



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Senior Director for Children's Health

First Things First (FTF), also known as the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, is a public agency that exists to increase the quality of, and access to, the early childhood development and health system that ensures a child entering school comes healthy and ready to succeed. Passed by voter initiative in 2006, First Things First operates through a tax on tobacco products. Governed by a State Board and Regional Partnership Councils, First Things First is a decentralized organization that engages diverse constituencies to accomplish its mission. Organizational values include a focus on accountability, transparency, coordination, collaboration and on the outcomes that will ensure young children start kindergarten ready for school and life. First Things First acts in accordance with our Beliefs, Actions and Performance statements, which are attached.

Job Summary:

The First Things First Senior Director for Children's Health works independently and in agreement with the Chief Program Officer, the Chief Executive Officer and organizational leadership to recommend, develop, implement and monitor exemplary children's health policy initiatives and programs to achieve the priority goals of the agency. The Senior Director is an expert in young children's health, and leads First Things First policy and program development in the following areas: child care health consultation; recruitment and specialized training for health care professionals serving young children; oral health; nutrition, obesity prevention and physical activity; health care coordination; early childhood mental health; and developmental and sensory screening and identification and referral for developmental delays and special health care needs. The Senior Director also directs development of short and long-term indicators and benchmarks; research on effective practices that are responsive to diverse cultures and communities; design, implementation, monitoring and coordination of programs and services at the system, statewide, and local levels; and, training and technical assistance on children's health programs. This position is critical in statewide systems planning and proposes and advances solutions that positively impact and enhance a coordinated state early childhood development and health system. The Senior Director for Children's Health reports directly to the Chief Program Officer. This position requires approximately 20% travel throughout the state.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The ideal candidate enthusiastically supports the vision and mission of First Things First, and possesses the personal qualities of integrity, credibility and competency. She/he is an early childhood and children's health systems thinker and leader and has a proven track record of coordinating and collaborating with diverse constituencies, organizations and agencies across Arizona. The candidate demonstrates obvious understanding of and comfort in working in a decentralized, transparent organization.

Typical Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the guidance of the Chief Program Officer:

- Lead the development of long-term strategies and implementation of services and programs in the area of children's health that improve children's readiness for kindergarten entry.
- Ensure First Things First Standards of Practice for children's health strategies appropriately address early screening, identification and interventions for developmental delay and special health care needs.
- Administer programmatic quality assurance and technical assistance efforts for all children's health strategies.
- Lead First Things First support for statewide and multi-regional capacity building and coordination in children's health strategies and programs.
- Accurately measure and report progress of First Things First programmatic priorities related to children's health.
- Ensure short and long-term strategic plan objectives are achieved to support division and organizational goals.
- Provide primary support to statewide committees and workgroups focused on children's health policy and initiatives of the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board.
- Lead the Children's Health strategy workgroup and facilitate a Children's Health learning community for the First Things First organization.
- Facilitate the Children's Health team in providing excellent service and support for the First Things First Regional Partnership Councils and the Board.
- Provide effective team leadership; select and retain qualified staff to ensure the provision of high-quality services in a manner consistent with the principles of the First Things First organizational culture.
- Assure that financial oversight and program budgeting for children's health is rigorous, meets fiscal and organizational guidelines and reflects the values and priorities of First Things First.
- Contribute to the planning, development, training and implementation of policies, procedures and practices for the Program Division to ensure high quality and efficient services are provided.
- Employ regular cross-divisional communication within the Program Division and with all First Things First Divisions.

- Make recommendations to and keep the Chief Program Officer informed on the programmatic operations, issues and needs of the Children's Health team.
- Represent the Children's Health team on the Chief Executive Officer's Management Team.
- Coordinate and collaborate with external customers including regional partnership council staff and volunteers, board members, state agency and tribal representatives, committee members, contractors and outside service vendors and other community stakeholders.
- Identify areas for self-improvement in order to perform assigned projects and carry out responsibilities to meet desired outcomes; actively pursue appropriate means and methods to increase effectiveness in those areas.

Qualifications:

- Thorough knowledge and a minimum 10 years previous experience in children's health policy issues, including early screening and identification of developmental delay and special health care needs, and their relationship with early learning and family support policy issues and effective practices at the state and national level.
- Thorough knowledge and previous experience in early childhood systems and service delivery; program development, implementation and monitoring; early childhood research and research methods; and, effective professional development and technical assistance practices that result in high quality opportunities to improve children's health.
- Commitment to a comprehensive systems approach and organizational planning that focus on clear priorities, realistic expectations and vigorous assessment.
- Knowledge and prior experience in financial and budgeting principles, contract management, and grant writing and administration.
- Strong team leadership, organizational, management and supervisory skills.
- Experienced facilitation and group leadership skills that result in collaborative success and desired outcomes while working with staff, volunteers, parents, children's health professionals and providers, community leaders, governmental officials, tribal partners, public and private entities and faith based groups in communities throughout the state.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal relations and oral communication skills necessary to effectively articulate program goals with sensitivity to ethnic, cultural and local community differences.
- Entrepreneurial style and innovative ability to think critically and address problems resourcefully.
- Ability to promote and achieve a broad diversity of thought, background, ethnicity and perspective in providing assistance and resources.
- Commitment to uphold high ethical standards and promote sound business practices.
- History of creating and fostering a mutually respectful work place environment where diverse contributions and perspectives are valued.
- Ability to ensure public transparency and accountability, as well as measure and improve outcomes appropriate for organizational goals.
- Agility and capability to work within a fast-moving environment, while also driving toward clarity and solutions; demonstrated resourcefulness in setting priorities.

- Technical skills that ensure effective use of computer hardware and software and other communication devices.
- Masters or doctorate degree preferred from an accredited college or university in medicine, nursing, related health professions, early childhood education or special education, early childhood development, public policy or related field.
- Background of progressively responsible leadership positions in public, private or non-profit organizations, with experience in public policy and program development in health services for young children and their families.

How to Apply:

Review of resumes will begin on February 8, 2016 and continue until the position is filled. For consideration please submit your cover letter, comprehensive resume and three professional references to:

www.AZSTATEJOBS.GOV

(Due to the amount of applications we receive, please no phone or email inquiries)

In the Arizona State Personnel System, the position is classified as a Grade 26 with a salary range of \$75,000 to \$90,000. The position is not covered under the State of Arizona Merit system rules. The State of Arizona offers an outstanding comprehensive benefits package.

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