FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board
Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Welcome
The regular meeting of the First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on May 14, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Peach Springs Unified School District in Peach Springs, Arizona, 86434.

Members Present
Dr. Anthony Perkins and Barbara Tinhorn
Candida Hunter, Vice Chair; Omaovensi Coochwytewa; Darren Hudak; Charlene Imus and Sandra Irwin participated telephonically

Members Absent
Reverend Pete Imus, Chair; and Lucille Watahomigie

Vice Chair Hunter called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Possible Approval of April 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to approve the April 9, 2014 meeting minutes. Member Irwin seconded the motion. Member Tinhorn abstained, and the motion passed unanimously among the voting members.

Call to the Public
There were no responses to the call to the public.

Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements
Vice Chair Hunter announced the Back to School Bash is scheduled August 1, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Community Outreach Coordinator Erin Taylor will participate, as will Indian Health Services who will provide fluoride treatments and exams.

Possible Approval of FY 2015 Grant Renewal Recommendations
Regional Director Ashley Pascual reviewed the renewal recommendations for grant agreements in Fiscal Year 2015. Both the Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program for Home Visitation and the St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance's Food Box Program for Food Security are family support strategies recommended for renewal. Senior Regional Director Gary Arnold reviewed the Conflict of Interest statute, but no conflicts were declared by any of the Regional Council Members. Vice Chair Hunter made a motion to renew the Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program for Home Visitation and the St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance's Food Box Program for Food Security. Member Tinhorn seconded the motion. Member Coochwytewa abstained, and the motion passed unanimously among the voting members.

Possible Approval of New FY 2015 Grant Agreement Recommendation
Director Pascual reviewed the proposed native language preservation grant agreement. Director Pascual announced that staff has evaluated the application and is recommending approval. There was some discussion about the Tribal Council or other entities partnering on the native language preservation project to provide funding into the future. Member Irwin made a motion to approve the government agreement for Native Language Preservation for Fiscal Year 2015. Dr. Perkins seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT

Nomination and Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2015

Vice Chair Hunter opened nominations for the Hualapai Tribe Regional Council officers for Fiscal Year 2015. Member Irwin nominated Vice Chair Hunter for Chair. Member Tinhorn seconded the nomination. Vice Chair Hunter abstained, and the motion passed unanimously among the voting members. Dr. Perkins nominated Member Hudak for Vice Chair. Member Irwin seconded the nomination. Member Hudak abstained, and the motion passed unanimously among the voting members.

Parent Awareness and Community Outreach Report

Coordinator Taylor reviewed the outreach report, highlighting the recent Academic Fun Night. A Young Children's Health Fair was held during Week of the Young Child, and many children and parents participated in the collaborative event. There will be a community forum in the multipurpose Tuesday, May 20 at 8:30 a.m. to brainstorm ideas to improve the future for children in the region. Director Pascual added that the Cultural Resources Department, Chair Imus and staff provided ScienceNews.org pictures and a description of the native language preservation project, and one of the pictures will be used for the cover photo.

Regional Director's Report

Director Pascual announced that a teacher scholarship forum was being held in Mohave Valley to hear feedback on a program design for teacher scholarships for Fiscal Year 2016; the community gathering for community input on improving early childhood experiences in the region will be May 20, and the state board forum with regional councils from Hualapai, La Paz/Mohave and Colorado River Indian Tribes will be May 22, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. She noted there is not a Regional Council meeting scheduled for June, and the July meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m., with the new chair and vice chair in place. Director Pascual announced that Sam Leyvas is the new Chief Executive Officer. She also announced this year's Tribal Consultation planning is underway, and it will be held in the summer.

Summary and Discussion of May 2014 FTF Leadership Forum Topics

Director Pascual provided an update on the leadership forum, which is a forum for all of the Regional Council Chairs and Vice-Chairs to have open dialogue with Board Members. Director Pascual noted that discussion groups were focused on the finance policy recommendation for sustainability and ideas for public/private partnerships.

Next Meeting

Vice Chair Hunter reminded the regional council of the next meeting, which will be held July 9, 2014, at the new meeting time of 3:00 p.m. The July 9, 2014, meeting location is the Cultural Resources Department (confirmed following the adjournment of the meeting).

Adjourn

Vice Chair Hunter adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY: **APPROVED BY:**

_____ _____

Sandy Smith, Administrative Assistant **Candida Hunter, Vice Chair**

DRAFT

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

HUALAPAI TRIBE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
SFY 2014 Contract Detail Report

	Grantee Name	Contract Number	Contract Period	Total Allotment	Awarded	YTD Expense	Expense Variance	% of Award Expended	% of Allotment Expended	Reimbursement Activity	
										Pending	Paid (Last 30 Days)
Evaluation	**Statewide Evaluation**		**Strategy Subtotal:**	**$2,633**	**$2,633**	**$2,633**	**-**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**		
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	PSC-STATE-14-0669-01	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		$2,633	$2,633	-	100.0%			
			Goal Area Subtotal:	**$2,633**	**$2,633**	**$2,633**	**-**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**		
Family Support	**Food Security**		**Strategy Subtotal:**	**$5,831**	**$5,831**	**$3,326**	**$2,505**	**57.0%**	**57.0%**		**$2,097**
	St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance	GRA-RC025-14-0605-01	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		$5,831	$3,326	$2,505	57.0%			$2,097
	Home Visitation		**Strategy Subtotal:**	**$104,861**	**$104,861**	**$52,431**	**$52,431**	**50.0%**	**50.0%**		
	Hualapai Tribe	GRA-RC025-13-0491-01-Y2	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		$104,861	$52,431	$52,431	50.0%			
	Native Language Preservation		**Strategy Subtotal:**	**$0**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**0.0%**	**0.0%**		
					-	-	-	0.0%			
			Goal Area Subtotal:	**$110,692**	**$110,692**	**$55,757**	**$54,936**	**50.4%**	**50.4%**		**$2,097**
Professional Development	**Scholarships TEACH**		**Strategy Subtotal:**	**$6,600**	**$6,600**	**$1,201**	**$5,399**	**18.2%**	**18.2%**		**$145**
	Association for Supportive Child Care	FTF-STATE-13-0350-01-Y2	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		$6,600	$1,201	$5,399	18.2%			$145
			Goal Area Subtotal:	**$6,600**	**$6,600**	**$1,201**	**$5,399**	**18.2%**	**18.2%**		**$145**
Quality and Access	**Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense**		**Strategy Subtotal:**	**$30,293**	**$30,293**	**$27,378**	**$2,915**	**90.4%**	**90.4%**		
	Hualapai Tribe	GRA-RC025-14-0645-01	08/01/2013-02/28/2014		$30,293	$27,378	$2,915	90.4%			
			Goal Area Subtotal:	**$30,293**	**$30,293**	**$27,378**	**$2,915**	**90.4%**	**90.4%**		
			Overall Total:	**$150,218**	**$150,218**	**$86,969**	**$63,249**	**57.9%**	**57.9%**		**$2,242**

Last Processed:
6/27/2014 1:10:39 PM

Data Reports

Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council **Fiscal Year:** 2014

Instructions for interpreting data report fields:

***Quarterly Data Submission Status**

Quarterly Data Submission Status is not a strategy-specific data field. This is a FTF designated field in a report that indicates within a quarter the number of months of data that were submitted for a single contract out of the three mandatory months for the quarter.

0 = 0 months out of 3 months of data for this quarter were submitted.

Note:

No strategy-specific data fields will be displayed for a contract with a "0" Quarterly Data Submission Status

1 = 1 month out of 3 months of data for this quarter were submitted

2 = 2 months out of 3 months of data for this quarter were submitted

3 = 3 months out of 3 months of data for this quarter were submitted

Note:

A Quarterly Data Submission Status of "0" may be assigned in the following scenarios:

(a) The grantee did not set their PGMS data submission status to "complete" or did not submit data via other acceptable file transfer protocols

(b) The grantee signed their contract only one month prior to the end of the quarter and data submission is not applicable until the following quarter

(c) The contract's strategy-specific data reporting requirements may not be available and/or no training on data submission has taken place

****Contracted Service Units**

Contracted Service Units only appear for a contract's lead strategy

Instructions for reading null and zero as data field values:

Blank data field = A null data field appears if the grantee selected "NA (Not Applicable)" when given a YES/NA option on their data reporting template indicating the specific data field(s) are not a part of their contract

0 = Grantee selected "No" in a YES/NO option on their data reporting template indicating the specific data field(s) were not collected for the quarter

0 = Grantee reported "0" on their data reporting template indicating the specific data field(s) were not collected for the quarter

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

Data Reports

Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council **Fiscal Year:** 2014

Birth to Five Helpline

Contract Number/ Grantee Name	Data Field	Contracted Service Units**	First Fiscal Quarter (July-Sept)	Second Fiscal Quarter (Oct-Dec)	Third Fiscal Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Fourth Fiscal Quarter (Apr-Jun)	Fiscal YTD Total
FTF-STATE-13-0351-01-Y2 / Southwest Human Development	Number of new callers				1		
	Number of repeat callers				0		
	Number of calls received (new and repeat)	0			1		1
	Number of new calls from parent, caregiver, or family with children (0-5 yrs)				0		
	Number of new calls from other callers				1		
	Number of callers referred for follow-up service				0		
	Number of callers reporting receiving appropriate follow-up or service				0		

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

Data Reports

Attachment 03

Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council **Fiscal Year:** 2014

Food Security

Contract Number/ Grantee Name	Data Field	Contracted Service Units**	First Fiscal Quarter (July-Sept)	Second Fiscal Quarter (Oct-Dec)	Third Fiscal Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Fourth Fiscal Quarter (Apr-Jun)	Fiscal YTD Total
GRA-RC025-14-0605-01 / St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance	Quarterly Data Submission Status*		3	3	3		
	Number of food boxes distributed	600	85	149	91		325
	Number of families who received food boxes		85	149	91		
	Number of children (0-5 yrs) in families who received food boxes		134	237	144		
	Number of families who received other items		0	0	0		
	Number of children (0-5 yrs) in families who received other items		0	0	0		

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

Data Reports

Attachment 03

Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council **Fiscal Year:** 2014

Home Visitation

A data field is flagged in grey for a SFY quarter:
Home visitor caseload for the quarter – when the ratio of home visitors to families served is above 1:20.
Staff turnover for the quarter – when the staff turnover is above 20% (from one quarter to the next).

Contract Number/ Grantee Name	Data Field	Contracted Service Units**	First Fiscal Quarter (July-Sept)	Second Fiscal Quarter (Oct-Dec)	Third Fiscal Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Fourth Fiscal Quarter (Apr-Jun)	Fiscal YTD Total
GRA-RC025-13-0491-01-Y2 / Hualapai Tribe	Quarterly Data Submission Status*		3	3	3		
	Number of families newly enrolled during the quarter		0	4	4		
	Number of families served	30	9	13	17		17
	Number of families at the end of the quarter (subtracting disenrolled)		9	13	17		
	Number of families continuing to receive services who have moved out of the region during the quarter		0	0	0		
	Number of families disenrolled during the quarter		0	0	0		
	Number of full time equivalent (FTE) home visitors at the end of the quarter		0.0	2.0	1.0		
	Home visitor caseload for the quarter		0.0	6.5	17.0		
	Staff turnover for the quarter		0	0	50.0%		
	Family turnover for the quarter		0	0	0		
	Families disenrolled due to moving		0	0	0		
	Families disenrolled due to unable to locate		0	0	0		
	Number of children newly enrolled during the quarter		0	4	4		
	Number of children served		13	17	21		
	Number of families who received community based referrals		0	98	51		

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

Data Reports

Attachment 03

Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council **Fiscal Year:** 2014

Scholarships TEACH - All

A data field is flagged in grey for a SFY quarter:
T.E.A.C.H. Scholar Turnover – when the student turnover (sum of AA withdrawn, BA withdrawn and CDA withdrawn) is above 15% of the total Scholars Currently Receiving T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship.

Contract Number/ Grantee Name	Data Field	Contracted Service Units**	First Fiscal Quarter (July-Sept)	Second Fiscal Quarter (Oct-Dec)	Third Fiscal Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Fourth Fiscal Quarter (Apr-Jun)	Fiscal YTD Total
FTF-STATE-13-0350-01-Y2 / Association for Supportive Child Care	AA Degrees Completed Contract to Date		0	0	0		
	CDA Credentials Completed Contract to Date		0	0	0		
	BA Degrees Completed Contract to Date		0	0	0		
	AA Degrees Completed		0	0	0		
	CDA Credentials Completed		0	0	0		
	BA Degrees Completed		0	0	0		
	AA Credits Completed		0	0	0		
	AA Contracts Completed		0	0	0		
	AA Withdrawn		0	0	0		
	AA Contracts Initiated		0	0	0		
	AA Scholarships Awarded		0	0	0		
	CDA Scholarships Withdrawn		0	0	0		
	CDA Contracts Initiated		0	0	0		
	CDA Scholarships Currently Awarded		0	0	0		
	Scholars Currently Receiving T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship		0	0	0		
	AA Applications Pending		1	1	1		

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

Data Reports

Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council **Fiscal Year:** 2014

Scholarships TEACH - Regional

A data field is flagged in grey for a SFY quarter:
T.E.A.C.H. Scholar Turnover – when the student turnover (sum of AA withdrawn, BA withdrawn and CDA withdrawn) is above 15% of the total Scholars Currently Receiving T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship.

Contract Number/ Grantee Name	Data Field	Contracted Service Units**	First Fiscal Quarter (July-Sept)	Second Fiscal Quarter (Oct-Dec)	Third Fiscal Quarter (Jan-Mar)	Fourth Fiscal Quarter (Apr-Jun)	Fiscal YTD Total
FTF-STATE-13-0350-01-Y2 / Association for Supportive Child Care	AA Degrees Completed Contract to Date		0	0	0		
	CDA Credentials Completed Contract to Date		0	0	0		
	BA Degrees Completed Contract to Date		0	0	0		
	AA Degrees Completed		0	0	0		
	CDA Credentials Completed		0	0	0		
	BA Degrees Completed		0	0	0		
	AA Credits Completed		0	0	0		
	AA Contracts Completed		0	0	0		
	AA Withdrawn		0	0	0		
	AA Contracts Initiated		0	0	0		
	AA Scholarships Awarded		0	0	0		
	CDA Scholarships Withdrawn		0	0	0		
	CDA Contracts Initiated		0	0	0		
	CDA Scholarships Currently Awarded		0	0	0		
	Scholars Currently Receiving T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship	2	0	0	0		0

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

Attachment 04

FY 2015

Hualapai Regional Partnership Council
Funding Plan Summary

	Population (Discretionary and "other" category)	Carry Forward	Total
Total Allocation:	**$111,844**	**$29,169**	**$141,013**

Strategy	Original Allotment	Current Allotment Distribution		Total	Awarded	Unawarded
Home Visitation	$104,861	$104,861		$104,861	$104,861	-
Food Security	$2,802	$2,802		$2,802	$2,802	-
Native Language Preservation	$12,750		$12,750	$12,750	$12,746	$4
Quality First	-	-	-	-		-
Quality First Academy	$940	$940		$940	$940	-
Quality First Coaching & Incentives	$1,932	$1,932		$1,932	$1,932	-
Statewide Evaluation	$7,645	$7,645	$6,336	$7,645		$7,645
Total Allotment:	**$130,930**	**$111,844**	**$19,086**	**$130,930**	**$123,281**	**$7,648**

Total Unallotted:	**$0**	**$10,083**	**$10,083**

First Things First
Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council
COMMUNITY GATHERING
May 20, 2014 *8:30 – 10:00 am*

AGENDA

TOPIC	PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED	PHASE		NOTES
Welcome/ Nourishment		**Listening**		We had 15 participants in the community gathering.
Making Connections **Early Childhood** **ACE Study**	To share information on the importance of early childhood and to build on the recent community discussion of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) **<u>Next steps:</u>** *Participants will be asked to participate in a community café-style conversation*	**Dialogue**	**Action**	Coordinator Erin Taylor provided a presentation on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study. Director Ashley Pascual presented the current work and strategies of the Regional Partnership Council.
Community Discussion	15 minute discussions (x3) **<u>Next steps:</u>** *What are the community's strengths and how can they be brought together to support early childhood?* *What early childhood issue needs more attention and who should be informed about the issue?*	**Dialogue**	**Action**	<u>Community Strengths</u> Community strengths noted by the group included the fact that the region has a lot of resources, and the philosophy of a healthy community is beginning to become more widespread. Strengths were also noted in the language and culture, and that outreach is directed at young families and youth. - <u>Strengths can be brought together by</u>: - Raise awareness of all of the resources, and increase the utilization - Have more community meetings and workshops on early childhood - More involvement with Fire, Police, and IHS - Story and reading time with Hualapai books - Use more outlets for communication (existing community bulletins, such as the new school sign) <u>Needs more attention</u> - Information on child development; opportunities for developmental screening; collaboration and coordination for services - Prenatal care is seen as negative - Grandparents raising grandchildren - Parenting education

	In your role in the community, what do you feel is most important to focus on?			- More attention, love, care, affection - <u>Everyone should be informed!</u> - Health and medical providers - Education (Daycare, Head Start, Public School) - Parents and Family members <u>Important Focus</u> - Professional development was an important focus highlighted, especially related to developmental needs of children and how to build rapport and train/educate parents. - Another focus noted was to get the message out that individual changes (a parent, family, or a program) can make a difference for children. - More opportunities for networking are needed. - Many notes were made regarding community-based training on child development topics, such as: physical developmental stages, mental health, parenting practices, substance abuse, services for disabilities and developmental delays, etc.
Harvest	Time for harvesting ideas - participants will share and reflect on ideas from their table conversations (3 minutes each table) **<u>Next steps:</u>** - *Ideas will be collected* - *Action steps for collaboration will be identified* - *2014 Regional Needs and Assets Assessment will provide information and another opportunity for reflection and further discussion and planning*	**Dialogue**	**Reflection**	

In preparation for the Program Committee discussion on May 15th, and to inform the recommendations that the committee forwards to the Board, First Things First convened two significant groups of leaders and stakeholders to gather their feedback on FTF program considerations. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of FTF Regional Partnership Councils met on May 1, and a focus group of early childhood system partner organizations met on May 12. The comments from both meetings are summarized below, and the Policy and Program Committee member survey results are also attached.

Summary of Discussion from the Regional Council Chair and Vice Chair Leadership Forum
May 1, 2014

The First Things First Regional Council Chairs and Vice-Chairs convened on May 1, 2014. The fiscal policy recommendations and the discussion topics for the Program Committee were reviewed with the Regional council leadership and the following questions were presented for table based discussion at the forum:

1) Starting with the fiscal policy recommendations, are there any questions about the recommendations: What they mean/their intent, anything to clarify?
2) Your Regional Council was presented this information at its last meeting, what questions/comments came up and was there feedback on the recommendations?
3) What are your concerns and challenges related to the fiscal policy recommendations?
4) Should the Board provide up-front guidance on how Regional Councils construct funding plans to align funded programming to available revenues?
    a) Should number of strategies be limited?
    b) Are there specific School Readiness Indicators that should be prioritized across FTF?
    c) Should X% of funding have to be committed to the Board's signature QF strategy?
    d) Should only X% of funding be committed to strategies for which other state agencies have primary or statutory responsibility?
5) Should FTF research whether the QF model can be adjusted in ways that lower the cost but still preserve the overall design and policy intent? Example: reducing the number of scholarships made available to providers receiving them by some amount (if that amount were 1/3, a potential savings of $15.7 mil could be yielded).
6) Are there other FTF program costs that FTF should research to see if they can be lowered while still preserving the design and policy intent?

Clarification was provided on how the $126.6 program budget amount was determined; whether discretionary funding would be distributed differently; what the FY16 budget will look like in comparison to FY15; how will allocations be determined after FY16 and carry-forward handled; and, whether there will be a need for a future reset to address future accumulation of carry-forward.

The following is a summary of the comments, concerns and challenges identified by participants.

Comments Related to Financial Recommendations

- Fiscal policy recommendations make sense. It is good that all the regions are going through this at the same time. Overall a reasonable approach to sustain programs.
- Recommendations make sense. It is good that all the regions are going through this at the same time. Overall a reasonable approach to sustain programs.
- Would like to see a gradual reduction in dollars versus a reset in FY16. While the carry forward amount is decreasing, the decline is slow and could justify a slower/gradual reduction in allocations.
- Need to think about what is best for children, not just the bottom line. How is the current work advancing the system, and aligning with needs, and how are priorities being addressed? Discuss prioritized needs before discussing funding. Programs need to be examined for effectiveness of creating system change. We need to move the dial for kids, and think of the big picture, by talking to folks locally and making sure they know what's happening.
- Regional councils were asked to do long-term planning – thus funding has been carried forward to sustain programming through the next three-year funding cycle. The perception is that this planning, and thus regional council efforts, is irrelevant.
- Small regions may not be able to sustain at minimum one program strategy. Will the Board consider any exceptions for small or tribal regions?
- Concern that strategies/programs will not have adequate time to "scale down" with the current timeline.
- How can we continue to address other priority areas such as professional development and family support? How will we support the full vision of FTF, i.e. health, when funds continue to decrease?
- The reduction in the tobacco fund, and thus monies to fund programs, should be communicated and explained. The general public does not understand how FTF funds the work in communities. Too much carry-forward can be attractive to those outside of FTF, who may want to sweep funds to other state causes.
- Concern with public perception of the elimination of funding/programs in the community. There should be communication to all grant partners regarding the fiscal policy and impact. What kind of impact will this have on those relationships? Public relations will need careful attention.
- Would a 5 year planning cycle be more beneficial and provide more stability to grants? Consider making changes to the FTF calendar and when RFGA's are released, and approved by the Board as June decision for awards can be difficult for some grant partners with a July 1st start date.
- The evaluation strategy and funding level needs to be reviewed.
- Will Regional Councils be required or encouraged to supplement their funds with grants or other funding, and what mechanisms are in place to assist with this? Can we look at other taxes to support FTF, such as alcohol, or beer/wine? Can match, other funds or partnerships be added as part of our process, or included in the RFGA, even though it may preclude some entities from applying?

Comments Regarding Board Providing Guidance

- Regional Councils do not want rigid guidance from the Board, as the regions know their communities and should be able to plan accordingly. There is a difference between guidance and mandates. Regional Councils do not want mandates, but want the flexibility to meet regional needs. There should be autonomy at the regional level to address their specific needs and assets.

- Statewide data and information would help regions in their decision making process. Guidance should be the materials, statistics, and resources needed to make the decisions at a local level, not a mandated course of action from the Board.
- There is much difficulty for tribal regions to match up with the state mandates, and would prefer the freedom to design what works best in their communities.
- Decision making power should remain at the local council level. There would be concerns if the Board direction was to limit the decision making power of the local councils.

Comments Specific to Quality First

- QF is significant portion of the regional budgets. The high cost of Quality First prohibits funding in other areas. It takes up a significant portion of a region's allocation.
- The amount of funds being used for scholarships is a concern, when this is the role of state General Fund.
- Pulling out and reducing the number of programs in Quality First does not make sense but the cost is a concern.
- Supportive of QF, but there is a lack of communication on quality assurance, and its impact; is it effective? More communication on grant performance, implementation and challenges is needed for regional councils.
- Need to look at the length of time centers are in Quality First; need to bring new centers in; look at funding current enrolled programs at lower levels and move out of full participation to rating only.
- Quality First needs to be approached as a business partnership, and not as FTF being just the "funder".

Summary of Discussion from Early Childhood System Partner Focus Group on May 12, 2014

First Things First convened a group of representatives of early childhood system partner organizations on May 12, 2014. There were 18 participants in the meeting from 13 agencies and organizations, including community-based, advocacy, philanthropic, and higher education. Several of the participants represented organizations that receive FTF grant awards.

The group was briefed on the recommendations from the FTF Finance Committee to adjust the FTF program budget to $126.6 million annually, a figure which is based on current revenues and will allow FTF to maintain program spending at a consistent level for an estimated 9 – 15 years. The group then engaged in a discussion to consider the implications of these recommendations on FTF's programmatic direction and implementation. Specifically:

1. Should the FTF Board provide guidance to Regional Councils on how to align funded programming to available revenues (for example: identifying Board preferred priorities or requiring alignment to School Readiness Indicators)?
2. Because Quality First is the largest FTF financial investment, should FTF adjust the Quality First model, including Scholarships, to help reduce spending to align with available revenues?
3. What considerations should FTF have when communicating the Board's fiscal and programmatic direction to partners, grantees and the public?

Feedback from Group Conversation

Board Guidance for Regional Council Planning

- There were comments from the group that the FTF Board should provide parameters for Regional Council planning by identifying the most effective strategies and programs that contribute to school readiness, including those addressing health and development.
- The group expressed concern that FTF will not be able to show wide-scale impacts unless there is a focused investment on a narrower number of effective, priority programs that are brought to scale.
- There was strong support for the Board identifying a core group of priority strategies or programs that guide Regional Council planning. One comment suggested identifying a group of programs that Regional Councils are required to fund, and those that are optional to fund.
- Generally, the comments also emphasized the need for data showing which programs are most effective and don't duplicate services, and concern that without this data, Regional Councils may default to funding programs that provide more service for lower cost only because they have reduced funds.

"The investment of dollars is so diffuse. It is hard to describe the role of FTF and where we are moving the needle."

"The Board should provide guidance related to programs that lift school readiness."

"The health care system is rapidly changing and it is good to also prioritize moving the needle in health."

Quality First

- There was general agreement and recognition that reductions in both the number and dollar investment in Quality First Scholarships would adversely impact children's access to quality early learning settings.

  "Reductions in scholarships may have a huge domino effect because fewer kids will be able to attend programs, and without the scholarship revenue base, more providers will close their program, resulting in even more kids without access to a program."

- Additionally, there was a general sentiment that a contraction in the total number of providers participating in quality improvement efforts could threaten progress on FTF's overall systems' building work.
- There was discussion around the idea that scholarships are not the whole story, and that the 10 SRIs provide a holistic picture of other important factors to consider in achieving school readiness.
- Comments also emphasized opportunities to be more targeted with scholarships, ensuring that scholarships are available in high-need areas first, then according to star level. The same comment was echoed related to Quality First enrollment, citing a need to prioritize enrolling providers in high-need areas.
- The group widely agreed that the Quality First model should be reviewed to identify cost efficiencies and how to enroll more providers to bring the initiative to scale while maintaining the high standards. They emphasized there needed to be adequate time for this process.

"We are not seeing enough low-income kids attending high quality programs."

"A review of FTF strategies needs to happen across the board, not just for Quality First."

Fiscal Policy Direction

- Generally, the feedback supported the fiscal direction recommended by the FTF Finance Committee, but there were a few comments about potentially reducing the length of time proposed for sustainability, suggesting that 5- 10 years (rather than 9-15 years) may be an adequate time horizon.
- Several participants suggested that reducing the sustainability timeline could result in less severe spending reductions over the next several years.

"A 5-10 year sustainability plan is more reasonable and still gives time to go after more resources in public-private partnerships."

- There was additional discussion suggesting that 5 years as a "worst case scenario" was simply too short a time horizon for any meaningful sustainability plan.

"We all support a reliable, sustainable, and data-driven decision"

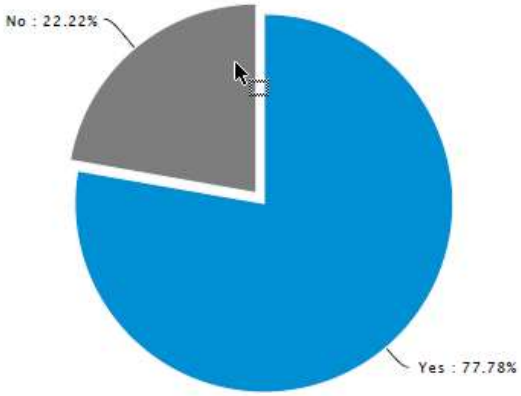
Communication to Stakeholders

- There was a general consensus that the best and clearest way to communicate with stakeholders on these issues is by explaining the overall tightening of financial resources – the steady reduction in tobacco revenue along with the spending down of "one-time" fund balance dollars.
- Additionally, the FTF Board's long-term approach with predictable and sustainable budgeting was thought to be another point to highlight in communicating with stakeholders.
- Generally, participants expressed their appreciation for being invited to engage in this dialogue and encouraged follow up communication where appropriate.

Survey Results from Policy and Program Committee Members in May 2014

The survey was made available to all Policy and Program Committee members from May 1 to 12, 2014, and 16 members participated. The results for each question are graphed below, and any comments provided are listed. (We apologize for formatting errors that appear due to the transfer of online data into this document.)

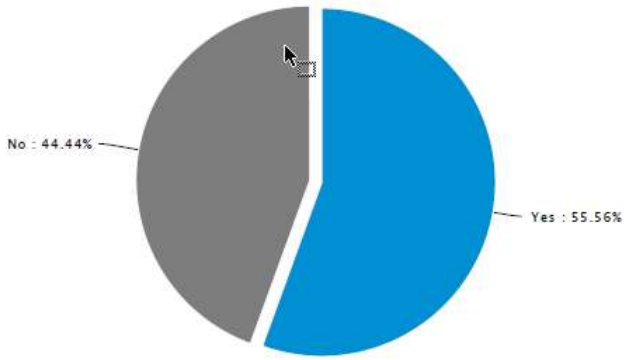
Q1-A: Should the Board provide parameters for how a Regional funding plan should be constructed?



- The Board should provide general guidelines.

- We need to organize the Council's ideas into a systems building effort. Letting all the flowers bloom is nice if you're doing a watercolor painting.
- I believe that parameters are likely warranted. It seems possible that regions may fund initiatives that lack sufficient evidence to be effective, or dilute their funding allocations among too many strategies to be effective at a state or regional level. However, I also believe that these parameters should be limited, and the regions should have some flexibility to address local needs and priorities.
- Parameter is defined as a limit that affects how something can be done.
- If the board sets the parameters then the need for regional input is limited. The idea is for regions to set their priorities.
- I think the Board needs to provide some parameters and ensure that funding is aligned to the goals and the strategies are evidence based

Q1-B: Should guidance come from the Board on how Regional Councils plan to align funded programming to available revenues – for example, Board preferred strategy(ies) or School Readiness Indicator priorities?

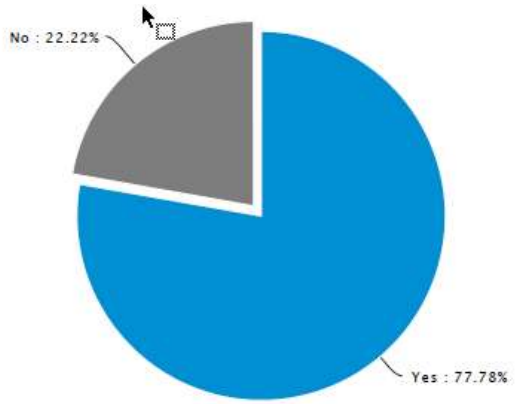


- Just that program funding should align with some pre-established parameters.
- I believe in building a system with certain common features, rules, etc.
- Again, I think that in order to effectively move the needle, some guidance from the Board on priorities or some directive on aligning funding to established school readiness indicators is necessary. I believe that the way that regional councils can maintain some flexibility to meet local needs is by giving them some discretion in identifying strategies to support to address those goals or indicators. For example, one region may want to address school readiness through early literacy efforts, while another region may address it through efforts through some other strategy.
- I believe Regions have different needs and it is the regional councils that understand what these needs are and the BEST way to address them. Should the board make suggestions, educate & inform the regional councils on the various ways they may want to address a certain issue...Absolutely. Guidance is fine...Requiring mandated funding for strategies that the Board

believes are important, with little regard for how the needs of the region are getting addressed, is concerning. I understand the need to prove to the state that our children are indeed advancing...but, a strategy that advances children in one region may force another region to use funds that are desperately needed for a different strategy. In the Board's efforts "to prove we are advancing children's education" to the state, we are losing the focus on the needs of the children in our region. What id one's region major problem is healthcare delivery and not Pre-K, what happens to their children's health, when they must fund Quality First with those funds. Perhaps the strategy should be that each region needs to prove to their own legislators that we are advancing children in our regions. The conversation regarding having us all on the same page is too soon. Let's put FTF. After all, if we lose this regional perspective, you do not need Regional Councils any longer.

- I believe it is fine for the board to share their priorities as long as the expectation isn't to have council fund their priorities if there isn't agreement. Guidance is often construed as direction. Again, if the board is going to dictate funding priorities and how regions spend money, eliminate the regional councils.
- No, I think this should be the responsibility of the council to make the case for the alignment.

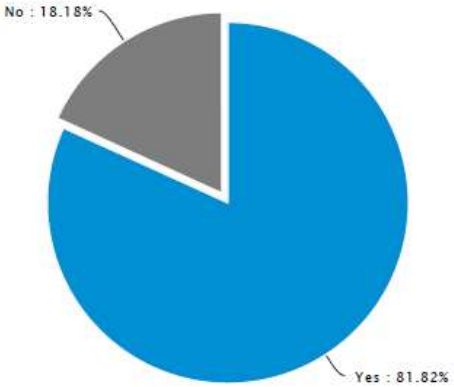
Q1-C: Should all regional councils be allowed to prioritize independent of each other, and/or Board priorities?



- Based on the unique needs of their region
- Again, need to prioritize for the region, but within established parameters.
- There should be specific things that each Council must address. Then x%(small amount) of a Council's budget may be used to address specific needs that may be prevalent and/or unique to a Region.
- I do believe that prioritization by local councils is important. Regions in this state are VASTLY different. A region that includes Scottsdale, for example, may find that quality early care and education is of paramount importance, while a region in a rural or low-income region may found childcare scholarships of utmost importance.

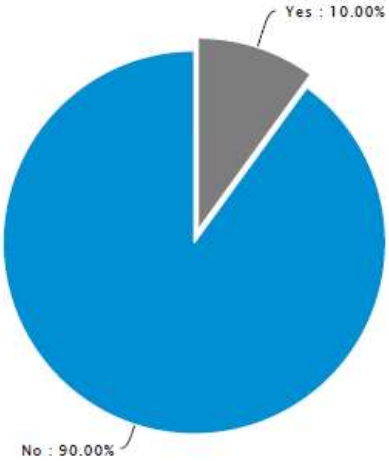
- The whole idea behind regional council was to allow each region to review their needs and assets and set priorities around those. Over time the State funded activities have taken a lion share of regional funding. If that continues than the need for local input is eliminated.
- Yes, but I think the board may need to reduce the priories.

Q2-A: Should FTF research whether the QF model can be adjusted in ways that lower the cost but still preserve the overall design and policy intent?



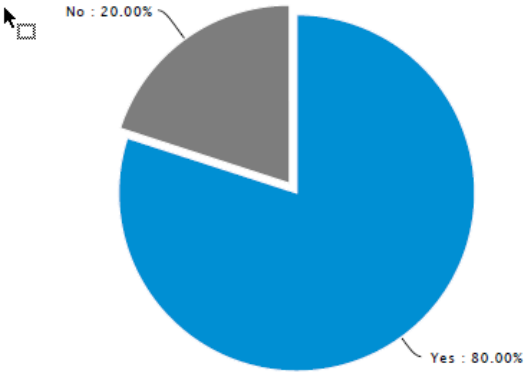
- There are ways other than reducing scholarships to reduce the cost of Quality First. Please talk to Regional Councils, FTF Partners, ACCA and others. Reducing scholarships before DES child care is better funded will destroy the system that FTF has built so carefully over time.
- QF is great for children, teachers, and AZ. However, it eats up a lot of a Council's dollars. Those Councils with low funding levels are limited in what they can fund after QF costs are subtracted from the budget.
- I am very concerned that we are building a "Cadillac model" for child care in a state where access to affordable child care is a major concern. Arizona is a low-income state. While we should never abandon the idea of making sure that all parents have access to quality child care, we also need to understand that affordability should not be overlooked.
- Sure, for the regions that request this. I am very concerned about the overall design for it impacts regions in different ways.
- The challenge with reducing scholarships is it harms families; not necessarily child care centers. Until the DES child care subsidy comes back into play it will be difficult for working families of lower incomes to provide their children with quality care without support. Instead of offering full scholarships to everyone, FTF could provide partial scholarships for families that or in the mid-low income and could afford to pay something each week for care; just not the full amount.
- I think that QF should look at the amount of supports given rather than the number of scholarships. I think the coaching model needs to be looked at and focus on building capacity.
- Yes, lower cost is a concern ...but NO funds should be spent on researching lower cost before funds are spent on researching the efficacy of the entire program. I believe, it is the overall design & policy that have negative issues. Cost, of course, is always an issue, but it is not the only issue with Quality First. I do not think the Quality First program is the answer to the state's "signature strategy.

Q2-B: Should X% of Regional funding have to be committed to the Board's signature Quality First strategy?



- By now Councils have data as to dollars allotted to QF/scholarships and what is actually used by the Region's centers/teachers. Unless there is a sliding scale according to each Council's overall budget allotment, a preset percentage across the board will not work well and result in some unhappy Councils.
- It is not clear to me that this should be a priority for every region. While I fully recognize that Quality First is a top priority for FTF and admire all of the work that has been done to implement this model in this state, I am concerned that Quality First does not necessarily reflect the priorities of families in some regions. For example, in some regions, friend and family care is the norm. I wonder if we aren't imposing a model of center-based care on families and regions that have other priorities.
- This is a yes and no answer. Today there really isn't enough evidence to demonstrate the strategy is having the impact FTF desires. Quality first has strong components to it and if every center could improve their overall quality of care our children will benefit. I am just not confident that FTF has the financial ability to sustain the programs long term.
- In some areas there may not be adequate number of programs to make this feasible.
- As a citizen and a FTF representative in my community, I have had numerous emails & one on one conversations with our local educators about "Quality First". I believe that the Councils should decide their region's pre-k strategy and what amount of regional programming is appropriate and affordable. There is a better way...

Q3: Are there other FTF program costs that FTF should research to see if they can be lowered while still preserving the design and policy intent?



- Determine if another group is already funding the effort in an area.
- Child Care Health Consultation effectiveness in outlying and tribal areas, effectiveness of delivery.
- I would focus on QF and think about a step down model or a "Rating Emeritus" status. Talk to your partners they will have good ideas.
- Long-term, ongoing incentives to 4-5 star centers
- Medical Home projects duplicate funding that health plans receive from AHCCCS to coordinate complex cases. A better approach would be to work with AHCCCS to address issues that prevent providers from providing this service
- I believe it may be possible to cut back on some of the administrative expenses. I think that more consolidation of regions may make some sense. I also think it may be possible to streamline some of the processes. For example, while statute requires regional needs assessments to be done on a regular basis, it may be possible to do full reports every four or five years, with limited updates (to satisfy the law) in the interim. My impression is that FTF is a bit process heavy, and that there are opportunities to streamline in various areas, such as program compliance, the development of regional funding plans, strategic planning, etc.
- Always, FTF board should continue to review how funding is being spent and how it fits into the overall goals of FTF.
- TEACH AZ Look at connecting programs to reduce the number of grantees and cut administrative costs? Look at the community PD offered. Determine the level of quality and maybe focus that.
- Not that I know of...but I am speaking for one region only.

Attachment 07

COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

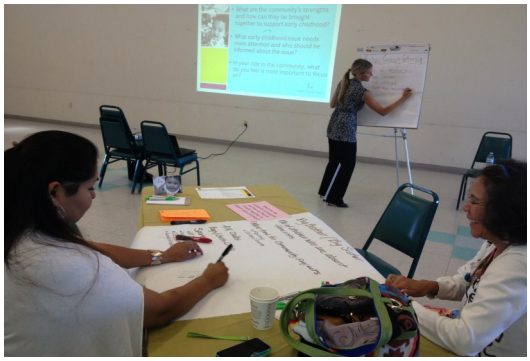
July 2014 *Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council*

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Adverse Childhood Experiences presentation and discussion: What children experience, how it impacts school readiness and life, and how the community can make a change for the future of children; Tuesday, May 20.



Association for Supportive Child Care Early Childhood Conference - Aquarius Casino, Laughlin; Saturday, June 21; Attended by Head Start and Day Care staff.

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 18

Please join us at 9 a.m. Friday, July 18, in front of the Human Services Department next to Peach Springs Elementary School to learn about how the emergency food boxes from St. Mary's funded by the council are helping local families.

FTF will also be participating in the annual Mother-Daughter Retreat from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. later that day at Centennial Park in Kingman. We'll be leading an early literacy activity using the Enrique Feldman "You're Wonderful" song books, which promote reading as well as self confidence. Council members are welcome to join us!

Summertime Tips for Preparing Young Kids for School

- Read to your child at least 30 minutes a day. When reading a story, ask your child, "What happens next?" and wait for the answer.
- Have printed material around your house – the newspaper, magazines, etc. – and let your child see you reading often.
- Take your child with you and talk to your child everywhere – at home, in the car, at the store, in the bank. Make up stories or songs about your outings.
- Encourage your child to draw on plain paper with crayons. Their scribbles are the beginnings of writing.
- Schedule a visit with your child's doctor to make sure that all immunizations are current and also with your child's dentist.
- Make sure your child gets enough rest – eight hours a night is preferred.
- Start the day right with a healthy breakfast – it helps kids concentrate.

Food Boxes Help Families Stretch $$$

Food boxes from St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance can help families stretch their grocery budget.

The Kooyaquaptewa family said their food box, which included melons, grapefruits, carrots, potatoes, pastries and canned goods, lasted their family of five more than two weeks. That included sharing some of the items with neighbors and other family members.

"We get our meat in town, but this really helps with side and snacks," said Lomavuyouma Kooyaquaptewa.

The food boxes are provided through a partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, the Hualapai Tribe and the Hualapai Tribe First Things First Regional Partnership Council.

"This program is to make sure people are able to get food to carry them over until they are able to get assistance, especially in homes where there are little ones," said Joann Whatoname with the domestic violence program.

The food is delivered by semi-truck on the third Friday of the month. More than 600 food boxes were distributed in the region last year. Michael Cox with St. Mary's said demand for the boxes increases during the summer.

"When school is out, parents have to provide what the kids had been getting at school," Cox said.

The fresh fruit provided with the boxes are perfect for 4-year-old Lex Kooyaquaptewa, who pulled a fresh apple out of the box his parents were picking up.

"He likes noodles, grapes and watermelon," his dad said. "It's easy to get him to eat healthy."

Next Delivery Date: 9 a.m. to noon

Friday, July 18 in front of the Human Services building

What You Get:

Fresh fruits and bread.

Commodity box containing canned goods; rice, bean or pasta; cereal; meat meal; pasta sauce and juice.

Case of bottled water.

St. Mary's Food Bank ALLIANCE

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Hualapai Tribe
Regional Partnership Council
July 2014
Regional Director's Report

Executive Staff Update

- Sam Leyvas named the Chief Executive Officer of FTF. Chief Leyvas was the Interim CEO, and prior to that was the Vice President of External Affairs for FTF.
- FTF has posted the job announcement for the Senior Director of Tribal Affairs. Go to azstatejobs.gov.

Board Update

- On April 8, the Board asked the Program Committee to provide recommendations on how regional councils construct funding plans, possible adjustments to the Quality First model, and other program costs that FTF should research to see if they can be lowered.
- After final discussion was held on June 16, the Policy and Program Committee recommends:
  - Regional Councils construct strategic funding plans based on an examination of available data to determine local needs; prioritization of needs that also align with the Regional Council's identified School Readiness Indicators; and, selection and development of evidence-based or evidence-informed funded and non-funded approaches that reflect system building to address those needs.
  - FTF separate Quality First improvement model costs from scholarship costs, provide no further guidance on number of regional scholarships funded, see no reduction to the number of providers and provide incentives to 3-5 star quality first sites with FTF staff to determine the exact amount of those incentives.
  - FTF continue to identify approaches that are evidence-based or evidence-informed; realize cost efficiencies; and, utilize data for continuous quality improvement of programs and strategies.
- Janice Decker will serve as Board Chair, and Dr. Pamela Powell will continue as Vice-Chair.

Regional Updates

- Special thanks to Chair Hunter and Vice-Chair Hudak for serving on the Nominating Committee. The following Members were reappointed for new four-year terms beginning July 1st: Members At-Large Charlene Imus and Barbara Tinhorn, Educator Lucille Watahomigie, Parent Representative Omaovensi Coochwytewa, and School Administrator Anthony Perkins.
- Presentation made to parents and staff at Hualapai Day Care on June 26th, and received requests for future trainings and interest in Quality First!
- On the agenda to present an update to Hualapai Tribal Council on July 2nd.

Upcoming Events

July 18: Food Security Strategy Site Visit, 9am, Hualapai Human Services

July 18: Hualapai Mother/Daughter Retreat, 10am-3pm, Kingman Centennial Park

July 30: New Regional Council Member Orientation, 10:00am-3:00pm, CRIT Family Activity Center

August 13: Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council Meeting, 3pm, Hualapai Health Education & Wellness Center

August 18-19: 2014 First Things First Early Childhood Summit, Phoenix Convention Center

FIRST THINGS FIRST

1979 McCulloch Boulevard, Suite 106
Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403
Phone: 928.854.8732
Fax: 928.854.8742
www.azftf.gov

Chair
Rev. Pete Imus

Vice Chair
Candida Hunter

Members
Omaovensi Coochwytewa
Darren Hudak
Charlene Imus
Sandra Irwin
Dr. Anthony Perkins
Barbara Tinhorn
Lucille Watahomigie
Vacant
Vacant

June 27, 2014

The Honorable Chairwoman Sherry Counts
Hualapai Tribal Council
PO Box 179
Peach Springs, AZ 86434

Dear Chairwoman Counts,

On behalf of the First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council, I am requesting to be on the agenda for the July 2014 meeting of the Hualapai Tribal Council to present an update on the Regional Partnership Council's work as we move in to State Fiscal Year 2015.

With your support and partnership, the Regional Partnership Council is implementing five strategies to address the following two prioritized needs: 1) Parent education and access to information, resources, and high quality care, specific to a child's healthy start in life, and 2) Educational and professional development for early childhood providers to provide high quality care and education. The attached document highlights the strategies funded by the Regional Partnership Council for July 1st, 2014 – June 30th, 2015.

I would also like to provide an update on the progress of the 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Assessment, which is on track with the Data Plan approved by the Hualapai Tribal Council in September of 2013. The final draft of the Assessment is expected to be presented for your approval in August 2014.

Thank you for your partnership with First Things First and the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council.

Sincerely,

Ashley Pascual
Regional Director, First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Enclosure: Fiscal Year 2015 Funded Programs

cc: First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council Members

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Ready for School. Set for Life.

SFY2015 SERVICES FUNDED FOR CHILDREN
REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Goal Area	Strategy	Strategy Description	Total Funds Available	Service Provider (FTF Contractor)	Awarded Amount
Quality and Access			**$2,872**		
	Quality First Coaching & Incentives			Valley of the Sun United Way	$1,932
	Quality First Academy			Southwest Human Development	$940
Family Support			**$120,413**		
	Native Language Preservation	Provides materials, awareness and outreach to promote native language and cultural acquisition for the young children of Tribal families. Connects children in tribal communities to their native language and culture in the critical early years.		Hualapai Tribe Cultural Resource Department	$12,746
	Home Visitation	Provides voluntary in-home services for infants, children and their families, focusing on parenting skills, early physical and social development, literacy, health and nutrition. Connects families to resources to support their child's health and early learning. Gives young children stronger, more supportive relationships with their parents through services on a variety of topics, including parenting skills, early childhood development, literacy, etc. Connects parents with community resources to help them better support their child's health and early learning.		Hualapai Tribe Department of Health Education and Wellness	$104,861
	Food Security	Distributes food boxes and basic necessity items to families in need of assistance who have children birth to 5 years old. Improves the health and nutrition of children 5 and younger and their families.		St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance	$2,802