

Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

Allocations and Funding Sources	SFY13	Board Approvals, 1/17-18, 2012 SFY13 Strategies and Amounts
FY Allocation	\$613,647	
Population Based Allocation	\$343,174	
Discretionary Allocation	\$192,918	
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	\$77,555	
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$419,212	
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$1,032,859	
Strategies	Proposed Allotment	
Quality First (<i>statewide</i>)	\$158,029	Approved
Child Care Health Consultation (<i>statewide</i>)	\$22,680	Approved
Scholarships TEACH (<i>statewide</i>)(<i>state funded for QF</i>)	\$0	Approved
QF Child Care Scholarships	\$353,622	Approved
Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals	\$50,000	Approved
Parent Outreach and Awareness	\$200,000	Approved
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$70,000	Approved
Food Security	\$50,000	Approved
Community Awareness (<i>statewide</i>)	\$5,000	Approved
Community Outreach (<i>statewide</i>)	\$5,000	Approved
Media(<i>statewide</i>)	\$5,000	Approved
Statewide Evaluation (<i>statewide</i>)	\$17,143	Approved
Proposed Allotment Total:	\$936,474	
Total Unallotted	\$96,385	



**TOHONO O'ODHAM
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

**Regional Funding Plan
Three Year Strategic Direction
SFY 2013-2015**

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

**Regional Funding Plan
Three Year Strategic Direction
SFY 2013-2015**

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SFY 2013 -2015 Regional Partnership Council Budget

Section I.**Regional Allocation Summary**

Funds Available State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2012- 2015

Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

Allocations and Funding Sources	2012	2013	2014	2015
FY Allocation	\$608,875	\$613,647	\$614,875	\$617,180
Population Based Allocation	\$352,178	\$343,174	<i>(fy14 and fy15 allocations are estimates only, for purposes of planning)</i>	
Discretionary Allocation	\$198,650	\$192,918		
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	\$58,047	\$77,555	\$614,875	\$617,180
Carry Forward From Previous	\$763,168	\$419,212	\$96,385	\$16,837
Total Regional Council Funds	\$1,372,043	\$1,032,859	\$711,260	\$634,017

Section II.

Review of SFY 2012 Funding Plan

II A. Review of SFY 2012 Priorities

Tohono O'odham Nation Region Overview

The lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation are located within the Sonoran Desert in south central Arizona. The largest community, Sells, functions as the Nation's capital.

Historically, the O'odham inhabited an enormous area of land in the southwest, extending South to Sonora, Mexico, north to Central Arizona (just north of Phoenix, Arizona), west to the Gulf of California, and east to the San Pedro River. This land base was known as the Papageria and it had been home to the O'odham for thousands of years.

(http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/history_culture.aspx)

Of the four land bases, the largest contains more than 2.7 million acres. Boundaries begin south of Casa Grande and encompass parts of Pinal, Pima and Maricopa Counties before continuing south into Mexico. San Xavier is the second largest land base, and contains 71,095 acres just south of the City of Tucson. Smaller parcels include San Lucy District located near the city of Gila Bend and Florence Village, which is located near the city of Florence. The landscape is consistently compelling: a wide desert valley, interspersed with plains and marked by mountains that rise abruptly to nearly 8,000 feet. (<http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/location.aspx>)

The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council received a \$619,481 allocation for SFY 2012. That funding in addition to carryover is being deployed in the following priority areas: Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings; Supports and Services for Families; and Professional Development of Early Childhood Educators.

For SFY 2012, the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council relied on the 2008 and 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Reports, SFY 2010 and 2011 Funding Plans, input from community members, expertise, and experience of Regional Partnership Council Members to identify the region's highest priority of increasing access to affordable, high quality early care and education programs in settings that provide an individualized continuum of support. Each of the strategies for SFY 2012 in which the Regional Partnership Council invested has a component that addresses the quality or accessibility of early learning and care programs especially focused on isolated communities and populations. Direct support is available in the form of early childhood scholarships addressing affordability and access. Professionals working with children birth through age five are supported through T.E.A.C.H., which is tied to improving the quality of the early learning experiences as well as expanding access to programs. Family support, coordination, and community-based education are making continued progress toward increasing access to information, opportunities and environments that can change outcomes for all families.

The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has consistently reached out to the community members of the Tohono O'odham Nation to create more early learning and professional development opportunities in isolated communities. The early successes in bringing early childhood education opportunities to the San Lucy District and increased utilization of the professional development system are elevating the discussion around early childhood across the Tohono O'odham Nation.

II B. SFY 2012 Strategies and Units of Service Review

Tohono O'odham Nation Units of Service by Strategy

Strategy Description	Fiscal Year 2012	
	Targeted Units	Contracted Units
Quality First Strategy		
Number of center based providers served	2	4
Number of home based providers served	1	2
Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships Strategy		
Number of FTF-funded pre-K children	67	20
Number of private/public partner pre-K sites receiving support	8	1
Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support	0	0
Scholarships TEACH Strategy		
Number of professionals receiving scholarships	15	21
Child Care Health Consultation Strategy		
Number of center based providers served	2	2
Number of home based providers served	1	1
Family Support Coordination		
No service units		
Parent Education Community-Based Training Strategy		
Number of participating adults	16	0
Food Security Strategy		
Number of food boxes distributed	10,070	8,500
Resource Distribution - other Strategy		
Number of resources distributed	3,000	0
Community Awareness Strategy		
No service units		
Community Outreach Strategy		
No service units		
Media Strategy		
No service units		
Statewide Evaluation		
No service units		

Notes:**Quality First Service Numbers:**

The Quality First strategy has Target Service Units of Homes and Centers. For this unique strategy, the Contracted Service Numbers will show as twice as much in comparison to the Targeted Service Numbers. This is due to implementation of the strategy through two service contracts (one for QF Coaching/Incentives, and a second for QF Assessments).

Scholarships TEACH:

The Scholarships TEACH strategy have Target Service Numbers which reflect the strategy targets of "additional TEACH". The Contracted Service Numbers include the "additional TEACH" in addition to the Service Numbers funded through the regionally funded Quality First package. Therefore, the Target Numbers appear lower than the Contracted Numbers. Cross-regional allocated TEACH Numbers are reported in the granting region. Therefore, the ten TEACH scholarships provided by the South Pima Regional Partnership Council are reflected in their reports.

II C. SFY 2012 Funding Summary Review**SFY 2012 Tohono O'odham Nation Funding Plan Summary**

Allocations and Funding Sources	2012	
FY Allocation		\$608,875
Population Based Allocation		\$352,178
Discretionary Allocation		\$198,650
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)		\$58,047
Carry Forward From Previous Year		\$763,168
Total Regional Council Funds Available		\$1,372,043
Strategies	Allotted	Awarded
Quality First (<i>statewide</i>)	\$60,250	\$59,917
Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships	\$488,355	\$125,000
Scholarships TEACH (<i>statewide</i>)	\$64,700	\$64,700
Child Care Health Consultation (<i>statewide</i>)	\$12,000	\$12,000
Family Support Coordination	\$147,241	\$147,241
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$68,142	
Food Security	\$50,000	\$38,102
Resource Distribution - other	\$15,000	
Community Awareness (<i>FTF Directed</i>)	\$10,000	\$10,000
Community Outreach (<i>FTF Directed</i>)	\$10,000	\$10,000
Media (<i>statewide</i>) (<i>FTF Directed</i>)	\$10,000	\$10,000
Statewide Evaluation (<i>statewide</i>) (<i>FTF Directed</i>)	\$17,143	\$17,143
Total Allotted/Awarded:	\$952,831	\$494,103
Total Unallotted/Unawarded/Unexpended:	\$419,212	\$458,728

II D. Review of Progress

The system building within the Tohono O'odham Nation is linked to the timelines, diplomacy and partnership building necessary to enter into and execute government to government agreements. The Tohono O'odham Nation has always supported and provided input in building the early childhood education and health systems. Since the creation of the Regional Partnership Council and the first grant opportunities offered in SFY 2010 the Tohono O'odham Nation has supported the work of First Things First. The relationships that have been built at each step of the process tempered the linkage between partners. The Tohono O'odham Nation's Communities, Districts, Leadership, and Education and Health and Human Services Departments have each contributed many days in communicating and implementing the shared vision of the early childhood system. The significant contributions of the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council's partners have led to:

- completion of the first of its kind government to government agreement between First Things First and the Tohono O'odham Nation
- creation of two new early education environments with the potential to serve an additional 60 children from Sells to San Lucy
- completion of five Early Education Associates Degree programs by professionals serving the Tohono O'odham Nation
- enrollment of five Early Education Professionals in Bachelor programs serving the Tohono O'odham Nation
- the creation of a new a Family Support and Child Development and Health Advocate position by the Tohono O'odham Nation

While working through the government to government agreements, the Regional Partnership Council continued community discussions and focused expansion for SFY 2012 in success areas. With completion of the government to government agreements in SFY 2011 the Regional Partnership Council continues with greater ease to increase support for Pre-K/Head Start expansion, Professional Development, Child Development and Health Advocates, Snak Pak partnership and Parent Education-Community Based Training in SFY 2012.

The opportunities made available by the Regional Partnership Council supported the Tohono O'odham Nation's Early Education Department in the process of increasing the number of early care and education settings available on the Tohono O'odham Nation. By the end of SFY 2012, two new locations, Sells and San Lucy, will be providing services through Head Start, Tohono O'odham Nation Child Care, other funding streams and the scholarships made available by the Regional Partnership Council. Two of the Tohono O'odham Nation's eight early care and education centers and one home provider are enrolled in Quality First for SFY 2012. This is the third year of participation with star ratings expected in the first quarter of SFY 2013. The Regional Partnership Council will continue to engage in discussion with the Tohono O'odham Nation, Districts, Education Departments, Providers, Professionals and Communities to increase quality and identify opportunities to build center-based education and care capacity.

The early childhood professionals of the Tohono O'odham Nation's Early Education Department are climbing the lattice of the professional development system that is being built at a rapid rate. The Tohono O'odham Community College offers CDA coursework and has awarded Associates Degrees in Early Childhood Education. The first five professionals have completed their T.E.A.C.H. contracts, Associates Degrees and are embarking on completing Bachelors Degrees in Early Childhood Education. The Regional Partnership Council, in addition to directly supporting professional development through T.E.A.C.H., has convened partners; Tohono O'odham Community College, Tohono O'odham Nation Education Department, T.E.A.C.H., Pima Community College and

Prescott College and the South Pima Regional Partnership Council in order to expand and maximize the collective investment in early care and education professional development opportunities.

It is expected that as professionals who have completed their program of study and T.E.A.C.H commitment that new scholars will fill the vacant slots. The Regional Partnership Council will look to increase support and collaborate with other Regional Partnership Councils, in the way that the South Pima Regional Partnership Council has in order to support increased demand. The Regional Partnership Council is engaged in discussion with the Tohono O'odham Nation, Tohono O'odham Community College, Districts, Education Departments, Communities and early education professionals to identify ways to enhance the professional development system.

In partnership with the Tohono O'odham Nation's Health and Human Services Department, the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council created a Family Support and Child Development and Health Advocate position. The position was developed to educate families, the community, businesses and government about the importance of early childhood development and health. The advocates will educate parents and families about early childhood development and health, support families in advocating for their children's needs, and disseminate and educate on how to access system resources of the Tohono O'odham Nation. The first of two positions has been staffed with training commencing.

The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has convened a Resource Guide Development Workgroup that is completing the gathering of contact information for the early childhood resources for the Tohono O'odham Nation. The reliance on the Family Support and Child Development and Health Advocate position for a considerable amount of content contribution has delayed implementation. The expectation is that a foundation guide of basic resource and contact information in editable form will be completed by the end of SFY 2012.

Full distribution activities for the Snak Pak strategy of the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council have been delayed. The program was scheduled to align with the Head Start academic calendar providing 250 children Snak Paks over 34 weeks. An expansion request was made and approved by the Regional Partnership Council to increase delivery to 265 children for 38 weeks. Given the delay and increase, the focus is shifting to distribute the Snak Paks through multiple partners through the remainder of SFY 2012 on the Tohono O'odham Nation. An initial distribution of over 700 Snak Paks took place in conjunction with the Tohono O'odham Nation Education Department's Winter Extravaganza in Sells on December 2nd. A review of progress will be made prior to SFY 2013 renewals. In order for Snak Paks to continue into SFY 2014 and beyond, funding will have to be procured from alternative sources.

Community input enabled the Regional Partnership Council to cultivate relationships with the Tohono O'odham Nation's Districts resulting in the Parent Education-Community Based Training strategy for SFY 2012. The strategy has yet to move to implementation as the San Lucy District and the Tohono O'odham Nation determine the appropriate agreement to enter into with First Things First. The Tohono O'odham Tiny Students or T.O.T.S. program is still being conducted in the San Lucy District without First Things First Funding. This is reassuring and is creating a foundation for successful implementation as a regionally funded program.

The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has witnessed increased discussion around and in support of early childhood education and health. Completion of the new Sells and renovations to the San Lucy

early education centers displays the dedication of the Tohono O'odham Nation to create new early childhood education opportunities. The participation in the Southeast Regional Area Cross-regional Communications Plan has raised awareness across Southern Arizona of the importance of early childhood. First Things First staff is part of and is invited to present to local bodies on the importance of early childhood.

The relationships that the Regional Partnership Council has built with 91.9 KOHN radio *Voice of the Tohono O'odham Nation* and *The Runner*, the local news publication covering the Tohono O'odham Nation, have and will continue to present early childhood issues for discussion at a community level. By the conclusion of SFY 2012, the expectation is that these resources will be used along with the investments in web real estate and analytics to evaluate these successes. With the approval to use the First Things First radio ads on KOHN and pending funding plan approval to be covered in *The Runner*, the effectiveness of the radio and print coverage can be measured by an increase in traffic to our website and other internet based parameters. The immeasurable success that has resulted from this strategy that touches all priority areas is the new for SFY 2013 cross-regional Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals strategy. The foundational work completed by the cross-regional Communications Workgroup enabled swift recognition of this highly successful regional strategy for cross-regional consideration.

The Regional Partnership Council is confident that the on-going implementation of the SFY 2012 funding plan is the best use of available funds, addresses prioritized needs, facilitates system building, and will increase opportunities for O'odham children birth through five for this, subsequent years and beyond.

Section III.

Three Year Strategic Direction: SFY 2013-2015 Regional Funding Plan

III A. Overview

The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council relied on the 2008 and 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Reports and SFY 2010-2012 Funding Plans to aid in the discussion around the SFY 2013-15 Strategic Direction and SFY 2013 Funding Plan. The Regional Partnership Council gathered input from community members, elected and appointed officials of the Tohono O'odham Nation to determine alignment of prioritized needs. The tactical expertise and technical experience of Regional Partnership Council Members allowed for thoughtful and prudent planning, discussing and affirming the SFY 2013-15 Strategic Direction and SFY 2013 Funding Plan.

Setting the Strategic Direction

The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council Members understand that their greatest asset is their ability to bring together all parties that are connected to early childhood education and health. The discussions and relationships that have been built allowed for open and candid input from communities across the Tohono O'odham Nation. The Regional Partnership Council through this process realized yet again the importance of the word partnership in their name. Community members identified three top issues that impact the lives of children birth through five: education including health, unemployment and environment. Only by engaging partners in all areas of the Tohono O'odham Nation will the referenced influences of early childhood improve.

The Regional Partnership Council identified the highest regional priority of limited access to high-quality early care and education programs in settings that provide an individualized continuum of support. There is great concern about the capacity of early education programs to meet the increased demand for services. In February 2010, there were 6 Head Start sites and 3 Head Start home-based programs on the Tohono O'odham Nation, serving 223 children with 182 children on the waiting list for Head Start. The Regional Partnership Council

recognizes that there are un-served portions of the Tohono O'odham Nation and is working with the Tohono O'odham Nation's Planning Department to identify community level collaborative opportunities supporting the expansion of services.

The Regional Partnership Council identified the second regional priority as the lack of highly qualified professionals to serve families and all children birth through age five. Providers need to be able to identify potential problem areas and know what resources are available for assistance. There is a high demand for professionals who serve the needs of young children. Acknowledging this need and the opportunities provided by the Regional Partnership Council the Tohono O'odham Community College now offers courses for infant toddler certifications and associates degree in Early Childhood Education. Scholars are receiving advising and financial support from a number of resources. With these advances, there should be the professionals prepared to promote all developmental domains of young children and if desired support the development of curriculum using the Tohono O'odham language that provides immersion for children attending the Tohono O'odham Nation's Early Childhood and Head Start centers.

The Regional Partnership Council identified the third regional priority of limited access to comprehensive family education and support services. This is closely related to the fourth regional priority of limited access to comprehensive services that support improved early childhood nutrition and health. A range of programs are considered necessary to target different levels of family needs with the goal of increasing families engagement in services, knowledge of existing resources and recognition of their need for information and support. An increase in public awareness about the importance of early childhood development and connection to programs to meet the demand for services that support parental interaction and home-based learning can change root behaviors, access and improve environments.

The input from community members along with supporting data allowed for two phases of Regional Partnership Council discussion in reaffirming regional priorities, selecting indicators, strategies, target population and appropriate funding with given resources. Workgroups were convened prior to decision points as phase one using supporting data that resulted in recommendations to the full council. Appropriate adjustments were made in each phase reflecting the rationale and ambitious goals of the Regional Partnership Council. Given the investment in developing and selecting indicators the expectation is the appropriate support will be directed toward evaluation. While there has been initial discussion around benchmarks, the Regional Partnership Council determined that at this time the selection of indicators is the right juncture to continue the discussion with our partners across the early childhood system and allow for continued appraisal of the implementation of regional strategies.

Strategic Approach to System Building

The opportunities made available by the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council for SFY 2013 provide enhancements and linkage to the programs operating on the Tohono O'odham Nation in an attempt to combine funding to increase utilization and access of early childhood system resources. The enormous success in cultivating the relationships the Regional Partnership Council has will continue to grow in order to make achievable and agreeable selection of benchmarks to measure the impact of the Strategic Plan for 2013-15. Therefore, the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has selected the following indicators:

- #/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical
- # of children entering kindergarten exiting preschool special education to regular education
- #/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)
- % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well being

In SFY 2013 all of the Tohono O'odham Nation's eight early care and education centers will be able to enroll, participate and benefit from Quality First. The layering of Quality First on top of external funding—federal, state and private programs and grants or internal—maximizes the return on investment. It is expected that additional scholars will be able to make use of T.E.A.C.H. scholarships as professionals who have completed their program of study will engage new prospects. The Regional Partnership Council will look to increase support and collaborate with other Regional Partnership Councils, in the way that the South Pima Regional Partnership Council has by providing ten additional T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to the region in order to support increased demand. If the goals of the Tohono O'odham Nation Education Department of serving 500 children are to be realized, professional development will have to continue to be utilized at a high rate in order to meet future staffing demand.

Recognizing this, the Regional Partnership Council will make available a new for SFY 2013 Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals strategy. The strategy will aim to facilitate and increase the number of professionals completing associate and bachelor degrees in Early Childhood Education. The Regional Partnership Council will continue to engage in discussion and support the Tohono O'odham Nation, Districts, Departments, Providers, Professionals and Communities in indentifying opportunities to build and enhance early education and care capacity.

With the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council's increase in funding of the Family Support and Child Development and Health Advocates the expectation is that more communities will be able to benefit. As parents and families learn more about early childhood development and health, how to advocate for their children's needs, and tools are provided in accessing the system resources of the Tohono O'odham Nation measurable indications should occur.

Community input enabled the Regional Partnership Council to cultivate relationships with the Tohono O'odham Nation's Districts resulting in slight changes to the Parent Education-Community Based Training strategy for SFY 2013. The discovery was made that a number of communities have programs similar to the Tohono O'odham Tiny Students or T.O.T.S. program being conducted in the San Lucy District. This is exciting and is creating an opportunity to regionally fund multiple programs that support the goals of this strategy and increase consistency of care environments.

The Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council will continue to expand the discussion of issues impacting early childhood education and health. The succinct message that is being presented through the implementation of the cross-regional communications plan will backstop the work of First Things First and our partners. The Regional Partnership Council will continue to convene stakeholders in building awareness, capacity and access of the early childhood system while supporting the Tohono O'odham Nation's education, economic development and health plans. The Regional Partnership Council is confident that the SFY 2013 Funding Plan and SFY 2013-15 Strategic Direction are the best use of available funds, addresses prioritized needs, facilitates system building, and will increase opportunities for O'odham children birth through five for this, subsequent years and beyond.

Section III B.

Strategic Plan for SFY 2013 – 2015

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>Limited access to high-quality early care and education programs in settings that provide an individualized continuum of support</p> <p>Lack of highly qualified professionals to serve families and all children birth through age five</p> <p>Limited access to comprehensive family education and support services</p> <p>Limited access to comprehensive services that support improved early childhood nutrition and health</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. #/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical 6. # of children entering kindergarten exiting preschool special education to regular education 7. #/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI) 10. % of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child’s safety, health and well being 	<p>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 education system. <i>EL-1</i></p> <p>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. <i>EL-2</i></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. <i>FS&L-2</i></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. <i>HLTH-3</i></p>	<p>Quality First (including CCHC, CC Scholarships, TEACH)</p> <p>Community Based Training – Parent Education</p> <p>Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals*</p> <p>Parent Outreach and Awareness</p> <p>Community Awareness Community Outreach Media</p> <p>Food Security</p> <p>Statewide Evaluation</p> <p>(*) Indicates new strategy for this Regional Partnership Council</p>

Section III C.

Strategy Descriptions including Target Populations and Funding Levels

Strategy: Quality First (statewide)
<p>Strategy Description</p> <p>Supports provided to early care and education centers and homes to improve the quality of programs, including: on-site coaching; program assessment; financial resources; teacher education scholarships; and consultants specializing in health and safety practices.</p>
<p>Strategy Narrative</p> <p>Quality First is Arizona’s voluntary quality improvement and rating system designed to improve the quality of early care and education so that young children can begin school safe, healthy and ready to succeed. Quality First does not duplicate or replace, but builds upon state licensing regulations, addressing multiple aspects of early care and education through research-based indicators of quality.</p> <p>The Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Council has historically been committed to this comprehensive approach to improving access to high quality early learning settings for children in the Tohono O’odham region and will continue to support all the center and home providers that are enrolled to date. The South Pima Regional Partnership Council is continuing to provide ten additional T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to the region that are not reflected in the target service units below. Improving the quality of an early childhood program requires a significant investment in commitment by the staff and leadership of a program as well as intensive, targeted, and meaningful supports. Quality First is designed to provide supports through eight program components: coaching, financial incentives, licensure fee assistance, Child Care Scholarships, T.E.A.C.H. Arizona scholarships, program assessment, assignment of Star Rating and specialized technical assistance. As programs improve their quality, there will be more high quality options available for families. The addition of child care scholarships to this strategy will provide families with limited incomes the ability to select higher quality programs for their children.</p> <p>Quality First and the related strategies including child care health consultation, child care scholarships and TEACH will address the regional need of limited access to high quality, affordable early care and education programs for children living on the Tohono O’odham Nation. The changes made to Quality First allowed for consolidation of regionally funded Pre-k and T.E.A.C.H. scholarships. The previous funding levels for each area provide a near match to the expect target service units. At current funding levels combined with the opportunities available through the Tohono O’odham Nation 100% of the early childhood professionals employed are enrolled in professional development opportunities.</p> <p>It is the regional council’s desire that all center based environments on the Tohono O’odham Nation will have the opportunity to participate in Quality First. If funding becomes available the goal would be to extend the option to all home based providers as well. At current funding levels it is expected that over 265 children or over 50% of children three to five will attend Pre-k or Head Start environments supported by Quality First.</p> <p>Quality First plays an important role in the development of an early childhood system for Arizona. It creates a statewide system for rating the quality of early learning programs providing families with a way to identify and select high quality programs for their children. Beyond the rating, it creates an expectation of high quality and a consistent method for measuring quality and provides participating programs with a variety of resources to support them in making changes that directly will impact the quality of their programs and ultimately outcomes for children.</p>
<p>Target Population Description</p> <p>The Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has identified the target population as home and center providers throughout the Tohono O’odham Nation.</p>

The Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Council is committed to increasing the number of providers who participate and benefit from Quality First. They recognize the importance of a comprehensive approach to the expectation raising quality of early education in Arizona. Target service numbers are decreased slightly in SFYs 2014 and 2015 due to funding constraints and the fact that some centers might transition into the Rating Only option. The intent of the regional council is to utilize additional carry forward funds to maintain the same level of support as in SFY2013 when subsequent funding decisions are made.

Target Service Units - Quality First (statewide)	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Number of center based providers served	8	5	4
Number of home based providers served	1	1	1
Funding Levels	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Quality First (statewide)	\$158,029	\$103,861	\$85,805
Child Care Health Consultation (statewide)	\$22,680	\$15,120	\$12,600
Scholarships TEACH (statewide)	\$0	\$0	\$0
QF Child Care Scholarships	\$353,622	\$223,229	\$179,858

Target Service Units - Child Care Health Consultation	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Number of center based providers served	8	5	4
Number of home based providers served	1	1	1
Target Service Units - Scholarships TEACH			
Number of professionals receiving scholarships	16	10	8
Target Service Units - QF Child Care Scholarships			
Number of children receiving scholarships	56	35	29

Strategy: Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals
Strategy Description Provides quality education and training in community settings to early care and education professionals.
Strategy Narrative The Community Based Professional Development and Education for Professionals strategy will deliver high quality, best practice, and community-based professional development opportunities to early care and education teachers and administrators via a Community of Practice model which includes ongoing education sessions, seminars, lectures and college level classes to enhance their skills and knowledge in working with children birth through age five. This strategy will offer early childhood professionals a continuum of education that is long-term, cohort-based, and tied to college credit. In addition, it will provide opportunities for participants to apply newly learned theories and knowledge to hands-on practice in early care and education settings and will convene each learning community to hear various speakers such as local, state, and national early childhood education leaders and subject matter experts. Each community of practice will include innovative, evidence-based and informative topics that are directly linked to early childhood best-practice and inclusive of the Arizona Early Learning Standards (and/or Head Start Performance Standards) and involve subject matter experts, such as visiting faculty, published authors, and researchers working directly with the cohort participants, facilitating the sessions and providing opportunities for interactions and discussions. It is the regional council’s desire to cross-regionally collaborate throughout Pima County to leverage dollars and build a more comprehensive and accessible professional development system. During the strategic planning process, regional boundaries were identified as a significant barrier to accessing

services. The regional council wanted to limit these barriers to access as much as possible, thus cross-regional collaboration on shared priorities was identified as one means by which to accomplish this goal.

Provide a variety of options for engaging the early care and education workforce in high quality professional development, including:

- college coursework
- single day and multiple day seminars, workshops or trainings

The intent of the professional development is to enhance:

- classroom skills
- knowledge in the early care and education field
- leadership and administration skills

Participants may be new employees to the early care and education field requiring basic knowledge and skill development through pre-service training or those already in the field looking to improve and expand upon their knowledge through in-service training. All of the early childhood professionals employed by the Tohono O’odham Nation are engaged in professional development. This opportunity should

To demonstrate that professional practice has been improved as a result of professional development, early care and education community-based models should document participant outcomes through:

- a pre and post assessment,
- documentation of achievement of milestones, or
- a follow-up site visit by a mentor or coach

Target Population Description

The Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has identified the target population a minimum of 25 Early Education Professionals serving the Children and Families of the Tohono O’odham Nation. All of the early childhood professionals employed by the Tohono O’odham Nation are engaged in professional development. This opportunity should be available to over 75% of the early childhood professionals employed by the Tohono O’odham Nation.

The higher cost of start-up and service delivery to rural and isolated communities resulted in the conservative target service units.

Target Service Units	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Number of participating professionals	25	25	25
Funding Level	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

Strategy: Parent Outreach and Awareness

Strategy Description

Provides families of young children with information, materials or connections to resources and activities that increase awareness of early childhood development and health and the resources, supports or programs available for young children and their families.

Strategy Narrative

Create a Family Support and Child Development and Health Advocate position to educate families, the community, businesses, and government about the importance of early childhood development and health. Utilize home visits to educate parents and families about early childhood development and health, support families in advocating for their children’s needs, and disseminate resource information available to the members of Tohono O’odham Nation.

Activities include:

- Media
- Resource distribution (e.g. children’s books, resource guide, child development and child health fact sheets or parenting tip sheets)
- Parent/ Family Workshop (one time session)

Parents and Families benefit from more, better, and readily accessible information about child development, including:

- Clear and specific information on the importance of frequent and attentive interaction with their child with specific examples and guides
- Parent tips and resources on how to use TV and other educational items should be clear about intention of use: to enrich interactions with their child not substitute interactions
- Research based knowledge about what to expect from their child at each age to help parents guide their child and set appropriate rules and boundaries
- Targeted outreach for parents of lower income and education related to current research in brain development, enrichment resources, and developmental milestones
- Targeted outreach for parents with children in poor health or children who have developmental delays related to available services and eligibility
- Targeted outreach for parents of lower income and education related to available services and eligibility

Target Population Description

The Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has identified the target population being the families and caregivers of children, ages birth through 5 of the Tohono O’odham Nation. The number of participating adults to target of 60 was determined by current community participation in trainings, capacity and resources available. While this strategy will only reach approximately 10% of the total caregivers, it is expected that as workshops are held the number of care providers reached will increase exponentially along with the dissemination of information. The higher cost of start-up and service delivery to rural and isolated communities resulted in the conservative target service units. If the cohorts that participate achieve the desired results there is the potential external capacity to expand this opportunity across the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Target Service Units	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Number of parents participating	60	60	60
Number of workshops held	6	6	6
Funding Level	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Parent Outreach and Awareness	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Strategy: Parent Education Community-Based Training			
Strategy Description Provides classes on parenting, child development and problem-solving skills.			
Strategy Narrative Adapt and implement a culturally relevant and responsive parent education curriculum through community based training for parents and families of children ages birth through 5 of the San Lucy District and the Tohono O’odham Nation. The community based training program will provide information, resources and high-quality social support .The purpose of this strategy is to strengthen parents and families so that children have nurturing and stable relationships and enter Kindergarten ready to succeed. Research shows that differential concepts of family structure and identity exist between various ethnic groups and mainstream America. This is especially true in the case of Native American Tribes. For example, ways of providing child care on some Native American reservations may be based on a traditional sense of community responsibility, rather than individual family responsibility for children. Family support programs that may not be familiar with Native cultures may readily apply their own assumptions about family structure and responsibility and, in so doing, may fail to recognize the strengths of a broader assumption of community responsibility for children and other cultural perspectives. Evidence demonstrates programs that have designed an education curriculum within the context of Native American values. Examples of these programs include: Tohono O’odham Community Action or T.O.C.A., the Healthy O’odham Promotion Program or H.O.P.P., Helping America’s Youth: Native American Prevention Project Against AIDS and Substance Abuse, Institute on Community Integration’s Expanding the Circle, and the Native American Advocacy Program: Knowing Your Place in the Circle Community Prevention. Therefore, the program will be charged with both locating an evidence based model that best matches the needs of the community, adapting it to ensure its cultural relevance, and delivering the training and education program.			
Target Population Description The Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has identified the target population being the families and caregivers of children, ages birth through 5 of the Tohono O’odham Nation. The number of participating adults to target was determined by participation in current community trainings and resources available. The number of participating adults to target of 60 was determined by current community participation in trainings, capacity and resources available. While this strategy will only reach approximately 10% of the total caregivers, it is expected that as trainings are held the number of care providers reached will increase exponentially along with the dissemination of information. The higher cost of start-up and service delivery to rural and isolated communities resulted in the conservative target service units. If the cohorts that participate achieve the desired results there is the potential external capacity to expand this opportunity across the Tohono O’odham Nation.			
Target Service Units	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Number of Participating Adults	20	20	20
Funding Level	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000

Strategy: Food Security			
Strategy Description Distribute food boxes and basic necessity items to families in need of assistance who have children birth to 5 years old.			
Strategy Narrative Collaborate with the Southern Arizona Community Food Bank and Tohono O’odham Nation’s Department of Education to conduct Snak Pak distribution coinciding with the 2012-13 Head Start calendar year. Through this strategy, support for the distribution of Snak Paks with a focus on including items and nutritional resources for families with young children. Snak Paks are intended to provide food that requires limited preparation. Each pack provides a three-day supply of food and serves a children over the weekend until permanent assistance from other programs is available. The Snak Pak program supports families with young children because of a lack access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet the dietary needs of young children when not attending early care or education programs on the Tohono O’odham Nation. Information about healthy eating and nutrition appropriate for young children and their families is shared as part of Snak Pak distribution activities.			
Target Population Description The 265 children attending the early care and education environments across the Tohono O’odham Nation. The 265 children attending Pre-k or Head Start environments and receiving Snak Paks on the Tohono O’odham Nation represent over 50% of children three to five. Funding is eliminated in SFY2014-15 due to budgeting restraints and ability to bring program to a scale that can reach children not attending center based care.			
Target Service Units	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Number of food boxes distributed	10,070		
Funding Level	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Food Security	\$50,000	\$0	\$0

Strategy: Community Awareness (statewide)			
Strategy Description Uses a variety of community-based activities and materials to increase public awareness of the critical importance of early childhood development and health so that all Arizonans are actively engaged in supporting young kids in their communities.			
Strategy Narrative The regional council identified the need to increase the level of awareness about early childhood health and development throughout the region. This strategy provides access to a variety of community-based activities and materials to increase public awareness on the importance or early childhood development and health through participation in community events, and the dissemination of educational materials. This strategy is a component of the cross regional communications plan with the South Pima, Central Pima, North Pima and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Councils to collaborate on the			

distribution of information and educational materials throughout Pima County.			
Target Population Description The target audience is the general public to increase awareness of early childhood education, development, and health issues with particular focus on parents, educators, health providers, and policy makers in Pima County.			
Target Service Units	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
No target service units identified for this strategy			
Funding Level	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Community Awareness	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000

Strategy: Community Outreach (statewide)			
Strategy Description Provides grassroots support and engagement to increase parent and community awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.			
Strategy Narrative The regional council understands the imperative to build public awareness of the importance of early childhood education and understanding of child development. This strategy employs community outreach staff to engage target audiences in conversations about early childhood health and education issues. Outreach staff attends community events, develops presentations for target groups, and interacts with media with a goal of growing relationships in the community and building champions.			
Target Population Description The target populations for this strategy are outlined in the Southeast Area Cross-regional Communications Plan. In the previous and current fiscal year, key audiences were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents and Caregivers ● Civic-minded Arizonans ● Regional Partnership Councils ● Grantees ● Early Childhood Development and Health Related Providers ● Early Childhood Coalitions/Advocacy Organizations ● Medical Community ● Researchers ● Women’s Organizations ● Faith Organizations ● K-12 community ● Elders/seniors <p>In the coming fiscal year, audiences will shift to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Officials and Candidates ● University/post-secondary ● All target audiences listed above within Arizona's Tribal communities, as applicable 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business leaders <p>These audiences were identified because they encompass many of the key partners in a successful early childhood system. In order to ensure a consistent, comprehensive effort statewide, it was imperative to educate early childhood stakeholders on appropriate messaging and how to communicate with a consistent voice. In addition, these audiences represent the individuals and organizations in the community who have a vested interest in getting children ready for school and set for life.</p>			
Target Service Units	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
No target service units identified for this strategy			
Funding Level	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Community Outreach	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000

Strategy: Media (statewide) (FTF Directed)			
Strategy Description Increases public awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health via a media campaign that draws viewers/listeners to the ReadyAZKids.com web site.			
Strategy Narrative The Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council participates in the Cross-Regional Communications Media efforts with the four other Regional Partnership Councils in Pima County. Media efforts include purchasing television and radio spots, billboards, and other approved media buys.			
Target Population Description The Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council has identified the target population as parents, educators, health providers, policy makers, and the general public throughout Pima County. Funding level is reduced in SFY2013-15 due to budgeting restraints.			
Target Service Units	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
No target service units identified for this strategy			
Funding Level	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Media	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000

Strategy: Statewide Evaluation (statewide) (FTF Directed)			
Strategy Description Statewide evaluation includes the studies and evaluation work which inform the FTF Board and the 31 Regional Partnership Councils, examples are baseline Needs and Assets reports, specific focused studies, and statewide research and evaluation on the developing early childhood system.			

Strategy Narrative
 First Things First has and is growing a multi-level system of research and evaluation strategies designed to be responsive to the information needs of varied stakeholder groups, including the First Things First Board, Regional Partnership Council directors and members, and Arizona citizens. The research and evaluation system is designed to provide both depth and breadth of high quality information, from collecting programmatic data to evaluating the overall impact of the First Things First Early Childhood System model. The system provides a framework for conducting statewide and regional studies centered on identifying current and changing needs of families and children birth to five, and the impact of programs and strategies across all First Things First priority areas. The First Things First research and evaluation system is a knowledge-building system, designed to be a cumulative process of developing and advancing collective understandings and meaning-making around living questions such as “what is needed”, “what can be done”, “what are we doing”, “is it working, and if so, in what ways and to what effect?” Individually and collectively, research and evaluation strategies generate a wealth of data and cumulative findings that can be used to document trends and changes in school readiness indicators as well as support Council learning, strategic planning and decision-making to promote well-being in Arizona’s youngest citizens.

Target Population Description
 FTF State Board and regional councils, as well as community partners and general public who have vested interest in early childhood issues

Target Service Units	SFY 13	SFY 14	SFY 15
No target service units identified for this strategy			
Funding Level	SFY 13	SFY 14	SFY 15
Statewide Evaluation	\$17,143	\$17,143	\$17,143

Section III D. Proposed Funding Summary
 SFY 2013 - 2015 Regional Partnership Council Budget



**FY 2013 - 2015 Tohono
 O'odham Nation Funding
 Plan Summary**

Allocations and Funding Sources	2013	2014	2015
FY Allocation	\$613,647	\$614,875	\$617,180
Population Based Allocation	\$343,174		
Discretionary Allocation	\$192,918		
Other (FTF Fund balance addition)	\$77,555	\$614,875	\$617,180
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$419,212	\$96,385	\$16,837
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$1,032,859	\$711,260	\$634,017
Strategies	Proposed Allotment	Proposed Allotment	Proposed Allotment
Quality First (<i>statewide</i>)	\$158,029	\$103,861	\$85,805
Child Care Health Consultation (<i>statewide</i>)	\$22,680	\$15,120	\$12,600
Scholarships TEACH (<i>statewide</i>)	\$0	\$0	\$0
QF Child Care Scholarships	\$353,622	\$223,229	\$179,858
Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Parent Outreach and Awareness	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
Food Security	\$50,000		
Community Awareness (<i>statewide</i>)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Community Outreach (<i>statewide</i>)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Media(<i>statewide</i>) (FTF Directed)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Statewide Evaluation (<i>statewide</i>) (FTF Directed)	\$17,143	\$17,143	\$17,143
Proposed Allotment Total:	\$936,474	\$694,423	\$630,406
Total Unallotted	\$96,385	\$16,837	\$3,611