
SFY 2012 Regional Funding Plan

Central Pima
Regional Partnership Council

Date: January 5, 2011
Submitted to the
First Things First State Board
for January 24-25, 2011



FIRST THINGS FIRST

**CENTRAL PIMA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
FUNDING PLAN SFY 2012
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

- I. Regional Allocation Summary (Funds Available)**

- II. Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012**
 - A. Progress with SFY 2010 and SFY 2011 Funding Plans; And SFY 2012 Planning
 - B. Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments
 - C. Changes in funding levels for strategies from SFY 2011 to SFY 2012

- III. System Building Impact**

Section I

Regional Allocation Summary

The following chart shows the total available funds to the Regional Council, by funding sources.

Allocations and Funding Sources	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012
Population Based Allocation	\$7,598,625.00	\$6,247,535.00	\$6,240,596.00
Discretionary Allocation	\$1,972,569.00	\$1,812,025.00	\$1,771,813.00
Other (FTF fund balance addition)		\$1,369,679.27	\$1,212,997.87
Additional Income (other than FTF tobacco tax)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carry Forward from Previous Year		\$3,041,411.47	\$1,937,524.31
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$9,571,194.00	\$12,470,650.74	\$11,162,931.18

Section II

Progress with SFY 2010 and SFY 2011 Funding Plans And SFY 2012 Planning

For 2012 planning, Regional Councils are asked to review the strategies from years prior while they consider direction for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012. At their September 2010 meeting, the First Things First Board adopted priorities as were recommended by the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force. Following is the list of five priorities for First Things First action within the next one to three years. These are the roles for which First Things First will establish measurable benchmarks and devote resources in order to achieve results for Arizona's young children and their families. These priorities are services which could be funded at both state and regional levels. Throughout this 2012 Regional Funding Plan, there are references to these new priorities. They are:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

In addition, the Task Force recommended that First Things First take a leadership role in three priorities that focus on program and process development at the state level. These are:

Early Childhood System Funding – Secure, coordinate, and advocate for resources required to develop and sustain the early childhood system. [This does not mean that First Things First would be the sole funder of the early childhood system, but would take an active role in helping to increase and coordinate available resources.]

Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation - Convene partners and provide leadership in the development and implementation of a comprehensive early care and education system that is aligned both across the spectrum of settings and with the full continuum of the educational system.

Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and implementation of quality standards for early childhood care and education programs and related curricula and assessments. [This is integral to improving the quality of early care and education settings.]

Section II A

The table below provides a summary of the Regional Partnership Council’s prioritized needs and strategies for SFY 2012, as well as information on progress in SFY 2010 and SFY 2011.

PRIORITY 1 : High Quality Early Care and Education						
Description of prioritized value: Access to high quality early care and education programs and settings that provide an individualized continuum of support.						
Strategy: Quality First (Statewide)						
<i>Quality First: Expanding the number of child care centers and family child care homes participating in Quality First beyond the statewide funded number in the Central Pima region.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Centers	25	25	24	24	24	24
Number of Homes	10	10	10	10	10	10
Number of QF TEACH Scholars	55	55	25	55	55	55
Number of QF CCHC Centers	25	25	24	24	24	24
Number of QF CCHC Homes	10	10	10	10	10	10
Strategy: Expansion: Increase Slots in Regulated Classrooms/Homes and Capital Expense						
<i>Infant and Toddler Expansion: Increase the number of high quality infant, one year old and special needs spaces available in child care centers, group homes and family child care homes by providing funding for strategic business planning, renovation and expansion of early care settings.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Centers	8	17	15	10	10	10
Number of Homes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Increased Slots	100	30	0	100	50	175

Strategy: Child Care Scholarships (A)						
<i>Economic Stabilization of Families: First Things First will support working families who are facing economic challenges by developing a scholarship program that will assist families in retaining their young children in their current early care and education program at a reduced cost.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Children Receiving Scholarships	125	Non-Contracted	Non-Contracted	500	500	500
Strategy: Child Care Scholarships (B) (Statewide)						
<i>First Things First Emergency Response Child Care Scholarships</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Children Receiving Scholarships	1,216	1,216	1,216	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012		
Strategy: Other Quality Support						
<i>Maintain Quality of Currently Accredited Programs: Provide resources and support to currently accredited early care and education programs to maintain their accreditation status.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Centers	30	30	27	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012		
Number of Homes	N/A	1	1	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012		

Summary of Progress and Challenges
Rationale for Changes to SFY12
Alignment with Strategic Direction

1. Strategy Success

Collectively, the Quality, Access and Affordability strategies positively impacted thousands of families with young children within the Central Pima region. The regionally funded Quality First expansion of 34 early care and education programs supports their commitment to improvement as they initially committed in Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. In addition, the 10 early care and education programs that have been participating in the Infant and Toddler Expansion strategy continue their commitment to expand quality infant and toddler placements. By the end of Fiscal Year 2011, 9 programs are anticipated to successfully complete the construction/renovation phase of the Expansion strategy. The intent of this Expansion strategy is to increase the number of available infant and toddler placements in the Central Pima region. During the initial strategic planning as presented in the Fiscal Year 2010 Regional Funding Plan, the Regional Council identified approximately 8 programs and approximately 100 infant and toddler placements. It is expected that all 10 early care and education programs will successfully renovate or construct early care settings to create a total increase of 176 infant and toddler placements in Fiscal Year 2012.

In early 2010, the Economic Stabilization of Families strategy was created after extensive Regional Council conversations, workgroups comprised of Council members, cross-regional consultation with members of North and South Pima Regional Councils, center owners and directors and vocal input from families and community members. Central Pima was one of the first regions in the state to expend their allotted funding of approximately \$2.5 million in five months, the overwhelming, unanimous response and recommendation was developing a partial scholarship model that serves more families throughout the entire fiscal year with the following principles:

- Scholarships are based on family size and income.*
- The family's annual income is based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines, supporting families up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line.*
- This program is not intended to cover 100% of the care placement. The family will be responsible for at least 50% of the portion.*
- Maximum number of children/families is allocated per center, per year to participate.*

In addition to offering families scholarships, it is important to recognize families that may need assistance beyond the scholarship, especially during stressful, economically challenging times. A component of this strategy entails linking supportive services and resources with families who may be in more need of comprehensive support that is available through other Central Pima strategies and community resources.

2. Strategy Challenges

In Fiscal Year 2010, the Regional Council approved the new regional strategy, Economic Stabilization of Families (child care scholarships). The Regional Council recognized the needs of families to be swiftly addressed and identified a multi-year government contract to begin in the remaining three months of Fiscal Year 2010 and throughout Fiscal Year 2011. Unfortunately, the implementation timeline was not realistic and the contract was finalized in the beginning of Fiscal Year 2011.

For Fiscal Year 2011 implementation, the Economic Stabilization of Families strategy quickly reached capacity. This caused some frustration for some child care center directors and owners whose families were unable to participate in the program. If the program were to fully expand to the current need, the

Regional Council would have to increase the strategy to approximately 900 scholarships, which would significantly shift the Regional Council's strategic direction, priorities and intentions to build a comprehensive early childhood health and development system.

The Central Pima Regional Council's Infant and Toddler Expansion strategy is multi-faceted and takes measured steps in ensuring the investment of expansion is thoughtfully planned, sustainable and supports movement towards a comprehensive early childhood development and health system. Early care and education providers participating in the Expansion strategy were required to undergo extensive business education professional development, planning and consultation prior to entering into the actual expansion/renovation phase. When the Regional Council conducted their strategic planning in 2008, they anticipated renovation of early care and education programs with an increase of approximately 100 quality infant and toddler care placements by the end of Fiscal Year 2010; however the grant award was delayed and the time necessary for pre-planning and pre-construction phases was not accurately anticipated. Due to these unexpected delays, programs were unable to enter the renovation/expansion phase of the project in Fiscal Year 2010 and 47% of the grant award was expended. Due to the time required for the pre-planning process, the Regional Council recognized the majority of construction and renovation projects would take place in Fiscal Year 2011 and approved \$600,000 from Fiscal Year 2010 carry forward to be placed into the strategy.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

The Central Pima Regional Council will support the 10 currently participating early care and education programs participating in the Infant and Toddler Expansion strategy in Fiscal Year 2012; however the allotment has been reduced. The reduction accounts for anticipation of 9 of 10 construction/renovation projects successfully completed in Fiscal Year 2011. It is anticipated the last early care and education program will complete its construction phase in Fiscal Year 2012. Given the construction phase will be successfully completed, the final phase of this strategy is providing a quality stipend to the 176 expanded infant and toddler spaces for Fiscal Year 2012.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2011, the Regional Council eliminated one Quality, Access and Affordability strategy, Maintaining Quality to Currently Accredited Programs. At the end of Fiscal Year 2010, approximately 28 accredited early care and education programs participated in the strategy, with four successfully achieving re-accreditation in the 9 month implementation period. While the program demonstrated some initial positive outcomes, the Regional Council prioritized needs that reflected more immediate needs and employed strategies that could impact a greater number of young children.

4. First Things First Priorities

The preceding strategies strongly align with the Quality, Access and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings Task Force Priority. The Quality First and Infant and Toddler Expansion strategies are focused on expanding, improving and enhancing the access to and quality of early care and education settings, including a specific priority on infants and toddlers.

The Economic Stabilization of Families strategy aligns with the Quality, Access and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings to address the significant access and affordability issues endured by many Central Pima families. A majority of the early care and education programs participating in the Economic Stabilization of Families strategy are currently participating in Quality First. Not only are families accessing programs committed to improving quality, they are also able to retain their child's care placement that is licensed, regulated and safe. Families have access to resources and services offered through other Central Pima strategies, which is a coordinated and intentional effort to link families who may be in more need beyond the scholarships.

PRIORITY 2: Families Have Access to Comprehensive Education, Health and Support Services						
Description of prioritized value: Families with young children have increased access to a continuum of coordinated, comprehensive family education and support services.						
Strategy: Home Visitation (A)						
<i>Nurse Home Visitation for High-Risk Families: Implementation of a Nurse Family Visitor/Community Health Worker home visiting program to support high risk families, including pregnant women, through home-based support and transportation assistance to at-risk families who exhibit difficulty in getting their children to medical related appointments.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Families	500	500	509*	500	500	600
*Year To Date data was not available in the Quarter Four Data report. 509 families served in Fiscal Year 2010 represent an aggregated number of newly enrolled families throughout the Fiscal Year.						
Strategy: Home Visitation (B)						
<i>Home-Based and Community-Based Parent Education (Home-Based Component): Expand community-based and home-based visitation programs that take a guided learning approach to parent education and support.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Families	125	130	167*	175	175	200
*Year To Date data was not available in the Quarter Four Data report. 167 families served in Fiscal Year 2010 represent an aggregated number of newly enrolled families.						
Strategy: Parent Education Community-Based Training						
<i>Home-Based and Community-Based Parent Education (Community-Based Component): Expand community-based and home-based visitation programs that take a guided learning approach to parent education and support.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Adults	125	755	2,608*	125	885	950
*Year To Date data in Fiscal Year 2010 Quarter Four report represents a duplicated number of families served. Families may attend more than one community-based parent education session.						

Strategy: Early Literacy: Center-Based Literacy						
<i>Early Literacy and Language Coaches: Early language and literacy coaches working in coordination with Quality First Coaches for the purpose of improving children’s language and literacy development.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Providers Receiving Literacy Professional Development	102	102	158	110	110	120
Number of Families Attending Family Literacy Workshops	190	190	190	675*	700*	725*
Number of Children Attending Family Literacy Workshops	N/A**	N/A**	340**	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**
Number of Books Distributed	Service units do not apply specifically to the Central Pima strategy					
*Year To Date data in Fiscal Year 2010 Quarter Four report represents a duplicated number of families served. Families may attend more than one literacy-based education session.						
**Service unit had not been determined at the time of grant award in Fiscal Year 2010. This data was collected by the grantee at end of 2010.						
Strategy: Parent Kits (Statewide)						
<i>Expansion of Parent Kits: Through the two currently implemented Family Support strategies (Home Visitation for High-Risk Families and Home-Based and Community-Based Parent Education), Parent Kit usage and additional resources with localized information will be used as an educational enhancement, implemented jointly with the curriculum used by Family Educators.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Parent Kits Distributed	1,300	Non-Contracted	Non-Contracted	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012		

Summary of Progress and Challenges
Rationale for Changes to SFY12
Alignment with Strategic Direction

1. Strategy Success

The family support strategies represent successful service delivery and coordination. In Fiscal Year 2010, the Central Pima family support partners together impacted almost 1,300 families through parent education in community settings and in-home visitation. While this impact is significant, all Central Pima family support partners have engaged in a coordinated partnership with the partners that carry out the North and South Pima Regional Council family support strategies, which is contributing to building a service delivery system of support and resources for families to seamlessly access. This partnership represents a continuum of support and ensures that all families in Pima County have access to parent education and family support that is individualized and accessible.

2. Strategy Challenges

The Expansion of Parent Kits strategy has been a challenge to implement since Fiscal Year 2010. The original intent of the Regional Council was to incorporate additional, localized resources into Parent Kits distributed to Central Pima families in the Tucson hospitals and birthing center. The strategy was modified in Fiscal Year 2011 after recognizing the significant barriers associated with inserting the localized information into the Parent Kits. Some of the barriers included the process in which the information would be placed in the Parent Kits; how to ensure Central Pima families would receive a kit with the additional information; and how to evaluate the efficacy of the added components to the Parent Kit. In Fiscal Year 2011 the Parent Kit strategy was modified by the Regional Council and was anticipated to be used in conjunction with the other family support strategies; however the modification posed similar barriers experienced with the first and original intent of the strategy. In December 2010, the Regional Council approved elimination of this strategy in Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012.

Some of the family support partners reached full capacity and were unable to serve all families who expressed interest in participating. While families were referred to other programming within the First Things First Family Support Alliance, the most appropriate and tailored program to meet the individual needs of families may not have been achieved for all families. To address this challenge, the Regional Council has increased all family support strategies by 10%.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

The Regional Council recognizes the importance of partnering with families to ensure the educational, health and developmental needs of young children are met. For Fiscal Year 2012 the Regional Council has increased all family support strategies by 10% to allow an expanded service delivery within Central Pima. It is anticipated approximately 215 more families will have access to family support and early literacy programming.

Through the Home-Based and Community-Based Parent Education strategy, the Regional Council designated a health insurance enrollment and outreach component in Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. Due to the significant reduction in funding and Kids Care program eligibility, the Regional Council eliminated the component of health insurance outreach and enrollment. The Regional Council indicated the critical importance of Family Educators and family support partners to continue to connect families with health-based resources, services and supports including education on health insurance options; however no funding will be designated to health insurance enrollment activities in Fiscal Year 2012.

The Expansion of Parent Kits strategy was eliminated for Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012 due to the barriers indicated above.

4. First Things First Priorities						
<i>The above strategies clearly align with the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force priority, Supports and Services for Families. The family support partners provide a continuum of support and referral to myriad community resources that are part of a coordinated and systemic effort, which ensures Central Pima families are able to seamlessly enter, transition and utilize supportive programming that meets the individual needs of families.</i>						
PRIORITY 3: The Health Needs of Young Children are Identified and Met						
Description of prioritized value: Increase the number of professionals to address the behavioral health and early intervention needs of young children.						
Strategy: Mental Health Consultation (Statewide)						
<i>Mental Health Consultation: Implement a Child Care Mental Health Consultation Program.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Centers	20	20	22	20	20	20
Number of Homes	5	5	0	5	5	5
Strategy: Recruitment- Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (Multi-Region)						
<i>Loan Forgiveness for Therapists: Implement a loan repayment program to recruit and retain therapists who specialize in early intervention.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Therapists Receiving Loan Forgiveness	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2010 and Fiscal Year 2011					1
Number of Therapists Receiving Stipends	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2010 and Fiscal Year 2011					N/A

Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success						
<i>In preparation for the Fiscal Year 2010 Funding Plan, the Regional Council extensively researched early childhood behavioral health consultation models and identified the San Francisco Mental Health Model as the ideal model to meet the behavioral health needs of young children in Central Pima. Our mental health partners through the statewide strategy also identified the San Francisco model, which is currently being utilized and implemented. Mental Health Consultants have intensively partnered with early care and education programs to address the social-emotional needs of young children.</i>						
2. Strategy Challenges						
<i>No significant challenges identified, with the exception of the delay of implementation of the Mental Health Consultation strategy, which began in the latter half of Fiscal Year 2010.</i>						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012						
<i>No modifications to the currently implemented Mental Health Consultation strategy have been identified. The Regional Council approved a new multi-regional strategy for Fiscal Year 2012, Loan Forgiveness for Therapists.</i>						
4. First Things First Priorities						
<i>Mental Health Consultation and Recruitment of Therapists strategies represent an alignment with the Task Force Priority, Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services. For young children to enter Kindergarten ready to learn, they must be healthy. Mental Health Consultants and Early Intervention Therapists play a critical role in addressing the health needs of young children. Young children with high social-emotional awareness have increased propensity to enter Kindergarten healthy and ready to learn. In addition, it is imperative for young children with a developmental delay to receive appropriate services, particularly in the birth to three age range, which is one of the most critical time spans in brain development.</i>						
PRIORITY 4: Highly Qualified Professionals in the Early Care and Education Field						
Description of prioritized value: Increase the number of highly qualified professionals to serve all children birth through age five, including increasing access to higher educational opportunities.						
Strategy: Community-Based Early Childhood Professional Development						
<i>Innovative Professional Development: Innovative strategies to support professional development opportunities that bring subject matter experts (i.e. visiting faculty, published authors, researchers, etc.) to Central Pima region early care and education professionals, with potential for cross-regional collaboration. These professional development opportunities are tied to college credit with academic support and consultation by an early childhood faculty representative from a higher education institution, such as a local university or community college.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Professionals	1,450	1,450	1,389*	1,450	1,460	1,450
*Data submitted by grantee was not accounted for in the April-June 2010 Quarter Four report. The Year To Date reporting for Fiscal Year 2010 does not reflect the activity that occurred in Quarter Four.						

Strategy: Scholarships TEACH (Statewide)						
<i>Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH): Establish and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive statewide scholarship system to improve quality in the professional workforce by funding additional TEACH scholarships beyond those provided through participation in Quality First.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Scholars	203, with 15 designated to Pascua Yaqui Tribe	200	31	203, with 15 designated to Pascua Yaqui Tribe	203	115, with 15 designated to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Strategy: First Things First Professional REWARD\$ (Statewide)						
<i>First Things First Professional REWARD\$: Implement a wage compensation program for early care and education professionals.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Incentive Awards	107	107	108	225	255	225
Strategy: Scholarships Non-TEACH (Multi-Region)						
<i>Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP): Scholarships for early care and education professionals who are unable to participate in the TEACH scholarship program.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Scholars	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2010			50-120*	57	50-120
*Variance of target number is due to the number of credit hours taken by individual early childhood professionals.						

Summary of Progress and Challenges
Rationale for Changes to SFY12
Alignment with Strategic Direction

1. Strategy Success

The Innovative Professional Development strategy has experienced significant success since implementation of the strategy in Fiscal Year 2010. There are a total of seven Communities of Practice, or cohorts of early childhood professionals and one Community of Practice focused on professional development systems thinking and building. The Communities of Practice meet multiple times throughout the year, many times with nationally recognized early childhood subject matter experts. Developmentally Appropriate Practice is the overarching theme each Community of Practice is based upon. Serving over one thousand early childhood professionals, students and community leaders, the Communities of Practice provide professional development tied to college credit. An equally important focus of this grant is developing a comprehensive professional development system in Arizona. A sampling of accomplishments occurring in Fiscal Year 2010 that demonstrate the shaping of professional development systems building include:

- The University of Arizona College of Education and Pima Community College signed a Memorandum of Understanding that is the implementation tool for the Articulation Agreement between the two schools for early childhood professionals to seamlessly transition from the Community College to the University.*
- Dr. Jacqueline Jones, Senior Early Childhood Education Advisor to the United States Secretary of Education visited with partners and participants of the Innovative Professional Development grant to learn more about grant activities and professional development systems thinking.*
- Partners presented two workshops at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Professional Development Institute. One workshop described the work of the Innovative Professional Development grant and how coaching, systems thinking, and Developmentally Appropriate Practice form the foundation for the work while the second workshop focused on the partnership between two of the Communities of Practice; Pima Community College and the University of Arizona.*
- Nationally recognized subject matter experts who consult and participate within the Communities of Practice include Dr. Sue Bredekamp, one of the founders of Developmentally Appropriate Practice; Dr. Pamela Winton from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill who is an expert in early childhood inclusion and young children with special needs; Lisa Murphy also known as the Ooey Goey Lady who is nationally recognized for early childhood best practices and articulating the importance of early childhood development and play. In addition, four of the seven Communities of Practice Coordinators who work closely with the Communities of Practice are adjunct faculty with Pima Community College and/or the University of Arizona, providing a seamless opportunity to offer professional development tied to college credit.*
- Four of the seven Communities of Practice are tied to college credit through Pima Community College or the University of Arizona. The remaining three Communities of Practice will eventually tie to higher learning as well. The Early Childhood Education coursework offered through Pima Community College and the University of Arizona College of Education are now aligned with the newest edition of Dr. Bredekamp's book, Developmentally Appropriate Practice.*

In addition to serving over 1,400 early childhood professionals, early childhood education students and community members through Innovative Professional Development, over 300 early childhood professionals have the opportunity to return to school to attain a Child Development Associate Credential or an Associate's Degree through the Professional Career Pathways Program and TEACH

strategies. In the Central Pima region one early childhood professional participating in TEACH achieved an Associate’s Degree in Fiscal Year 2010. The Central Pima Regional Council has pledged to continue the partnership with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Council and will support 15 TEACH Scholars for Fiscal Year 2012.

Lastly, the REWARD\$ strategy was implemented late in Fiscal Year 2010; the target number of 108 financial incentives given to early childhood professionals was achieved.

2. Strategy Challenges

Within the cluster of professional development strategies, TEACH has encountered difficulty with reaching the Regional Council’s targeted service number. The Regional Council identified approximately 203 scholars for Fiscal Year 2010 and Fiscal Year 2011. At the end of Fiscal Year 2010, Quarter 4 data indicates approximately 31 Scholars in the Central Pima region were actively engaged in the TEACH program. For Fiscal Year 2011, it is unlikely the 203 scholars will be reached.

Suggested, possible barriers may include the TEACH application process, the time commitment associated with enrolling in college coursework, requirements for eligibility and lack of support by the program for the scholar. Although outreach activities have occurred throughout the region, the number of scholars applying and successfully receiving a scholarship continues to lag below the target service numbers.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

Due to the slow enrollment of TEACH scholars in the Central Pima region, the Regional Council revised target numbers that are more realistic and attainable. The Regional Council has allotted funding for approximately 100 Central Pima TEACH Scholars in addition to supporting 15 early childhood professionals from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for a modified total of 115 TEACH scholarships available in Fiscal Year 2012. This modification will continue to support the currently enrolled Central Pima and Pascua Yaqui Tribe scholars and also accounts for new scholars to participate in Fiscal Year 2012.

4. First Things First Priorities

The professional development strategies make up a continuum of meaningful and comprehensive education that is creating a professional development system in Central Pima, the state and beyond. Through the work of our Innovative Professional Development partners, a system of integrated professional development has flourished and acquired national attention. For early childhood professionals, these strategies provide optimal professional development opportunities that are tied to higher education. Many of the typical barriers that are associated with pursuing higher education have been eliminated or significantly reduced.

PRIORITY 5: Arizonans Understand and Recognize the Importance of Early Childhood Health, Development and Education

Description of prioritized value: Increase community knowledge and awareness on the significant importance of early childhood health, development and education.

Strategy: Community Outreach (Statewide) (FTF Directed)

Community Outreach as Part of the Cross-Regional Communications Partnership: *Work in partnership with the four Regional Councils in Pima County and the First Things First Board to implement Community Outreach that reaches all of Pima County.*

Strategy: Community Awareness (Statewide) (FTF Directed)
Community Awareness as Part of the Cross-Regional Communications Partnership and Community Awareness within the Central Pima region: <i>Work in partnership with the four Regional Councils in Pima County and the First Things First Board to implement Community Awareness that reaches all of Pima County. In addition, Central Pima has allotted funds for regionally specific community awareness opportunities.</i>
Strategy: Media (Statewide) (FTF Directed)
Media as Part of the Cross-Regional Communications Partnership: <i>Work in partnership with the four Regional Councils in Pima County and the First Things First Board to implement Media that reaches all of Pima County.</i>
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
<p>1. Strategy Success</p> <p><i>The Central Pima Regional Council Communications strategy has provided an opportunity for cross-regional collaboration amongst the five regional councils in Pima County; Central, North and South Pima, Tohono O’odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Councils. In late Fiscal Year 2010, the five regions came together to create a cross-regional plan that included all components of the First Things First Communications strategy. Representatives of each Regional Council meet regularly to discuss, plan and execute cross-regional community awareness, outreach and education on the importance of early childhood development and health as well as the role of First Things First.</i></p> <p><i>Another indicator of the success of the Cross-Regional Communications Partnership has been the successful recruitment of 177 community members in Pima County who are recognized as champions for young children since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2011. The champions have pledged their commitment to convey the importance of early childhood health and development to the greater Pima County community in varied but impactful ways. At the end of Fiscal Year 2010 and into Fiscal Year 2011, the Cross-Regional Communications Partnership was actively engaged in approximately 43 community events region-wide, which has been an ideal opportunity to talk with community members about the critical importance of ensuring young children are healthy and ready to learn upon entering Kindergarten.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the work of the Cross-Regional Communications Partnership, Central Pima formed a partnership with the Tucson Children’s Museum. The Museum offers educational and hands-on learning activities and opportunities geared specifically for young children, their families and caregivers. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2010 and into Fiscal Year 2011, the Regional Council co-sponsored the Museum’s First Sunday’s event, which offers reduced entry costs for young children and their families every first Sunday of the month. This has allowed First Things First to have a presence at the monthly event to engage families with young children about the importance of early childhood health, development and education. Also, the University of Arizona External Evaluation is usually present at the First Sunday events, recruiting families and providing information on the longitudinal studies and accountability measures taken.</i></p>
<p>2. Strategy Challenges</p> <p><i>The greatest challenge was the delay in implementation of the statewide Communications plan. Once the strategic plan was approved, the Central Pima Regional Council moved quickly to approve funding and explore ways to cross-regionally partner to utilize consistent messaging while considering cost</i></p>

<p><i>effective communications tactics.</i></p> <p><i>The Regional Council in partnership with the four other Regional Councils in Pima County is exploring ways to best maximize the benefits of a Community Outreach Liaison. Currently, the Cross-Regional Communications Partnership is transitioning from a consulting team to individual consultants to ensure deliverables are achieved while messaging is consistent throughout the county.</i></p>
<p>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</p> <p><i>The Central Pima Regional Partnership Council will continue participation in the Cross-Regional Communications Partnership and has allotted \$150,000 to the cross-regional communications efforts. The remaining \$10,000 is allotted for family and community events that are specific to the Central Pima region.</i></p>
<p>4. First Things First Priorities</p> <p><i>The Central Pima Communications strategy and the Pima County Cross-Regional Communications Partnership aligns with the Early Childhood Task Force priority, Building Public awareness and Support by helping educate the public of the benefits of investing in early childhood development, health and early education.</i></p>
<p>PRIORITY 6: Community Coordination and Capacity Development</p>
<p>Description of prioritized value: Develop coordinated partnerships with community stakeholders to build capacity directly related to the well-being of health, development and/or education of young children.</p>
<p>Strategy: Community Partnerships</p>
<p>Flowing Wells Early Education Promise Partnership: <i>A collaborative, coordinated opportunity to partner with the Flowing Wells School District, specifically for families that reside in the Central Pima zip code, 85705 to support the following components:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The educational and care needs of young children participating in the Flowing Wells high quality early learning program, the Emily Meschter Early Learning Center, continues to remain accessible and affordable to families with young children who exhibit high risk needs;</i> • <i>The community support center, part of the Emily Meschter Flowing Wells Early Learning Center continues to remain open as an available resource to families and young children; and</i> • <i>Engage in a coordinated, community partnership with multiple community partners to secure a Promise Neighborhood Federal Grant for the Flowing Wells Walter Douglas neighborhood.</i>
<p>Strategy: Community Partnerships (In Development)</p>
<p>Innovative Small Grants: <i>Strategy has been approved by the Regional Council but is currently under development with the goal to present to the First Things First Board for approval in April 2011.</i></p>
<p>Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction</p>
<p>1. Strategy Success</p> <p><i>The Flowing Wells Early Education Promise Partnership strategy allowed two certified early childhood teachers and two teaching assistants to remain with the Emily Meschter Early Learning Center for the Fiscal Year 2011 school year, impacting the lives of 100 young children who are considered at-risk. The</i></p>

Emily Meschter Early Learning Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and is considered to be one of the few high-quality early learning environments in a zip code that exhibits extenuating needs.

In addition, this strategy supported the capacity and coordination efforts of applying for a Promise Neighborhoods Federal Grant through the Department of Education. The Flowing Wells Promise Neighborhoods coordinated partnership includes a number of committed, participating organizations in addition to the First Things First Central Pima Regional Partnership Council: La Paloma Family Services, the Flowing Wells School District, Arizona Center for the Study of Children and Families, the Thrive 05 Coalition, Councilwoman Karen Uhlich's Office, University of Arizona, Literacy for Life Coalition with support from Paxis Institute, Pima Community College, Congressman Raul Grijalva's Office, Office of the Pima County School Superintendent and private philanthropists that collaboratively applied for a Promise Neighborhoods grant. Although the Flowing Wells Promise Neighborhood Partnership did not secure the federal grant there were significant achievements in capacity building and community awareness made. The partnership has identified additional funding opportunities and will reapply for the Promise Neighborhoods grant in the future.

2. Strategy Challenges

The only challenge posed was that the Flowing Wells Promise Neighborhood Partnership did not secure one of the Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grants.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

The Central Pima Regional Council eliminated the Flowing Wells Early Education Promise Partnership strategy for Fiscal Year 2012. This intent of this strategy was to be implemented for one year only. The goal of this strategy was to provide a one-time bridge support for the Flowing Wells Emily Meschter Early Learning Center to operate throughout the 2010-2011 school year. In addition, the Regional Council engaged in the Flowing Wells Promise Partnership to leverage funds to acquire a Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grant. Although this strategy was intended to be a Fiscal Year 2011 strategy, the Central Pima Regional Council will remain active as an unfunded partner in the Flowing Wells Promise Neighborhoods Partnership to assist in any future coordination opportunities.

A new strategy, Innovative Small Grants, has been approved by the Central Pima Regional Council and is currently under development. Numerous Regional Council conversations on this topic have taken place since 2008. In addition, the Central Pima community has brought to the Regional Council's attention myriad needs and opportunities that align with First Things First goals and priorities but do not fit within a pre-existing strategy. The Central Pima Regional Council values innovation and desires to be responsive to community stakeholders who create optimum early learning, developmental and health opportunities for young children in the region but who may not be currently connected with First Things First.

4. First Things First Priorities

The Central Pima Community Partnership strategies relate to the development and coordination of the Early Childhood System Funding as prioritized by the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force. Both strategies advocate for system building and increasing capacity for families and young children in the greater community. For example, the Central Pima Regional Council was not the sole funder for the Flowing Wells Promise Partnership Promise Neighborhoods grant proposal; however the active role the Regional Council took demonstrated the importance of leveraging resources for community investment and increasing capacity to secure a variety of grant opportunities.

PRIORITY 7 - Regional Evaluation
Strategy: Needs and Assets
Description: <i>For the 2010 report, the Regional Council felt the summary of data that was originally proposed to be collected in the base report was comprehensive; however the Council indicated a need for enumerated data to be specific to the census tract level and/or by the Central Pima zip codes. For the 2012 report, the Regional Council has allotted additional funding for supplementary enumeration of data points down to Census Tract and/or zip code level.</i>
Strategy: Regionally Funded Evaluation or Studies
Description: <i>The Regional Council has allotted funding for regional evaluation for Fiscal Year 2012 and discussion on how to utilize these funds will take place in early 2011. The Regional Council is seeking guidance from the First Things First Evaluation Division and the First Things First Board for policy direction on regionally evaluating strategies. The Central Pima Regional Council has strategies that are considered innovative, which merit additional evaluation to monitor progress and outcomes.</i>
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
1. Strategy Success <i>The 2010 Regional Needs and Assets process was successful due in part to the fact that each Regional Council was able to select the vendor best suited to their region. This was another opportunity for cross-regional collaboration with South Pima and North Pima Regional Councils since the three Pima regions chose the same vendor. The process was improved for several reasons including more time allotted to complete the task and the vendor able to access more data sources. The vendor worked in close partnership with the Regional Coordinator and informed the Regional Council on the progress of the report, creating a strong working relationship and partnership.</i> <i>The 2010 Regional Needs and Assets report has a wealth of relevant information that has been instrumental in the strategic planning process. The vendor organized a section with zip code maps and data boxes related to the specific Central Pima zip codes for easy reference. This resourceful section allows the reader to swiftly refer to data specific to a zip code and enables easy comparison across other zip codes.</i>
2. Strategy Challenges <i>There were few challenges associated with the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets process. The most significant challenge was the delay in procuring vendors which ultimately delayed the start of the work. In addition, there were time delays associated with the vendors receiving important statistical information from other government agencies.</i> <i>Given the time sensitive nature of the Needs and Assets report, it is recommended for more time to be built into the timeline of completion. This will ensure the Needs and Assets report meets the statutory deadline while providing sufficient time for vendors to collect, analyze and synthesize data.</i>
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 <i>Overall, the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets process and report was successful and the information provided is frequently utilized. For Fiscal Year 2012, the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council has approved an increase in funding to conduct additional data collection and support in understanding how to best utilize the data to drive decisions for future priority needs.</i>

PRIORITIZED NEED: Food Security <i>(Items not addressed and funded in Fiscal Year 2012)</i>						
Description of prioritized value: The nutritional needs of young children are met.						
Strategy: Food Security (Statewide)						
<i>First Things First Emergency Response Food Boxes: Address the immediate and emergency food needs of families with young children.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Number of Food Boxes Distributed	N/A	N/A	4,551 for all of Pima County*	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012		
Number of Children Receiving Food Boxes	N/A	N/A	5,196 for all of Pima County*	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012		
Number of Adults Receiving Food Boxes	N/A	N/A	4,551 for all of Pima County*	Not a regional strategy in Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012		
*Funds from Central, North and South Pima Regional Councils were pooled. The data reported represents reporting from the multiple grantees contracted to implement this strategy.						
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success <i>This strategy was implemented as part of the First Things First Emergency Response in spring 2009. Prior to the Emergency Response and following, the Central Pima Regional Council did not identify this strategy as a regional priority.</i>						
2. Strategy Challenges <i>No strategy challenges.</i>						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 <i>No strategy changes.</i>						
4. First Things First Priorities <i>N/A</i>						

Section II B
Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments

Central Pima Regional Partnership Council Funding Plan					2012 Proposed Allotments
	2010		2011		2012
SFY Allocation	\$9,571,194.00		\$9,429,239.27		\$9,225,406.87
Carry Forward From Previous Year	N/A		\$3,041,411.47		\$1,937,524.31
Total Funds Available	\$9,571,194.00		\$12,470,650.74		\$11,162,931.18
Strategies	Allotted	Expended	Allotted	Awarded	Proposed
Quality First (Statewide)	\$728,733.00	\$379,389.32	\$914,960.60	\$876,727.60	\$692,500.00
Child Care Health Consultation	\$116,667.00	\$55,877.96	\$116,667.00	\$116,500.05	\$136,000.00
Expansion: Increase slots and/or	\$1,050,000.00	\$409,081.35	\$1,230,000.00	\$630,000.00	\$636,000.00
Child Care Scholarships	\$2,951,829.00	\$2,255,601.97	\$2,450,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$2,450,000.00
Other Quality Support	\$300,000.00	\$290,434.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Home Visitation	\$2,203,000.00	\$1,939,424.02	\$2,156,429.00	\$2,156,429.00	\$2,423,000.00
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$147,000.00	\$134,940.40	\$147,000.00	\$147,000.00	\$161,700.00
Center-based Literacy	\$78,500.00	\$78,458.42	\$78,500.00	\$78,500.00	\$86,350.00
Parent Kits (Statewide)	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community-Based ECE Professional Scholarships TEACH (Statewide)	\$584,500.00	\$537,528.49	\$701,400.00	\$701,400.00	\$701,400.00
FTF Professional REWARD\$ (Statewide)	\$225,000.00	\$67,200.00	\$450,000.00	\$450,000.00	\$528,750.00
Scholarships Non-TEACH (Multi-Region)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Mental Health Consultation (Statewide)	\$250,000.00	\$129,812.80	\$438,186.00	\$438,186.99	\$500,000.00
Recruitment- Stipends/Loan Forgiveness (Multi-Region)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$61,500.00
Community Awareness (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$100,000.00	\$92,597.24	\$18,444.00	\$951.63	\$23,444.00
Community Outreach (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69,837.00	\$5,000.00	\$69,837.00
Media (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$66,720.00	\$40,032.00	\$66,720.00
Community Partnerships (Flowing Wells)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$0.00
Community Partnerships (In Development)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250,000.00
Needs and Assets	\$10,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$15,101.00	\$15,100.80	\$20,000.00
Evaluation (Regional)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
Evaluation (Statewide)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$457,775.00	\$448,128.14	
2012 Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$528,159.00
Arizona Health Survey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,011.27	\$18,011.27	\$0.00
Child Care Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,852.92	\$45,852.92	\$0.00
Children's Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,314.49	\$4,314.49	\$0.00
Parent Kits - Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,156.80	\$0.00	\$0.00
Food Insecurity	\$45,740.00	\$40,273.38	\$1,871.35	\$1,871.35	\$0.00
Total	\$9,665,869.00	\$6,529,782.53	\$10,533,126.43	\$9,253,906.24	\$10,064,060.00
Carry Forward to Following Year		\$3,041,411.47	\$1,937,524.31		\$1,098,871.18

Section II C Changes in funding level for strategies from SFY 2011 to SFY 2012

Strategy Name	Previous Funding Amount (SFY 2011)	New Funding Amount (SFY 2012)	Rationale for Change in Funding
Expansion: Increase Slots in Regulated Classrooms/Homes and Capital Expense <i>(Infant and Toddler Expansion)</i>	\$1,230,000	\$636,000	The modified funding allotment will continue to support the 10 early care and education programs that have participated in strategy since Fiscal Year 2010. In Fiscal Year 2012, participating early care and education programs will enter the final phase, which includes expansion placements receiving a quality stipend. In addition, one remaining early care and education program is anticipated to complete their expansion project in mid-year of Fiscal Year 2012 and funding has been identified for the last, remaining program.
Home Visitation (A) <i>(Nurse Home-Visitation for High-Risk Families)</i>	\$1,553,429	\$1,760,000	There is an increase slightly above 10% in funding annually in order to increase the service numbers in subsequent years.
Home Visitation (B) <i>(Home-Based and Community-Based Parent Education)</i>	\$603,000	\$663,000	There is a 10% increase in funding annually in order to increase the service numbers in subsequent years.
Parent Education and Community-Based Training <i>(Home-Based and Community-Based Parent Education)</i>	\$147,000	\$161,700	There is a 10% increase in funding annually in order to increase the service numbers in subsequent years.
Early Literacy: Center-Based Literacy <i>(Early Literacy and Language Coaches)</i>	\$78,500	\$86,350	There is a 10% increase in funding annually in order to increase the service numbers in subsequent years.
Recruitment- Stipends/Loan Forgiveness <i>(Loan Forgiveness for Therapists)</i>	\$0	\$61,500	This is a new strategy for Fiscal Year 2012; therefore no funds were awarded in Fiscal Year 2011.
Scholarships TEACH	\$675,000	\$379,500	The decrease in funding represents a more accurate allotment that will serve 115 Scholars in comparison to the original target of 203 Scholars.
Community Awareness <i>(Cross-Regional Communications Partnership)</i>	\$18,444	23,444	An additional \$5,000 is allotted to community awareness, which includes participation in events and activities exclusive to the Central Pima region.
Community Partnerships <i>(Flowing Wells Early Education Promise Partnership)</i>	\$130,000	\$0	Strategy intended to be a Fiscal Year 2011 strategy only.
Community Partnerships <i>(Innovative Small Grants- In Development)</i>	\$0	\$250,000	This is a new strategy for Fiscal Year 2012; therefore no funds were awarded in Fiscal Year 2011. Strategy is currently under development.
Regional Evaluation	\$50,000	\$150,000	The Regional Council has increased this line item with the intent of evaluating the progress of at least one strategy.
Carry Forward	There is a planned carry forward of \$1,098,871. for sustainability of current strategies into Fiscal Year 2013. The carry forward also allows for possible consideration for any additional, unmet regional needs that may be identified and prioritized.		

Section III **System Building Impact**

Building a Continuum of Support in the Central Pima Region

The Central Pima region is recognized for its core infrastructure of services, and in many instances, the region serves as the entry point to supportive resources for the entire county. Although there is pre-existing infrastructure, the early childhood development and health service delivery system is fractured. Building upon the infrastructure and strengthening partnerships to seamlessly deliver comprehensive services is imperative to ensuring the 44,447 young children in the Central Pima region enter Kindergarten healthy and ready to learn. Interconnectedness of the Central Pima strategies builds upon the current conglomerate of services while integrating new and innovative supports that impact young children, families and the greater community.

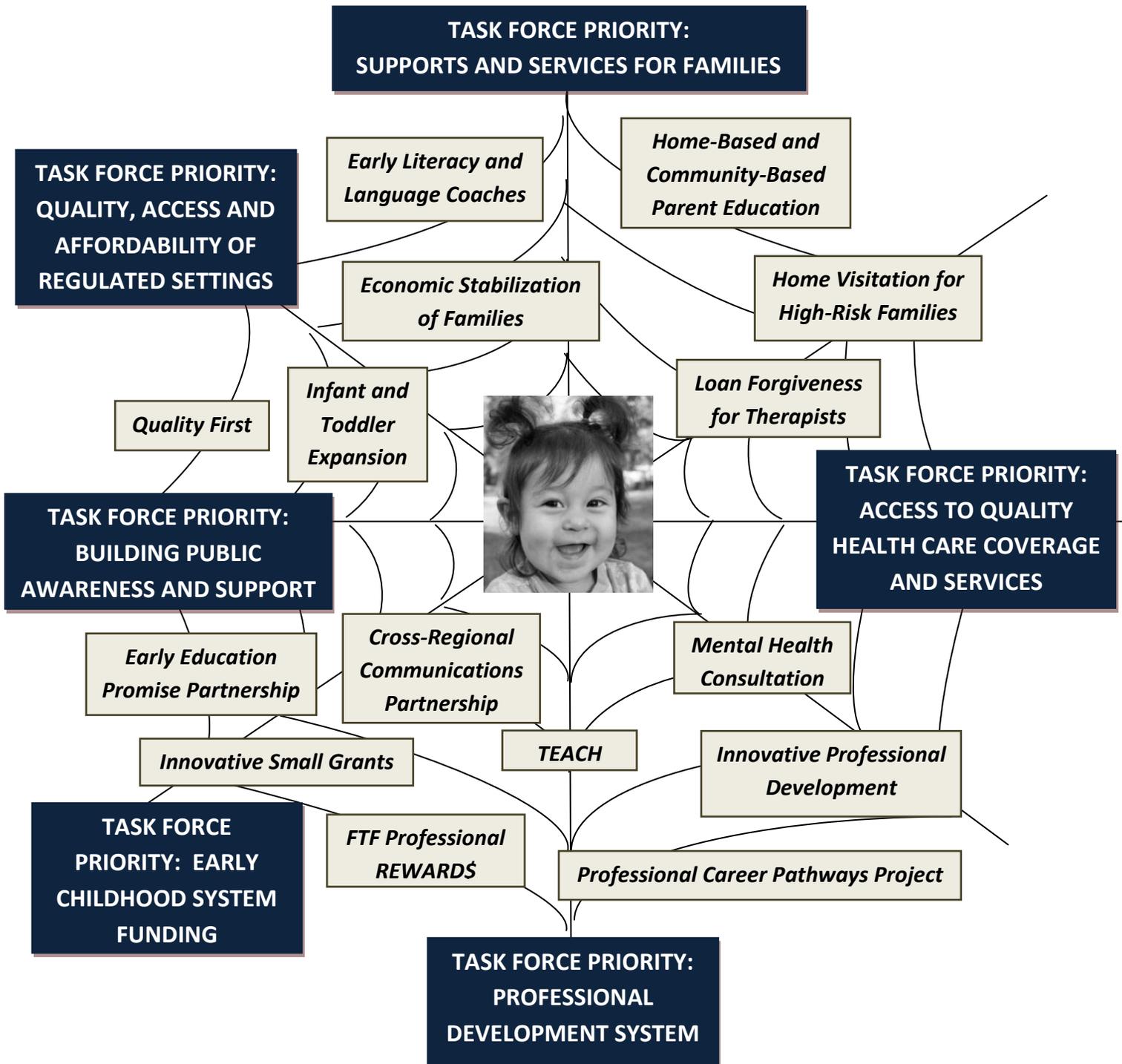
During the Fiscal Year 2011 strategic planning process, a Regional Council member used the analogy of a web to describe service delivery that is accessible, coordinated and interconnected. Keeping in alignment with this idea, the *Web of Integrated Support for Young Children* (page 25), originally presented in the Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Plan, continues to demonstrate the linkages between strategies and outcomes. For Fiscal Year 2012, the *Web of Integrated Support for Young Children* has incorporated two new strategies, *Loan Forgiveness for Therapists* and *Innovative Small Grants*. In addition, the Regional Council's prioritized strategies build upon the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force Priorities, which are also newly integrated into the web. The strategies not only represent multiple interconnections within each other, but there are numerous strategies that link with multiple statewide Task Force Priorities. An example of how strategies interconnect and align with the Task Force Priorities is demonstrated through the *Early Literacy and Language Coaches* and *Quality First* strategies. Early literacy coaches work in close partnership with participating Quality First programs that are in need of additional early literacy and language supports. Both the Quality First Coach and Early Literacy Coach work in partnership with the early care and education program to enhance early literacy while avoiding non-duplication of services. As a result, libraries with quality books and early literacy materials in early care and education programs are expanded; lending libraries for families are created; early literacy professional development for caregivers is offered; and early literacy family events are coordinated. These strategies align with two Task Force Priorities of Increasing Quality, Access and Affordability of Early Care and Education Settings and Supports and Services for Families. In Fiscal Year 2010, the *Early Literacy and Language Coaches* strategy impacted over 1,000 young children who were enrolled in Quality First early care and education programs; over 150 families checked out books to read to their young children at home; and over 100 early childhood professionals benefited from early literacy professional development in the Central Pima region; providing a comprehensive combination of services that impact family support while simultaneously improving the quality of early care and education programs.

Challenges within the Region

In Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, the Regional Council recognized new challenges and opportunities that influenced service delivery and strategic direction for Fiscal Year 2012. One of the most notable challenges was the significant number of families in the Central Pima region who became financially unstable. Simultaneously, the infrastructure of the early care and education field was financially compromised, with several early care and education programs in Central Pima permanently closing their doors. To address these challenges and create a more lasting and coordinated impact, the Regional Council created the *Economic Stabilization of Families* strategy, impacting over 400 young children and

their families. This strategy helps offset the costs of child care. In addition, families who participate in the *Economic Stabilization of Families* program have access to family support resources, information and services offered through other Central Pima strategies, which is a coordinated and intentional effort to link families who may be in more need beyond the scholarships.

Web of Integrated Support for Young Children in Central Pima



Coordination Opportunities

Several coordination opportunities that reflect meaningful partnerships with community stakeholders, grantees and neighboring Regional Councils have transpired this past year. One of the most innovative coordination activities was partnering with the Flowing Wells School District and several other community organizations and philanthropists to apply for a Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grant. Although the Flowing Wells Promise Neighborhood Partnership did not secure the federal grant, there were significant achievements in capacity building and community awareness.

The Central Pima Regional Partnership Council leadership continues to meet with the Southeast area Regional Partnership Council Chairs to discuss coordination and collaboration from a larger, regional standpoint. A significant coordination opportunity was the development of the Cross-Regional Communications Partnership in late Fiscal Year 2010, which Central, North and South Pima, Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Councils came together to create a cross-regional plan that included all components of the First Things First Communications strategy. Representatives of each Regional Council meet regularly to discuss, plan and execute cross-regional community awareness, outreach and education on the importance of early childhood education, development and health.

Other recent coordination activities include the Central Pima Regional Council continuing their partnership with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Council to meet the professional development needs of early childhood professionals. Since Fiscal Year 2010, the Central Pima Regional Council has supported up to 15 TEACH scholarships designated to early childhood professionals within the Pascua Yaqui Tribe region. The Central, North and South Pima Regional Councils also had the coordinated benefit of working with the same vendor for the 2010 Needs and Assets report.

Initial partner networking meetings have brought grantees together to identify and discuss opportunities for coordination and collaboration. Most recently, First Things First partners throughout Pima and Santa Cruz Counties gathered to network, share, identify potential partnerships and coordination opportunities from a multi-county perspective. Networking and collaborating meetings will continue to occur on an ongoing basis to ensure the momentum of system coordination and developing strategic connectedness remains a cross-regional priority.

Central Pima's Strategic Focus for the Future

The Central Pima Regional Council continues to value innovation and recognizes there are community stakeholders who create optimum early learning, developmental and health opportunities for young children in the region that may not be currently interlinked with First Things First. Since 2008, the Regional Council has engaged in passionate discussion about an innovative grants strategy that encourages smaller organizations and community stakeholders to apply with the goal of increasing capacity. The Regional Council will continue to develop a comprehensive *Innovative Small Grants* strategy that aligns with the 2010 Needs and Assets report, the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force Priorities and the strategic direction of the Regional Council to present to the First Things First Board in spring 2011.

The Central Pima Regional Council strategies continue to represent a multi-faceted and inter-connected web of service delivery, representing both evidence-based programming and innovative thinking to address the varying needs of young children and their families. There is an overarching intent to increase positive impacts for as many young children and families as possible in the Central Pima region while encouraging the coordination of comprehensive system building.