

2013

ANNUAL REPORT



CENTRAL PHOENIX
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Why Early Childhood Matters

Research shows that 80% of a child's brain is formed by age 3; more than 90% by age 5. Because of this rapid development, what happens to children in the early years lays the foundation for a lifetime. Research has demonstrated that kids with quality early childhood experiences do better in school. They are more likely to advance into college and successful careers. They also tend to be healthier and demand less from the public welfare system.

On November 7, 2006, Arizonans made a historic decision on behalf of our state's smallest citizens. By majority vote, they made a commitment to all Arizona children 5 and younger: that kids would have the tools they need to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.

The voters backed that promise with an 80-cent per pack increase on tobacco products, so some reliable funding for early childhood services for our youngest children would be available.

The initiative also created the statewide First Things First Board and the 31 regional partnership councils that share the responsibility of ensuring that these early childhood funds are spent on strategies that will result in improved education and health outcomes for kids 5 and younger.

Not all children have the same needs; and voters designed First Things First to meet the diverse needs of Arizona



communities. Decisions about which early education and health strategies will be funded are made by the 31 regional partnership councils made up of community volunteers. Each regional council member represents a specific segment of the community that has a stake in ensuring that our children grow up to be healthy productive adults, including: parents, tribal representatives, educators, health professionals, business leaders, philanthropists and leaders of faith communities. The regional councils study the challenges faced by children in their communities and the resources that exist to help kids in their area. Because of all these factors, the regional councils know best what their kids need.

The Central Phoenix region includes most of metropolitan Phoenix.

Regional Council Members

Toby Urvater, Chair

Chris Tompkins, Vice Chair

Rev. Jan Olav Flaaten

Judi Gottschalk

Jessica Jarvi

Nicole McNeil

Jacqueline Schlosser

Karen Stewart

Ginger Ward

Kimulet Winzer

A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR REGION

Demographics

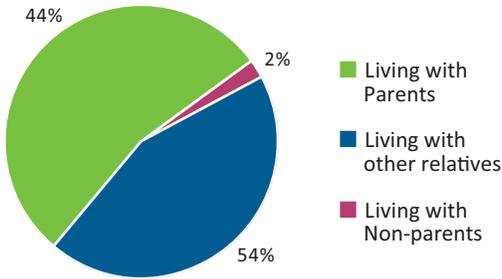
33,891

Number of Kids Under 6 in Region

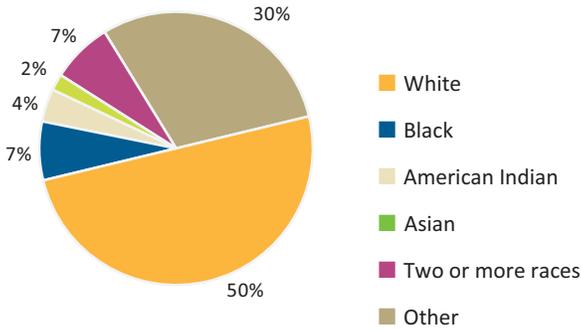
18,860

Households with Kids Under 6

Living Arrangements of Kids Under 6



Ethnic Breakdown of Kids Under 6



36%

Percentage of Young Kids in Poverty

Education

45%

Percentage of 3-4 Year-olds in region who don't go to preschool

16%-42%

Percent of 3rd grade students not passing AIMS in reading

Economics

\$48,410

Median Family Income

57%

Unemployment Rate Among Parents with Young Children

Health

14%

Percentage of children under 6 years old without Health Insurance

68%

Percentage of births paid by public healthcare system

OUR REGION'S PRIORITIES

Research regarding children 5 and younger in the Central Phoenix region revealed the need for the following programs to promote optimal development and school readiness.

Access to Quality Child Care – Research shows that children exposed to high quality early education are more prepared when they enter kindergarten, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate and go on to college. The region has addressed the need for high quality early learning by funding strategies to improve the quality of child care in the region and expand the skills of early educators working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. In addition, the region has funded scholarships that allow more children ages 5 and younger to access early learning programs.



Family Support- The region recognizes parents as the first and most important teachers in their child's life, and funds a range of programs to strengthen families. The programs are voluntary and are offered in a variety of settings to best meet the needs of families – from community-based training for families who were interested in learning more about child development to in-home visitation from nurses for families who face multiple challenges.

Professional Development- The region funds a variety of professional development opportunities to expand the skills of those working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers, including scholarships to increase access to higher education for child care professionals and incentives to keep the best teachers working with our youngest kids.

Health – The health and well-being of the mother is inextricably linked to her child's. The region funds prenatal outreach as means to support at risk pregnant women by providing education and information through home visitation and training sessions; ultimately increasing the numbers of healthy pregnancies and good birth outcomes, and reducing the negative birth outcomes for the mother and the child.

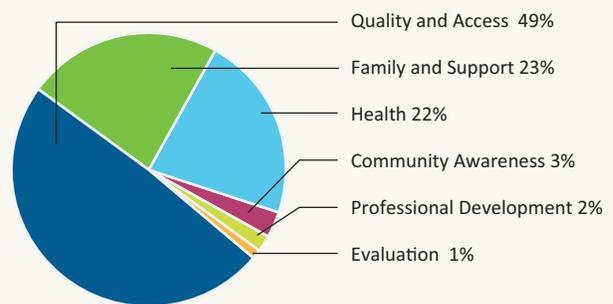
Community Outreach and Awareness: Awareness of the importance of early childhood is crucial so that all stakeholders can do their part to support school readiness. The Community Outreach and Awareness strategy provides grassroots support and engagement to increase parent and community awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.

Financial Report

EXPENDITURES BY GOAL AREA – FY2013

Quality and Access	\$7,151,593
Family Support	3,392,704
Health	3,238,784
Community Awareness	428,123
Professional Development	261,657
Evaluation	99,650

TOTAL **\$14,572,509**



OUR REGION'S IMPACT

Future Looks and Sounds Brighter for Preschool Twins

Sensory and developmental challenges in young children can lead to learning problems later on. If detected early, however, many issues can be corrected or minimized before a child enters school.

Four-year-old twins Drew and R.J. received vision and hearing screenings at their child care center through Building a Screening Infrastructure for Children's Success (BASICS), a program of The Ear Foundation of Arizona funded by First Things First in Central Phoenix.



After their first screening, Drew was referred for further evaluation of her hearing and R.J. was referred for a comprehensive eye exam. Specialists diagnosed Drew with severe hearing deficiency that required ear tubes and adenoid removal. R.J. had near sighted vision and now wears prescription glasses for studying and computer games.

The preschoolers' mother said the issues had not been detected during the children's regular pediatric check-ups.

"I am so thankful for The EAR Foundation and BASICS for alerting me to the problem," she said. "Because of your service, we fixed two major medical problems and both children are doing great at school."

Helping Parents Find the Support They Needed

Denise was very frustrated when she first met with a family support coordinator. She was unemployed and not finding the right child care for her 2 year old son, Jonathan.

Family support coordinators help families in the Central Phoenix Region cope with life changes by linking them to community resources and support. With this help, Denise attended an orientation to obtain job training and negotiated a reduced rate with her son's previous child care provider. The coordinator continues to work with Denise to find additional services for Jonathan – such as a child care scholarship – to help ensure he is ready for school and set for life.

Denise is very grateful and said, "I would recommend this program to others because they help you identify things that you can't see and help you work through them."

361

FAMILIES ENJOY STRONGER, MORE SUPPORTIVE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

4437

PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND CAREGIVERS ATTENDED VOLUNTARY CLASSES IN COMMUNITY-BASED SETTINGS ON TOPICS SUCH AS PARENTING SKILLS, CHILD DEVELOPMENT, LITERACY AND NUTRITION

61

CHILD CARE CENTERS AND HOMES OFFER CHILDREN A HIGHER STANDARD OF CHILD CARE THROUGH QUALITY FIRST

589

INFANTS, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS TO ACCESS EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

1459

PREGNANT WOMEN RECEIVED INFORMATION TO SUPPORT A HEALTH PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

MOVING FORWARD

The regional council will continue its commitment to programs that improve the educational and health outcomes for young kids in the Central Phoenix region, and look for new opportunities to expand those programs.

For example, the regional council acknowledges the vital need for timely and routine dental checkups for children ages 1-5 years old. Oral health screening and fluoride varnishing will be prioritized moving forward to serve young children, with an emphasis on providing oral health education and awareness to parents.

In addition, the region will focus on outreach to dentists to serve children beginning at age 1 to increase access to pediatric providers across the Central Phoenix region.



Grantees – FY2013

- American Academy of Pediatrics - AZ Chapter
- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Arizona Partnership for Children, L.L.P.
- Association for Supportive Child Care
- Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., dba Parenting Arizona
- Children's Action Alliance
- Crisis Nursery, Inc.
- EAR Foundation of Arizona
- Friendly House Inc.
- Homeward Bound
- International Rescue Committee
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- Maricopa Integrated Health System
- Phoenix Childrens Hospital
- Pima County Health Department
- Raising Special Kids
- Southwest Human Development
- St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance
- TERROS
- United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Valley of the Sun United Way

Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council

4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Rana Simms, Regional Director

Phone: (602) 771-5046 | Fax: (602) 265-0009
rsimms@azftf.gov

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Twitter: @AZFTF

Facebook: /AZFirstThingsFirst

www.readyazkids.com