



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## **COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

**April 29, 2014**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting of the First Things First – Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council was held on April 29, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Family Activity Center at 1321 S. Mohave Avenue in Parker, Arizona, 85344.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Homer at 10:32 a.m.

#### **Members Present**

Veronica Homer, Jackie Flores, Patricia Fritz, Monica Rosnagle, Amelia Flores, Gloria Flores-Lopez, Brad Sale

#### **Members Absent**

Dru Waggoner, Arlinda Setoyant

#### **Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2014**

**A motion was made by Member A. Flores to approve the February 25, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Member J. Flores. The motion passed unanimously by Members present.**

#### **FY 2014 Implementation Update (Attachments 02a- 02b)**

Regional Director, Ashley Pascual, provided the Regional Council with an updated financial report. Regional Director Pascual informed the Regional Council that the CRIT Department of Health and Social Services has received another \$15,000.00 deliverable reimbursement bringing their expenditures to 50 percent of their awarded funds.

Regional Director Pascual provided the Regional Council with highlights from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Grantee Narrative Reports. Chair Homer asked Director Pascual about the status of the hiring of a staff person for the Nutrition, Obesity, and Physical Activity grant. Director Pascual stated she had spoken with the Director and the intent was to hire a staff person at the end of April. Director Pascual will follow up on the item.

#### **FY 2015 Grant Renewal Recommendations ( Attachment 03)**

Regional Director Pascual provided the Regional Council with the Renewal recommendations for FY 2015 which will begin on July 1, 2014. The Regional Council Recommendations will be presented to the State Board for their approval at the June board meeting. Recommendation is considered through the first and second quarter grantee data, the updated financial reports, additional information from narrative reporting, and the renewal package that all grantees responded to.

Member Flores-Lopez also asked for clarification on unspent Grantee funds being rolled over. Regional Director Pascual stated the funds are not rolled over for the Grantee but do stay within the Regional Council's budget.

**A motion was made by Member A. Flores to approve the Fiscal Year 2015 Grant Renewal Recommendations for the Parent Outreach and Awareness grant with C.R.I.T. Department of Health and Social Services, Parent Outreach and Awareness grant with C.R.I.T. Library, and Nutrition, Obesity Prevention and Physical Activity grant with C.R.I.T. Department of Health and Social Services. The motion was seconded by Member Flores-Lopez. The motion passed unanimously by Members present.**



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## **FY 2016-FY 2018 Strategic Planning Discussion Continued (Attachment 04)**

Regional Director Pascual provided the Regional Council with the Finance Committee's Recommendation to the Board – Summary, Sustaining Arizona's Commitment to Young Kids, for the Regional Council to discuss and provide feedback on. Director Pascual added that the Finance Recommendation will be a discussion item on the agenda for the Chairs and Vice-Chairs Leadership Forum in Phoenix on May 1, 2014, and Chair Homer is attending. The feedback will be provided to the State Board at the June meeting.

Chair Homer raised her concern that the finance committee's recommendation is taking away from local decision making. The Regional Council agreed and Chair Homer declared to bring that concern forward during the Leadership Forum.

The Regional Council had some discussion and the following concerns were brought up during the presentation:

- Member Rosnagle and Member Fritz stated they feel transportation is a major issue as to why people are unable to attend the available workshops and would like to see more collaboration to remove the transportation barrier so that the funded programs would be more successful in reaching participants and utilizing the funds.
- Member Flores stated that the Regional Council needs to look carefully at utilizing the carry forward dollars in the regional budget.
- Chair Homer acknowledged Sylvia Homer, C.R.I.T. Tribal Council Vice-Chairwoman, and invited her comments on the discussion. CRIT Vice-Chairwoman Homer stated that programs working with CRIT Department of Health and Social Services and the Library need to increase advertising efforts and coordinate with other events taking place in the community.

## **Gila River Indian Community Court Team Coordination Presentation (Attachment 5)**

Regional Director Ashley Pascual introduced Cathy Thornton-Brown, Regional Director for the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Regional Partnership Council. Regional Director Thornton-Brown presented to the Regional Council on the Gila River Indian Community Court Team Coordination – Children in Crisis effort of the GRIC Regional Partnership Council. Regional Director Thornton-Brown and the Regional Council will meet with the Tribal Council two times a year; during these meetings they will share findings from the Needs and Assets Assessment. The GRIC Court Team, tasked with making recommendations for improving the child welfare system, consists of the Juvenile Court Judge, Child Protective Services, Social Services, Women Infant & Children, Behavioral Health Services, Health Care providers, Head Start, Child Care providers, and an elder, and recently, the group created a child's passport as a way of providing consistent information to foster parents; and a checklist for the judge to make sure children are receiving all required screenings.

## **Parent Outreach and Community Awareness Update**

Community Outreach Coordinator, Erin Taylor, provided a presentation to the Regional Council on the community outreach and media activities occurring in the region over the last two months.

## **Director's Report**

Regional Director Pascual reviewed the information in the Regional Director's Report, including the recognition of significant anniversaries for Regional Council Members, and reminded the Regional Council of upcoming events.

## **Call to the Public**

There was no response to the Call to the Public.

## **Regional Partnership Council Member Announcements**

Member J. Flores announced the C.R.I.T. Head Start Promotion Ceremony will be held at Blue Water Resort and Casino Amphitheater on May 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment**

**Member Rosnagle made a motion to adjourn at 12:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Member A. Flores. The motion passed unanimously by members present.**

---

Veronica Homer, Chair  
Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council

---

Bylli Esquerro, Administrative Assistant II

DRAFT



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

**ACTION ITEM:** 2014 (Fiscal Year 2015) Regional Needs and Assets

**BACKGROUND:** First Things First conducts Regional Needs and Assets Assessments every two years, which are required to be submitted to the State Board by September 1 of every even-numbered year. First Things First works through the Arizona State Procurement System to contract with vendors from the approved list. The Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council has selected the University of Arizona – Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences for years 2010, 2012, and 2014.

For the 2014 report, the following has occurred:

August 2013- the Work Plan and Timeline was approved by the Regional Partnership Council;

October 2013- the Data Collection and approval to conduct the Assessment was adopted via Resolution by CRIT Tribal Council;

April 2014- a rough draft was submitted for internal review by FTF staff and the Regional Partnership Council Chairperson;

June 2014- a first draft was reviewed and comments were provided by the Regional Partnership Council.

The Final Draft of the Assessment is presented for approval by the Regional Partnership Council. Upon approval by the Regional Partnership Council and CRIT Tribal Council, the Assessment will be submitted to the State Board.

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Regional Director is recommending approval of the Fiscal Year 2015 Regional Needs and Assets Assessment as a Final Draft, with permission to allow for staff to continue working with the contracted vendor to conduct minor editing prior to submitting to the State Board by September 1, 2014.

---

	Grantee Name	Contract Number	Contract Period	Total Allotment	Awarded	YTD Expense	Expense Variance	% of Award Expended	
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Statewide Evaluation Strategy</b>			<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$13,648</b>	<b>\$13,648</b>	<b>\$13,648</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
	First Things First (FTF-Directed)	PSC-STATE-14-0669-01	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$13,648	\$13,648	-	100.0%	
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>			<b>\$13,648</b>	<b>\$13,648</b>	<b>\$13,648</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
<b>Family Support</b>	<b>Parent Outreach and Awareness Strategy</b>			<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	<b>\$52,500</b>	<b>\$52,500</b>	<b>50.0%</b>
	Colorado River Indian Tribes- DHSS	GRA-RC030-13-0561-01-Y2	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$60,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	50.0%	
	Colorado River Indian Tribes- Library	GRA-RC030-14-0602-01	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$45,000	\$22,500	\$22,500	50.0%	
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>			<b>\$105,000</b>	<b>\$105,000</b>	<b>\$52,500</b>	<b>\$52,500</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	
<b>Health</b>	<b>Child Care Health Consultation Strategy</b>			<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$7,418</b>	<b>\$7,418</b>	<b>\$6,054</b>	<b>\$1,363</b>	<b>81.6%</b>
	<b>Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity Strategy</b>			<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$27,102</b>	<b>\$27,102</b>	<b>\$13,551</b>	<b>\$13,551</b>	<b>50.0%</b>
	Colorado River Indian Tribes- DHSS	GRA-RC030-13-0521-01-Y2	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$27,102	\$13,551	\$13,551	50.0%	
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>			<b>\$34,520</b>	<b>\$34,520</b>	<b>\$19,605</b>	<b>\$14,914</b>	<b>56.8%</b>	
<b>Professional Development</b>	<b>Scholarships non-TEACH Strategy</b>			<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	Central Arizona College (PCPP)	GRA-MULTI-13-0527-01-Y2	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$1,500	-	\$1,500	0.0%	
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>			<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	
<b>Quality and Access</b>	<b>Quality First Strategy</b>			<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$46,625</b>	<b>\$46,625</b>	<b>\$39,264</b>	<b>\$6,884</b>	<b>84.2%</b>
	<b>Quality First Scholarships Strategy</b>			<b>Strategy Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$102,580</b>	<b>\$102,580</b>	<b>\$102,580</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
	Valley of the Sun United Way	FTF-STATE-14-0440-01	07/01/2013-06/30/2014		\$102,580	\$102,580	-	100.0%	
	<b>Goal Area Subtotal:</b>			<b>\$149,205</b>	<b>\$148,728</b>	<b>\$141,844</b>	<b>\$6,884</b>	<b>95.4%</b>	
<b>Overall Total:</b>				<b>\$303,873</b>	<b>\$303,395</b>	<b>\$227,598</b>	<b>\$75,798</b>	<b>75.0%</b>	



# FY 2010 - 2015 Funding Plan Summary

## Colorado River Indian Tribes

### Regional Partnership Council

Allocations and Funding Sources	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Population Based	\$136,247	\$131,304	\$129,215	\$129,021	\$147,650	\$161,664
Discretionary Allocation	\$72,567	\$73,079	\$75,257	\$74,172	\$81,701	\$87,973
Other (FTF Fund)		\$28,787	\$22,232	\$24,145	\$25,808	\$28,038
<b>FY Allocation</b>	<b>\$208,814</b>	<b>\$233,170</b>	<b>\$226,704</b>	<b>\$227,338</b>	<b>\$255,159</b>	<b>\$277,675</b>
<b>CF From Previous Year</b>		<b>\$62,071</b>	<b>\$153,178</b>	<b>\$151,082</b>	<b>\$184,550</b>	<b>\$166,701</b>
<b>Total Regional Funds</b>	<b>\$208,814</b>	<b>\$295,242</b>	<b>\$379,882</b>	<b>\$378,420</b>	<b>\$439,709</b>	<b>\$444,376</b>

Strategies	Allotted	Awarded	Expended	Allotted	Awarded												
Child Care Health Consultation										\$5,040	\$5,028	\$4,802	\$7,418	\$7,418	\$6,054	\$4,940	\$4,632
Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity										\$27,102	\$27,102	\$22,824	\$27,102	\$27,102	\$13,551	\$49,054	\$49,054
Parent Outreach and Awareness										\$60,000	\$60,000	\$49,184	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$52,500	\$106,500	\$106,500
Quality First										\$36,112	\$33,251	\$29,686	\$46,625	\$46,148	\$39,264	\$46,004	\$42,913
Quality First Scholarships										\$121,441	\$121,441	\$87,421	\$102,580	\$102,580	\$102,580	\$171,318	\$169,781
Scholarships non-TEACH										\$1,500	\$1,500		\$1,500	\$1,500	-		
Statewide Evaluation										\$6,290	\$6,290	\$1,246	\$13,648	\$13,648	\$13,648	\$18,979	\$18,979
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$208,814</b>	<b>\$127,861</b>	<b>\$127,210</b>	<b>\$241,304</b>	<b>\$241,043</b>	<b>\$142,064</b>	<b>\$290,636</b>	<b>\$290,623</b>	<b>\$228,800</b>	<b>\$257,485</b>	<b>\$254,612</b>	<b>\$193,870</b>	<b>\$303,873</b>	<b>\$303,395</b>	<b>\$227,598</b>	<b>\$396,795</b>	<b>\$391,859</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$53,937</b>	<b>\$261</b>	<b>\$98,980</b>	<b>\$89,246</b>	<b>\$13</b>	<b>\$61,822</b>	<b>\$120,935</b>	<b>\$2,873</b>	<b>\$60,742</b>	<b>\$135,836</b>	<b>\$478</b>	<b>\$75,798</b>	<b>\$47,581</b>	<b>\$4,936</b>



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## **First Things First State Board Fiscal Policy Decisions Impacting Strategic Planning SFY2016-2018**

**On July 22, 2014, the Board adopted the following Fiscal Policy Recommendations:**

- 1. Allocate \$126.6 million in revenues to support Program spending beginning in FY16, and keep this amount constant for successive years.**

This recommendation was based on the updated tobacco tax revenue projections report provided by the Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business, First Things First could reasonably expect to sustain an expenditure level within the Program budget of \$126.6 million for the next 9 to 15 years.

- 2. In FY16, adjust total financing available to support regional allotments so that each region's projected fund balance (Carry Forward) is part of the allotment as opposed to being in addition to.**

Regional carry forward balances grew significantly through Fiscal Year 2012. Since then, both budgeting and realized expenditures have resulted in the expectation that these dollars are to be fully expended by some point in the next three year Funding Plan cycle (SFY2016-2018). Once these dollars are exhausted at a regional level, Funding Plans will need to be realigned down to equal the annual allocation made available by the Board. While it is projected that regional carry forward balances will be exhausted on average in FY17, each region will hit this "fiscal cliff" at different points in time over the next three years. After examining these regional "fiscal cliffs," the recommendation was that all regions go through the process of realigning budgets to the sustainable expenditure level at the same time (SFY16).

- 3. Set a minimum regional allocation amount of \$100,000.**

Over the last few months the Board gathered feedback on the impact of these finance recommendations, and, a great deal of feedback was received on how relatively small allocations limit programing choices and impact the ability of regions to implement strategies.

- 4. Continue the distribution of Discretionary dollars using the three-part methodology; with part one being modified to align with the Board action regarding the minimum allocation amount.**

The current three-part methodology includes:

- 1) A set-aside (*to comply with the minimum regional allocation amount.*)
- 2) A set-aside to be proportionately distributed (based on total number of children 0 through 5) between the regions which were classified as "frontier communities" under a federal definition related to populations being geographically isolated.
- 3) Remaining (and bulk of) funds be proportionately distributed between all regions based on the percent of children 0 through 5 who are in poverty.

- 5. For population estimates required under FTF statute for FY16-18, utilize the same data as those used for setting of FY15 allocations - 2010 census data and 2010 American Community Survey (ACS).**

This recommendation provides for greater stability and predictability in the amount of dollars available to a region year-over-year so programing efforts can be not only sustained but planned on.



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## **First Things First State Board Policy Decisions Impacting Strategic Planning SFY2016-2018**

For First Things First to achieve sustainable progress towards its vision and mission, it is important to strategically fund programs and strategies that are most likely to have positive outcomes for the early childhood system, young children, and their families. Critical to this process is the identification of programs and strategies with research evidence suggesting a greater likelihood they will have the intended positive effect. Such an approach will likely yield greater results from our public investments.

**On July 22, 2014, the Board adopted the following Policy and Program Committee Recommendations:**

1. The First Things First Regional Councils will 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.
  2. First Things First will 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 programs with First Things First staff to determine the exact amount of those incentives. This recommendation is made with confirmation from the Policy and Program Committee of the importance for low-income children to have increased access to affordable quality early learning programs and the desire that First Things First supports local and state level planning decisions that result in funding for scholarships that provide such access.
  3. First Things First will continue to identify approaches that are evidence-based or evidence-informed; realize possible and appropriate cost efficiencies; and, utilize data for continuous quality improvement of programs and strategies.
-

**Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council  
Strategic Priorities & System Focus Areas**

<b>Regional Priority to be addressed</b>	<b>School Readiness Indicators</b> Correlated to the needs and priority roles	<b>FTF Priority Roles</b> in the Early Childhood System	<b>SFY13-15 Strategies</b>
<p>Limited access to high quality and affordable early childhood education</p> <p>Limited knowledge and awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health</p> <p>Limited access to parent education and information</p> <p>Need for a more skilled and educated early childhood workforce</p>	<p>#/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical</p> <p>#/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)</p> <p>% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being</p>	<p>Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.</p> <p>Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services- Collaborate with partners to support improved nutrition and increased age/developmentally appropriate physical activity levels among young children.</p> <p>Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.</p> <p>Building Public Awareness and Support - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.</p>	<p>Quality First (including CCHC, QF Scholarships, TEACH)</p> <p>Additional QF Scholarships</p> <p>Nutrition/Obesity/Physical Activity</p> <p>Parent Outreach and Awareness</p> <p>Scholarships Non-TEACH (SFY13-14 only)</p>

Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council  
Strategic Priorities & System Focus Areas

FOCUS	PARTNERS	SCHOOL READINESS INDICATORS	IMPACTS ON SYSTEM
<p><b>Early Head Start</b> or other comprehensive home-based early care and family support model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be collaborative effort for the Grant Application and Implementation</li> <li>▪ Quality infant child care is a high need</li> </ul>	<p>CRIT Tribal Council Head Start Indian Health Service School Districts CRIT Regional Partnership Council DHS/ Strong Families</p>	<p>#/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education and support leading to decreased rate of substance use/abuse, especially prenatally</li> <li>▪ Community understanding (especially among the young and teenaged women) regarding infant development and the importance of prenatal health and the early years</li> </ul>
<p><b>Best for Babies - Court Team Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child-focused team for the most appropriate, expedient, permanent decisions</li> <li>▪ Coordination with Mohave County Superior Court Infant and Toddler Mental Health Team</li> <li>▪ Addressing the need for recruitment of Native American foster families (sited one infant being raised in the residential group home)</li> </ul>	<p>CRIT Tribal Council Tribal Court System CRIT Police Department La Paz County Courts CRIT DHSS Mohave County Superior Court CASA CRIT Regional Partnership Council</p>	<p>#/% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognition of the effects of poverty, depression and isolation = community plans for confronting the issues and supporting parents of young children</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infant/Child Mental Health:</b> comprehensive web of support and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Link preventative services for supporting young children and families</li> <li>▪ Promote preventive practices in the community</li> <li>▪ High need for community education regarding Infant/Child Mental Health</li> <li>▪ All areas of health, including Oral Health and Prenatal Health</li> <li>▪ Understanding of Child Developmental Stages and appropriate expectations</li> </ul>	<p>Indian Health Service CRIT DHSS CRIT Police Department Head Start CRIT Regional Partnership Council AzEIP (A to Z Therapy)</p>	<p>#/% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overall better infant-child health and mental health</li> <li>▪ One, comprehensive and supportive community circle that is connected, knowledgeable, and highly functioning</li> </ul>

Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council  
Strategic Priorities & System Focus Areas



La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

# SFY 2015 Regional Funding Plan Overview

August 5, 2014



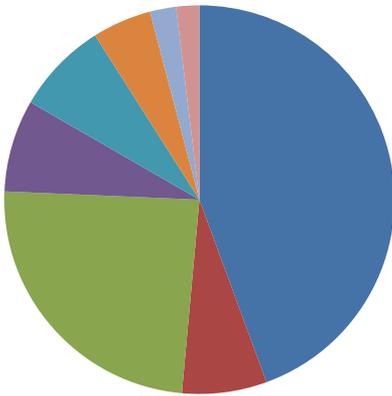
## SFY 2015 Funded Strategies

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

Strategy	Investment	Percent
Quality First Scholarships	\$2,315,821	44%
Quality First Package	\$366,524	7%
Home Visitation	\$1,264,006	24%
Court Teams	\$400,000	8%
Professional Development ECE	\$400,000	8%
Evaluation	\$255,216	5%
Community Outreach	\$113,000	2%
Kith and Kin	\$100,000	2%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$5,214,567</b>	<b>100%</b>

# SFY 2015 Funded Strategies

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council



- Quality First Scholarships
- Quality First Package
- Home Visitation
- Court Teams
- Professional Development ECE
- Evaluation
- Community Outreach
- Kith and Kin



# Strategies Serving Tribal Communities

La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

- **Community Outreach & Awareness**
- **Home Visitation**
- **Court Teams**
- **Professional Development**
- **Family, Friend and Neighbor (Kith and Kin)**



# Questions?



THANK  
YOU!



FIRST THINGS FIRST



# Yuma Regional Director Update



# System Building and Updates

## System Building

- The process has STARTED: 2016-2018 funding plan
  - All Assets
    - 1:1 meetings**
      - Quarterly Reports
      - Needs and Assets
      - Resource Guide
      - Community Leadership and Forums
        - Town Hall Arizona
        - FTF (Local)
      - Work Group





# Strategic Planning for SFY16-18

Regional Priorities, Selected FTF Indicators and Priority Roles, and Strategies to Achieve Outcomes

Regional Priority to be addressed	School Readiness Indicators Correlated to the needs and priority roles	FTF Priority Roles in the Early Childhood System	SFY 2013-2015 Strategies
<p><b>School Readiness – Limited pre-school opportunities, parents need education about preparing children for school</b></p> <p><b>Children w/Disabilities – lack of therapy services, early identification of special needs</b></p> <p><b>Access to affordable Quality Child Care – High Unemployment/ Poverty rates, more/Family, Friend and Neighbor Care</b></p> <p><b>Parent’s awareness of the needs of young children.</b></p>	<p>#/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical</p> <p>#/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars</p> <p>#/% of children receiving well child visits</p> <p>#/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)</p> <p>#/% of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay</p> <p>% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child’s safety, health and well being</p>	<p><b>Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings</b> – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive and affordable early care and education programs.</p> <p><b>Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services</b> – Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families</p> <p><b>Professional Development System</b> – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.</p> <p><b>Supports and services for families</b> – Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.</p>	<p>Quality First (including CCHC, TEACH and Scholarships)</p> <p>Scholarship-non TEACH</p> <p>Inclusion of Children with Special Need</p> <p>Family Support—Children with Special Needs</p> <p>Recruitment Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (SFY13, SFY14)</p> <p>Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals</p> <p>Oral Health</p> <p>Family, Friends and Neighbors</p> <p>Mental Health Consultation</p> <p>Home Visitation</p> <p>Parent Outreach and Awareness</p> <p>Food Security</p> <p>Parent Education Community Based Training</p> <p>Expansion: Increase slots and/or capitol expense</p> <p>Reach Out and Read</p> <p>Needs and Assets (SFY14)</p> <p>Community Awareness</p> <p>Community Outreach</p> <p>Media</p> <p>Statewide Evaluation</p>



## Common Priorities

### Goal: Yuma Children Ready To Succeed In Their Academic Career

Key Words/Phrases: School Readiness, Executive Function, Quality, Access, Professional Development, Collaboration, Early Literacy

**Aligned to:**

**Regional Priority:**

**School Readiness – Limited pre-school opportunities, parents need education about preparing children for school**

**Access to affordable Quality Child Care – High Unemployment/ Poverty rates, more/Family, Friend and Neighbor Care**

**School Readiness Indicator:**

#/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical

#/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars

**FTF Priority Roles:**

**Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings** – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive and affordable early care and education programs.

**Professional Development System** – Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.

 FIRST THINGS FIRST

## Common Priorities

### **Goal: Healthy Children**

Key Words/Phrases: BMI, Maternal Health, Oral Health, Health Insurance, Special Needs, Collaboration, Early Literacy

**Aligned to:**

**Regional Priority:**

**Children w/Disabilities – lack of therapy services, early identification of special needs  
Parent’s awareness of the needs of young children**

**School Readiness Indicator:**

#/% of children receiving well child visits

#/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)

#/% of children age 5 with untreated tooth decay

% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child’s safety, health and well being

#/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars

**FTF Priority Roles:**

**Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services** – Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality care services (including oral health and mental health)and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families

**Supports and services for families** – Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

 FIRST THINGS FIRST

## Common Priorities

### **Goal: Strong Families**

Key Words/Phrases: Family Support, Resource Guide, Referral Form, Collaboration, Early Literacy

**Aligned to:**

**Regional Priority:**

**Parent’s awareness of the needs of young children**

**School Readiness – Limited pre-school opportunities, parents need education about preparing children for school**

**School Readiness Indicator:**

% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child’s safety, health and well being

**FTF Priority Roles:**

**Supports and services for families** – Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

## Next Steps

- Starting our Strategic Planning Process
  - Listen to our community, Include community voice into our strategic planning process.
  - Needs and Assets, include the report in our strategic planning process.
  - Wait for Allocation of Funds From State Board
- Foundation: Collective Impact!**

## Review Strategic Planning

- Key Components
  - Imagined future: What does 2020 look like?
    - Our Vision (Big Picture)
    - Default Future (If we don't have a strategic plan)
  - Identify Assets
  - Build Goals
  - Identify Challenges
  - Create Actions



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

### COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

#### 2014 MEETING DATES **(AMENDED- DRAFT)**

---

*January 21-22, 2014 – FTF Staff presents FY2015 Funding Plan to Board*

**JANUARY 28, 2014**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2014**

**MARCH 25, 2014**

**APRIL 29, 2014**

MAY - NO MEETING

**JUNE 24, 2014**

JULY - NO MEETING

*July 30, 2014 – New Regional Council Member Orientation*

**AUGUST 5, 2014**

*August 18-19, 2014 – AZ Early Childhood Summit, Phoenix Convention Center*

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 (the fourth Tuesday in September)**

**OCTOBER 28, 2014**

**NOVEMBER 25, 2014**

DECEMBER – NO MEETING

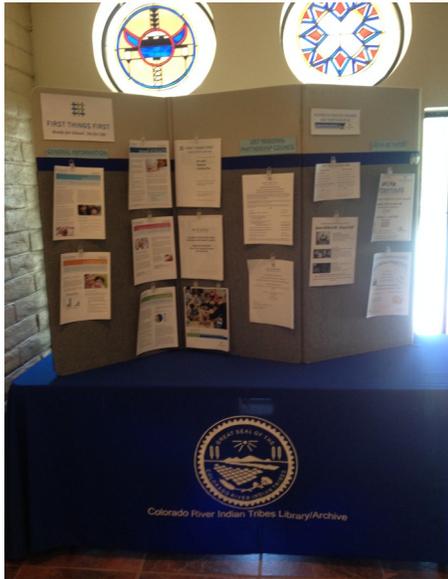
# COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

August 2014, Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council



## FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*



### Outreach and Awareness New Community Message Board at CRIT Library

- RPC meeting notices
- Family guide of services
- General FTF information
- Importance of early learning
- Activities and events

### Colorado River Crisis Shelter Networking meeting

**July 16, 2014**

Featured speaker: Danyelle Grissum, La Paz Career Center: Changes to local GED testing.

Next Crisis Shelter Networking meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 1301 Joshua Ave.;  
Community members welcome.

### Idea to Share: Parent University, Colorado River Union High School District

**Meet your Council: See next page**

**Help me increase outreach to the CRIT Region by  
recommending groups to present to or events to  
attend. ETaylor@azftf.gov**

## FTF Core Message of the Month

**Children who have  
quality early  
education are more  
likely to  
graduate from high  
school.**

---

*Use this message to demonstrate  
how Early Childhood impacts a  
child's future performance in the  
workplace or school.  
Successful people share these traits  
and we want our kids to be  
successful!*

# Meet the CRIT RPC Council



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

Joined FTF: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Council seat: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you join the CRIT RPC Council? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

Why do you think early education is important? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

Contact (phone/email): \_\_\_\_\_

Erin Taylor

Community Outreach Coordinator

etaylor@azftf.gov 928-854-8732



### **BOARD CONSIDERS FY16 BASE BUDGET CHANGE TO ENSURE FTF SUSTAINABILITY**

At its June 10 meeting, the Board held a work session on budget allocations for fiscal year 2016 and beyond. The Board's Finance Committee has recommended that the Board move to a \$126.6 million base budget beginning in FY16. If approved, this change would allow First Things First to sustain spending for 9-15 years. If spending continues at current levels, First Things First's fund balance will be virtually depleted in approximately three years.

During its May meeting, the Board received feedback from the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the First Things First regional councils statewide on the Finance Committee's recommendation. That feedback called for guidance regarding the construction of funding plans, continued regional flexibility, and identification of any priorities of the Board – particularly surrounding Quality First.

The Board asked its Program Committee to review those questions and make recommendations at the June meeting. The Program Committee met in May and discussed – among other issues - various options surrounding regional funding of Quality First.

At the June 10 meeting, First Things First Chief Program Officer Karen Woodhouse described the initial feedback received from the Program Committee, as well as focus groups held with major early childhood stakeholders and First Things First's largest grantees.

Karen told the Board that various themes arose from those discussions that were similar to those voiced by the Chairs and Vice Chairs – including the need to retain local flexibility in funding and the need to focus

funding on strategies proven to improve outcomes for young children.

Karen said an additional theme that arose – and which was discussed at length at the Program Committee's May meeting – was to ensure that First Things First did not lose ground in areas where significant system progress was being made, such as considerable infrastructure being built in a part of the early childhood system or in programs impacting large numbers of children.

Since Quality First is an area in which First Things First has made significant infrastructure investment – and where the services funded impact about 50,000 young children – the Program Committee focused much of its discussion there, Karen said.

In the end, the Program Committee requested additional time from the Board before making its recommendations. Those recommendations are expected at the Board's July 22 meeting in Phoenix.



### **DECKER NAMED BOARD CHAIR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015**

The statewide Board selected Janice Decker as Chair for fiscal year 2015. Dr. Pamela Powell also was selected as Vice Chair for a second term.

Decker said she was honored by her fellow Board members' confidence in her. She acknowledged the contributions made by current Chair Steven Lynn during his leadership of the Board, and said he leaves big shoes to fill.

Lynn, who is often outspoken at meetings, joked that his comments may become even more robust.

Decker assumes leadership of the Board in July.

### **159 NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS APPOINTED STATEWIDE**

On June 9, the Board appointed 159 volunteer Arizonans to serve on the 28 regional councils statewide. Almost 40% - 62 members – are completely new to First Things First service. Most of the terms are for four years, beginning July 1. The

remaining 60% are members who are continuing their service to First Things First.

First Things First is honored that all of these passionate, talented individuals have chosen to lend their knowledge and insight to our efforts.

There are still positions available on some regional councils. First Things First asks all current members to visit [azfff.gov/serve](http://azfff.gov/serve) to learn more and to encourage qualified community leaders to apply.



### LOCAL BENCHMARKS APPROVED FOR 22 REGIONS

The 10 School Readiness Indicators serve as framework for First Things First's work and reflect the effectiveness of funded and non-funded strategies and collaborations built across communities to improve school readiness for Arizona's children. In 2012, the Board approved statewide benchmarks – goals FTF expects to reach by 2020 – for seven of the 10 indicators.

First Things First is working with partner agencies and organizations to secure baseline data for benchmarking the remaining three Indicators. Recommendations for statewide benchmarks associated with those Indicators will be forwarded to the Board as the data becomes available.

Local regional councils were asked to select at least three Indicators to prioritize in their region. The regional councils' three year strategic direction (FY13-15) reflect those priorities. In addition, regional councils were asked to establish local benchmarks that will serve to illustrate the progress the region is making toward its prioritized Indicators.

On June 9, the Board approved local benchmarks for 22 regional councils. The processes used by regional councils to arrive at their benchmarks varied, but all included collaboration with community stakeholders and opportunity for public feedback.

Detailed information on the Indicators and benchmarks selected by these 22 regions is available as Attachment 11 of the Board materials.



### SITE TOURS REVEAL IMPACT OF FTF ECE INVESTMENTS IN COCONINO REGION

Prior to their June 9 meeting, statewide Board members had an opportunity to see how the early education, family support and health strategies funded by First Things First were improving the lives of kids 5 and younger in the Coconino Region.

The Board's tour began at the newly re-opened Pinecone Preschool. After losing their original site earlier this year, the preschool opened at a new location in April, and took all that they had learned as a Quality First participating program to create a nurturing learning environment for their students.

"I have seen first-hand how these monies have helped the children attending my preschool," said Beth Johndrow, director of Pinecone Preschool and a Coconino Regional Council member. "Being a part of the Quality First program has helped the preschool (improve) the quality of care and education that we provide to our families."

Johndrow said the new location has also allowed the center to double the number of infants served by her program, an area of great need in the region.

Board Chair Steve Lynn said he was impressed with the progress the center was making.

"You know a center is providing quality interactions when you can walk through it and the kids could care

less about you – let alone a large group of people." Lynn said.

At Pinecone, Board members also saw dental screenings and fluoride varnishes for preschoolers as part of the region's oral health strategy.

The tour ended with a visit to North Country HealthCare, a community health center serving several communities in Northern Arizona. Among the programs operating at the clinic are the Healthy Steps care coordination program and Reach Out and Read, both funded in the region by First Things First.

Julie Jorgensen, Healthy Steps Program Manager, described how the care coordination strategy takes a holistic approach by "wrapping around a family and making them feel like we are here for them. We're going to meet them where they are, and help them with their non-medical needs and medical needs."

The Board also heard from health center administrators about the crucial role First Things First is playing as a system partner, including how the center leverages funding from various sources to serve more people throughout northern Arizona.

Board member Mary Ellen Cunningham, representing the Department of Health Services, said the system-building aspect of the tour was very exciting.

"It's the first time in a while that I want to stand up and cheer," Cunningham said.

After the visit, Chair Lynn commented on the crucial role that site tours play in Board meetings, giving members an opportunity to see first-hand how the investments outlined in regional council funding plans are making a difference for children 5 and younger throughout the state, especially greater Arizona.



### **KINDERGARTEN DEVELOPMENTAL INVENTORY ON TRACK FOR FY17**

Karen Woodhouse, First Things First Chief of Programs, reported to the Board that Arizona is on track to have a Kindergarten Developmental Inventory available statewide by fiscal year 2017.

The KDI will use multiple methods of assessment to give teachers and families information about a child's development across all domains to inform teaching and learning. The KDI will also provide aggregate trend data to tell us if Arizona is making progress in equalizing opportunities for all children as they enter kindergarten (for example, it will serve as the data source for FTF's School Readiness Indicator 1).

Arizona is part of a 10-state collaborative working on the development of a KDI. The progress that has been made so far includes: analysis of the Early Learning Standards in all 10 states to determine where commonalities exist. Because every concept in the Early Learning Standards cannot be assessed (otherwise the KDI would be extremely long), the participating states are now working together to decide on which concepts within the standards are most predictive of school readiness.

Karen reminded the FTF Board that the state Board of Education will have to go through a competitive process to purchase a KDI, but that the one currently being developed by the consortium is sure to be considered.

Karen said field testing and pilot testing of the KDI assessment system is expected in fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

## NATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Roopa Iyer, First Things First Senior Director for Research and Evaluation, briefed the Board on the recent meeting and recommendations of the National Advisory Panel.

The Panel was originally convened by First Things First in 2012 and made recommendations to the statewide Board on developing a comprehensive statewide and regional research and evaluation framework. The Panel's original recommendations can be found at [azfff.gov](http://azfff.gov) in the Reports and Publications section.

One of those recommendations was that the Panel meet annually to: review First Things First's research and evaluation activities to ensure alignment with the Panel's recommendations and quality standards; review and critique approaches for planned research and evaluation activities; and, ensure that First Things First undertakes high quality planning, coordination and implementation of all research and evaluation activities.

This year's meeting yielded recommendations in a variety of areas including: efficient and effective data collection; supporting grantee capacity building for data collection; on-going development of an integrated database; and continuing to develop relationships with Arizona tribes regarding data collection.

The Panel also made specific recommendations regarding data collection efforts for the School Readiness Indicators, including data related to kindergarten readiness, developmental delays identified before kindergarten, and families' confidence in their ability to support their child's health and development. In addition, feedback was provided on several on-going or upcoming studies, including the Quality First Validation Study, the Child Care Capacity Study and considerations for planning regional studies.

A summary of the Panel's discussions and recommendations can be found in Attachment 9 of the Board's meeting materials.



## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

While most Arizona parents are aware of the importance of the early years to future success, that awareness does not always translate in to the behaviors that promote school readiness. Because of this, all parents can benefit from additional tools and information for promoting their young child's health and development.

Those were the messages that underscored a presentation to the Board of the results of the 2012 Family and Community Survey by Dr. Roopa Iyer, First Things First Senior Director for Research and Evaluation.

Dr. Iyer said the survey provides insight in to what parents and other caregivers know and still need to learn about the development of young children, which early childhood issues are important to parents, and in what areas families need additional support.

For example, more than 1 in 4 parents believes that children benefit equally from learning about language through television as hearing adults in the same room talk. In addition, half of young parents believe that picking up a child under 3 months whenever she cries will spoil the child.

While there were some differences in results based on parents' income or education levels, the results demonstrate that all caregivers could use additional support, Dr. Iyer said.

She added that regional councils can use information from the Survey to supplement the information they

use at the local level to make funding decisions and work at the systems level to impact school readiness for young children.

Dr. Iyer said a report to the regions on the results of the survey is expected later this summer.



### **TRIBAL DATA PARTNERSHIPS GROWING AT FTF**

Tribal data agreements have been a part of First Things First history almost since its inception, starting with the completion of the 2008 regional needs and assets reports that guided the development of the first regional funding plans for FY2009.

Over the years, First Things First's respect for tribal sovereignty, commitment to continuous improvement and our need for reliable data to both inform our decisions and gauge our success have led us to reach out through two separate Tribal Consultations to request feedback from tribal leaders regarding data agreements with Indian nations.

As a result of these commitments, First Things First has been successful in securing agreements with Arizona tribes for data collection regarding two major efforts: the 2014 regional needs and assets reports and the School Readiness Indicators. To date, First Things First has agreements related to the regional needs and assets reports with 15 of the 19 Indian tribes and nations participating in First Things First. In addition, FTF has agreements with four of the 10 tribes that have elected to have their tribal lands treated as a separate region by First Things First. Other agreements related to the SRIs are in various stages of development.

First Things First Tribal Affairs will use the insight and feedback gained through the two previous Tribal Consultations, and the development of the aforementioned data agreements, to finalize the

development of a comprehensive Tribal Data Policy to be completed later this year.

### **PANEL HIGHLIGHTS EFFORTS TO BRING PROGRAMS TO SCALE**

At the June 10 meeting, members of three local First Things First regional councils shared with Board members their regions' efforts to bring FTF-funded programs to scale. The regions shared some common goals – such as the desire to increase early education opportunities and access to preventative health programs. They also described similar challenges, such as a lack of financial resources and transportation issues for families.

Each region addressed scalability in different strategies: for Coconino, it was oral health; Yavapai, home visitation; and Navajo/Apache, care coordination.

The speakers – Dr. Kevin Brown from Coconino; Kalman Mannis from Navajo/Apache; and, Dr. Kathy Watson from Yavapai – shared stories of how the regions are partnering with existing community programs to expand the reach of their services. And, they talked about how strategies like community outreach are helping to bring more local leaders in to the conversation about early childhood investment. They also expressed excitement at building on those efforts to create public/private partnerships that make these crucial early childhood programs available to more your children in their respective regions.

Board members expressed their admiration for the innovative and collaborative ways that local regional councils are working with community partners to bring early childhood programs to scale despite limited resources.

