

Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council
 Parent Outreach and Awareness: Early Literacy Strategy
 Recommendation for FY2014 Grant Agreement

Summary: It is proposed that First Things First enter into a grant agreement with the Colorado River Indian Tribes - Library to support the development of the literacy skills of young children as well as provide parents and caregivers with materials and tools to further support children.

Applicant	Recommended	Program Description & Rationale for Recommendations
Colorado River Indian Tribes – Tribal Library	Funding Amount: \$45,000.00 Funding Period: July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation: Staff recommends the award of this grant agreement. • Brief Description: The proposed program will continue to enhance the early and family literacy services of the CRIT Library and the La Paz County Career Center. The program will expand access of educational services as well as engage rural and under-served families who might not visit the library on a regular basis. It will also impact the bonding of parents and children within an early learning environment. Early Literacy Stations consisting of child-friendly computers, adult and child literacy nooks and software will be utilized to promote the importance of early literacy and school readiness. Outreach activities will be conducted by the Early Childhood Literacy Coordinator with the region's early childhood centers and preschools to educate the community on Arizona's new Third Grade Promotion Law which will begin in 2014. Curricula and materials will be provided to prepare our community's children and families for this requirement. Early Brain Boxes will continue to provide parents and caregivers with training tools and strategies to help infants, toddlers and preschoolers develop healthy brains. The region's crisis shelter programs will also be provided outreach and education on the Early Brain Boxes to ensure the region's most at-risk populations are provided early literacy opportunities. Collaboration with the La Paz County Career Center will allow for the implementation of an Adult Literacy component. The center will expand their adult literacy services within their GED literacy program. The participating adults will be encouraged to visit the CRIT Library to learn about services offered and resources available. Increased literacy skills will allow parents to feel more secure in continuing an education, completing job applications and understanding resource application requirements when applying for services. Most importantly, increasing parents' literacy skills not only contributes to improving their child's skills, but creates personal growth which in turn allows for parent involvement and advocacy within their child's educational development. • Anticipated Outcomes: Early literacy services will support the development of the literacy skills of young children as well as provide parents and caregivers with materials and tools to further support children. The program will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement 24 community events and have 500 children's books available for distribution during events • Provide information on developmentally appropriate learning opportunities that support language and literacy development • Deliver the program at CRIT Library and other locations in the community that are convenient and easily accessible for families • Ensure family participation is voluntary and services must be provided free of charge to the family • Carry out the program model in accordance with the First Things First Parent Outreach and Awareness Standards of Practice • Impacts: The target service number is 500 books and 24 community events.