



Quality First Scholarships

The Quality First (QF) scholarship program is one of the many First Things First (FTF) programs created to address critical early childhood needs statewide.

Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) is the administrative home for the QF Scholarships program.





Through partnership with FTF and the providers, VSUW strives to maximize the available QF Scholarship program funds to provide Arizona's children with continuity of care in high quality, early child care programs.





VSUW Staff

Jill Thompson	Project Director
Jon Johnson	IT Business Analyst
Erin Stack	Data Analyst
Kelly Irwin	Data Analyst
Pita Wolford	Project Manager- Providers
Viviana Gil	Accounting Coordinator – Navajo Nation & Teen Scholarships
Alicia Moreno	Accounting Coordinator – New Providers & Pre-K Scholarships
Rebecca Eldridge	Accounting Coordinator – Provider Payments & reconciliations
Dawn Gerundo	Program Manager – Parent Inquiries
Irene Artigas	Program Coordinator- Parent Inquiries



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Overview of FY14

Statewide 26 FTF regions are participating in QF Scholarships

- \$44 million in Child Care scholarships
- \$8.5 million in Pre-Kindergarten scholarships

(Amount does not include admin costs)

La Paz / Mohave

Child Care Scholarships

- Allocated \$340,361 to fund 10 providers with Child Care scholarships
- 78 full-time slots were awarded on July 1, 2013
 - 7 providers are actively using Child Care slots

Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships

- Currently 8 Pre-Kindergarten providers are being funded by \$1,182,600
 - 8 providers are actively using Pre-Kindergarten slots



Requirements

To received scholarships, providers are required to:

- Be enrolled and in good standing with Quality First.
- Keep their allotted scholarships filled.
- Submit online monthly reports.
- QF participants that are enrolled this fiscal year must achieve a quality rating of 2 or higher to receive scholarships.



QF Model Slots

Quality First FY15 “Base” Model Scholarship Slots

	<u>Large</u> 150+	<u>Medium</u> 51 - 150	<u>Small</u> 1 - 50	<u>Home</u> 1 - 10
2 Star	9	6	4	1
3 Star	12	9	6	2
4 Star	15	11	8	3
5 Star	17	12	9	4



Scholarship Reimbursement

FY15 Annual Quality First Scholarship Reimbursement Rates



		1 Star	2 Star	3 – 5 Stars
Center	0 – 36 months	\$ -	\$ 7,969.00	\$ 11,300.00
	37 – 72 months	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,300.00

		1 Star	2 Star	3 – 5 Stars
Family Child Care Home	0 – 36 months	\$ -	\$ 5,625.00	\$ 7,600.00
	37 – 72 months	\$ -	\$ 4,875.00	\$ 6,200.00



Customer Service



VSUW is committed to providing excellent customer service to our child care providers and families.

- Dedicated helplines are answered live
- Knowledgeable bilingual staff members
- Informative scholarship website available 24 hours
 - translatable into Spanish and English
- Multiple, bilingual trainings provided in-person & via webinar

VSUW QF Scholarships Team

Provider helpline: **602-240-6325**
Toll free: **866-973-0012**

Parent helpline: **602-240-6324**

Email: regionalscholarships@vsuw.org
Web: www.azftfscholarships.org

