



FIRST THINGS FIRST

AGENDA ITEM: Regional Needs and Assets Reports

BACKGROUND:

Presented for the Board's consideration are twenty-six (26) Regional Needs and Assets Reports submitted in fulfillment of Regional Partnership Council responsibilities under ARS Title 8, Chapter 13, Section 1161. Also included are five (5) requests for extension.

RECOMMENDATION:

First Things First staff recommends approval of these twenty-six (26) Regional Needs and Assets Reports on behalf of their respective Regional Councils:

- Central Maricopa
- Central Phoenix
- Central Pima
- Cochise
- Coconino
- Cocopah Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Gila
- Graham/Greenlee
- Hualapai Tribe
- La Paz/Mohave
- North Phoenix
- North Pima
- Northeast Maricopa
- Northwest Maricopa
- Navajo/Apache
- Navajo Nation
- Pinal
- Santa Cruz
- South Phoenix
- South Pima
- Southeast Maricopa
- Southwest Maricopa
- White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Yavapai
- Yuma

Also recommended is the approval of five (5) requests for extension on behalf of their respective Regional Councils:

- Gila River Indian Community
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- San Carlos Apache

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Needs and Assets Overview

Purpose

The purpose of the Regional Needs and Assets Reports is to identify assets, coordination opportunities and unmet needs in early childhood development and health programs in each Regional Partnership Council area. The needs and assets report is intended as the primary vehicle for the collection and analysis of all data available at the regional level. Future reports will include external evaluation results, findings of FTF funded studies, existing data from partners, and FTF grantee quarterly reports. This assessment and review of assets and needs informs the strategic planning of each Regional Partnership Council.

Process

The 2010 Needs and Assets process had some notable modifications from earlier efforts. Primary goals of the modifications were:

- to develop a body of qualified vendors to complete the reports,
- to ensure that Regional Partnership Councils had a range of vendors from which to select and those choices were appropriate to the richness and variation in Arizona's communities,
- and to support a consistent set of base level indicators for all reports.

To this end, in the late spring and summer of 2009, First Things First requested and was granted approval from the Arizona State Procurement Office to conduct a Request for Proposal process. This process, overseen by the State Procurement Office, generated a list of qualified vendors to conduct needs and assets reports for a five year period.

After a thorough review process, fifteen (15) vendors were selected and became available to Regional Partnership Councils. Only a few vendors submitted proposals to complete reports in all Regional Partnership Council areas, so no Council had 15 choices; Councils had from two to nine choices of qualified vendors for the completion of their report.

So that each Council would have a base report, the Board allocated approximately \$17,000 from the administrative (FY 2010 allocation) and discretionary (FY 2011 allocation) funds for each Council to complete a report. In many cases, Councils allocated additional funds to enhance the base report. Common enhancements were additional primary data collection and the analysis and integration of that data into the report. Frequent additions to the base report included: focus groups and/or key informant interviews on topics such as unmet demand for child care, infrastructure and capacity for collaboration, parent needs for early care and education, food insecurity, and impact of the recession on family needs.

Next Steps

After consideration by the Board, approved reports will receive final formatting and be available to Councils for release and use in their strategic planning. The regional needs and assets reports provide Regional Councils region-specific information that will be used to inform how they continue with their implementation of the 2011 funding plans. The majority of the strategies across all the Regional Councils have moved into implementation with organizations awarded grants to carry out the services and programs. With the reconciliation of the SFY2010, Regional Councils will be reviewing final expenditures and year end data during their October and November meetings. Regional Councils will utilize the information provided in these reports to assess if needs have changed that they may want to consider expanding strategies to provide additional services and programming. The information will also be helpful in determining what, if anything, has changed, that may lead them in the direction to revise their regional funding plans. Preparing the SFY12 funding plans will soon be underway and the Regional Councils will also rely on the needs and assets reports in the development of these plans along with the SFY10 financial and data reports , and the strategic direction approved by the Board.