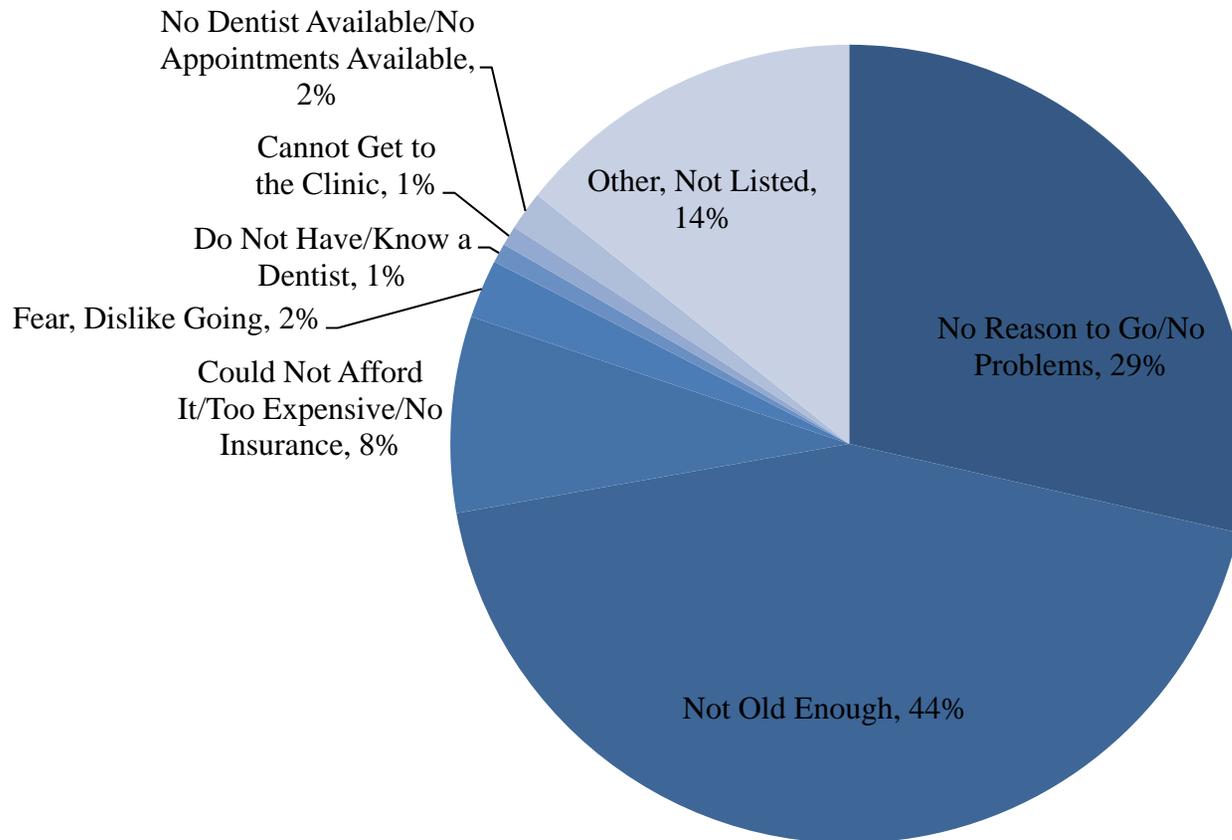
Time Since Last Dental Clinic Visit

The majority of respondents stated that their child had visited the dentist in the last six months. A good sign considering that good dental care is important for overall child health. However, one out of five respondents said their child has never been to the dentist, putting those children at risk for a range of health problems.



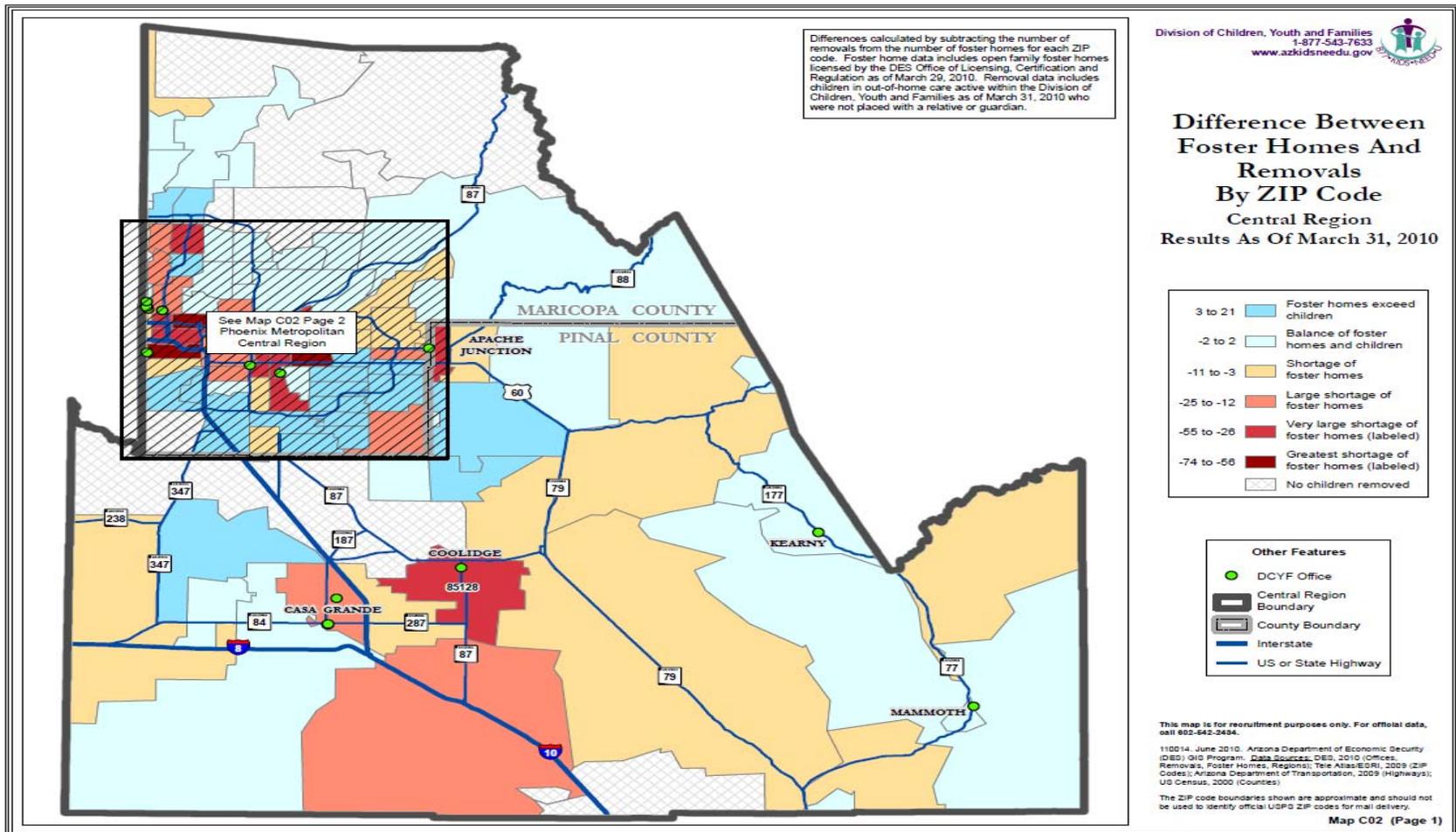
Reasons for Not Visiting the Dental Clinic

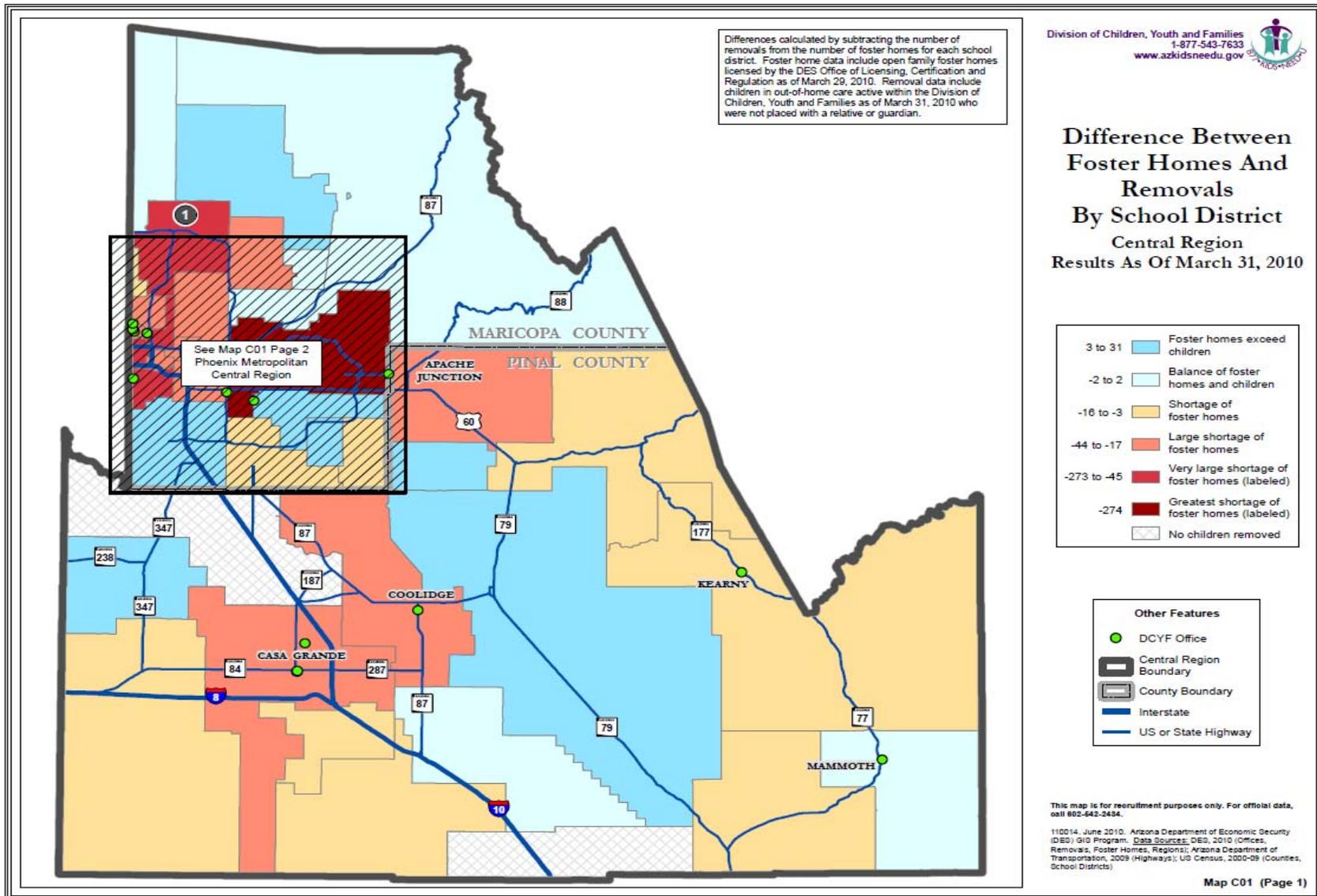
Of some concern is the rather large percentage of children who have not gone to the dentist because parents said their child was not old enough. The American Dental Association recommends that a child see the dentist for the first time within six months of the appearance of their first tooth or by their first birthday, whichever comes first.

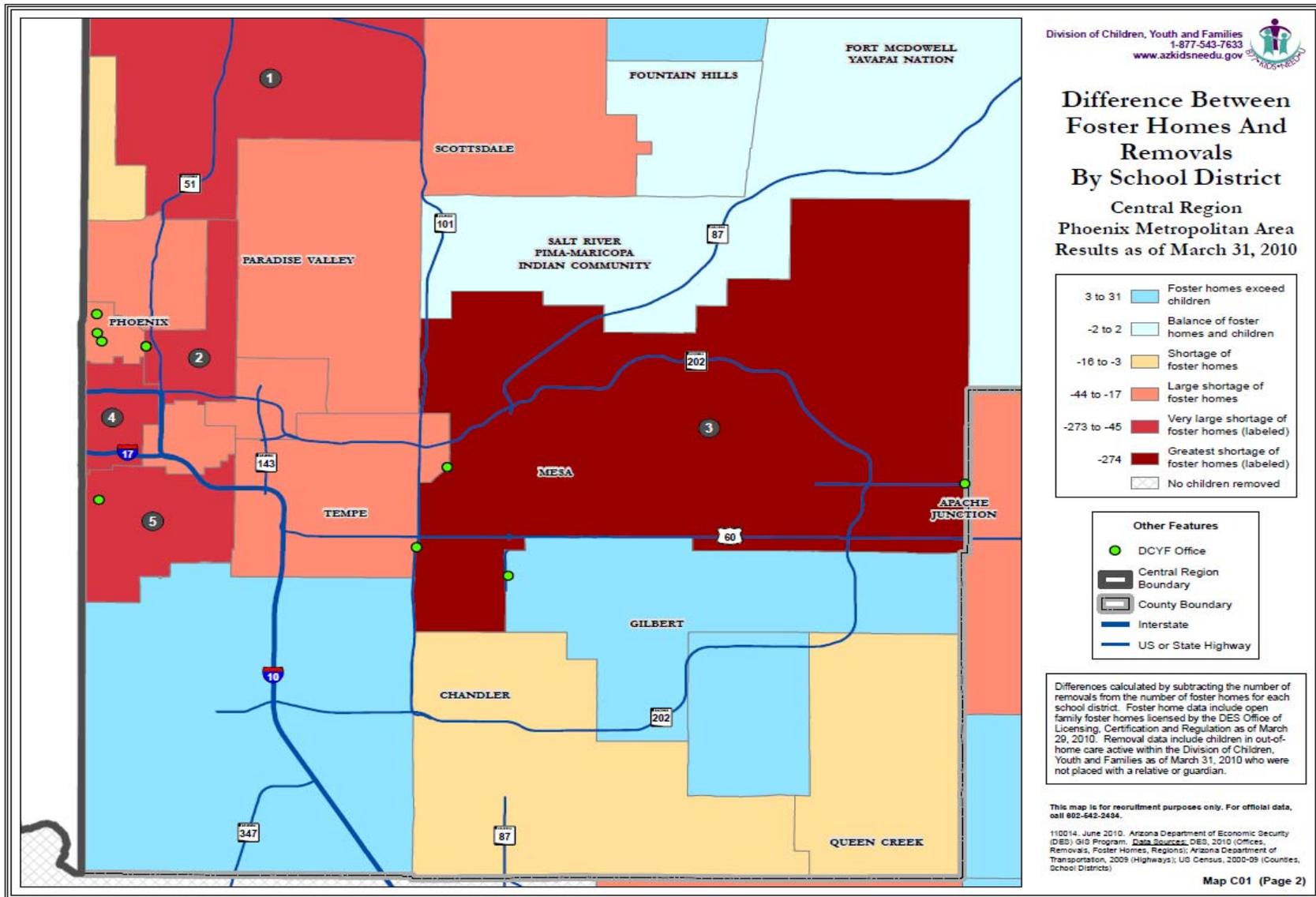


APPENDIX D

MAPS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS, ZIP CODES, AND FOSTER HOME AVAILABILITY

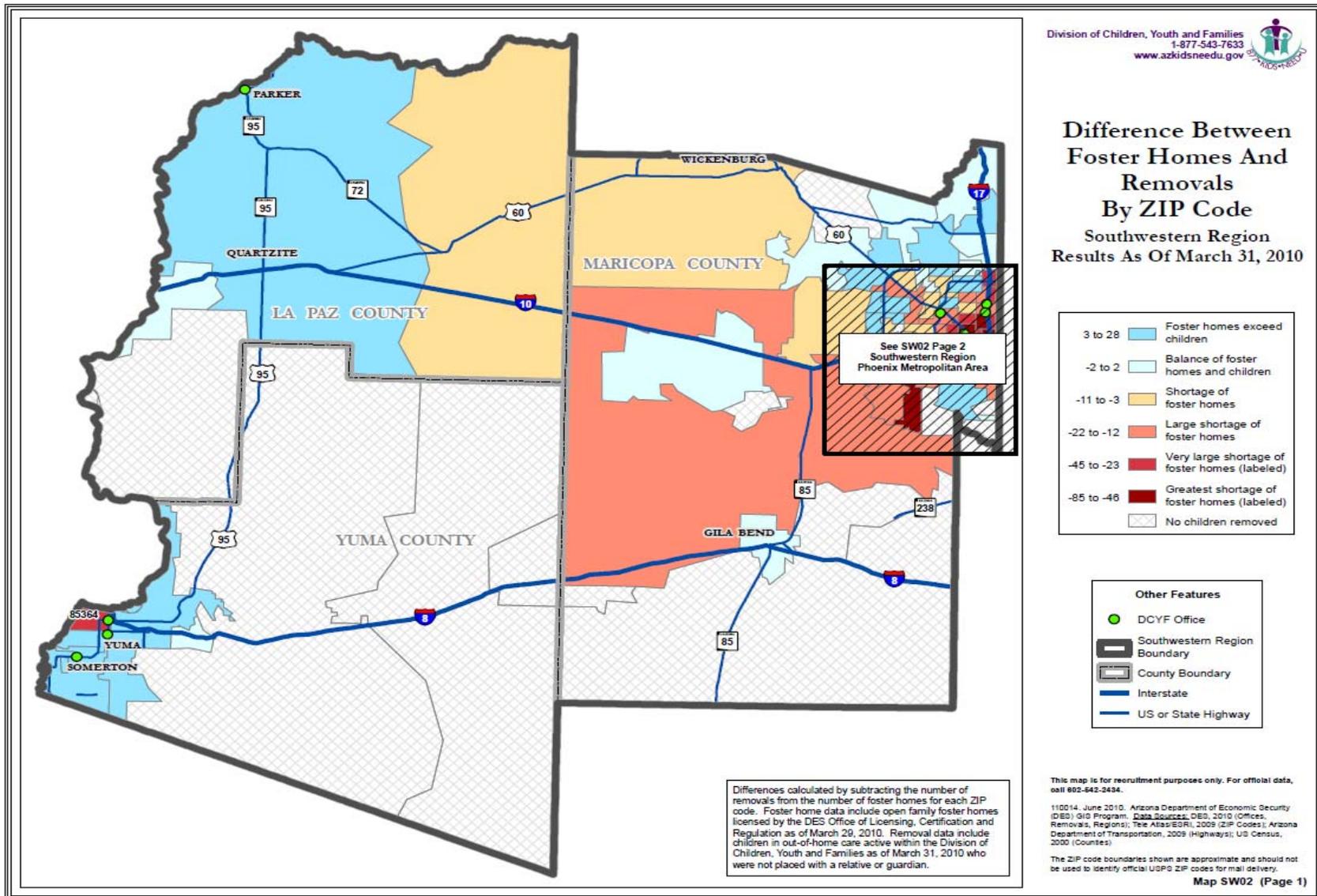


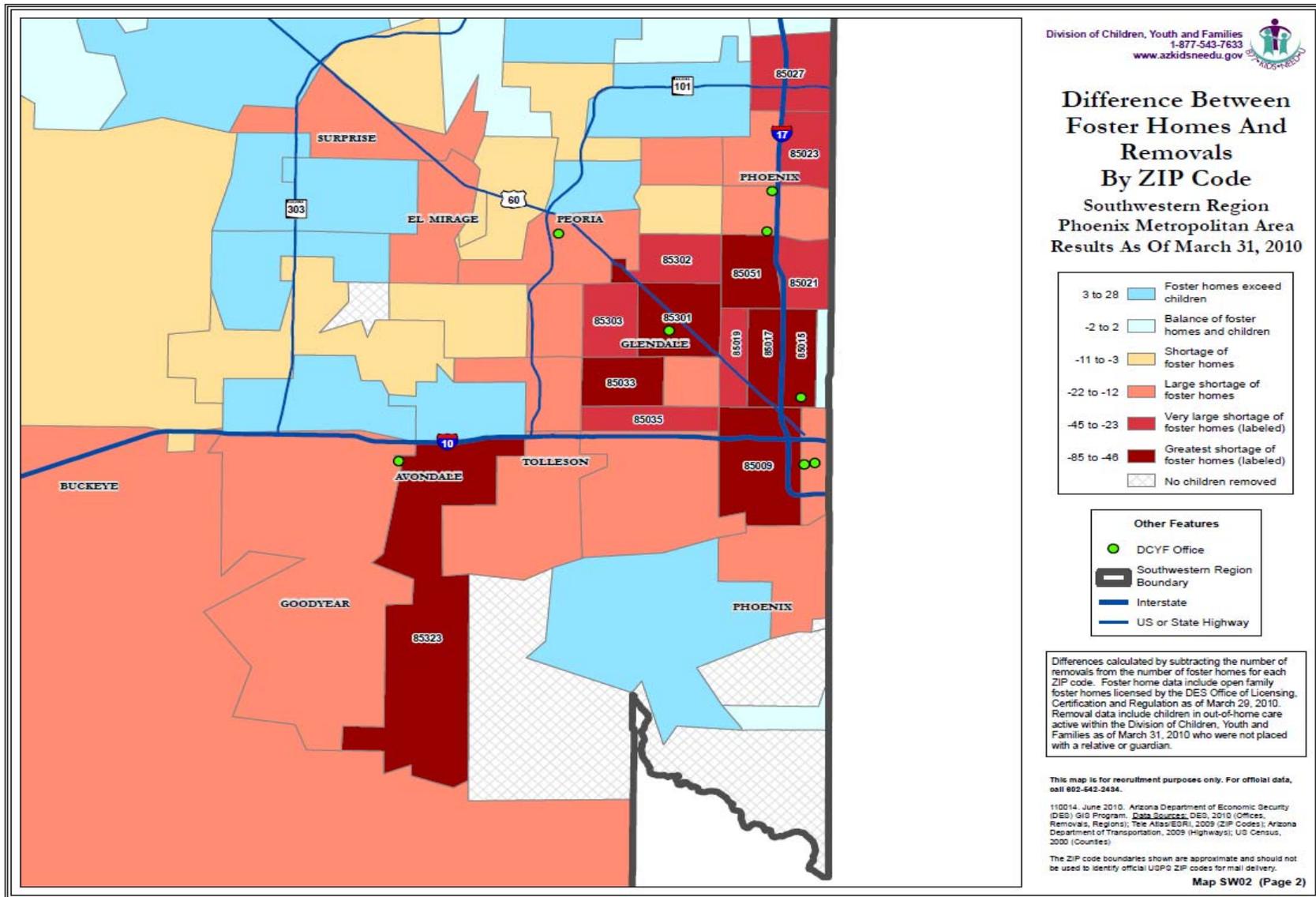


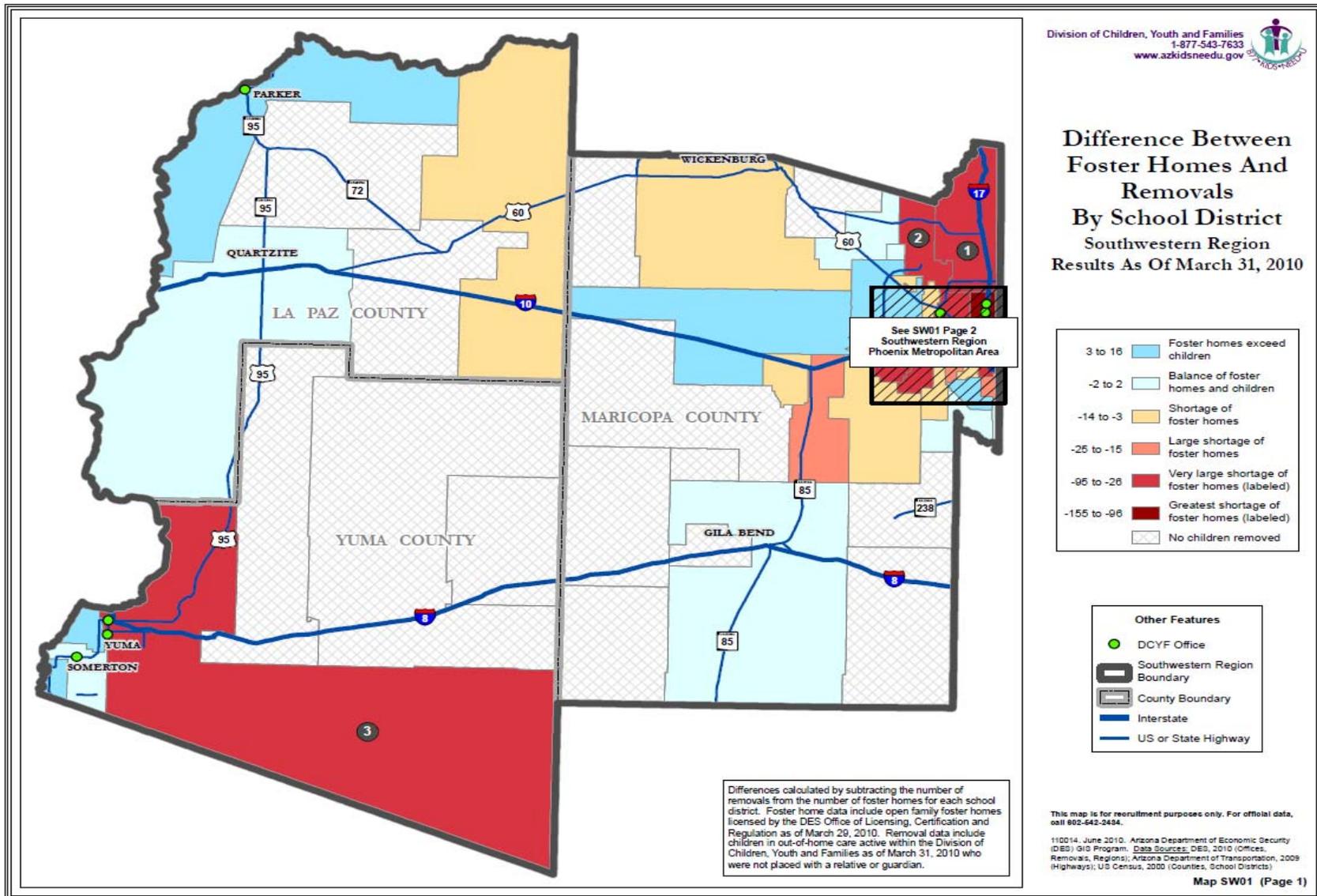


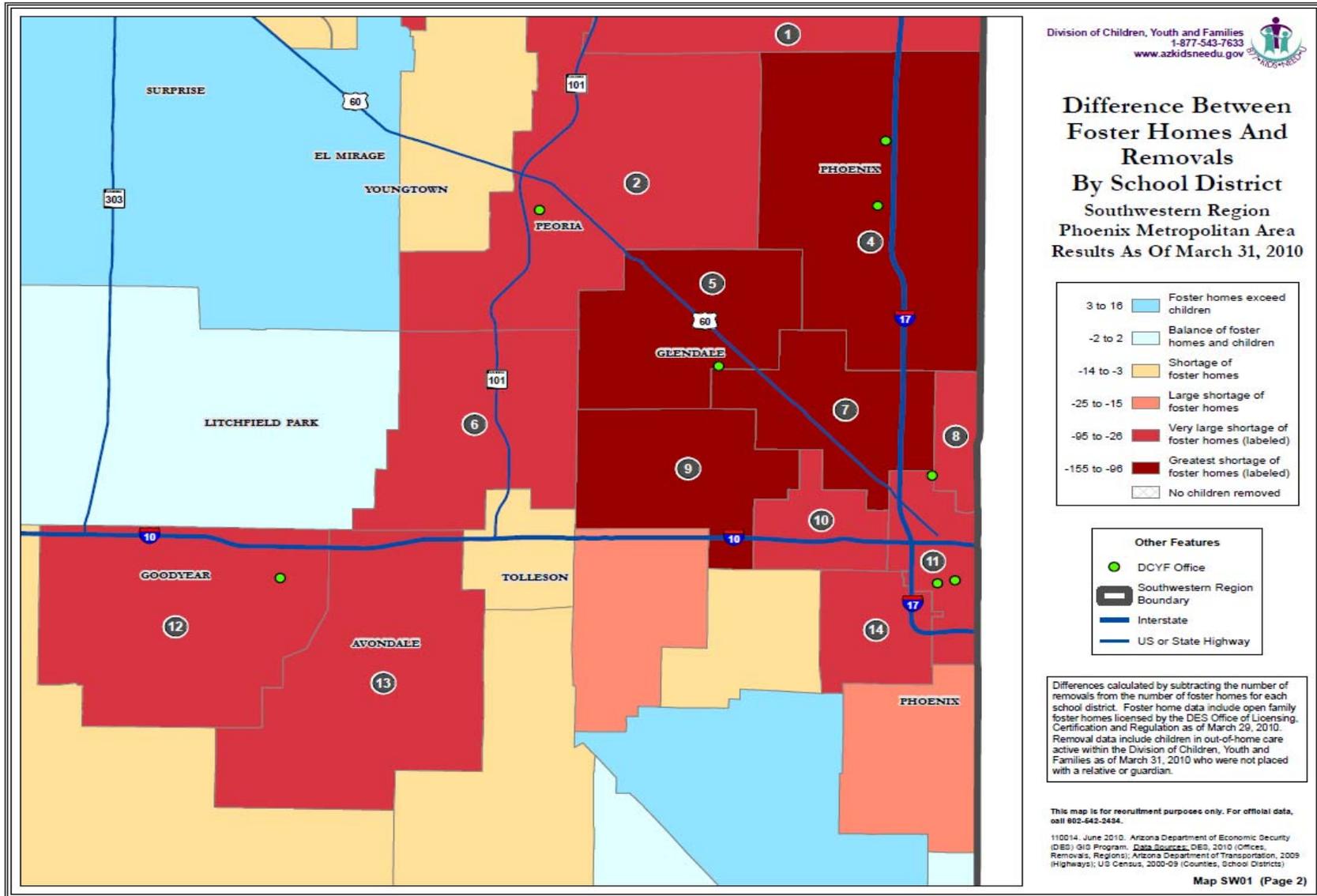
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Map Label	School District Name
1	Paradise Valley Unified District
2	Creighton Elementary District/ Phoenix Union High School District
3	Mesa Unified District
4	Phoenix Elementary District/ Phoenix Union High School District
5	Roosevelt Elementary District/ Phoenix Union High School District









SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Map Label	School District Name
1	Deer Valley Unified District
2	Peoria Unified School District
3	Yuma Elementary District/ Yuma Union High School District
4	Washington Elementary District/ Glendale Union High School District
5	Glendale Elementary District/ Glendale Union High School District
6	Pendergast Elementary District/ Tolleson Union High School District
7	Alhambra Elementary District/ Phoenix Union High School District
8	Osborn Elementary District/ Phoenix Union High School District
9	Cartwright Elementary District/ Phoenix Union High School District
10	Isaac Elementary District/ Phoenix Union High School District
11	Phoenix Elementary District/ Phoenix Union High School District
12	Avondale Elementary District/ Agua Fria Union High School District
13	Littleton Elementary District/ Tolleson Union High School District
14	Murphy Elementary District/ Phoenix Union High School District



The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council recommended more than \$14.6 million in contracts earlier this month for fiscal year 2011. This will give young children in the Central Phoenix region the tools they need to have a fair start in life.

The specific contracts approved for the Central Phoenix region include:

- Association for Supportive Child Care
 - Family, Friends and Neighbors - \$500,000
- Crisis Nursery
 - Crisis Intervention - \$319,826
- Homeward Bound
 - Community based Literacy - \$104,264
- International Rescue Committee, Inc.
 - Public Health Insurance Outreach Project - \$197,698
 - Early Childhood Care Coordination Program - \$273,576
 - Prenatal Outreach - \$245,036
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
 - Injury Prevention Program (KISS) - \$266,003
 - Prenatal Outreach - \$261,423
- Maricopa Integrated Health Systems
 - Injury Prevention - \$233,997
 - Physician Education and Outreach - \$142,906
 - Prenatal Outreach - \$85,922
- Osborn School District
 - Community based Literacy - \$170,770
- Phoenix Children's Hospital – New Grantee
 - CareConnect AZ-Advocacy and Coordination for Young Children and Families - \$771,000
 - Development First – Physicians Training Program - \$219,896
- Southwest Human Development
 - Raise A Reader - \$81, 888
 - Early Care and Education Inclusion Program \$349,990
 - Early Care and Education Plus - \$384,690
 - Reach Out and Read - \$39,000
 - Home Visitation - \$1.2 million
- St. Joseph's Hospital
 - Healthy Steps- Physicians Education and Outreach - \$164,111

In addition to funding the above program in the Central Phoenix region, the regional council contributed more than \$9 million to help fund statewide initiatives that address quality and access and professional development in early childhood education, such as Quality First, T.E.A.C.H., REWARDS\$, physicians trainings and more.

For more information on these programs, please contact Brooke Toles-Johnson at (602) 771-5046 or by email at bjohnson@azftf.gov.



2010 REGIONAL NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT

CENTRAL PHOENIX

Data Highlights

Compared to Maricopa County, many babies in the region are born to mothers with little education, and many young children live in single parent families.

There is great diversity in the region, with large percentages of young children who are Hispanic and African American, and more than half of young children have at least one foreign born parent.

Families living in the Balsz, Alhambra and Creighton Elementary Schools Districts have median incomes that are less than half of the median income in Maricopa County.

In the City of Phoenix, one out of 10 children younger than six lives in a household headed by their grandparents; in the Phoenix Elementary School District, it is nearly one out of five young children.

In Phoenix, nearly two-thirds of the households with children younger than 18 had all parents in the labor force – indicating a large need for childcare.

Preschool enrollment was low in most of the region compared to Maricopa County.

More than one in three children in Phoenix relies on publicly-funded healthcare coverage – a rate much higher than the countywide rate.

The region also has high rates of children without health insurance.

There was a substantial decrease in the number of home-based childcare businesses certified by the Arizona Department of Economic Security and a small decrease in the number of providers achieving national recognition.

Where Does the Information in this Report Come From?

Quantitative Data

- State agency data by zip code
- U.S. Census, American Community Survey data for cities, towns and school districts within the region
- Data labeled “most recent data” is either a 2008 estimate or an average for the data from 2006-2008. Data labeled “3-year trend” show the percentage change from 2005 to 2008.

Qualitative Data

- Review of existing reports, environmental scans and planning documents
- Stakeholder meetings with 19 participants
- Individual interviews with 33 people
- On-line survey with 99 respondents from the Central Phoenix region

Highlights from Central Phoenix Community Input

Community input focused heavily on the need for **cultural and linguistic competency** and “**cultural brokering**” for services in the region.

The input from the community through the online survey, stakeholder meetings, and telephone interviews all point to a great **demand for quality improvements in childcare and financial assistance** for parents needing childcare.

Community input identified **services that are brought to families in their homes** as a high priority. Existing home visiting services were

named as assets, and participants in the stakeholder meetings and telephone interviews recommended **making home visiting services more available**.

Thirty percent of the respondents to the online survey named **parent support and education** as the top priority for First Things First funding. Thirty percent named **increasing access** to early childhood education and health programs as top priority.

More than half of the respondents to the online survey indicated that **support for grandparents raising grandchildren is missing** in the region.

CONCLUSION

Families with young children in the region face many risks, particularly those families with low incomes and parents with little education. Strategies for support services for families in crisis can be well matched to these needs. Head Start programs, AHCCCS benefits, and hospitals are strong assets in the region and offer opportunities for partnerships to promote healthy child development. Access to affordable early education is a key priority in the region.

The data and community input point to several potential priority areas for future First Things First funding in the region.



The current efforts to improve access to quality childcare are valued and will help to meet key needs in the region. These include T.E.A.C.H. AZ scholarships for the

education of childcare teachers, support for caregivers, and the Quality First program to coach childcare providers and improve classroom environments and learning.

Because the cost of childcare was identified as a major barrier and increased access was identified as a top priority, these quality strategies can be supplemented with childcare scholarships and other affordability strategies.

Considering the diversity of the region, families would benefit from an investment in cultural competency development for professionals as well as training opportunities for people who live in the community to become early childhood teachers or mentors.

Because of the low incomes and high need for social services in the region, there is an opportunity to reach families with young children through other social services networks. The region can consider ways to better integrate early childhood education, parent support, and awareness into existing services that meet basic needs.

There is also great potential to expand access to preschool, financial assistance for child care, home visiting, and parent support services, particularly for parents of newborns.