



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012  
Phone: 602-771-5100  
Fax: 602-274-7040  
[www.azfff.gov](http://www.azfff.gov)

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June 26, 2013

Dear Tribal Government Leader:

I am writing to request the honor of your presence at the upcoming First Things First Tribal Consultation. The specific topics on which we seek your insight and expertise include the First Things First Research and Evaluation plan and implications on tribal data collection, as well as Quality First Program model updates and their potential impacts on young children in tribal communities.

First Things First is a voter approved initiative that was established to help ensure that all Arizona children 5 and younger arrive at school healthy and prepared to succeed. This initiative also empowers Arizona's Federally Recognized Tribes to decide how they want to participate in the regional structure of First Things First. Currently, 19 of Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes participate in First Things First. To further honor tribal sovereignty and recognizing the unique government-to-government relationship that exists between Indian Tribes and the State of Arizona, First Things First is committed to seeking input from Tribal Government Leaders through a tribal consultation process.

This session will be held on August 15, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First Things First, 4000 N. Central Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona. In preparation for the consultation session, I have enclosed the First Things First Research and Evaluation Plan and some information related to the Quality First Program Model changes. The agenda will also include brief presentations on the identified topics to begin the dialogue.

Our goal is to include as many tribal leaders and representatives at this consultation as possible. First Things First welcomes the participation of content experts such as Tribal Education Directors, Early Care and Education Directors, Head Start Directors, Public Health Representatives, Home Visitation Program Directors etc., and other support staff the tribe may wish to bring to accompany the attending tribal leaders. We also recognize that your tribe may decide to authorize an individual who is not a tribal government leader to offer comments or make remarks on its behalf at the consultation. If your tribe elects to designate someone as its official representative, we respectfully request that this individual submit a letter from you on official letterhead which confirms their status as the official representative of your tribe. To confirm your attendance, return the enclosed registration form by Friday, August 2, 2013.

We will also accept written comments from tribal governments who are unable to attend the consultation. Written comments may be submitted by first-class mail, e-mail, or facsimile by Friday, August 31, 2013, to:

First Things First, Attention: Beverly Russell, Senior Director of Tribal Affairs  
4000 N. Central Ave., Ste. 800  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
Fax: 602.274.7040; Email: brussell@azftf.gov

On behalf of First Things First, I am honored to invite you to First Things First's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual government-to-government consultation. I look forward to seeing you in Phoenix in August.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven W. Lynn".

Steven W. Lynn  
Chair

Attachments:

- Consultation Registration Form
- Draft Agenda
- Tribal Consultation Discussion Guide
- FTF Research and Evaluation Plan
- Quality First Model Updates