2010 NEEDS & ASSETS REPORT
SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGION
August 23, 2010

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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September 14, 2010

Message from the Chair:

The past two years have been rewarding for the First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, as we delivered on our mission to build better futures for young children and their families. During the past year, we have touched many lives of young children and their families.

The First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council will continue to advocate and provide opportunities as indicated throughout this report.

Our strategic direction has been guided by the Needs and Assets reports, specifically created for the Southeast Maricopa Region in 2008 and the new 2010 report. The Needs and Assets reports are vital to our continued work in building a true integrated early childhood system for our young children and our overall future. The Southeast Maricopa Regional Council would like to thank our Needs and Assets vendors MGT of America, Inc. and Children's Action Alliance for their knowledge, expertise and analysis of the Southeast Maricopa Region. The new report will help guide our decisions as we move forward for young children and their families within the Southeast Maricopa Region.

Going forward, the First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council is committed to meeting the needs of young children by providing essential services and advocating for social change.

Thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers and community partners, First Things First is making a real difference in the lives of our youngest citizens and throughout the entire State.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dee Tamminen, Chair
Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Introductory Summary and Acknowledgments
First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

The way in which children develop from infancy to well functioning members of society will always be a critical subject matter. Understanding the processes of early childhood development is crucial to our ability to foster each child's optimal development and, in turn, is fundamental to all aspects of wellbeing of our communities, society, and the State of Arizona.

This Needs and Assets Report for the Southeast Maricopa Geographic Region provides a clear statistical analysis and helps us in understanding the needs, gaps and assets for young children and points to ways in which children and families can be supported. The needs young children and families face are outlined in the executive summary and documented in further detail in the full report.

The Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in young children and empowering parents, grandparents, and caregivers to advocate for services and programs within the region. This report provides basic data points that will aid the Council's decisions and funding allocations, while building a true comprehensive statewide early childhood system.

Acknowledgments:

The First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council owes special gratitude to the agencies and key stakeholders who participated in numerous work sessions and community forums throughout the past two years. The success of First Things First was due, in large measure, to the contributions of numerous individuals who gave their time, skill, support, knowledge and expertise.

To the current and past members of the Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council, your dedication, commitment and extreme passion has guided the work of making a difference in the lives of young children and families within the region. Our continued work will only aid in the direction of building a true comprehensive early childhood system for the betterment of young children within the region and the entire State.

We also want to thank the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona State Immunization Information System, the Arizona Department of Education and School Districts across the State of Arizona, the Arizona Head Start Association, the Office of Head Start, and Head Start and Early Head Start Programs across the State of Arizona, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System for their contribution of data for this report.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2010, MGT of America, Inc. (MGT), was awarded a contract by the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, also known as First Things First (FTF), to provide a Regional Needs and Asset Report for the Southeast Maricopa Region. MGT teamed with Children's Action Alliance for this important engagement. This report synthesizes relevant community data to help inform the FTF Regional Council in decision-making.

Methodology

The methodology used to prepare this Regional Needs and Asset Report is described in this section.

The focus of the report is the collection and meaningful analysis of informative data indicators. The Needs and Assets Report emphasizes the Council's existing "assets," that is, the institutions or organizations within the region that can be strengthened, expanded, and/or partnered with to support early childhood activities.

Primary Data Collection

Local regional data have been of the utmost importance to the success of this project. The team collected qualitative primary data to reflect the personal views of regional participants and the unique features of the region.

The team used three methods of primary data collection as described below:

1. Web-based stakeholder surveys.
2. Telephone interviews.
3. Stakeholder meetings.

Web-based Stakeholder Surveys

The team worked closely with FTF staff, Regional Coordinators and Managers, to collect contact information from compiled lists of early care and development stakeholders in the region. The team supplemented these stakeholders with information obtained from key organizations, such as medical centers, school principals, food banks, libraries, and WIC centers.

FTF provided MGT with 2,360 e-mail addresses for early care and development stakeholders in Maricopa County. E-mails were sent to each contact seeking participation in the survey portion of this study. Respondents were asked to indicate the communities that they served, and many indicated that they serve communities across multiple regions.

The survey was initiated in April 2010 following revisions based on input from Regional Council Members. The surveys focused on qualitative data from stakeholders about early childhood needs and assets in their local community. Survey respondents were asked to provide information and/or data sources that will contribute further to the reports. Results of the survey are located in **Appendix A** of this report.

Telephone Interviews

The team conducted individual telephone interviews with stakeholders in the region to obtain additional information and perspectives on early childhood needs and assets. In addition to early childhood professionals, the team interviewed parents and neighborhood leaders. Some interviewees provided input in written form if requested.

A summary of the responses is located in **Appendix B** of this report.

Stakeholder Group Interviews

Group meetings were held with community stakeholders. These group interviews involved organizations providing relevant services in the region and other select community members.

These meetings provided additional relevant information, perceptions, and opinions of services considered assets, as well as potential barriers or unmet needs of the community.

A summary of the responses is located in **Appendix B** of this report.

Secondary Data Collection and Analysis

The team worked with FTF and other Arizona and national data sources for indicators in the Regional Needs and Assets Report template provided in the FTF solicitation. The team worked closely with Regional Coordinators and Managers to identify local sources of documented information. Examples of national and regional sources included in this report are as follows:

- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.
- Arizona Department of Economic Security.
- Arizona Department of Health Services.
- Arizona Department of Education.
- American Community Survey.
- Arizona Head Start Association and National Head Start.

Report Overview

The City of Mesa is large, diverse, and has similar economic indicators to Maricopa County. The communities of Higley, Gilbert, and Queen Creek are much smaller and have stronger economic and educational indicators than Maricopa County.

The region has notable strengths. Babies born in this region are more likely to have mothers with at least some college education. Children in this region are less likely to be raised by their grandparents than children in Maricopa County. Nearly two out of three schools in the region were rated as Excelling or Highly Performing, compared to only one out of three statewide. More than half of the respondents to the online survey said that literacy and educational services are meeting the needs of the community.

Community members greatly value the parks and recreation services provided by the cities and towns. They also identify a long list of services as assets, including: the Family Resource Center at the Child Crisis Center, services delivered by Southwest Human Development, area hospitals, the AT Still Dental Clinic, parent programs provided by Mesa Public Schools, Quality First, childcare and T.E.A.C.H. scholarships provided by First Things First, services for special needs children, parent coaching, and grandparenting programs.

The region faces many economic challenges. The number of young children living in transitional and emergency shelters in the region grew somewhat faster between 2007 and 2009 than the county overall. For the most recent data, the median income of families with children in Mesa was lower than the median in Maricopa County for all family types, while median incomes for two-parent families in the remainder of the region were significantly above the Maricopa County median. The number of adults receiving unemployment benefits grew far faster in the region than countywide between 2007 and 2009.

The data show other family stresses. The number of children removed from their homes by Child Protective Services due to abuse or neglect was high compared to other regions in Maricopa County. There is a substantial shortage of foster homes in the region even though a high number of foster homes are present.

The percentage of young children who are Hispanic in the region is lower than the percentage in the county (47%), ranging from 17 percent in the Higley Unified School District to 44 percent in the Mesa School District. Gilbert, Higley, and Queen Creek also have lower rates of young children with a foreign born parent; the rate in the City of Mesa is 31 percent compared to the countywide rate of 37 percent.

The need for access to high quality, affordable childcare is strong throughout the region. In 2010, 13 percent of childcare providers have national accreditation or recognition, indicating that they meet specified quality standards. This is an increase over 2008. In the City of Mesa, about two-thirds of the households with children younger than 18 had

all parents in the labor force – indicating a large need for childcare. Preschool enrollment is low in Mesa and high in the rest of the region in comparison to Maricopa County. In 2010, 294 four year- old children were enrolled in preschool through the state-funded Early Childhood Block Grant program. This funding has been eliminated for the 2010-11 school year. The number of children receiving subsidies for childcare dropped by 37 percent between 2009 and 2010, reflecting the state budget cuts that closed the door to any qualified, low-income families who applied.

The input from the community through the online survey, stakeholder meetings, and telephone interviews all point to a great demand for quality improvement in childcare and childcare financial assistance for parents. Nearly half of the respondents to the online survey said that childcare services are not meeting the needs of families in the community, and 84 percent identified cost as the single most important barrier in childcare. Nearly half of respondents said that high quality childcare is a service that is missing in the region.

Community input also focused on the need for children's healthcare and health coverage. The rate of uninsured children in Mesa is higher than the rate of uninsured children countywide. Half of the respondents to the online survey identified access to free or low-cost health services as a missing service in the region. Many social services were described as insufficient and difficult to access.

The on-line survey included a question about what types of employer-based benefits are most important to families with young children. Eighty-three percent of survey respondents identified affordable health insurance for family members, 61 percent identified paid time off for illness and vacation. And 54 percent identified a flexible work schedule.

Community members also emphasized a need to improve awareness among parents about early education needs and available services. Both formal reports and stakeholder meetings identified the value of making information available in a more systematic way to both parents and providers. There was a strong consensus that this cannot be done solely through brochures or a database. Personal contact, mentoring, coaching and assistance are more effective methods for both families and providers.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents an overview of the Southeast Maricopa Region and details of the analyses used in developing this report.

1.1 Overview of the Southeast Maricopa Region

The Southeast Maricopa Region is composed of metropolitan, suburban, and rural areas. It includes the City of Mesa and the Towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek. The following towns and communities are not included in this region: Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the portion of Apache Junction in Maricopa County, and the Gila River Indian Community.

With 460,000 residents, Mesa is the third largest city in Arizona, following Phoenix and Tucson. The city is home to the largest school district in the state with 10,000 employees. Mesa has 14 schools of higher learning, including Arizona State University's Polytechnic Campus and the Arizona School of Health Sciences and the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health at A.T. Still University.

Gilbert is a rapidly growing community of 6,800 businesses and over 190,000 residents. Although Gilbert is one of the fastest growing communities in the nation, the town is proud to still be considered one of Arizona's "small towns." Gilbert is the second largest community in the Southeast Maricopa Region.

Queen Creek is one of the East Valley's fastest growing towns, with a population over 30,000. This beautiful family-friendly community offers the comfort of the country with the convenience of its proximity to the Phoenix metropolitan area. Queen Creek is a major partner with the Williams Gateway Airport and supports the airport's development as an asset to the economic future of the East Valley.

1.2 Preliminary Analyses

As part of the Needs and Assets data collection, the team reviewed multiple reports, databases, and environmental scans related to children and families in Maricopa County and in the region. This section presents highlights of this information.

1.2.1 Early Childcare and Education

There is great variation in the region between the urban and rural communities and the services that are available. In the rural community of Queen Creek, there are focused efforts to provide early educational services to the children of the migrant and seasonal farm workers who often are not in one area long enough to be established in a childcare program. The Arizona Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program offers early education

services at no cost to families. Queen Creek is undergoing rapid expansion of its early childcare and education infrastructure as its population continues to grow.

Several recurring problems for low-income families include lengthy wait-lists and income eligibility requirements for Head Start or DES certified childcare providers. Some families are afraid to apply for programs because of their immigration status, even if their children are legal citizens.

1.2.2 Family Support

The region has a wide array of family support services, social services, and special needs programs, as well as three child safety programs and a child crisis center. There are also 15 libraries that offer an array of family programs and many recreation and leisure resources in the region. Queen Creek recently added a Family Resource Center, library, and high school childcare center.

1.2.3 Health and Special Needs

For some rural communities in the region, it is impossible to access government-supported childcare services or sliding-scale clinics. Some of the behavioral health and substance abuse services available are too expensive for low-income families who are in the greatest need of these services. Some families without health insurance travel to Phoenix to find free or sliding-scale clinics or rely on the emergency room for service. Other clinics available in neighboring communities are only open limited days and hours.

Also, there is a great need for more prevention and early intervention programs that identify learning disabilities and difficulties early during a child's life. The Arizona Early Intervention Program cooperates with Head Start and other childcare centers to identify children with learning or development difficulties and to provide early intervention and prevention services. However, after a child is identified as having a disability, there is often little or no follow-up within the education system to provide special services.

References

Area Needs Assessment, City of Mesa, Arizona. Completed by New Leaf's Mesa Community Action Network, 2009.
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Project LAUNCH: TAPESTRY, *Arizona's Local Environmental Scan*, May 29, 2009.

Steps Toward Caring Communities, Valley of the Sun United Way, December 2007 Report.

1.3 Methodology

The methodology used to prepare the Regional Needs and Asset Report is described in this section.

The focus of the report is the collection and meaningful analysis of informative data indicators. The Needs and Assets Report includes an emphasis on the Council's existing "assets," that is, the institutions or organizations within the region that can be strengthened, expanded, and/or partnered with to support early childhood activities.

1.3.1 Primary Data Collection and Analysis

Local regional data have been of the utmost importance to the success of this project. The team collected qualitative primary data to reflect the personal views of regional participants and the unique features of the region.

The team used three methods of primary data collection as described below:

1. Web-based stakeholder surveys.
2. Telephone interviews.
3. Stakeholder meetings.

Web-based Stakeholder Surveys

The team coordinated with First Things First staff, Regional Coordinators and Managers, to develop the survey instruments and to collect survey respondent contact information. A master list of potential respondents was created that consisted of early care and development stakeholders in each region. A draft survey was presented to two focus groups on March 25 and 26, 2010 during meetings that were accessible through teleconferencing and "Live Meeting" format. Input was synthesized and incorporated into the survey design, and the final version was converted into a web-based application in late March and early April.

FTF provided MGT with 2,360 e-mail addresses for early care and development stakeholders in Maricopa County. E-mails were sent to each contact seeking participation in the survey portion of this study. Respondents were asked to indicate the communities that they served, and many indicated that they serve communities across multiple regions.

Pilot testing began in early April and the online survey was provided to all respondents on April 22, 2010. Some key features of the survey include the ability for respondents to provide information about multiple communities, edit responses as needed until the final closing deadline, and to review their survey completion status using a "completion matrix." The survey period was extended for an additional week following a request for an extension. The survey period ended on May 25, 2010. Eighty-six respondents

provided survey input about the Southeast Maricopa Region. Survey responses can be found in **Appendix A**.

Telephone Interviews

The team conducted individual telephone interviews with stakeholders in the region to obtain additional information and perspectives on early childhood needs and assets. In addition to early childhood professionals, the team interviewed parents and neighborhood leaders. Some interviewees provided input in written form if requested.

A summary of the responses is located in **Appendix B** of this report.

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These meetings provided additional relevant information, perceptions, and opinions of services considered assets, as well as potential barriers or unmet needs of the community.

A summary of the responses is located in **Appendix B** of this report.

1.3.2 Secondary Data Collection and Analysis

The review team worked with FTF and other Arizona and national data sources for indicators in the Regional Needs and Assets Report template provided in the FTF solicitation. The team worked closely with Regional Coordinators and Managers to identify local sources of documented information. Examples of national and regional sources included in this report are as follows:

- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.
- Arizona Department of Economic Security.
- Arizona Department of Health Services.
- Arizona Department of Education.
- American Community Survey.
- Arizona Head Start Association and National Head Start.

Many of the analyses included in the successive chapters of this report rely on American Community Survey (ACS) data published by the U.S. Census Bureau. The information presented for each topic area reflects the most current and geographically comprehensive data available through this source. More specifically, three particular databases were used to generate the tables: 1) three-year average estimates covering the 2006-08 period, 2) single-year estimates for the year 2008, and, 3) single year estimates for the year 2005 (used as a historic reference point to calculate change). Items noted as “Most Recent Estimates” reflect either the three-year average estimate for the demographic statistic over the 2006-08 period or, if unavailable, the single-year estimate for the year 2008.

Alternately, items denoted as "3-Year Trend" indicate the percentage change in the demographic component between the single-year estimates for the years 2005 and 2008.

As noted, data from ACS are presented for the most specific geographies available for each data element. ACS will not publish results when population totals are too small to allow for reliable estimation; therefore, localities shown will vary from exhibit to exhibit.

In addition to national-, state-, and county-level data, geographies available through the ACS at the sub-FTF regional level include cities and towns and school districts. Note that the data shown for school districts do not refer to the students enrolled in school there; they cover all residents living within the geographic boundaries of the school districts. Because the boundaries of the cities and school districts do not match the First Things First regional boundaries, the exhibits include several geographies to best reflect the characteristics of the region. Some of these geographies overlap and some include residents outside the region.

2.0 THE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN LIVING IN THE SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGION

This chapter presents data and analyses regarding families and children living in the region.

2.1 General Population Trends

Exhibit 2-1 presents an analysis of the population of children under age five. As shown:

- Higley, Queen Creek, and Gilbert have high percentages of young children in their populations. Mesa mirrors the countywide rate of 8 percent.
- The young child population has been declining in Gilbert and slowly growing in Mesa, in comparison to the 11 percent growth countywide.

EXHIBIT 2-1
PERCENTAGE, NUMBER, AND CHANGE IN POPULATION
CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

AREA	POPULATION UNDER 5 YEARS		
	Most Recent Data	Percent of Total Population (All Ages)	3-Year Trend
Gilbert Unified District	15,370	8.0%	-14.2%
Higley Unified District	7,737	14.0%	*
Mesa Unified District	38,614	7.8%	-2.8%
Queen Creek Unified District	3,872	12.2%	*
Gilbert Town	19,610	9.9%	-14.2%
Mesa City	38,837	8.1%	4.3%
Queen Creek Town	4,737	14.1%	*
Maricopa County	324,159	8.4%	11.3%
Arizona	500,031	7.9%	12.1%
United States	20,672,826	6.9%	3.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 2-2 presents data relevant to the diversity of the population of children under five.

- There are lower percentages of African American and Hispanic young children in the region compared to Maricopa County and the state.

- In Mesa, the percentage of young children who are Hispanic is similar to the percentage for the county and state. The percentage of Hispanic children is much lower in other parts of the region.

- Mesa has a greater percentage of young children who are Native American than Maricopa County.

- The region's diversity has been increasing, with notable growth in African American and Hispanic young children populations.

EXHIBIT 2-2
RACE AND ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

AREA	PERCENT UNDER 5 YEARS (MOST RECENT DATA)					PERCENT CHANGE (3-YEAR TREND)			
	Race				Ethnicity	Race			Ethnicity
	White	African American	Native American	Other -Or- Unable To Estimate	Hispanic Or Latino (Any Race)	White	African American	Native American	Hispanic Or Latino (Any Race)
Gilbert Unified District	74.9%	2.6%	*	22.5%	24.3%	-31.4%	*	*	25.5%
Higley Unified District	80.7%	*	*	19.3%	17.0%	*	*	*	*
Mesa Unified District	76.9%	3.2%	4.6%	15.3%	44.0%	14.6%	135.1%	-37.5%	9.5%
Queen Creek Unified District	84.2%	*	*	15.8%	21.4%	*	*	*	*
Gilbert Town	77.7%	3.1%	*	19.2%	20.3%	-28.4%	*	*	36.1%
Mesa City	77.3%	2.7%	4.0%	16.0%	42.1%	19.4%	*	*	15.9%
Queen Creek Town	81.8%	*	*	18.2%	20.5%	*	*	*	*
Maricopa County	73.4%	4.9%	2.4%	19.3%	47.2%	20.9%	61.3%	-12.4%	19.4%
Arizona	69.3%	4.2%	5.5%	21.1%	45.7%	20.8%	59.8%	-13.6%	19.4%
United States	66.9%	13.6%	0.9%	18.6%	24.6%	4.9%	-3.8%	6.5%	16.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 2-3 presents data about children who are foreign born and who may have cultural and/or linguistic challenges.

- Approximately 2.8 percent of young children in Mesa City were born outside the United States, mirroring the countywide rate. The rate of foreign born children in the Gilbert Unified School District is much lower.

EXHIBIT 2-3
CHILDREN UNDER SIX WHO ARE FOREIGN BORN

AREA	PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6
	Most Recent Data
Gilbert Unified District	1.6%
Mesa Unified District	3.1%
Mesa City	2.8%
Maricopa County	2.8%
Arizona	2.2%
United States	1.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Exhibit 2-4 also presents data relevant to children with potential cultural/linguistic challenges. As shown:

- The region has low rates of young children with at least one foreign born parent compared to the countywide rate.

- The rates of children with at least one foreign born parent are particularly low in Higley, Queen Creek, and Gilbert; however, the rate in Mesa approaches the countywide rate of 37 percent.

EXHIBIT 2-4
CHILDREN UNDER SIX WITH AT LEAST ONE FOREIGN BORN PARENT

AREA	PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6
	Most Recent Data
Gilbert Unified District	17.9%
Higley Unified District	10.8%
Mesa Unified District	31.9%
Gilbert Town	15.1%
Mesa City	31.2%
Queen Creek Town	11.7%
Maricopa County	36.6%
Arizona	31.7%
United States	24.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

2.2 Additional Population Characteristics

Exhibit 2-5 presents data about the age and ethnicity of mothers who gave birth in Maricopa County and Arizona. As shown:

- The proportion of births in Maricopa County to teen mothers stayed the same between 2005 and 2008 (11.6%).

- The proportion of births to teen mothers was much higher for non-White mothers than for White, non-Hispanic mothers.

EXHIBIT 2-5
BIRTHS BY AGE AND ETHNICITY

AREA		2005						2008					
			Mother's Age Group						Mother's Age Group				
		Total	<15	15-17	18-19	20+	Unknown	Total	<15	15-17	18-19	20+	Unknown
Maricopa County	**Total**	**62,232**	**0.2%**	**4.1%**	**7.3%**	**88.4%**	**0.0%**	**62,667**	**0.15%**	**4.1%**	**7.3%**	**88.5%**	**0.0%**
	White non-Hispanic	26130	0.0%	1.5%	4.2%	94.2%	0.0%	26,201	0.02%	1.6%	4.5%	93.8%	0.0%
	Hispanic or Latino	28318	0.4%	6.5%	9.9%	83.2%	0.0%	28,319	0.26%	6.5%	9.8%	83.4%	0.0%
	Black or African American	2697	0.1%	5.9%	10.1%	83.8%	0.0%	3,272	0.28%	4.8%	10.1%	84.8%	0.0%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	1,817	0.4%	6.3%	11.8%	81.5%	0.0%	1,940	0.21%	5.4%	10.2%	84.3%	0.0%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2133	0.0%	1.0%	1.9%	97.0%	0.0%	2,605	0.04%	0.5%	2.2%	97.2%	0.0%
	Other/unknown	1137	0.0%	3.0%	7.1%	89.9%	0.0%	330	0.00%	3.9%	4.2%	91.2%	0.6%
Arizona	**Total**	**95,798**	**0.2%**	**4.4%**	**7.9%**	**87.5%**	**0.0%**	**99,215**	**0.16%**	**4.2%**	**7.9%**	**87.7%**	**0.0%**
	White non-Hispanic	39,657	0.0%	1.8%	5.1%	93.1%	0.0%	41,925	0.04%	1.8%	5.3%	92.9%	0.0%
	Hispanic or Latino	42,156	0.3%	6.5%	10.3%	82.9%	0.0%	42,639	0.26%	6.4%	10.2%	83.2%	0.0%
	Black or African American	3,450	0.2%	5.8%	10.5%	83.5%	0.0%	4,301	0.28%	4.7%	10.3%	84.7%	0.0%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	6,293	0.3%	7.6%	11.2%	80.9%	0.0%	6,362	0.35%	6.4%	11.9%	81.4%	0.0%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2,805	0.0%	1.0%	2.4%	96.6%	0.0%	3,425	0.03%	0.8%	2.5%	96.7%	0.0%
	Other/unknown	1,437	0.1%	2.9%	6.2%	90.8%	0.0%	563	0.00%	3.7%	4.4%	91.5%	0.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services.

Exhibit 2-6 presents data about single parent and two-parent families with young children by race and ethnicity. As shown:

- The city of Mesa has a higher proportion of two-parent families than the county and state.
- Hispanic families have a higher percentage of families headed by a single father.
- The percentage of two-parent families in Mesa has been decreasing faster than in Maricopa County.

EXHIBIT 2-6
TYPES OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER FIVE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

AREA	PERCENT OF FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN UNDER 5 (MOST RECENT DATA)						PERCENT CHANGE IN TYPES OF FAMILIES (3-YEAR TREND)					
	All Races & Ethnicities			Hispanic Or Latino (Any Race)			All Races & Ethnicities			Hispanic Or Latino (Any Race)		
	Two-Parent	Single Parent (Male)	Single Parent (Female)	Two-Parent	Single Parent (Male)	Single Parent (Female)	Two-Parent	Single Parent (Male)	Single Parent (Female)	Two-Parent	Single Parent (Male)	Single Parent (Female)
Mesa Unified District	71.9%	7.0%	21.1%	71.3%	9.8%	18.9%	-18.8%	-75.5%	10.1%	2.5%	*	27.0%
Mesa City	73.7%	6.7%	19.5%	71.2%	9.4%	19.4%	-11.7%	-76.9%	24.9%	4.9%	*	51.7%
Maricopa County	71.3%	8.5%	20.3%	66.5%	10.8%	22.7%	-10.0%	4.6%	-2.6%	-9.2%	-6.3%	17.2%
Arizona	68.4%	9.0%	22.6%	63.9%	10.4%	25.7%	-8.4%	2.8%	2.0%	-12.1%	-4.5%	17.2%
United States	69.6%	7.5%	22.9%	65.3%	11.1%	23.7%	-0.8%	4.1%	2.7%	3.7%	4.1%	6.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 2-7 presents data relevant to children being raised by their grandparents. These families often face challenges due to the health and financial needs of the grandparents and the circumstances that led to the children living with them. As shown:

- The percentage of children younger than six living with their grandparents was lower in Gilbert than in Maricopa County. The percentage of children younger than six living with their grandparents in Mesa is similar to the countywide rate of 9 percent.

EXHIBIT 2-7
CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CHILDREN UNDER 6
	Most Recent Data
Gilbert Unified District	7.3%
Mesa Unified District	9.4%
Gilbert Town	5.2%
Mesa City	8.5%
Maricopa County	9.0%
Arizona	11.2%
United States	9.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Exhibit 2-8 presents data about the educational level of women who gave birth in the region in the past 12 months. As shown:

- Just over half of babies born in Mesa had mothers who had a high school education or less, mirroring the countywide rate.

- The percentage of births to mothers without a high school diploma was lowest in Gilbert than elsewhere in the county.

- Mothers in Gilbert were also more likely to have a college degree than mothers in Mesa or Maricopa County.

EXHIBIT 2-8
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF WOMEN WHO GAVE BIRTH IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

AREA	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT RATES OF WOMEN WHO GAVE BIRTH IN LAST 12 MONTHS									
	Less than High School		High School or Equivalent		Some College or AA Degree		Bachelor's Degree		Graduate/ Professional Degree	
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Gilbert Unified District	11.3%	*	23.3%	83.5%	35.6%	15.5%	18.8%	*	11.0%	*
Higley Unified District	*	*	13.7%	*	46.2%	*	*	*	*	*
Mesa Unified District	34.0%	50.0%	20.6%	-61.3%	28.3%	-11.0%	11.2%	7.9%	*	*
Queen Creek Unified District	*	*	23.2%	*	48.7%	*	*	*	*	*
Gilbert Town	10.4%	*	19.9%	*	35.4%	7.3%	20.6%	*	13.7%	*
Mesa City	29.4%	20.2%	22.5%	-42.9%	30.7%	-5.5%	11.6%	30.2%	*	*
Queen Creek Town	*	*	21.4%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maricopa County	27.5%	13.3%	24.2%	-23.8%	26.7%	1.4%	14.7%	17.2%	6.8%	11.6%
Arizona	25.3%	-1.6%	26.1%	-20.9%	30.0%	13.8%	12.4%	15.1%	6.3%	15.4%
United States	17.8%	-7.6%	25.9%	-8.3%	29.2%	11.5%	18.2%	-2.1%	9.0%	9.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 2-9 presents the percentages of households with children in which all parents are in the labor force, indicating a need for childcare. As shown:

- In Mesa and Maricopa County, about two-thirds of the households with children younger than 18 had all parents working or seeking employment.

EXHIBIT 2-9
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN AND ALL PARENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

AREA	PERCENT OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18**	
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Mesa Unified District	67.2%	6.6%
Mesa City	67.4%	6.0%
Maricopa County	66.9%	3.5%
Arizona	67.2%	5.1%
United States	71.0%	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
** Represents all households with all parents employed or seeking employment as a proportion of total households with children under the age of 18.

Single mothers who work are more likely to need childcare services. As shown in **Exhibit 2-10**:

- Rates of single mothers in the workforce in the region ranged from 52 to 61 percent, similar to the countywide rate.

EXHIBIT 2-10
SINGLE MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF SINGLE MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE**
	Most Recent Data
Gilbert Unified District	55.1%
Mesa Unified District	54.0%
Queen Creek Unified District	61.0%
Gilbert Town	56.4%
Mesa City	53.2%
Queen Creek Town	52.2%
Maricopa County	55.0%
Arizona	56.0%
United States	60.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
** Single mothers (age 20-64) of children under the age of six who are employed or seeking employment as a proportion of total single mothers (age 20-64) of children under the age of six.

Exhibit 2-11 presents data about households where children may not be exposed to English. These households are "linguistically isolated," which is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as a household in which no one over 14 speaks English "very well."

- The percentage of linguistically isolated households in Mesa is above the countywide rate.

- The percentage of linguistically isolated households in other parts of the Southeast Maricopa Region are much lower (2.0% or below).

EXHIBIT 2-11
LINGUISTIC ISOLATION OF HOUSEHOLDS

AREA	PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED	
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Gilbert Unified District	1.9%	*
Higley Unified District	1.3%	*
Mesa Unified District	8.2%	0.2%
Queen Creek Unified District	2.0%	*
Gilbert Town	1.9%	*
Mesa City	8.6%	0.6%
Queen Creek Town	1.7%	*
Maricopa County	7.5%	-0.4%
Arizona	6.7%	-0.2%
United States	4.8%	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
Note: Data presented in this exhibit are based on available figures for total households, not only households with children.
* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

2.3 Economic Circumstances

Exhibits 2-12 and **2-13** present data about unemployment in the region, which may create financial and emotional stress for families.

- The number of adults in the region claiming unemployment insurance benefits more than quadrupled between 2007 and 2009, an increase far higher than the countywide and statewide increases.

- The unemployment rate in the region more than doubled between 2005 and 2010, as it did countywide.

- The unemployment rate in Mesa is slightly below the countywide rate.

EXHIBIT 2-12
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CLAIMING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

AREA	JANUARY-JUNE 2007	JANUARY-JUNE 2009	PERCENT CHANGE
Southeast Maricopa Region	8,498	35,250	314.8%
Maricopa County	40,890	130,251	218.5%
Arizona	87,083	231,628	166.0%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

EXHIBIT 2-13
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

AREA	TOTAL EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS MARCH 2010	UNEMPLOYMENT MARCH 2005	UNEMPLOYMENT MARCH 2010	UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENT CHANGE
Gilbert	108,686	2.3%	5.0%	117.4%
Mesa	237,230	3.8%	8.0%	110.5%
Queen Creek	2,562	4.3%	9.1%	111.6%
Maricopa County	1,822,752	4.1%	8.7%	112.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security.

Exhibit 2-14 presents data on the number of children (birth to age five) who were homeless and living in transitional or emergency shelters. The data include children whose last permanent address was in the Southeast Maricopa Region. As shown:

- The number of young children living in shelters greatly increased between 2007 and 2009.

EXHIBIT 2-14
HOMELESS CHILDREN LIVING IN SHELTERS

AREA	HOMELESS CHILDREN (AGE 0 TO 5)		
	2007	2009	PERCENT CHANGE
Southeast Maricopa Region	164	294	79.3%
Sum of FTF Maricopa Regions**	724	1,188	64.1%

Source: Maricopa Homeless Management Information System.
**Includes all data reported for ZIP codes encompassed by Central Phoenix, South Phoenix, North Phoenix, Central Maricopa, Northeast Maricopa, Northwest Maricopa, Southeast Maricopa, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and Southwest Maricopa FTF regions.

Exhibit 2-15 shows the median income of families with children under 18.

- The median income for families with children in Mesa was lower than the median income in Maricopa County for all family types.
- The median income of households headed by single mothers in Gilbert and Queen Creek was higher than the county median income.
- Throughout the region, the median income of families headed by single mothers was less than half the median income of families headed by married couples.
- For married couples in all localities with the exception of the Gilbert Unified District, median incomes did not grow as fast as the countywide median income.

EXHIBIT 2-15
MEDIAN INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 BY FAMILY TYPE

AREA	MEDIAN PERSONAL INCOME, FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18					
	Married Couples		Single Parent, Male		Single Parent, Female	
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Gilbert Unified District	$97,063	15.3%	$56,326	9.5%	$43,162	4.6%
Higley Unified District	$88,416	*	$55,435	*	$29,563	*
Mesa Unified District	$70,097	9.6%	$42,555	44.7%	$29,164	23.5%
Queen Creek Unified District	$80,111	*	$40,078	*	$42,007	*
Gilbert Town	$98,176	9.6%	$59,812	5.3%	$43,739	7.2%
Mesa City	$73,059	5.6%	$38,549	24.5%	$30,125	27.6%
Queen Creek Town	$84,976	*	$44,245	*	$36,346	*
Maricopa County	$78,381	12.4%	$42,272	12.0%	$31,333	25.2%
Arizona	$73,039	13.3%	$39,197	11.3%	$27,091	11.2%
United States	$78,924	13.6%	$38,160	7.3%	$24,786	13.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Children living in poverty have a greater risk of poor development. Federal poverty guidelines vary by the size of the family and are adjusted each year for inflation. As issued in 2009 by the Department of Health and Human Services, the threshold for a single person is $10,830 per year, and increases by $3,740 with each additional family member. Families are considered to be living in poverty if their income is below $14,570 for a family of two, $18,310 for a family of three, and $22,050 for a family of four.

Exhibit 2-16 shows poverty rates for families with children under five for different types of families. As shown:

- Poverty rates are consistently higher for single parent households; nearly one in three children in Mesa who reside in a single parent household live in poverty.

- Poverty rates in Mesa and Maricopa County are also nearly twice as high for Hispanic households with two parents than two-parent families overall.

- Approximately one in 10 young children in two-parent families are living in poverty in Mesa and Maricopa County, compared to one in 100 children in Gilbert.

EXHIBIT 2-16
POVERTY STATUS OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL (MOST RECENT DATA)						PERCENTAGE OF SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL (MOST RECENT DATA)					
	Race Of Householder			Ethnicity	All Races/ Ethnicities		Race Of Householder			Ethnicity	All Races/ Ethnicities	
	White	African American	Native American	Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	Total, Two Parents	Percent Change 3-Year Trend	White	African American	Native American	Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	Total, One Parent	Percent Change 3-Year Trend
Gilbert Unified District	1.7%	*	*	*	1.3%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Higley Unified District	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	23.5%	*
Mesa Unified District	11.5%	*	*	22.2%	11.4%	-23.5%	33.0%	*	*	35.3%	32.8%	-25.0%
Gilbert Town	1.9%	*	*	*	1.6%	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mesa City	10.9%	*	*	22.0%	10.6%	2.2%	34.2%	*	*	35.0%	32.9%	-23.0%
Maricopa County	10.3%	7.0%	16.5%	21.3%	10.9%	-0.9%	37.5%	45.6%	38.1%	43.4%	37.4%	-4.5%
Arizona	10.1%	6.0%	24.0%	20.7%	11.2%	-11.5%	40.4%	44.5%	48.6%	47.6%	41.6%	-2.4%
United States	7.4%	10.9%	18.8%	19.4%	8.7%	-3.4%	39.8%	50.6%	50.4%	45.7%	43.4%	-3.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Section Summary

In the Southeast Maricopa Region, there is great variation in the demographic characteristics of young children and their families. The characteristics of families with young children in Mesa are similar to those countywide. The rest of the region is less diverse and has more economic strength. There is a high need for childcare, with two out of three households in Mesa that have children with all parents in the workforce. The economic recession has taken a toll on families in the region, with large increases in unemployment and young children living in homeless shelters. Home visitation strategies can be designed to reach families most at risk, including single parent families, low income families, and mothers who lack a high school education.

2.4 Educational Indicators

Exhibit 2-17 shows the performance of schools in the region. As shown:

- The percentage of underperforming and failing schools in the region (4.9%) was higher than the percentage statewide (3.1%).
- The percentage of schools rated as either Excelling or Highly Performing in the region (66%) greatly exceeded the statewide percentage (36%).

EXHIBIT 2-17
AZ LEARNS PROFILE

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL SCHOOLS BY AIMS RATING 2008-09					
	Excelling	Highly Performing	Performing Plus	Performing	Underperforming	Failing to Meet Academic Standards
Southeast Maricopa Region	37.8%	28.0%	9.8%	19.5%	4.9%	0.0%
Arizona	22.0%	14.2%	37.9%	22.8%	1.9%	1.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Education, 2010. AZ's Instrument to Measure Standard (AIMS) Results. Retrieved March 31, 2010 from Arizona Department of Education. http://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/AIMSResults/.
Charter schools are not included in the analysis.
AZ LEARNS is the Arizona Department of Education's school accountability system. Each school is labeled based on students AIMS test scores, state baseline goals, and yearly progress.

3.0 THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM IN THE SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGION

This chapter presents an overview of the early childhood systems in the Southeast Maricopa Region.

3.1 Early Care and Education

Exhibits 3-1 and **3-2** show the availability of childcare providers in the region. As shown:

- The number of childcare providers in the Child Care Resource and Referral program increased by more than 10 percent between 2008 and 2010.

EXHIBIT 3-1
CHILDCARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SUMMARY STATISTICS

SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGION	2008	2010	PERCENT CHANGE
Number of Providers	378	420	11.11%
Total Capacity	24,749	27,945	12.91%
Capacity per Provider	65.47	66.54	1.62%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-2 displays the number of state-regulated childcare providers in the region. The Department of Health Services licenses and inspects childcare centers, and also certifies home-based childcare businesses with five to ten children, called "childcare group homes." The Department of Economic Security certifies and monitors home-based childcare business with four or fewer children that participate in the childcare subsidy program. There are many home-based childcare providers that are not certified by DES or DHS and are not included here.

- The total number of licensed or certified providers in the region declined between 2008 and 2010 due to a substantial decrease in the number of DES certified homes.

EXHIBIT 3-2
NUMBER OF LICENSED/CERTIFIED CENTERS/HOMES

AREA	DHS LICENSED CENTERS	DES CERTIFIED HOMES	GROUP HOMES	TOTAL
Southeast Maricopa 2008	213	172	29	414
Southeast Maricopa 2010	222	21	29	272
2008-10 Change	9	-151	0	-142

Source: Child Care Resource and Referral, May, 2010.

Many schools participate in the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) program to assist families in need. State funding for ECBG was eliminated in January 2010. Therefore, no more preschool students can enroll in preschool through this funding source. As shown in **Exhibit 3-3**:

- The number of children enrolled in preschool through ECBG in the Mesa Unified School District decreased by nearly 200 students between 2005 and 2010, nearly a 40 percent decline.

EXHIBIT 3-3
EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT (ECBG)
PUBLIC SCHOOL PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

AREA	ECBG ENROLLMENT LEVELS				PERCENT CHANGE 2005-10
	2005		2010		
	Number Enrolled in Preschool	Percent of Total Enrollment	Number Enrolled in Preschool	Percent of Total Enrollment	
Mesa Unified District	485	100%	294	100%	-39.4%
SUM, Regional Districts	485	100%	294	100%	-39.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Education: Student Services, 2008, 2010. Early Childhood Block Grant Reports: ECBG Enrollment Report data pulled on April 2, 2010 (Unpublished Report).

Exhibit 3-4 shows data on the numbers of children enrolled in nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten. As shown:

- Preschool participation in Gilbert and Higley is higher than the countywide rate, while Mesa has a lower preschool participation rate than the countywide rate.

EXHIBIT 3-4
NUMBER OF CHILDREN (AGE THREE AND OVER) ENROLLED IN NURSERY, PRESCHOOL, OR KINDERGARTEN PER 1,000 CHILDREN**

AREA	ENROLLMENT PER 1,000 CHILDREN**
	Most Recent Data
Gilbert Unified District	374
Higley Unified District	375
Mesa Unified District	289
Gilbert Town	378
Mesa City	293
Queen Creek Town	308
Maricopa County	308
Arizona	314
United States	383

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
** Total enrollment by children (age three and over) in nursery, preschool, or kindergarten per 1,000 children (age five years and under).

Exhibit 3-5 presents data related to the percentage of children enrolled in preschool or kindergarten who live in families with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level. Federal poverty guidelines vary by the size of the family and are adjusted each year for inflation. As issued in 2009 by the Department of Health and Human Services, families are considered to be living in poverty if their income is below $14,570 for a family of two, $18,310 for a family of three, and $22,050 for a family of four

- Mesa has a higher rate of children enrolled in preschool who live in poor families in comparison to the countywide rate

- Rates in the rest of the region are very low.

EXHIBIT 3-5
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN (AGE THREE AND OVER) ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL, NURSERY SCHOOL, OR KINDERGARTEN WHO FALL BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL)

AREA	PERCENT ENROLLED BELOW FPL	PERCENT CHANGE
	Most Recent Data	3-Year Trend
Gilbert Unified District	5.2%	-22.3%
Higley Unified District	1.7%	*
Mesa Unified District	20.3%	1.2%
Queen Creek Unified District	1.7%	*
Gilbert Town	4.4%	-46.6%
Mesa City	17.5%	-13.3%
Queen Creek Town	3.8%	*
Maricopa County	16.9%	14.6%
Arizona	19.1%	-0.5%
United States	17.6%	-2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
* Indicates sample size was too small to estimate specific demographic component.

Exhibit 3-6 presents data on childcare providers that have attained national accreditation or recognition, indicating that they meet specified quality standards.

- In the Southeast Maricopa Region, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited/recognized the largest number of area providers with 18, followed by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) with seven.

- The number of providers accredited/recognized rose from 7 percent for all regulated providers in 2008 to 13 percent in 2010.

EXHIBIT 3-6
RECOGNIZED AREA PROVIDERS

ACCREDITATION/ RECOGNITION	NUMBER OF ACCREDITED/RECOGNIZED AREA PROVIDERS								
	AMI	AMS	ACSI	NAC	NAEYC	NECPA	NAFCC	Total	Accreditation Per Approved Providers**
2008	5	0	0	2	20	1	0	28	0.07
2010	5	2	7	2	18	2	0	36	0.13
2008-10 Change	0	2	7	0	-2	1	0	8	-

Sources: Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), American Montessori Society (AMS), Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), National Association of Child Care Professionals (NAC), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), 2010.
** Number of approved providers per **Exhibit 3-2**.

Exhibits 3-7 through **3-10** display survey results from the Southeast Maricopa Region.

In spring 2010, MGT administered a web-based survey which was completed by early care and development stakeholders in the Southeast Maricopa Region. The survey was designed to identify the extent to which community needs are being met, the effects of budget cuts on service provision, services that may be lacking, and barriers to services. Survey topics included childcare, education, literacy development, special needs, health services, and social services. **Appendix A** provides survey response rates for each survey item within each section of the survey. A summary of key survey findings directly related to early care and education is presented in this section of the report. Group meetings and personal interviews were conducted throughout the Southeast Maricopa Region which provided supplemental data to further explore the topic areas. Summaries of the group meetings and personal interviews as well as the meeting and interview questionnaires can be found in **Appendix B**.

Respondents rated (on a scale from Excellent to Very Poor) the extent to which services met the needs of children (birth through age five) and their families within their community for four areas related to early care and education. **Exhibit 3-7** shows the percentage of responses within the region indicating that needs were well met (provided a rating of Good to Excellent) and the percentage reporting that needs were not well met (provided a rating of Poor or Very Poor). Needs were least met in the area of childcare services. Similarly, interview and meeting participants reported that high quality childcare and early education were areas most needed by families in the region. Participants also indicated that there are many available services, but the services do not meet all of their needs and are not easily accessible.

EXHIBIT 3-7
MEETING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEEDS

SERVICE AREAS	GOOD TO EXCELLENT	POOR OR VERY POOR
Childcare	35.1%	44.6%
Educational Services	51.5%	19.6%
Child/Family Literacy Development	56.1%	13.7%
Special Needs	43.9%	29.2%

Source: Stakeholder surveys, 2010. Total number of responses ranged from 73 to 128 across areas.

3.1.1 Barriers

Survey respondents were also asked to select the single most important barrier to children and families receiving services. Cost, awareness, and not having enough services were all cited as significant barriers to receiving early care and education services. **Exhibit 3-8** shows the most frequent responses. The cost of childcare was by far the most significant barrier mentioned in this survey. Interviewees also cited a lack of services, high cost, and long wait-lists as barriers.

EXHIBIT 3-8
SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION BARRIERS

SERVICE AREAS	SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BARRIER
Childcare	Cost (84.4%)
Educational Services	Awareness (31.4%)
Child/Family Literacy Development	Awareness (56.2%)
Special Needs	Not Enough Services (36.6%)

Source: Stakeholder surveys, 2010. Total number of responses ranged from 73 to 128 across areas.

3.1.2 Budget Cuts

Survey respondents rated the effect of budget cuts on early care and education services from having no impact to having a very high impact. Budget cuts were a significant factor within each educational service area surveyed. **Exhibit 3-9** shows the percentage of respondents reporting that budget cuts had a high or very high impact on services. Budget cuts were reported to have the most substantial impact on childcare services.

EXHIBIT 3-9
IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS ON EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION AREAS

SERVICE AREAS	HIGH/VERY HIGH IMPACT
Childcare	87.5%
Educational Services	60.7%
Child/Family Literacy Development Services	38.3%
Special Needs	57.3%

Source: Stakeholder surveys, 2010. Total number of responses ranged from 73 to 128 across areas.

3.1.3 Missing Services

Survey respondents indicated which early care and education services were missing from their community. Across the region, there are gaps in services. As shown in **Exhibit 3-10**, the majority of respondents agreed that childcare subsidies are missing in the region. Over 40 percent felt that high quality childcare and services offered at alternative hours of operation are also missing in the region.

EXHIBIT 3-10
MISSING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES

MISSING EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AREAS	PERCENT MISSING
Early childhood literacy programs	22.9%
High quality childcare	44.6%
High quality childcare that provides alternative hours of operation	41.0%
Childcare subsidies	53.0%
Pre-Kindergarten	27.7%

Source: Stakeholder surveys, 2010. Total number of responses was 83.

Organizations that provide leadership and services within the Southeast Maricopa Region serve as assets within the community. Survey participants identified assets in the form of key organizations that provide strong leadership within their community for the provision of Early Care and Education services. These organizations include those listed in **Exhibit 3-11**.

EXHIBIT 3-11
ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING STRONG LEADERSHIP IN THE AREA OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES

A Stepping Stone Foundation	Healthy Families
Arizona Language and Literacy Center	KidsCare
Arizona State University Hearing and Speech Lab	Child Life Programs at Cardon Children's Medical Center
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)	Maricopa County
AT Still University Dental Clinic	Mesa Community College
Arizona Early Intervention Program	National Center for Family Literacy
Arizona Autism United (AZA United)	Phoenix Children's Hospital
AZ Academy of Pediatrics	Quality First
Blake Foundation	Raising Special Kids
Cardon Children's Hospital	Reach Out and Read
Central AZ College	RISE (developmental disability services)
Child & Family Resources, Inc.	Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center
Child and Family Services	Specializing in the Education of Exceptional Kids (SEEK)
Child Care Resource and Referral	Sholom Preschool
Child Crisis Center	Southwest Center for Human Development
Department of Economic Security	Southwest Human Development
Salt River Early Childhood Education Center Health Services	Summa Associates
First Things First	TEACH Scholarship Program
Guthrie Mainstream	Unlimited Potential in South Phoenix
Honoring and Optimizing the Potential in Everyone (HOPE Group)	Valley of the Sun United Way
Head Start	YMCA

Sources: Stakeholder surveys and stakeholder interviews, 2010.

3.1.4 Section Summary

The early childhood infrastructure in the region has many strengths, including a very high preschool and kindergarten enrollment in Gilbert and Higley, and substantial growth in the number of licensed childcare centers. The number and ratio of childcare providers with national recognition also grew between 2008 and 2010. More than half of the respondents to the online survey indicated that literacy and educational services are meeting the needs of the community. However, the economic recession and budget cuts have taken a toll on families in the region. The number of childcare homes certified by DES substantially declined, and the loss of childcare subsidies and the Early Childhood Block Grant program will mean diminished access to childcare services for families in the region. The online survey identified cost as a significant barrier to families getting childcare, and more than half of the respondents said childcare subsidies are missing in the region. The regional strategy for pre-K expansion will help address this gap, and additional focused strategies (such as childcare scholarships) can help address each family's specific needs.

3.2 Supporting Families

This section of the report displays information about children and families receiving a variety of support services.

Exhibit 3-12 shows the number of children and families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, known as TANF. This benefit is monthly cash assistance (welfare) for parents and children who have extremely low incomes. The benefits are time-limited and parents must meet specific requirements to obtain them. As shown:

- From 2007 to 2010, the number of young children receiving TANF benefits in the Southeast Maricopa Region grew slower than the number of children receiving TANF statewide.

EXHIBIT 3-12
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

AREA	TANF CHILDREN (AGE 0 – 5)			TANF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN (AGE 0-5)		
	January 2007	January 2010	Percent Change	January 2007	January 2010	Percent Change
Southeast Maricopa Region	1,608	1,802	12.06%	1,257	1,359	8.11%
Arizona	20,867	23, 866	14.37%	16,511	18,129	9.80%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-13 shows the number of children and families who qualify for and receive childcare assistance. The assistance, which functions like a voucher, is available to parents with children (12 and younger) who need childcare and who meet certain income and other requirements. Parents can use the voucher to pay for a childcare service of their choice. Parents have to pay an amount in addition to the voucher which depends on their income and choice of childcare. The value of the voucher, however, is still based on the actual cost of childcare in 2000; therefore, parents and providers have to pay the difference. Since February 2009, no qualified, low-income, working parents have been able to sign up for the subsidy because of budget cuts. This has led to a 38 percent decrease in the number of children receiving assistance statewide from 2009 to 2010. As shown:

- In the Southeast Maricopa Region, the number of children receiving assistance declined by 37 percent between 2009 and 2010.

EXHIBIT 3-13
CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

AREA	JANUARY 2009				JANUARY 2010			
	Number of Families Eligible	Number of Children Eligible	Number of Families Who Received Assistance	Number of Children Who Received Assistance	Number of Families Eligible	Number of Children Eligible	Number of Families Who Received Assistance	Number of Children Who Received Assistance
Southeast Maricopa Region	2,801	4,031	2,284	3,083	1,721	2,512	1,420	1,945
Arizona	26,257	38,126	21,377	29,089	15,833	23,244	13,014	17,891

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-14 depicts the number of children removed from their homes by Child Protective Services (CPS) due to abuse and neglect, and shows the concentration of CPS cases in specific areas. When children are removed from their homes, the goal is to place them with relatives or with foster families who live in the same or nearby neighborhoods. This helps to promote the child's stability in school, offers a child more familiarity and less stress, and gives a child the ability to visit with parents and siblings. This exhibit compares by ZIP code the number of children removed from their homes and the availability of foster homes. Each ZIP code is labeled as having a shortage or balance of foster homes. As shown:

- The region has a high number of foster homes compared to other First Things First regions in Maricopa County. However, because there are a high number of children who are removed from their homes, there is still a shortage of available foster homes in the region.

- The 85201 ZIP code in Mesa (near Country Club Drive and University) has by far the largest number of children removed from their homes by CPS as well as the largest shortage of available foster homes.

EXHIBIT 3-14
AVAILABILITY OF FOSTER HOME PLACEMENTS AS RELATED TO CHILD REMOVALS IN THE SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGION, 2009

ZIP CODE	NUMBER OF REMOVALS	NUMBER OF FOSTER HOMES	NUMBER OF REMOVALS (EXCLUDING CHILDREN PLACED WITH RELATIVES)	DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FOSTER HOMES AND REMOVALS (EXCLUDING CHILDREN PLACED WITH RELATIVES)	DESCRIPTION
85201	104	11	67	-56	Very large shortage of foster homes
85202	59	18	31	-13	Shortage of foster homes
85203	60	20	41	-21	Large shortage of foster homes
85204	87	19	68	-49	Very large shortage of foster homes
85205	33	16	20	-4	Shortage of foster homes
85206	18	13	7	6	Foster homes exceed children
85207	29	20	16	4	Foster homes exceed children
85208	70	15	51	-36	Large shortage of foster homes
85209	16	30	15	15	Foster homes exceed children
85210	57	10	44	-34	Large shortage of foster homes
85212	20	21	11	10	Foster homes exceed children
85213	27	18	16	2	Balance of foster homes and children
85215	13	5	9	-4	Shortage of foster homes
85220	2	3	2	1	Balance of foster homes and children
85233	30	19	22	-3	Shortage of foster homes
85234	24	32	17	15	Foster homes exceed children
85236	1	2	1	1	Balance of foster homes and children
85295	39	25	32	-7	Shortage of foster homes
85296	29	29	16	13	Foster homes exceed children
85297	13	21	12	9	Foster homes exceed children
85298	6	15	5	10	Foster homes exceed children
Southeast Maricopa Total	737	362	503	-141	

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-15 shows the number of mothers, infants, and children participating in the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program, known as WIC. This federally-funded service is available to pregnant women and mothers with their children from birth through age four who meet specific income guidelines. As shown:

- There was insufficient data available for 2005 for this region. Therefore, it was not possible to see the growth or decline of WIC participation for this region.
- Over 6,300 women and nearly 11,000 children received assistance in 2009.

EXHIBIT 3-15
WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) PARTICIPATION

AREA	2005		2009		PERCENT CHANGE 2005-09	
	Women	Children	Women	Children	Women	Children
Southeast Maricopa Region	N/A	N/A	6,346	10,785	N/A	N/A

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, 2005, 2007, and 2009. Arizona Women, Infants, and Children data pulled April 22, 2010 Database (Unpublished Data).
N/A indicates the data were not available.

A summary of key survey findings related to family support services is presented in this section of the report. Survey respondents rated (on a scale from Excellent to Very Poor) the extent to which family support services met the needs of their children (birth through age five) and their families for three related areas. **Exhibit 3-16** shows the percentage of responses indicating that needs were well met (provided a rating of Good to Excellent) and the percentage reporting that needs were not well met (provided a rating of Poor or Very Poor). Needs were least met in the area of social services. Group and interview participants mentioned that parent coaching, literacy development, and grandparent services are areas of the greatest need.

EXHIBIT 3-16
MEETING NEEDS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT

SERVICE AREAS	GOOD TO EXCELLENT	POOR OR VERY POOR
Parenting Support/Education	35.0%	28.0%
Child/Family Literacy Development	56.1%	13.7%
Social Services	35.8%	39.5%

Source: Stakeholder surveys, 2010. Total number of responses ranged from 81 to 100 across areas.

3.2.1 Barriers

Survey respondents were also asked to select the single most important barrier to families receiving support services. Awareness and not having enough services were cited as barriers. **Exhibit 3-17** shows the most frequent responses.

EXHIBIT 3-17
SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BARRIER TO FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

SERVICE AREAS	SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BARRIER
Parenting Support/Education	Awareness (57.0%)
Child/Family Literacy Development	Awareness (56.2%)
Social Services	Not enough services (50.6%)

Source: Stakeholder surveys, 2010.
Total number of responses ranged from 81 to 100 across areas.

3.2.2 Budget Cuts

Survey respondents rated the effect of budget cuts on family support services, from having no impact to having a very high impact. Budget cuts were a significant factor within each family support area surveyed. As shown in **Exhibit 3-18**, budget cuts were reported to have the most significant impact on social services.

EXHIBIT 3-18
IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS ON FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

SERVICE AREAS	HIGH/VERY HIGH IMPACT
Parenting Support/Education	56.0%
Child/Family Literacy Development	38.3%
Social Services	77.8%

Source: Stakeholder surveys, 2010.
Total number of responses ranged from 81 to 100 across areas.

3.2.3 Missing Services

Survey respondents indicated which family support services were missing from their community. As shown in **Exhibit 3-19**, support for grandparents raising their grandchildren was the most often cited family support service lacking in this region.

EXHIBIT 3-19
MISSING FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

MISSING FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE AREAS	PERCENT MISSING
Support for grandparents raising grandchildren	42.2%
Parent coaching/education	38.6%
Support and education programs for parents and teen parents	26.5%
Accessibility to resources that support families with young children	39.8%

Source: Stakeholder surveys, 2010. Total number of responses was 83.

3.2.4 Employer Services

Survey respondents were asked to indicate the most important employer-based services for supporting families with young children. The most frequently reported services were affordable health insurance for family members (83.2%), paid vacation/sick time off from work (61.1%), and flexible work schedules (54.2%).

Organizations that provide leadership and services within the Southeast Maricopa Region serve as assets within the community. Survey participants identified assets in the form of key organizations that provide strong leadership within their community for the provision of family support services. These organizations include those listed in **Exhibit 3-20**.

EXHIBIT 3-20
ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING STRONG LEADERSHIP IN THE AREA OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)	Mesa Public Schools Adult Education
Arizona Partnership for Children (AzPaC)	Mesa School District Parent University
Black Child and Family Services	National Association of Social Workers
Child & Family Resources, Inc.	Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
Child Crisis Center	Raising Special Kids
Children's Action Alliance	Salt River Early Childhood Education Center
Child Protective Services (CPS)	Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center
Family Resource Center	Southwest Human Development
Family Tree Project-Mesa Public Schools	Summa Associates
First Things First	Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
Grupo de Apoyo para Latinos con Autismo (GALA)	University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Healthy Families	Valley of the Sun United Way
Maricopa County	YMCA
Maricopa County Department of Public Health	

Sources: Stakeholder surveys, stakeholder interviews, 2010.

3.2.5 Section Summary

There is a notable lack of social services in the region as indicated by the responses to the online survey. More than four out of 10 of the respondents said that support for grandparents raising their grandchildren is missing in the region. Regional home visitation strategies can help address the need for family support.

3.3 Health

Additional information is available in **Appendix C** related to data captured during a 2008 Arizona Health Survey. This survey was completed by St. Luke's Health Initiatives and is an additional informative tool for decision-makers.

Exhibit 3-21 presents the percentage of children under 18 with and without health insurance coverage. Research has shown that children with health insurance:

- Have greater access to healthcare, particularly preventive and primary care;
- Are more likely to have well child visits and vaccinations than uninsured children;
- Are less likely to receive their care in the emergency room; and
- Perform better in school.

As shown in the exhibit:

- Children living in Gilbert are more likely to have private health insurance than children countywide (more than eight out of 10 children compared to six out of 10 countywide).
- In the city of Mesa, the percentage of uninsured children is slightly higher than the percentage countywide.

EXHIBIT 3-21
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 BY INSURANCE COVERAGE/TYPE (MOST RECENT DATA)		
	Insured-Private	Insured-Public	Not Insured
Gilbert Unified District	80.6%	12.8%	9.5%
Mesa Unified District	60.1%	22.8%	18.5%
Gilbert Town	85.3%	8.8%	7.2%
Mesa City	61.4%	23.2%	17.3%
Maricopa County	59.6%	26.3%	15.5%
Arizona	56.5%	29.1%	16.2%
United States	64.1%	28.3%	9.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
Note: Total in excess of 100 percent due to overlap between public/private insurance segments.

Exhibit 3-22 shows the percentage of births paid with public funds, either AHCCCS or Indian Health Services. Births are covered by AHCCCS for women meeting certain income qualifications. As shown:

- From 2005 to 2008, Higley had a substantial increase in the percentage of public payer births (36.4%). Despite this increase, only one in five births was paid by the public in Higley, far below the county and statewide rates.
- More than half of the births in Maricopa County and Mesa were paid by public health insurance.

EXHIBIT 3-22
BIRTHS PAID BY HEALTH INSURANCE

AREA	PERCENT OF PUBLIC PAYER BIRTHS**		
	2006	2008	Percent Change
Gilbert	14.9%	18.7%	25.3%
Higley	14.7%	20.0%	36.4%
Mesa	52.2%	52.9%	1.4%
Queen Creek	21.4%	24.4%	14.5%
Maricopa County	52.0%	53.0%	2.0%
Arizona	53.8%	54.4%	1.1%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. Arizona Primary Care Area Program Data Sets. http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datasets.html.
** Percentage of total births paid for by Arizona Health Care Costs Containment System (AHCCCS) or Indian Health Service (IHS).

Adequate prenatal care promotes healthy births. **Exhibit 3-23** shows data on prenatal visits in the region:

- The majority of pregnant women in Maricopa County receive five or more prenatal visits, and this percentage increased slightly between 2005 and 2008.

EXHIBIT 3-23
NUMBER OF PRENATAL VISITS

AREA	TOTAL BIRTHS			NO VISITS			1-4 VISITS			5+ VISITS		
	2005	2008	Percent Change	2005 Percent of Total	2008 Percent of Total	Percent Change	2005 Percent of Total	2008 Percent of Total	Percent Change	2005 Percent of Total	2008 Percent of Total	Percent Change
Maricopa County	62,232	62,667	0.7%	1.9%	1.5%	-21.5%	3.5%	2.7%	-20.4%	94.5%	95.6%	1.2%
Arizona	95,798	99,215	3.6%	2.3%	1.8%	-24.6%	4.2%	3.6%	-14.5%	93.3%	94.5%	1.3%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. Arizona Primary Care Area Program Data Sets. http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datasets.html.

Children who have health problems early in life are more likely to face additional challenges. As shown in **Exhibit 3-24**:

- From 2005 to 2008, the total number of newborns admitted to newborn intensive care units in the Arizona increased from 5,479 to 5,931, an increase of 8.2 percent. There was also an increase in the number of newborns admitted in Maricopa County.

EXHIBIT 3-24
NUMBER RECEIVING NEONATAL INTENSIVE SERVICES

AREA	2005			2008			PERCENT CHANGE		
	Total	Gestational Age		Total	Gestational Age		Total	Gestational Age	
		Preterm, <37 Weeks Percent of Total	37 Weeks or More Percent of Total		Preterm, <37 Weeks Percent of Total	37 Weeks or More Percent of Total		Preterm, <37 Weeks Percent of Total	37 Weeks or More Percent of Total
Maricopa County	3,525	60.4%	39.6%	3,768	58.1%	41.9%	6.9%	-3.7%	5.6%
Arizona	5,479	60.5%	39.5%	5,931	59.1%	40.9%	8.2%	-2.2%	3.4%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. Arizona Primary Care Area Program Data Sets. http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/datasets.html.

Children who receive the required immunizations are more likely to be in better health than those children who do not receive immunizations. As shown in **Exhibit 3-25**:

- Children between the ages of 19 and 35 months in the Southeast Maricopa Region are less likely to receive vaccinations than children countywide, while younger children (12 to 24 months) were vaccinated at a rate equivalent to the countywide average.

- There has been an increase in the percentage of children receiving immunizations in the region since 2005.

EXHIBIT 3-25
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

AREA	VACCINATIONS 12-24 MONTHS (3:2:2:2)		
	2005	**2009**	**Percent Change**
Southeast Maricopa Region	60%	65%	9%
Maricopa County	68%	65%	-4%
Arizona	70%	67%	-6%
United States	73%	68%	-7%
AREA	**VACCINATIONS 19-35 MONTHS (4:3:1:3:3:1)**		
	2005	**2009**	**Percent Change**
Southeast Maricopa Region	35%	35%	2%
Maricopa County	43%	39%	-7%
Arizona	46%	42%	-8%
United States	75%	72%	-4%
AREA	**VACCINATIONS 19-35 MONTHS (4:3:1:3:3:1:4)**		
	2005	**2009**	**Percent Change**
Southeast Maricopa Region	16%	32%	95%
Maricopa County	23%	35%	54%
Arizona	26%	38%	48%
United States	N/A	65%	N/A

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, 2005, 2007, and 2009. Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIIS) data pulled on May 4, 2010 (Unpublished Data).
Notes: CDC data is from July 2005 to June 2006 and July 2008 to June 2009. CDC data covers all vaccinations 24 months and prior. The smallest rate of vaccinations was used as the U.S. rate.
3:2:2:2 is 3 DTaP, 2 Polio, 2 Hib, and 2 Hepatitis B vaccines.
4:3:1:3:3:1 includes 4 doses diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccines, 3 doses poliovirus vaccine, 1 dose measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine, 3 doses *Haemophilus influenzae* type B vaccine, 3 doses hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose varicella.
4:3:1:3:3:1:4 is 4:3:1:3:3:1: plus ≥4 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

N/A indicates that the data were not available.

Exhibit 3-26 presents the percentage of children under five with disabilities and those with disabilities who live in families with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level. No data was available specifically for the Southeast Maricopa Region. As shown:

- In Maricopa County, 0.8 percent of children under five have disabilities.

EXHIBIT 3-26
CHILDREN UNDER 5 WITH DISABILITIES, TOTAL PERCENTAGE AND PERCENTAGE BELOW FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL)

AREA	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 WITH DISABILITIES	PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 WITH DISABILITIES, BELOW FPL
	Most Recent Data	Most Recent Data
Maricopa County	0.8%	0.3%
Arizona	0.8%	0.2%
United States	0.7%	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Children with disabilities who receive an early diagnosis fare better than those children who receive a late or no diagnosis. As shown in **Exhibit 3-27**:

- From 2006-07 to 2008-09, the number of children served by the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP) in the Southeast Maricopa Region increased from 603 to 838, an increase of 39 percent.

EXHIBIT 3-27
ARIZONA EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (AZEIP) DEVELOPMENT SCREENINGS AND SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES/AT RISK FOR DISABILITIES

AREA	AZEIP COUNTS		PERCENT CHANGE
	2006-07	2008-09	2007-09
Southeast Maricopa Region	603	838	39.0%
Arizona	3,450	5,078	47.2%

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007, 2009. DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-28 shows information concerning oral healthcare for children in the region, which can improve a child's overall health. As shown:

- Children statewide are more likely to visit the same dentist than children in this region.
- In the region, 68 percent of parents drive 10 miles or less for their child's dental care.

EXHIBIT 3-28
ORAL HEALTH CARE CHILDREN (AGE 0 – 5)

My child/children (age five and under) have regular visits with the same dental provider.	**SOUTHEAST MARICOPA**	**STATEWIDE**	**DIFFERENCE**
Strongly agree	59.2%	62.5%	-5.3%
Somewhat agree	6.5%	9.1%	-28.7%
Somewhat disagree	7.2%	5.6%	29.6%
Strongly disagree	17.4%	13.1%	33.0%
Not sure	9.7%	9.8%	-0.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	.0%
How many miles do you have to go to get dental care for your children (age five and under)?	**SOUTHEAST MARICOPA**	**STATEWIDE**	**DIFFERENCE**
Less than 5 miles	45.0%	39.8%	13.0%
5-10 miles	23.2%	23.6%	-1.4%
10-20 miles	13.5%	13.5%	.2%
More than 20 miles	2.8%	12.8%	-78.2%
None available	15.5%	10.3%	49.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	.0%

Source: First Things First: Medical Questions, FY 2008. Community Survey in Database (Unpublished Data).

Exhibit 3-29 presents the number of sliding fee services for families who have children that do not have health insurance:

- Arizona has a total of 659 Sliding Fee Clinics available, with 264 clinics residing in Maricopa County.
- The Southeast Maricopa Region reported a total of 16 clinics in 2010.

EXHIBIT 3-29
NUMBER OF SLIDING FEE SCALE CLINICS

AREA	2008	2010	PERCENT CHANGE: 2008-10
Southeast Maricopa Region	N/A	16	N/A
Maricopa County	247	264	6.9%
Arizona	N/A	659	N/A
U.S.	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services.
N/A indicates that the data were not available.

Exhibit 3-30 presents the number of school-based clinics available to those families who have children that do not have health insurance. As shown:

- In 2009, there were three school-based clinics in the Southeast Maricopa Region (same as for 2002), while there were 82 statewide. Both the region and the state experienced a decrease in the number of school-based clinics available between 2002 and 2009.

EXHIBIT 3-30
NUMBER OF SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS

AREA	2002	2009	PERCENT CHANGE
Southeast Maricopa Region	3	3	0.0%
Arizona	97	82	-15.5%
Percent of State Total	3.1%	3.7%	-18.3%

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, 2009, University of Arizona Rural Health Office, 2002.
Note: Caution should be exercised in comparing 2002 numbers with 2009 numbers, as they were assembled by two different entities, and the criteria for inclusion were not apparent.

Exhibit 3-31 depicts the number of hospitals located in the Southeast Maricopa Region. As shown:

- The Southeast Maricopa Region has seven general hospitals and three specialty hospitals. Mesa General Hospital closed in 2008.

EXHIBIT 3-31
AREA HOSPITALS

HOSPITAL	CITY	ZIP CODE
Mesa General Hospital (Closed May 2008)	Mesa	85201
Arizona Regional Medical Center	Mesa	85201
Banner Desert Medical Center	Mesa	85202
Banner Baywood Medical Center	Mesa	85206
Mountain Vista Medical Center	Mesa	85209
Banner Gateway Medical Center	Gilbert	85234
Gilbert Hospital	Higley	85236
Mercy Gilbert Medical Center	Gilbert	85296
Arizona Spine And Joint	Mesa	85206
Banner Baywood Heart Hospital	Mesa	85206
Trillium Specialty Hospital - East Valley	Mesa	85206

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services.

Exhibit 3-32 shows medically underserved areas and health shortage areas in the region. As shown:

- The North Tempe area is considered to be medically underserved.

EXHIBIT 3-32
MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS

PRIMARY CARE AREA	PRIMARY CARE SCORE*	ARIZONA MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA (AZMUA)	HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA (HPSA)	FEDERAL MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA/POPULATION (MUA/P)	MUA/P SCORE**
Gilbert	8	No	No	No	
Queen Creek	20	No	No	No	
Tempe	26	No	No	MUA (North Tempe)	52.4

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services.
*Higher Primary Care Scores indicate more severe levels of medical underservice. The primary care score is the sum of the values for a given area in terms of the following components: population to provider ratio, travel time to the nearest primary care facility, percent of the population with income less than 200 percent of poverty level (and 100-200%), percentage of uninsured births, ratio of hospital admissions with ambulatory sensitive condition's per 1000 population less than age 65, percentage of low birth rates, the sum of the percentage of births receiving no prenatal care or prenatal care in the second or third trimester, and the percentage of births reporting four or less prenatal care visits, premature mortality, infant mortality, percentage minority, the percentage elderly, and unemployment rates above the statewide average. The values for the components of the primary care score can be found at: http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/profiles/pcuindex.pdf.
**Higher MUA/P scores indicate greater levels of medical service (or less severe underservice). The MUA/P score is based on four variables: ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population, infant mortality rate, percentage of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and percentage of the population age 65 or over. For more on the MUA/P scores, see: http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/muaguide.htm.

A summary of key survey findings related to health services is presented in this section of the report. Survey respondents rated (on a scale from Excellent to Very Poor) the extent to which services met the health needs of their children (birth through age five) and their families within their community. Forty-two percent of respondents reported that health needs were well met (provided a rating of Good to Excellent), while 24 percent reported that needs were not well met (provided a rating of Poor or Very Poor). Survey respondents were also asked to select the single most important barrier to children and families receiving health related services. The single most important barrier cited was the cost of health services (37.9 %). Approximately 68 percent of respondents indicated that budget cuts had a high or very high impact on health services. Group participants agreed that their health services needs are not being met. Many interviewees identified the lack of health care for the uninsured as an urgent problem.

Survey respondents also indicated which health services were missing from their community. According to interviewees, parents are in need of resources to learn about health, nutrition, exercise, and the importance of family life. There is a lack of knowledge of developmental tools, literacy development in children, and anger management skills. Furthermore, group participants cited that children do not receive timely immunizations, regular screenings for developmental problems, well childcare, timely sick childcare, or prescriptions. **Exhibit 3-33** shows the percentage of respondents reporting health services to be missing or unavailable within the community for two health service areas surveyed.

EXHIBIT 3-33
MISSING HEALTH SERVICES

MISSING HEALTH SERVICE AREAS	PERCENT MISSING
Access to free or low cost health services	50.6%
Health promotion and disease prevention education	37.3%

Source: Stakeholder survey, 2010.
Total number of responses was 85.

Organizations that provide leadership and services in the Southeast Maricopa Region serve as assets within the community. Survey participants identified assets in the form of key organizations that provide strong leadership within their community for the provision of health services. These organizations include those listed in **Exhibit 3-34**.

EXHIBIT 3-34
ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING STRONG LEADERSHIP IN THE AREA OF HEALTH SERVICES

Arizona Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics	First Things First
AT Still University Dental School	Head Start
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)	Maricopa County
Cardon Children's Hospital	Mountain Park Health Center
Catholic Healthcare West (Chandler)	Phoenix Children's Hospital
Children's Action Alliance	Scottsdale Healthcare
East Valley Pediatric Society	St. Josephs Hospital
	Southwest Human Development
	Valley of the Sun United Way

Sources: Stakeholder surveys and stakeholder interviews, 2010.

Section Summary

The region demonstrates strengths and needs in the area of healthcare for young children and their families. Children in Mesa are less likely to have health insurance than children countywide; alternately, children in Gilbert are more likely to be covered by private insurance. Just over half of the responses to the online survey said that access to free or low cost health services is missing in the region. There is a strong supply of health providers available in the region. Immunization rates in the region have improved, but are below the countywide rates for children 19-35 months old. Regional funding strategies are designed to enhance access to health services, including outreach to improve oral health, strategies to help boost healthcare coverage enrollment, education for healthcare professionals, and strategies to consult childcare centers regarding health and mental health issues.

3.4 Public Awareness and Collaboration

A summary of key survey findings related to the provision of coordinated services are presented in this section of the report. Survey respondents rated (on a scale from Excellent to Very Poor) the extent to which coordinated services within their community met the needs of their children (birth through age five) and their families. Forty-one percent of the respondents reported that their needs were well met (a rating of Good to Excellent) through coordinated services, while 34 percent reported that their needs were not well met (a rating of Poor or Very Poor). Interviewees and group participants praised the collaboration among the agencies. They cited that in the areas where there is a lack of coordination of services and communication, agencies in the community are working well together to address this gap.

Survey respondents were also asked to select the single most important barrier to children and families receiving coordinated services. The single most important barrier related to coordinated services was awareness of services (52.5%). Survey respondents were asked to report on two barriers related to coordinated services: eligibility differences among

service providers and the lack of communication between service providers. The percentage of respondents reporting these as barriers in their community was 35 percent for "eligibility differences among service providers" and 58 percent for "lack of communication between service providers." According to group participants, agencies are not aware of other services for referrals, and there are many overlapping services in the community. Many interviewees expressed that there are numerous small agencies struggling and competing in the region, resulting in a lack of coordination and service duplication.

Survey respondents rated the effect of budget cuts for providing coordinated services from having no impact to having a very high impact. Approximately 78 percent of responses indicated that budget cuts had a high or very high impact on coordinated services.

Respondents also reported on the quality, accessibility, convenience, timeliness, comprehensiveness, and responsiveness of services across all service areas in terms of the degree to which services met the needs of children and families. The percentage of respondents indicating that services were good to excellent and the percentage indicating services were poor or very poor are shown in **Exhibit 3-35**.

EXHIBIT 3-35
QUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY, COMPREHENSIVENESS, AND RESPONSIVENESS IN MEETING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION NEEDS

SERVICE TOPICS	GOOD TO EXCELLENT	POOR OR VERY POOR
Quality of Information	33.0%	19.0%
Accessibility of Information	23.5%	32.2%
Convenience of Services	16.3%	27.2%
Quality of Services	51.6%	3.2%
Timeliness of Services	28.0%	28.0%
Cultural Responsiveness of Services	34.0%	13.6%
Comprehensiveness of Services	29.9%	20.4%
Early Identification of Problems	24.0%	29.4%
Family Centered Practice	28.0%	18.1%
Client Focus	31.6%	22.2%

Source: Stakeholder survey, 2010.
Total number of responses was 221.

Survey participants and interviewees identified assets in the form of key organizations that provide strong leadership within their community for coordination of services. These organizations include those listed in **Exhibit 3-36**.

EXHIBIT 3-36
ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING STRONG LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE COMMUNITY IN THE AREA OF COORDINATED SERVICES

AHCCCS (Medicaid)	Intertribal Council of Arizona
Arizona Autism Coalition	Le Petit Academy
Arizona Child Care Association	Litchfield Elementary School District
Arizona Partnership for Children	Local Pediatric Physician
Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)	Maricopa County
Arizona Department of Health Services	Mesa Early Learning
AZ Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics	Mesa School District
AZ Early Intervention Program	My Child's Ready
Community Asset and Resource Enterprise (CARE Partnership)	New Directions Institute
Central Arizona College	Neighborhood Outreach Action for Health (NOAH)
Chandler Regional Medical Center	Paiute Center
Child & Family Resources, Inc.	Paradise Valley Unified School District
Child Care Resource and Referral	Quality First
Child Crisis Center	Salt River Early Childhood Education Center
Children's Action Alliance	Scottsdale Healthcare
City of Phoenix	Scottsdale Unified School District
Early Childhood Special Education program in Mesa Public Schools	Southwest Center
Eternal Life Lutheran Church and School	Southwest Human Development
FACE (Family And Child Education Program)	Southwest Network (Don Erickson)
First Things First	Special Education Advisory Panel to the State Board
Firstcare Avondale Family Resource Center	Sunrise Preschools
FitTots	T.E.A.C.H.
Fountain Hills School District	United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona (0-3)
Gilbert Community Action Network	Valley of the Sun United Way
Guthrie Mainstream	Vista del Camino
Head Start	WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Program)
Healthy Families	YMCA
Helios Foundation	Youth and Family Services

Sources: Stakeholder surveys and stakeholder interviews, 2010.

3.5 Stakeholder Priority for Services

Understanding which service areas are viewed by early care and development stakeholders as most critical for focusing resources will guide FTF's decisions about how best to use their limited resources to help children and families within the Southeast Maricopa Region. To gather this important information, survey respondents were asked to indicate the number one priority area for FTF resources. **Exhibit 3-37** shows the percentage of survey respondents reporting that a given priority area was the number one

priority for focusing FTF resources. The highest priority areas include improving the quality of early childhood development and health programs, increasing access to quality early childhood developmental and health programs, and increasing public awareness about the importance of early childhood development and health.

EXHIBIT 3-37
PRIORITY FOR FOCUS OF FTF RESOURCES

AREA	NUMBER ONE PRIORITY
Improve the quality of early childhood development and health programs	28.9%
Increase the access to quality early childhood developmental and health programs	22.9%
Increase access to preventative health and health screenings for children through age five	3.6%
Offer parent and family support and education concerning early childhood development and literacy	12.0%
Provide professional development and training for early childhood development and literacy	6.0%
Increase coordination of early childhood development and health programs	3.6%
Increase public awareness about the importance of early childhood development and health	22.9%

Source: Stakeholder survey responses, 2010.

Interviewees made the following key recommendations for focusing FTF funds:

- Fund existing and threatened programs.
- Fund high-quality, affordable childcare.
- Support early learning (fund scholarships and incentives for teachers).
- Minimize delays in dispersing funds.
- Develop a centralized source of information about services.

Section Summary

The top priority for First Things First funding for the Southeast Maricopa Region as indicated by the online survey responses is improving the quality of early childhood programs. The T.E.A.C.H. scholarships that offer education for childcare teachers will help address this priority. Other priority areas include increasing access to early childhood services and increasing public awareness.

4.0 SUMMARY AND FUTURE DIRECTION

The City of Mesa is large and diverse, with economic indicators similar to Maricopa County. Alternately, the communities of Higley, Gilbert, and Queen Creek are much smaller and have stronger economic and educational indicators than Maricopa County and Mesa. Even though the region's unemployment rate has more than doubled in recent years, the rate remains lower than the countywide rate.

The region has many strengths. Children in this region are less likely to be raised by their grandparents than children in Maricopa County. Also, babies born in this region are more likely to have mothers with some amount of college education. Nearly two out of three schools in the region were rated as Excelling or Highly Performing, compared to only one out of three statewide. More than half of the respondents to the online survey said that literacy and educational services are meeting the needs of the community.

Community members greatly value the parks and recreation services provided by the cities and towns. They also identified a long list of services as assets, including the Family Resource Center at the Child Crisis Center, services delivered by Southwest Human Development, area hospitals, the A.T. Still University Dental Clinic, parent programs provided by the Mesa Public School District, Quality First, childcare scholarships and T.E.A.C.H. scholarships provided by First Things First, services for children with special needs, parent coaching, and grandparenting programs.

The region faces many economic challenges. The number of young children living in transitional and emergency shelters in the region grew somewhat faster between 2007 and 2009 than the countywide rate. For the most recent data, the median income for families with children in Mesa was lower than the median for families of all types in Maricopa County; the median income for two-parent families in the remainder of the region were significantly above the countywide median income rates. The number of adults receiving unemployment benefits grew far faster in the region than countywide between 2007 and 2009.

The data show other family stresses. The number of children removed from their homes by Child Protective Services due to abuse or neglect was high compared to the other regions in Maricopa County. A high number of foster homes are available in the region, but there remains a shortage of foster homes.

The percentage of young children who are Hispanic is lower in the region than the percentage throughout Maricopa County (47%), ranging from 17 percent in the Higley Unified School District to 44 percent in the Mesa School District. Gilbert, Higley, and Queen Creek also have low rates of young children with a foreign born parent; the rate of children with a foreign born parent in the City of Mesa is 31 percent, just below the countywide rate of 37 percent.

The need for access to high quality, affordable childcare is strong throughout the region. In 2010, 13 percent of childcare providers have national accreditation or recognition,

indicating that they meet specified quality standards. This is, an increase over 2008. Iin the City of Mesa, about two-thirds of the households with children younger than 18 had all parents in the labor force – indicating a large need for childcare. Preschool enrollment is low in Mesa and high in the rest of the region in comparison to Maricopa County. In 2010, 294 four year- old children were enrolled in preschool through the state-funded Early Childhood Block Grant program. This funding has been eliminated for the 2010-11 school year. The number of children receiving childcare subsidies decreased by 37 percent between 2009 and 2010, reflecting the state budget cuts that have closed the door to any qualified, low-income families who applied.

The input from the community through the online survey, stakeholder meetings, and telephone interviews all point to a great demand for quality improvement in childcare and for childcare financial assistance for parents. Nearly half of the respondents to the online survey said that childcare services are not meeting the needs of families in the community, and 84 percent identified cost as the single most important barrier in childcare. Nearly half of the respondents said that high quality childcare is a service that is missing in the region. Twenty-nine percent of respondents to the on-line survey said the top priority for First Things First funding should be to improve the quality of early childhood development and health programs.

Community input also focused on the need for children's healthcare and health coverage. The rate of uninsured children is higher in Mesa than it is countywide. Half of the respondents to the online survey identified access to free or low cost health services as a missing service in the region. Many social services were described as insufficient and difficult to access.

The on-line survey included a question about what types of employer-based benefits are most important to families with young children. Eighty three percent of survey respondents identified affordable health insurance for family members, 61 percent identified paid time off for illness and vacation. And 54 percent identified a flexible work schedule.

Community members also emphasized a need to improve awareness among parents about early education needs and available services. Both formal reports and stakeholder meetings identified the value of making information available in a more systematic way to both parents and providers. There was a strong consensus that this cannot be done solely through brochures or a database. Personal contact, mentoring, coaching and assistance are more effective for both families and providers.

Future Direction

The data and community input point to several priority areas for future First Things First funding in the region.

The current efforts to improve access to quality childcare through T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for educating childcare teachers are valued and will help meet key needs in

the region. The barrier regarding the high cost of childcare can be addressed with childcare scholarships and other affordability strategies.

There is a strong need of financial support for professional staff in community agencies that can focus on gathering and sharing information about available services, networking with other providers, and connecting families to resources.

Many families in the region do not qualify for services because of their incomes, but many are still in need of parenting support and information. Potential strategies may focus on increasing public awareness of existing services that are available to all families in the region, as well as offering additional support (such as parent groups) through centralized public locations like libraries.

With its strong health assets, the region can continue to improve immunization rates and link more families to health services.

Conclusion

Poverty rates and other risk factors for children and their families vary greatly in the Southeast Maricopa Region. Home visiting strategies can be designed to reach families in the greatest need. Strong assets present in the region regarding early education can be enhanced and focused to help more families afford and receive quality services.

APPENDIX A
SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGION

FIRST THINGS FIRST NEEDS AND ASSETS SURVEY WEB SITE

DIRECTIONS:

Everyone must complete SECTION ONE: Coordinating Services and SECTION TWO: Questions Specific to Your Community.

Complete SECTIONS 3 through 9 of the survey if you feel you have sufficient knowledge to share your opinions. For those sections of the survey that you **do not feel knowledgeable**, please mark the checkbox provided.

If you serve people in multiple communities, you MAY provide different answers for each community. The **Survey Completion Chart** indicates when you have completed a survey section for each of the communities you serve.

Listed below are the sections of the survey:

- Edit Your Organization's Service Area
- Section 1: Coordinated Services in Your Community for Children Birth through Age 5 and Their Families
- Section 2: Questions Specific to Your Community
- Section 3: Parenting Support/Education Services
- Section 4: Child Care
- Section 5: Education
- Section 6: Literacy Development for Children and Parents
- Section 7: Services for Children with Special Needs
- Section 8: Health Services
- Section 9: Social Services

Web Site ©MGT of America, Inc. E-Mail Technical Support

Section 1:

Coordinated Services in Your Community for Children Birth Through Age 5 and Their Families

1. Thinking about the **Coordinated Services in your Community** for children birth through age 5 and their families, please rate how well the coordination currently meets families' needs.

AREA	How well the coordination of services currently meets families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	**Very good**	**Good**	**Neutral**	**Poor**	**Very poor**	**Not sure**
Mesa	2.5	6.2	38.3	19.8	23.5	7.4	2.5
Gilbert	3.5	3.5	33.3	22.8	26.3	8.8	1.8
Queen Creek	2.0	6.1	36.7	16.3	30.6	6.1	2.0
Apache Junction	2.9	2.9	35.3	17.6	32.4	5.9	2.9
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	2.7	5.0	36.2	19.5	27.1	7.2	2.3
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.0	4.9	37.8	17.3	24.9	9.2	1.9

2. What are the barriers to families getting **Coordinated Services in your Community** for children birth through age 5? **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Barriers to families getting coordinated services in their community (Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity)												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Services not wanted	Immigration status	Eligibility differences among service providers	Lack of communication between service providers	Other
Mesa	60.5	66.7	34.6	85.2	50.6	22.2	24.7	40.7	12.3	37.0	29.6	55.6	6.2
Gilbert	59.6	77.2	43.9	86.0	56.1	26.3	22.8	40.4	15.8	36.8	35.1	56.1	3.5
Queen Creek	61.2	75.5	42.9	89.8	53.1	32.7	24.5	42.9	16.3	38.8	38.8	61.2	4.1
Apache Junction	67.6	82.4	38.2	82.4	55.9	29.4	29.4	47.1	20.6	35.3	44.1	61.8	5.9
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	61.5	73.8	39.4	86.0	53.4	26.7	24.9	42.1	15.4	37.1	35.3	57.9	5.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	63.6	68.6	44.1	82.9	50.8	29.8	31.8	48.3	15.3	45.2	35.0	59.1	4.0

3. *From the selections you made above*, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting **Coordinated Services in Your Community** for children birth through age 5? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Single Most important Barrier (Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity)												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Services not wanted	Immigration status	Eligibility differences among service providers	Lack of communication between service providers	Other
Mesa	7.4	16.0	0.0	46.9	12.3	1.2	0.0	3.7	0.0	4.9	3.7	1.2	2.5
Gilbert	1.8	14.0	0.0	56.1	10.5	1.8	0.0	3.5	0.0	3.5	3.5	1.8	3.5
Queen Creek	6.1	12.2	0.0	57.1	12.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Apache Junction	2.9	17.6	0.0	52.9	14.7	2.9	0.0	2.9	0.0	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	5.0	14.9	0.0	52.5	12.2	1.8	0.0	2.7	0.0	4.1	3.2	1.4	2.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	3.5	13.2	0.6	53.8	12.7	2.6	0.3	2.1	0.2	5.6	2.6	0.2	2.6

4. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on **Coordinated Services in Your Community** for children birth through age 5 and their families.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	**High**	**Little**	**None**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	54.3	24.7	4.9	0.0	16.0
Gilbert	57.9	21.1	3.5	0.0	17.5
Queen Creek	53.1	24.5	2.0	0.0	20.4
Apache Junction	61.8	14.7	2.9	0.0	20.6
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	56.1	22.2	3.6	0.0	18.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	56.5	26.0	6.1	0.5	11.0

5. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP for **Coordinated Services in the Community** for children birth through age 5 and their families. List this organization(s) in the box below.

AREA	List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership
Mesa	AHCCCS
	AHCCESS plans
	Arizona Autism Coalition
	Arizona Child Care Association
	Arizona Partnership for Children
	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Az Department of Health Services
	AzAAP
	AzEIP
	CARE Partnership
	Central Arizona College
	Chandler Regional Medical Center
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Care Resource and Referral
	Child Crisis Center
	Children's Action Alliance
	City of Phoenix
	Early Childhood Special Education program in Mesa Public Schools.
	Eternal Life Lutheran Church and School
	FACE (Family And Child Education Program)
	FHUSD
	First Things First
	Firstcare Avondale Family Resource Center
	FitTots
	Fountain Hills School District
	FRC
	Guthrie Mainstream
	Head Start
	healthy families
	Intertribal Council of Arizona
	Le Petit Academy
	Litchfield Elementary School District
	Local Pediatric Physician
	Maricopa County

Mesa	Mesa Early Learning
	My Child's Ready
	New Directions Institute
	NOAH
	Paiute Center
	PVUSD
	Quality First
	Salt River Early Childhood Education Center
	Scottsdale Healthcare
	Scottsdale School District
	Southwest Center
	Southwest Human Development
	Southwest Human Development
	Southwest Network (Don Erickson)
	Special Education Advisory Panel to the State Board
	Sunrise Preschools
	SUSD
	Teach
	United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona (0-3)
	Valley of the Sun United Way
	Vista del Camino
	VSUW
	WIC
	YMCA
	Youth and Family Services
Gilbert	AHCCCS
	AHCCESS plans
	Arizona Autism Coalition
	Arizona Child Care Association
	Arizona Partnership for Children
	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Az Department of Health Services
	AzAAP
	CARE Partnership
	Central Arizona College
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Care Resource and Referral
	Child Crisis Center
	Children's Action Alliance

Gilbert	City of Phoenix
	First Things First
	Firstcare Avondale Family Resource Center
	FitTots
	Fountain Hills School District
	FRC
	Head Start
	Intertribal Council of Arizona
	Le Petit Academy
	Litchfield Elementary School District
	Local Pediatric Physician
	Maricopa County
	My Child's Ready
	Quality First
	Scottsdale Healthcare
	Scottsdale School District
	Southwest Center
	Southwest Human Development
	Southwest Network (Don Erickson)
	Sunrise Preschools
	Teach
	United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona (0-3)
	Valley of the Sun United Way
	VSUW
	WIC
	YMCA
Queen Creek	AHCCCS
	Arizona Child Care Association
	Arizona Partnership for Children
	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AzAAP
	CARE Partnership
	Central Arizona College
	Chandler Regional Medical Center
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Care Resource and Referral
	Child Crisis Center
	Children's Action Alliance
	First Things First

Queen Creek	Firstcare Avondale Family Resource Center
	FitTots
	Fountain Hills School District
	FRC
	Head Start
	healthy families
	Le Petit Academy
	Litchfield Elementary School District
	Maricopa County
	My Child's Ready
	Quality First
	Scottsdale Healthcare
	Scottsdale School District
	Southwest Human Development
	Sunrise Preschools
	Teach
	Valley of the Sun United Way
	VSUW
	WIC
	YMCA
Apache Junction	AHCCCS
	Arizona Child Care Association
	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AzAAP
	Central Arizona College
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Care Resource and Referral
	Child Crisis Center
	Children's Action Alliance
	First Things First
	Firstcare Avondale Family Resource Center
	FitTots
	Litchfield Elementary School District
	Maricopa County
	Quality First
	Southwest Human Development
	Teach
	Valley of the Sun United Way
	VSUW
	WIC
	YMCA

Note: Some responses may indicate the same organization yet are referred to in the report per the individual responses.

6. Thinking about **ALL SERVICES** currently available for children birth through 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY, please rate the degree to which services currently meet families' needs in the areas below.

AREA	Quality of information (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Excellent 5**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	3.7	13.6	37.0	23.5	7.4	14.8
Gilbert	5.3	14.0	31.6	28.1	5.3	15.8
Queen Creek	6.1	14.3	28.6	30.6	6.1	14.3
Apache Junction	2.9	17.6	26.5	23.5	8.8	20.6
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	4.5	14.5	32.1	26.2	6.8	15.8
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.5	15.4	34.1	27.1	8.7	10.2

AREA	Accessibility of information (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Excellent 5**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	8.6	22.2	35.8	18.5	2.5	12.3
Gilbert	14.0	19.3	31.6	19.3	3.5	12.3
Queen Creek	16.3	18.4	28.6	22.4	4.1	10.2
Apache Junction	8.8	20.6	29.4	20.6	5.9	14.7
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	11.8	20.4	32.1	19.9	3.6	12.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	11.9	21.9	34.0	18.8	4.5	8.9

AREA	Convenience/accessibility of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Excellent 5**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	6.2	22.2	48.1	11.1	2.5	9.9
Gilbert	8.8	19.3	49.1	12.3	1.8	8.8
Queen Creek	8.2	16.3	46.9	18.4	2.0	8.2
Apache Junction	5.9	20.6	44.1	17.6	2.9	8.8
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	7.2	19.9	47.5	14.0	2.3	9.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	6.0	19.6	51.0	13.6	3.6	6.2

AREA	Quality of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Excellent 5**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	0.0	4.9	28.4	35.8	16.0	14.8
Gilbert	0.0	1.8	31.6	35.1	17.5	14.0
Queen Creek	0.0	2.0	32.7	32.7	18.4	14.3
Apache Junction	0.0	2.9	32.4	32.4	17.6	14.7
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	0.0	3.2	30.8	34.4	17.2	14.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.1	2.4	35.2	32.1	19.6	10.7

AREA	Timeliness of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Excellent 5**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	6.2	22.2	29.6	19.8	7.4	14.8
Gilbert	5.3	21.1	35.1	19.3	8.8	10.5
Queen Creek	4.1	20.4	32.7	22.4	10.2	10.2
Apache Junction	5.9	29.4	35.3	11.8	11.8	5.9
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	5.4	22.6	32.6	19.0	9.0	11.3
Total percent within Maricopa County	5.5	22.5	36.2	18.3	10.0	7.6

AREA	Cultural responsiveness of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Excellent 5**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	0.0	13.6	35.8	24.7	11.1	14.8
Gilbert	0.0	10.5	38.6	24.6	12.3	14.0
Queen Creek	0.0	14.3	36.7	20.4	12.2	16.3
Apache Junction	0.0	17.6	41.2	14.7	11.8	14.7
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	0.0	13.6	37.6	22.2	11.8	14.9
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.4	14.1	36.9	24.1	13.3	11.2

AREA	Comprehensiveness of services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Mesa	2.5	18.5	34.6	24.7	3.7	16.0
Gilbert	3.5	15.8	35.1	24.6	5.3	15.8
Queen Creek	4.1	14.3	34.7	26.5	6.1	14.3
Apache Junction	2.9	20.6	32.4	23.5	5.9	14.7
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	3.2	17.2	34.4	24.9	5.0	15.4
Total percent within Maricopa County	2.8	17.9	37.8	24.6	6.5	10.4

AREA	Early identification of problems (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Excellent 5**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	8.6	22.2	29.6	21.0	2.5	16.0
Gilbert	7.0	22.8	31.6	19.3	3.5	15.8
Queen Creek	6.1	22.4	32.7	24.5	2.0	12.2
Apache Junction	2.9	23.5	32.4	20.6	2.9	17.6
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	6.8	22.6	31.2	21.3	2.7	15.4
Total percent within Maricopa County	6.0	21.4	37.9	19.6	3.7	11.3

AREA	Family centered practice (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	2	3	4	Excellent 5	Don't Know
Mesa	0.0	16.0	35.8	18.5	9.9	19.8
Gilbert	0.0	15.8	36.8	14.0	14.0	19.3
Queen Creek	0.0	20.4	32.7	14.3	16.3	16.3
Apache Junction	0.0	23.5	32.4	8.8	14.7	20.6
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	0.0	18.1	34.8	14.9	13.1	19.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.7	17.7	39.0	19.2	10.4	13.1

AREA	Client focus (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)					
	Very poor 1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**Excellent 5**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	3.7	18.5	27.2	24.7	6.2	19.8
Gilbert	5.3	17.5	26.3	26.3	5.3	19.3
Queen Creek	6.1	16.3	26.5	26.5	6.1	18.4
Apache Junction	5.9	14.7	26.5	23.5	8.8	20.6
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	5.0	17.2	26.7	25.3	6.3	19.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.8	16.2	28.8	26.1	7.4	16.7

Section 2:

Questions Specific to Your Community

1. Please rate your level of knowledge of **programs supported by First Things First** in **YOUR COMMUNITY**.

AREA	Level of knowledge of programs supported by First Things First (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	**Very good**	**Good**	**Neutral**	**Poor**	**Very poor**	**Not sure**
Mesa	15.6	12.5	31.3	34.4	6.3	0.0	0.0
Gilbert	7.7	23.1	30.8	30.8	7.7	0.0	0.0
Queen Creek	12.5	25.0	25.0	37.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Apache Junction	13.3	23.3	36.7	23.3	3.3	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	13.3	19.3	32.5	30.1	4.8	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	18.0	21.4	35.3	19.7	5.5	0.0	0.0

2. What is the number one priority area for First Things First to focus resources to help children birth through age five and their families in **YOUR COMMUNITY**? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Number one priority area for FTF to focus resources (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Improve the quality of early childhood development and health programs	Increase the access to quality early childhood developmental and health programs	Increase access to preventive health and health screenings for children through age 5	Offer parent and family support and education concerning early childhood development and literacy	Provide professional development and training for early childhood development and literacy	Increase coordination of early childhood development and health programs	Increase public awareness about the importance of early childhood development and health
Mesa	25.0	25.0	6.3	9.4	6.3	3.1	25.0
Gilbert	38.5	15.4	0.0	23.1	7.7	0.0	15.4
Queen Creek	37.5	12.5	0.0	25.0	12.5	0.0	12.5
Apache Junction	26.7	26.7	3.3	6.7	3.3	6.7	26.7
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	28.9	22.9	3.6	12.0	6.0	3.6	22.9
Total percent within Maricopa County	24.0	26.0	4.1	19.7	2.9	9.9	13.5

3. What services are missing in **YOUR COMMUNITY** for families with children birth through age 5? **CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**

AREA	Services that are missing in the Community (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)											
	Support for grandparents raising grandchildren	Parent coaching/education	Access to free or low cost health services	Early childhood literacy programs	High quality child care	High quality child care that provides alternative hours of operation	Child care subsidies	Pre-Kindergarten	Health promotion and disease prevention education	Support and education programs for pregnant and parenting teens	Accessibility to resources that support families with young children	Other
Mesa	53.1	34.4	56.3	18.8	43.8	37.5	40.6	28.1	34.4	25.0	34.4	3.1
Gilbert	38.5	38.5	46.2	46.2	23.1	46.2	53.8	38.5	46.2	46.2	46.2	0.0
Queen Creek	12.5	50.0	50.0	25.0	37.5	12.5	62.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	0.0
Apache Junction	40.0	40.0	46.7	16.7	56.7	50.0	63.3	20.0	36.7	16.7	43.3	6.7
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	42.2	38.6	50.6	22.9	44.6	41.0	53.0	27.7	37.3	26.5	39.8	3.6
Total percent within Maricopa County	51.7	45.2	49.3	35.6	41.6	39.9	50.2	28.8	32.9	36.5	50.5	3.4

Section 2:

Questions Specific to Southeast Maricopa

1. Please rank the top three employer-based services listed below concerning their importance in supporting families with children birth through age five in **YOUR COMMUNITY**. **RANK THE TOP THREE SERVICES WITH "1" AS THE MOST IMPORTANT.**

Mesa	Percentage of responses in Mesa			Total percent within Mesa
	1. The most important	2.	3.	
Flexible work schedules	17.3	16.0	25.3	58.7
Paid Family Leave	4.0	8.0	13.3	25.4
Paid time off from work (sick and/or vacation time)	10.7	25.3	24.0	60.0
Availability of affordable health insurance for family members	49.3	26.7	9.3	85.4
Financial Assistance for back up child care (when regular child care is not available)	18.7	9.3	9.3	37.4
Designated lactation or breastfeeding areas in workplace	2.7	1.3	4.0	8.1

Gilbert	Percentage of responses in Gilbert			Total percent within Gilbert
	1. The most important	2.	3.	
Flexible work schedules	14.8	14.8	20.4	50.0
Paid Family Leave	3.7	11.1	14.8	29.6
Paid time off from work (sick and/or vacation time)	11.1	24.1	25.9	61.1
Availability of affordable health insurance for family members	50.0	18.5	14.8	83.3
Financial Assistance for back up child care (when regular child care is not available)	20.4	13.0	7.4	40.7
Designated lactation or breastfeeding areas in workplace	3.7	1.9	0	5.6

Queen Creek	Percentage of responses in Queen Creek			Total percent within Queen Creek
	1. The most important	2.	3.	
Flexible work schedules	13.6	15.9	20.5	50.0
Paid Family Leave	2.3	11.4	15.9	29.5
Paid time off from work (sick and/or vacation time)	13.6	18.2	27.3	59.1
Availability of affordable health insurance for family members	50.0	22.7	9.1	81.8
Financial Assistance for back up child care (when regular child care is not available)	18.2	11.4	9.1	38.9
Designated lactation or breastfeeding areas in workplace	4.5	2.3	0	6.8

Apache Junction	Percentage of responses in Apache Junction			Total percent within Apache Junction
	1. The most important	2.	3.	
Flexible work schedules	13.3	20.0	23.3	56.7
Paid Family Leave	3.3	6.7	13.3	23.3
Paid time off from work (sick and/or vacation time)	10.0	20.0	36.7	66.7
Availability of affordable health insurance for family members	40.0	30.0	10.0	80.0
Financial Assistance for back up child care (when regular child care is not available)	30.0	6.7	3.3	40.0
Designated lactation or breastfeeding areas in workplace	6.7	3.3	0	10.0

2. Summary of the importance of the employer-based services listed below in supporting families with children birth through age five in Southeast Maricopa.

Southeast Maricopa Region	**Total percent within Mesa**	**Total percent within Gilbert**	**Total percent within Queen Creek**	**Total percent within Apache Junction**	**Total percent within Northeast Maricopa Region**
Flexible work schedules	58.7	50.0	50.0	56.7	54.2
Paid Family Leave	25.4	29.6	29.5	23.3	27.1
Paid time off from work (sick and/or vacation time)	60.0	61.1	59.1	66.7	61.1
Availability of affordable health insurance for family members	85.4	83.3	81.8	80.0	83.2
Financial Assistance for back up child care (when regular child care is not available)	37.4	40.7	38.9	40.0	38.9
Designated lactation or breastfeeding areas in workplace	8.1	5.6	6.8	10.0	7.4

3. Are you aware of **or** have you heard of **My Child's Ready**? **My Child's Ready** is a program available to families residing in Gilbert, Mesa and Queen Creek made possible by First Things First. **My Child's Ready** is a free service available to support families by offering personal visits to your home, parent group meetings, developmental screenings, and resources.

AREA	Are you aware or have you heard of **My Child's Ready** program		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Mesa	25.4	74.6	0.0
Gilbert	27.5	72.5	0.0
Queen Creek	31.0	69.0	0.0
Apache Junction	14.3	85.7	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	25.5	74.5	0.0

Section 3:

Parenting Support/Education Services for Families with Children Birth Through Age 5

1. Thinking about **Parenting Support/Education Services** for families with children birth through age 5, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Parenting Support/Education Services currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Mesa	2.8	13.9	19.4	27.8	27.8	2.8	5.6
Gilbert	3.4	17.2	17.2	27.6	24.1	3.4	6.9
Queen Creek	0.0	25.0	10.0	35.0	25.0	0.0	5.0
Apache Junction	0.0	20.0	6.7	40.0	26.7	0.0	6.7
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	2.0	18.0	15.0	31.0	26.0	2.0	6.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.0	14.8	22.9	26.1	23.7	1.7	6.9

2. Are there waiting lists or families being turned away due to a shortage of **Parenting Support/Education Services** for families with children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Mesa	25.0	22.2	52.8
Gilbert	24.1	17.2	58.6
Queen Creek	25.0	15.0	60.0
Apache Junction	26.7	20.0	53.3
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	25.0	19.0	56.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	28.0	19.2	52.8

3. What are the barriers to providing **Parenting Support/Education Services** for families with children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Barriers to providing Parenting Support/ Education Services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)														
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Services not wanted	No child	Immigration status	Eligibility differences among service providers	Lack of communication between service providers	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Mesa	55.6	38.9	33.3	69.4	36.1	13.9	22.2	27.8	19.4	38.9	22.2	0.0	0.0	38.9	8.3
Gilbert	48.3	41.4	34.5	72.4	44.8	17.2	20.7	31.0	27.6	41.4	20.7	0.0	0.0	44.8	6.9
Queen Creek	60.0	40.0	45.0	75.0	45.0	20.0	25.0	40.0	25.0	45.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0
Apache Junction	73.3	46.7	53.3	80.0	40.0	26.7	33.3	40.0	33.3	53.3	20.0	0.0	0.0	53.3	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	57.0	41.0	39.0	73.0	41.0	18.0	24.0	33.0	25.0	43.0	21.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	5.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	62.7	49.2	36.8	71.2	39.8	17.5	23.5	38.4	21.5	42.6	26.9	0.0	0.0	44.1	5.6

4. *From the selections you made above*, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to providing **Parenting Support/Education Services** for families with children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Single Most important Barrier (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)														
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Services not wanted	Immigration status	No childcare provider	Eligibility differences among service providers	Lack of communication between service providers	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Mesa	8.3	16.7	2.8	50.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3
Gilbert	6.9	13.8	0.0	55.2	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.8
Queen Creek	5.0	10.0	0.0	65.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
Apache Junction	6.7	13.3	0.0	66.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	7.0	14.0	1.0	57.0	7.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	9.3	14.7	0.4	47.4	8.7	1.9	0.4	0.4	2.2	2.4	4.9	0.0	0.0	2.3	4.0

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on providing **Parenting Support/ Education Services** for families with children birth through 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on providing Parenting Support/Education Services (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Mesa	27.8	30.6	5.6	2.8	33.3
Gilbert	24.1	27.6	3.4	0.0	44.8
Queen Creek	15.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	45.0
Apache Junction	20.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	40.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	23.0	33.0	3.0	1.0	40.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	25.9	30.6	6.7	0.4	36.4

6. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Parenting Support/Education Services** for families with children birth through 5.

AREA	List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership
Mesa	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AzPAC
	Black child and family services
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Crisis Center
	Family Resource Center
	Family Tree Project-Mesa Public Schools
	First Things First
	Healthy Families
	Maricopa County
	Maricopa County Department of Public Health
	Mesa Public Schools Adult Education
	Mesa School District Parent University
	Parent University (Mesa Public Schools)
	Raising Special Kids
	Salt River ECEC
	SARRC
	Southwest Human Development
	Summa Associates
	SWHD
	Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
	United Way
	University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Gilbert	Maricopa County
	Maricopa County Department of Public Health
	Parent University (Mesa Public Schools)
	Raising Special Kids
	SARRC
	Southwest Human Development
	Summa Associates
	SWHD
	United Way
	University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
	Maricopa County
	Maricopa County Department of Public Health
	Parent University (Mesa Public Schools)
	Raising Special Kids
	SARRC
	Southwest Human Development

Queen Creek	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Crisis Center
	First Things First
	Maricopa County
	Parent University (Mesa Public Schools)
	Raising Special Kids
	SARRC
	Southwest Human Development
	SWHD
	United Way
Apache Junction	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Crisis Center
	First Things First
	Maricopa County
	Parent University (Mesa Public Schools)
	Raising Special Kids
	SARRC
	Southwest Human Development
	SWHD
	United Way

Note: Some responses may indicate the same organization yet are referred to in the report per the individual responses.

Section 4:

Child Care for Children Birth Through Age 5

1. Thinking about **Child Care** for children birth through age 5, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Child Care for children birth through age 5, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	**Very good**	**Good**	**Neutral**	**Poor**	**Very poor**	**Not sure**
Mesa	4.3	8.7	23.9	17.4	28.3	15.2	2.2
Gilbert	2.9	8.8	26.5	17.6	26.5	17.6	0.0
Queen Creek	0.0	15.4	19.2	23.1	23.1	19.2	0.0
Apache Junction	0.0	13.6	13.6	22.7	27.3	22.7	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	2.3	10.9	21.9	19.5	26.6	18.0	0.8
Total percent within Maricopa County	2.3	11.9	26.5	14.2	27.9	15.2	1.9

2. Are there waiting lists or children birth through age 5 being turned away due to a shortage of **Child Care** their parents prefer in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Mesa	45.7	23.9	30.4
Gilbert	47.1	26.5	26.5
Queen Creek	50.0	26.9	23.1
Apache Junction	54.5	27.3	18.2
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	48.4	25.8	25.8
Total percent within Maricopa County	46.8	23.3	29.9

3. What are the barriers for parents to get the **Child Care** they prefer for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity										
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	Immigration status	Other
Mesa	37.0	89.1	19.6	32.6	15.2	8.7	8.7	13.0	34.8	19.6	4.3
Gilbert	32.4	94.1	23.5	35.3	20.6	8.8	8.8	14.7	38.2	17.6	2.9
Queen Creek	30.8	88.5	26.9	34.6	19.2	3.8	3.8	7.7	46.2	15.4	3.8
Apache Junction	31.8	90.9	27.3	27.3	22.7	4.5	4.5	9.1	45.5	13.6	4.5
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	33.6	90.6	23.4	32.8	18.8	7.0	7.0	11.7	39.8	17.2	3.9
Total percent within Maricopa County	39.0	89.4	30.2	36.5	21.2	6.2	11.8	16.1	45.0	24.0	8.0

4. *From the selections you made above*, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier for parents to get the **Child Care** they prefer for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity										
	Transportation	**Cost**	**Location(s)**	**Awareness**	**Not enough services**	**Difficult to enroll**	**Culture**	**Language**	**Quality**	**Immigration status**	**Other**
Mesa	6.5	82.6	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	4.3
Gilbert	2.9	85.3	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	2.9
Queen Creek	3.8	84.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	3.8
Apache Junction	4.5	86.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	4.7	84.4	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0	3.1
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.8	76.8	1.9	3.1	1.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	7.2	0.2	3.5

5. Please rate the impact of budget cuts to state child care subsidies for parents to get the **Child Care** they prefer for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts to state child care subsidies for parents to get the Child Care they prefer for children birth through age 5 (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	**High**	**Little**	**None**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	58.7	26.1	4.3	0.0	10.9
Gilbert	64.7	23.5	5.9	0.0	5.9
Queen Creek	57.7	30.8	0.0	0.0	11.5
Apache Junction	68.2	22.7	0.0	0.0	9.1
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	61.7	25.8	3.1	0.0	9.4
Total percent within Maricopa County	65.8	23.0	3.0	0.1	8.1

6. Please identify recent changes to **Child Care** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY due to the economy and budget cuts. **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting child care changes within each geographic entity							
	Closed child care centers	Fewer child care classrooms	Children of different ages combined in single classroom	Child care teachers laid off	Children staying home alone	Children staying with family, friends, and/or neighbors	Reduced quality or variety of child care	Other
Mesa	52.2	34.8	32.6	58.7	63.0	78.3	52.2	13.0
Gilbert	55.9	41.2	38.2	61.8	61.8	82.4	55.9	11.8
Queen Creek	65.4	42.3	30.8	61.5	69.2	80.8	61.5	7.7
Apache Junction	68.2	40.9	36.4	59.1	68.2	81.8	77.3	9.1
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	58.6	39.1	34.4	60.2	64.8	80.5	59.4	10.9
Total percent within Maricopa County	60.0	40.8	33.3	62.9	67.0	77.5	61.1	6.1

7. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Child Care** for children birth through age 5. List these organization(s) in the box below.

AREA	List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership
Mesa	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Blake Foundation
	CAZColleges
	Central AZ College
	Child and Family Services
	Child Care Resource and Referral
	ECEC Health Services
	First Things First
	Maricopa County
	Sholom Preschool
	Southwest Human Development
	Summa Associates
	SWHD
	United Way
	VSUW
	YMCA
Gilbert	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Blake Foundation
	CAZColleges
	Central AZ College
	Child Care Resource and Referral
	First Things First
	Maricopa County
	Sholom Preschool
	Southwest Human Development
	Summa Associates
	SWHD
	United Way
	VSUW
	YMCA

Queen Creek	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Blake Foundation
	CAZColleges
	Central AZ College
	Child Care Resource and Referral
	First Things First
	Maricopa County
	Southwest Human Development
	SWHD
	United Way
	VSUW
	YMCA
Apache Junction	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Blake Foundation
	CAZColleges
	Central AZ College
	Child Care Resource and Referral
	First Things First
	Maricopa County
	Southwest Human Development
	SWHD
	United Way
	VSUW
	YMCA

Note: Some responses may indicate the same organization yet are referred to in the report per the individual responses.

Section 5:

Education for Children Birth Through Age 5

1. Thinking about **Educational Services** for children birth through age 5, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Educational Services for children birth through age 5, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	**Very good**	**Good**	**Neutral**	**Poor**	**Very poor**	**Not sure**
Mesa	0.0	27.8	27.8	16.7	13.9	8.3	5.6
Gilbert	0.0	18.5	37.0	18.5	11.1	7.4	7.4
Queen Creek	0.0	23.8	23.8	23.8	14.3	4.8	9.5
Apache Junction	0.0	16.7	27.8	27.8	11.1	5.6	11.1
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	0.0	22.5	29.4	20.6	12.7	6.9	7.8
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.6	18.3	35.3	21.3	16.7	2.6	5.1

2. Are there waiting lists or families being turned away due to a shortage of **Educational Services** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Mesa	27.8	19.4	52.8
Gilbert	18.5	18.5	63.0
Queen Creek	14.3	14.3	71.4
Apache Junction	5.6	16.7	77.8
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	5.6	16.7	77.8
Total percent within Maricopa County	23.9	18.0	58.1

3. What are the barriers to families getting **Educational Services** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity											
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Mesa	44.4	61.1	22.2	47.2	27.8	13.9	11.1	13.9	25.0	19.4	16.7	13.9
Gilbert	55.6	63.0	29.6	63.0	33.3	7.4	14.8	18.5	33.3	22.2	25.9	7.4
Queen Creek	52.4	52.4	28.6	66.7	38.1	9.5	14.3	19.0	38.1	23.8	14.3	9.5
Apache Junction	50.0	55.6	27.8	66.7	33.3	5.6	16.7	22.2	44.4	22.2	16.7	5.6
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	50.0	58.8	26.5	58.8	32.4	9.8	13.7	17.6	33.3	21.6	18.6	9.8
Total percent within Maricopa County	49.5	59.9	28.9	57.2	35.5	9.5	14.1	21.7	37.8	24.6	15.6	7.2

4. *From the selections you made above*, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting **Educational Services** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity											
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Mesa	8.3	33.3	0.0	25.0	8.3	8.3	0.0	0.0	5.6	2.8	2.8	5.6
Gilbert	7.4	33.3	0.0	33.3	7.4	3.7	0.0	0.0	7.4	0.0	3.7	3.7
Queen Creek	9.5	19.0	0.0	38.1	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	9.5	0.0	4.8	4.8
Apache Junction	11.1	22.2	0.0	33.3	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	11.1	0.0	5.6	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	8.8	28.4	0.0	31.4	6.9	5.9	2.0	0.0	7.8	1.0	3.9	3.9
Total percent within Maricopa County	8.2	30.1	0.5	29.7	11.2	3.6	1.7	0.4	7.3	1.9	0.9	4.5

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on **Educational Services** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on Educational Services for children birth through age 5 (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Mesa	44.4	19.4	5.6	2.8	27.8
Gilbert	40.7	25.9	3.7	0.0	29.6
Queen Creek	33.3	23.8	0.0	0.0	42.9
Apache Junction	27.8	22.2	0.0	0.0	50.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	38.2	22.5	2.9	1.0	35.3
Total percent within Maricopa County	39.8	22.6	4.1	0.5	32.9

6. List of key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Educational Services** for children birth through 5. List this organization(s) in the box below.

AREA	List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership
Mesa	ACCA
	AEA
	Arizona Child Care Association
	Association for Supportive Child Care
	Charter Schools
	Child and Family Resources, Inc.
	Children' Action Alliance
	Early Childhood Education Center
	Head Start
	Mesa Early Learning Preschool
	Mesa Public Schools
	SARRC reverse integrated toddler preschool and pre K. programs
	School Districts
	Southwest Human Development
Gilbert	ACCA
	AEA
	Arizona Child Care Association
	Association for Supportive Child Care
	Child and Family Resources, Inc.
	Children' Action Alliance
	Gilbert Public School District
	Head Start
	SARRC reverse integrated toddler preschool and pre K. programs
	Southwest Human Development
Queen Creek	AEA
	Arizona Child Care Association
	Association for Supportive Child Care
	Child and Family Resources, Inc.
	Children' Action Alliance
	Head Start
	SARRC reverse integrated toddler preschool and pre K. programs
	Southwest Human Development
Apache Junction	AEA
	Arizona Child Care Association
	Association for Supportive Child Care
	Child and Family Resources
	Children' Action Alliance
	Head Start
	SARRC reverse integrated toddler preschool and pre K. programs
	Southwest Human Development

Note: Some responses may indicate the same organization yet are referred to in the report per the individual responses.

Section 6:

Literacy Development Services for Children Birth Through Age 5 and Their Families

1. Thinking about **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through age 5 and their families, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Literacy Development Services for children birth through age 5 and their families, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Mesa	6.9	3.4	48.3	17.2	10.3	6.9	6.9
Gilbert	0.0	5.0	55.0	20.0	5.0	5.0	10.0
Queen Creek	0.0	7.1	42.9	28.6	7.1	7.1	7.1
Apache Junction	0.0	10.0	40.0	30.0	10.0	0.0	10.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	2.7	5.5	47.9	21.9	8.2	5.5	8.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	4.1	10.8	41.5	19.3	7.9	6.4	10.0

2. Are there families being turned away due to a shortage of **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there families turned away? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Mesa	13.8	20.7	65.5
Gilbert	15.0	5.0	80.0
Queen Creek	14.3	7.1	78.6
Apache Junction	10.0	10.0	80.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	13.7	12.3	74.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	21.2	14.1	64.7

3. What are the barriers to families getting **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY? **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	**Cost**	**Location(s)**	**Awareness**	**Not enough services**	**Difficult to enroll**	**Culture**	**Language**	**Quality**	**No child care provided**	**Immigration status**	**Difficult to take time off from work/school**	**Other**
Mesa	31.0	27.6	17.2	62.1	24.1	0.0	17.2	31.0	3.4	10.3	10.3	13.8	0.0
Gilbert	40.0	35.0	30.0	75.0	35.0	0.0	25.0	45.0	5.0	5.0	10.0	15.0	0.0
Queen Creek	42.9	21.4	28.6	71.4	35.7	0.0	21.4	50.0	7.1	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0
Apache Junction	40.0	20.0	20.0	70.0	20.0	0.0	30.0	50.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	37.0	27.4	23.3	68.5	28.8	0.0	21.9	41.1	5.5	5.5	8.2	9.6	0.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	37.9	29.4	25.6	69.4	26.3	1.4	21.9	46.8	8.8	9.5	14.6	14.1	0.9

4. *From the selections you made above*, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Mesa	6.9	6.9	0.0	51.7	13.8	0.0	0.0	6.9	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.4	6.9
Gilbert	5.0	0.0	0.0	60.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	5.0
Queen Creek	7.1	0.0	0.0	57.1	14.3	0.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
Apache Junction	10.0	0.0	0.0	60.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	6.8	2.7	0.0	56.2	13.7	0.0	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	2.7	5.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	6.9	4.6	1.7	52.8	15.1	0.3	0.5	10.5	2.4	0.0	1.4	1.0	2.6

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on Literacy Development Services for children birth through age 5 (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Mesa	17.2	20.7	10.3	3.4	48.3
Gilbert	10.0	30.0	10.0	0.0	50.0
Queen Creek	7.1	28.6	0.0	0.0	64.3
Apache Junction	10.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	60.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	12.3	26.0	6.8	1.4	53.4
Total percent within Maricopa County	20.2	28.8	5.2	3.1	42.7

6. List of key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Literacy Development Services** for children birth through 5. List this organization(s) in the box below.

AREA	List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership
Mesa	A Stepping Stone Foundation
	Arizona Language and Literacy Center
	Arizona Literacy and Learning Center
	AZAAP
	National Center for Family Literacy
	Reach Out and Read
	Southwest Human Development
	Unlimited Potential in South Phoenix
	Valley of the Sun United Way
Gilbert	A Stepping Stone Foundation
	Arizona Language and Literacy Center
	Arizona Literacy and Learning Center
	AZAAP
	Reach Out and Read
	Southwest Human Development
	Unlimited Potential in South Phoenix
	Valley of the Sun United Way
Queen Creek	Arizona Language and Literacy Center
	AZAAP
	Reach Out and Read
	Southwest Human Development
Apache Junction	Arizona Language and Literacy Center

Note: Some responses may indicate the same organization yet are referred to in the report per the individual responses.

Section 7:

Services for Children Birth Through Age 5 with Special Needs and Their Families

1. Thinking about services for children birth through age 5 with **Special Needs** and their families, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well services for children birth through age 5 with Special Needs and their families, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Mesa	3.2	16.1	32.3	16.1	16.1	6.5	9.7
Gilbert	0.0	17.4	26.1	17.4	21.7	8.7	8.7
Queen Creek	0.0	20.0	13.3	20.0	26.7	13.3	6.7
Apache Junction	0.0	23.1	15.4	23.1	23.1	7.7	7.7
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	1.2	18.3	24.4	18.3	20.7	8.5	8.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	1.1	18.2	25.5	13.9	19.2	9.1	13.0

2. Are there waiting lists or families being turned away due to a shortage of services for children through age 5 with **Special Needs** and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists or families turned away? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Mesa	41.9	9.7	48.4
Gilbert	43.5	0.0	56.5
Queen Creek	53.3	0.0	46.7
Apache Junction	46.2	0.0	53.8
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	45.1	3.7	51.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	44.8	7.4	47.9

3. What are the barriers to families getting services for children through age 5 with **Special Needs** in YOUR COMMUNITY? **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	**Cost**	**Location(s)**	**Awareness**	**Not enough services**	**Difficult to enroll**	**Culture**	**Language**	**Quality**	**No child care provided**	**Immigration status**	**Difficult to take time off from work/school**	**Other**
Mesa	45.2	41.9	41.9	64.5	61.3	19.4	16.1	32.3	19.4	12.9	25.8	19.4	6.5
Gilbert	52.2	47.8	52.2	60.9	73.9	21.7	21.7	34.8	30.4	17.4	26.1	21.7	0.0
Queen Creek	66.7	60.0	66.7	60.0	73.3	33.3	26.7	40.0	33.3	20.0	26.7	26.7	0.0
Apache Junction	69.2	61.5	61.5	61.5	69.2	30.8	30.8	38.5	30.8	23.1	30.8	30.8	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	54.9	50.0	52.4	62.2	68.3	24.4	22.0	35.4	26.8	17.1	26.8	23.2	2.4
Total percent within Maricopa County	54.6	54.6	49.9	58.8	62.8	29.1	26.8	36.3	31.1	14.1	26.8	25.4	1.7

4. *From the selections you made above*, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting services for children through age 5 with **Special Needs** in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Mesa	3.2	16.1	3.2	32.3	35.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	3.2	0.0	3.2
Gilbert	4.3	13.0	4.3	30.4	39.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.0	4.3
Queen Creek	6.7	13.3	6.7	26.7	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Apache Junction	7.7	15.4	7.7	30.8	30.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	4.9	14.6	4.9	30.5	36.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	1.2	0.0	2.4
Total percent within Maricopa County	5.2	13.3	5.6	26.1	34.4	2.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	5.3	1.6	1.1	4.1

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on services for children through age 5 with **Special Needs** and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on services for children birth through age 5 with Special Needs and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Mesa	22.6	29.0	9.7	3.2	35.5
Gilbert	21.7	34.8	8.7	0.0	34.8
Queen Creek	26.7	40.0	6.7	0.0	26.7
Apache Junction	23.1	38.5	7.7	0.0	30.8
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	23.2	34.1	8.5	1.2	32.9
Total percent within Maricopa County	26.4	31.4	11.0	1.3	29.9

6. List of key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for services for children through age 5 with **Special Needs** and their families.

AREA	List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership
Mesa	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AZ EIP
	AZA United
	Cardon Children's hospital
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Crisis Center
	Department of Economic Security
	ECEC Health Services
	First Things First
	Guthrie Mainstream
	H.O.P.E. Group
	Healthy Families
	LIFE
	Maricopa County
	Phoenix Children's Hospital
	Raising Special Kids
	Rise
	SARRC
	SEEK
	Southwest Center for Human Development
	SWHD
	VSUW
Gilbert	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AZ EIP
	AZA United
	Cardon Children's hospital
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Crisis Center
	Department of Economic Security
	First Things First
	Guthrie Mainstream
	H.O.P.E. Group
	Healthy Families
	LIFE
	Maricopa County
	Phoenix Children's Hospital

Gilbert	Raising Special Kids
	Rise
	SARRC
	SEEK
	Southwest Center for Human Development
	SWHD
	VSUW
Queen Creek	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AZ EIP
	AZA United
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Child Crisis Center
	Department of Economic Security
	First Things First
	Guthrie Mainstream
	H.O.P.E. Group
	Healthy Families
	LIFE
	Maricopa County
	Raising Special Kids
	Rise
	SARRC
	SEEK
	SWHD
	VSUW
Apache Junction	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AZ EIP
	AZA United
	Child & Family Resources, Inc.
	Department of Economic Security
	First Things First
	Guthrie Mainstream
	H.O.P.E. Group
	LIFE
	Maricopa County
	Raising Special Kids
	Rise
	SARRC
	SEEK
	SWHD
	VSUW

Note: Some responses may indicate the same organization yet are referred to in the report per the individual responses.

Section 8:

Health Services for Children Birth Through Age 5

1. Thinking about **Health Services** for children birth through age 5, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Health Services for children birth through age 5 and their families, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Not sure
Mesa	3.0	15.2	24.2	24.2	21.2	3.0	9.1
Gilbert	0.0	15.4	26.9	23.1	19.2	3.8	11.5
Queen Creek	0.0	4.8	28.6	38.1	23.8	4.8	0.0
Apache Junction	0.0	6.7	13.3	40.0	33.3	6.7	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	1.1	11.6	24.2	29.5	23.2	4.2	6.3
Total percent within Maricopa County	1.3	13.3	27.9	21.6	24.1	4.5	7.3

2. Are there waiting lists or children birth through age 5 turned away due to a shortage of **Health Services** in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there waiting lists or children turned away? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Mesa	33.3	18.2	48.5
Gilbert	34.6	19.2	46.2
Queen Creek	38.1	19.0	42.9
Apache Junction	40.0	13.3	46.7
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	35.8	17.9	46.3
Total percent within Maricopa County	34.7	20.6	44.7

3. What are the barriers to children bird through age 5 getting **Health Services** in YOUR COMMUNITY? **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	**Cost**	**Location(s)**	**Awareness**	**Not enough services**	**Difficult to enroll**	**Culture**	**Language**	**Quality**	**No child care provided**	**Immigration status**	**Difficult to take time off from work/school**	**Other**
Mesa	48.5	63.6	33.3	51.5	45.5	24.2	27.3	30.3	15.2	12.1	45.5	30.3	6.1
Gilbert	61.5	73.1	34.6	50.0	42.3	26.9	38.5	38.5	15.4	15.4	53.8	30.8	3.8
Queen Creek	66.7	76.2	38.1	47.6	42.9	28.6	47.6	42.9	19.0	14.3	57.1	33.3	4.8
Apache Junction	73.3	86.7	33.3	53.3	33.3	33.3	46.7	46.7	20.0	20.0	40.0	33.3	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	60.0	72.6	34.7	50.5	42.1	27.4	37.9	37.9	16.8	14.7	49.5	31.6	4.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	55.5	69.2	39.4	56.9	40.6	28.9	34.3	43.8	23.9	16.5	52.3	26.1	4.8

4. *From the selections you made above*, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to children birth through age 5 getting **Health Services** in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	**Cost**	**Location(s)**	**Awareness**	**Not enough services**	**Difficult to enroll**	**Culture**	**Language**	**Quality**	**No child care provided**	**Immigration status**	**Difficult to take time off from work/school**	**Other**
Mesa	6.1	39.4	6.1	21.2	12.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.1	0.0	3.0
Gilbert	3.8	38.5	0.0	19.2	15.4	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	0.0	3.8
Queen Creek	4.8	33.3	4.8	9.5	19.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.0	0.0	4.8
Apache Junction	6.7	40.0	0.0	13.3	20.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.3	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	5.3	37.9	3.2	16.8	15.8	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.7	0.0	3.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	6.1	31.1	4.1	20.4	13.4	2.5	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	14.7	0.3	5.8

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on **Health Services** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on Health Services for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	**High**	**Little**	**None**	**Don't Know**
Mesa	42.4	24.2	6.1	3.0	24.2
Gilbert	50.0	19.2	7.7	0.0	23.1
Queen Creek	57.1	14.3	4.8	0.0	23.8
Apache Junction	46.7	19.2	7.7	0.0	23.1
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	48.4	20.0	6.3	1.1	24.2
Total percent within Maricopa County	52.7	18.2	9.9	0.4	18.7

6. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Health Services** for children birth through age 5. List this organization(s) in the box below.

AREA	List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership
Mesa	Arizona Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics.
	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Cardon Children's Hospital
	Children's Action Alliance
	East Valley Pediatric Society
	First Things First
	Maricopa County
	Mountain Park Health Center
	Phoenix Children's Hospital
	Scottsdale Healthcare
	St. Josephs Hospital
	SWHD
	VSUW
Gilbert	Arizona Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics.
	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Cardon Children's Hospital
	Children's Action Alliance
	East Valley Pediatric Society
	First Things First
	Maricopa County
	Mountain Park Health Center
	Phoenix Children's Hospital
	Scottsdale Healthcare
	St. Josephs Hospital
	SWHD
	VSUW

Queen Creek	Arizona School of Dentistry in Mesa
	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Catholic Healthcare West (Chandler)
	Children's Action Alliance
	First Things First
	Head Start
	Maricopa County
	Mountain Park Health Center
	Phoenix Children's Hospital
	Scottsdale Healthcare
	St. Josephs Hospital
	SWHD
	VSUW
Apache Junction	Arizona School of Dentistry in Mesa
	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	Catholic Healthcare West (Chandler)
	Children's Action Alliance
	First Things First
	Head Start
	Maricopa County
	Mountain Park Health Center
	Phoenix Children's Hospital
	St. Josephs Hospital
	SWHD
	VSUW

Note: Some responses may indicate the same organization yet are referred to in the report per the individual responses.

Section 9:

Social Services Support for Children Birth Through Age 5 and Their Families

1. Thinking about **Social Services Support** for children birth through age 5 and their families, please rate how well these services currently meet families' needs throughout YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	How well Social Services Support for children birth through age 5 and their families, currently meet families' needs (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)						
	Excellent	**Very good**	**Good**	**Neutral**	**Poor**	**Very poor**	**Not sure**
Mesa	3.6	10.7	25.0	17.9	25.0	10.7	7.1
Gilbert	0.0	9.5	28.6	14.3	23.8	14.3	9.5
Queen Creek	0.0	11.1	27.8	16.7	27.8	11.1	5.6
Apache Junction	0.0	7.1	14.3	21.4	35.7	14.3	7.1
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	1.2	9.9	24.7	17.3	27.2	12.3	7.4
Total percent within Maricopa County	0.6	9.0	25.3	23.4	22.3	14.7	4.7

2. Are there waiting lists or children birth through age 5 turned away due to a shortage of **Health Services** in YOUR COMMUNITY?

If you answered YES, please provide a specific example(s) in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Are there Waiting lists or families turned away? (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Mesa	39.3	7.1	53.6
Gilbert	42.9	0.0	57.1
Queen Creek	44.4	5.6	50.0
Apache Junction	42.9	0.0	57.1
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	42.0	3.7	54.3
Total percent within Maricopa County	38.0	9.8	52.2

3. What are the barriers to families getting **Social Services Support** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **YOU MAY CHECK MORE THAN ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	**Cost**	**Location(s)**	**Awareness**	**Not enough services**	**Difficult to enroll**	**Culture**	**Language**	**Quality**	**No child care provided**	**Immigration status**	**Difficult to take time off from work/school**	**Other**
Mesa	42.9	46.4	39.3	71.4	64.3	10.7	17.9	25.0	17.9	14.3	32.1	7.1	3.6
Gilbert	47.6	47.6	47.6	76.2	76.2	14.3	23.8	33.3	23.8	19.0	42.9	4.8	4.8
Queen Creek	50.0	50.0	44.4	72.2	77.8	11.1	16.7	27.8	27.8	22.2	38.9	5.6	5.6
Apache Junction	57.1	57.1	42.9	64.3	78.6	14.3	21.4	28.6	35.7	21.4	42.9	7.1	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	48.1	49.4	43.2	71.6	72.8	12.3	19.8	28.4	24.7	18.5	38.3	6.2	3.7
Total percent within Maricopa County	45.1	50.1	43.1	76.6	56.7	18.0	21.7	29.1	24.5	16.0	38.8	8.8	5.3

4. *From the selections you made above*, what is the SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT barrier to families getting **Social Services Support** for children birth through age 5 in YOUR COMMUNITY? **CHECK ONLY ONE.**

AREA	Percentage of respondents selecting barrier within each geographic entity												
	Transportation	Cost	Location(s)	Awareness	Not enough services	Difficult to enroll	Culture	Language	Quality	No child care provided	Immigration status	Difficult to take time off from work/school	Other
Mesa	7.1	17.9	3.6	21.4	42.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.0
Gilbert	4.8	9.5	4.8	14.3	52.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	9.5	0.0	0.0
Queen Creek	5.6	11.1	0.0	16.7	55.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0
Apache Junction	7.1	14.3	0.0	7.1	57.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	6.2	13.6	2.5	16.0	50.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.0	6.2	0.0	0.0
Total percent within Maricopa County	5.0	10.4	2.5	24.8	40.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	4.8	0.6	7.3	0.3	2.8

5. Please rate the impact of recent budget cuts on **Social Services Support** for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you rated this question Very High or High, please provide specific examples in YOUR COMMUNITY.

AREA	Impact of recent budget cuts on Social Services Support for children birth through age 5 and their families in YOUR COMMUNITY (Percentage of respondents within each geographic entity)				
	Very High	High	Little	None	Don't Know
Mesa	46.4	28.6	3.6	3.6	17.9
Gilbert	52.4	23.8	4.8	0.0	19.0
Queen Creek	55.6	27.8	0.0	0.0	16.7
Apache Junction	57.1	21.4	0.0	0.0	21.4
Total percent within Southeast Maricopa Region	51.9	25.9	2.5	1.2	18.5
Total percent within Maricopa County	46.0	24.4	7.0	0.3	22.4

6. Please identify if there is a key organization(s) that is providing STRONG LEADERSHIP within YOUR COMMUNITY for **Social Services Support** for children birth through age 5 and their families. List this organization(s) in the box below.

AREA	List of key organization(s) that are providing strong leadership
Mesa	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AzPaC
	Children's Action Alliance
	CPS
	Family Resource Center
	First Things First
	GALA
	Maricopa County
	NASW
	PAFCO
	Southwest Human Development
	SWHD
	VSUW
	YMCA
Gilbert	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AzPaC
	Children's Action Alliance
	Family Resource Center
	First Things First
	GALA
	Maricopa County
	NASW
	PAFCO
	Southwest Human Development
	SWHD
	VSUW
Queen Creek	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	AzPaC
	Children's Action Alliance
	Family Resource Center
	First Things First
	GALA
	Maricopa County
	NASW
	PAFCO
	Southwest Human Development
	SWHD
	VSUW
	YMCA

Apache Junction	Association for Supportive Child Care (ASCC)
	First Things First
	GALA
	Maricopa County
	NASW
	PAFCO
	Southwest Human Development
	SWHD
	VSUW

Note: Some responses may indicate the same organization yet are referred to in the report per the individual responses.

APPENDIX B
SOUTHEAST MARICOPA REGION STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AND PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

SECTION I. STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Introduction

Meetings were held on June 8th at the Family Resource Center and June 9th at the Red Mountain Branch of the Mesa Public Library. There were a total of 18 participants, including a WIC coordinator from a community health center, public health professionals, school-based early childhood coordinators, a school board member, social services providers, a childcare center owner, and teacher.

Assets

Participants mentioned a long list of services as assets, including the Family Resource Center at the Child Crisis Center and free childcare for Mesa Community College students, free dental services provided by AT Still, screening services provided by the Arizona State University Hearing and Speech Lab, Quality First, childcare scholarships and T.E.A.C.H. scholarships provided by First Things First, parent coaching, and grand-parenting programs.

Needs

Families have large needs for food, clothing, housing, and transportation. There is a need for prenatal care and parenting services for teens. Also mentioned is a strong need for parenting coaching, literacy development, and grand-parent services. Financial help with childcare is a major need. Many families who do not qualify for services based on their incomes still need assistance.

Information and Coordination

Families do not know how to ask for help or use the system. There are no centralized hubs for information. Many families are overwhelmed with options and need one-on-one assistance. Many agencies lack information about other services. However, agencies in the region are working well together to address this issue. One example is the home visiting coalition, which uses joint materials. The social services network in Apache Junction also helps to connect providers.

Suggestions and Ideas

Centralized hubs for information are needed. Community colleges and pediatricians could help fill this role. Funding should be provided to help agencies provide

information and help families navigate the system. Funding is desperately needed to help families pay for childcare, to expand opportunities for preschool and early education, and to expand parenting education and support. Participants had a number of suggestions to help better connect families with services, including more in-home services, mobile units, resource centers that are in locations other than schools, and outreach and advertising.

SECTION II. PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Introduction

After numerous attempts to contact the stakeholders provided by FTF (e-mail and phone), 14 responses were provided for this report. Children's Action Alliance interviewed people who live and/or work in the Southeast Maricopa County First Things First Region. The interviews lasted approximately 25 minutes each, including introductions and a brief explanation of their purpose. The people interviewed described themselves as filling multiple roles. They included parents of young children, and one person closely involved with raising nieces and nephews. Four described themselves as educators; four others as childcare providers. Four people specifically mentioned their faith-based community ties. Among others, the interviewees' roles included: Director of Homeless Prevention, Gilbert CAP; Chair, Gilbert Parks, Recreation, and Library Advisory Council; President, Mesa Public School District; music therapist; Chair, Arizona Museum for Youth Friends; hospital administrator; hospital nurse; and businessperson.

Assets

The interviewees indentified a significant range of assets in their communities and spoke highly of the agencies they each interacted with personally. Several people mentioned the quality of school-based preschool programs and Head Start and some church-based and privately owned childcare. Privately based therapeutic centers for children with special needs were praised for their services and their responsiveness, and several interviewees felt that families with special needs children receive more comprehensive and easily accessed services than other families.

City-funded recreation, swimming, camps, parenting classes, and libraries were all valued. State programs such as AHCCCS, DDD, DES subsidies, and KidsCare were all described as crucially important. New parents and parents with special needs children mentioned the value of programs in which families receive help in their homes. School-based health centers were praised.

Needs

The interviewees identified a vast array of needs in their communities. There are many services but they are inadequate to meet the universe of need, poorly advertised, difficult to access, too expensive and poorly coordinated.

A large majority of interviewees talked about the need for high quality early-education, including preschool and childcare. While most of the interviewees indicated that there were some good childcare/preschool options, these options are limited and too expensive for most parents unless they receive some kind of subsidy. Parents with non-traditional hours of work, and children with special needs have especially few choices. There are long waiting lists for Head Start and the school-based programs. In many childcare settings there are too many children for each teacher and classes are too large to facilitate learning; at best these settings offer little more than babysitting. Teachers are not adequately trained (especially in how to effectively work with special needs children), not adequately compensated, and consequently experience frequent turnover. Parents are reluctant to leave their children in poor childcare settings, but have few tools to help them evaluate the quality of their childcare options.

Many interviewees identified the lack of healthcare for the uninsured as an urgent problem; observing that children do not receive timely immunizations, screenings for developmental problems, well child care, timely sick-child care, or prescriptions.

The interviewees also indicated that the basic safety net programs, such as food, rent, and utility assistance are very limited or disappearing. Funding for these services has either remained stable or been reduced, despite the tremendous recent up-surge of need. Several people mentioned that the new poor, the not-quite-homeless, and families new to the community are especially vulnerable, as they are likely to be isolated and have had no experience with the systems that are in place.

The need to increase parental knowledge in a variety of contexts was mentioned by several interviewees. Specifically, parents need resources to learn about health, nutrition, exercise, and the importance of family-time. They lack knowledge of developmental tools, literacy development in children, and anger management skills.

A general category of need might be called creative opportunities: families lack affordable places to be creative in a safe setting such as parks, camps, and family events.

Information and Coordination

Coordination of services in some areas was praised. In particular, United Way, Gilbert CAN, Child Crisis Center, Piper Trust, Mesa School District, Children's Action Alliance, Southwest Human Development, Helios Foundation, and Head Start were singled out for their leadership, cooperation, and coordination in service provision, and collaboration with partners.

Many interviewees expressed that there are too many small agencies struggling and competing, resulting in a lack of coordination and duplication of services. There was a widely shared belief that most agencies do not even know what others exist or what services they offer; consequently effective referrals are not forthcoming.

The interviewees emphatically stated that families are not aware of services and resources and do not know how to find out about them. There is no central place to seek

information and even the agencies families interact with do not know about each other's services; to a large extent, parents are on their own. The one notable exception is that parents of children with special needs do feel that they get reasonable information about services from their physicians and caseworkers.

Several interviewees noted that information available only on websites is useless to many families who may not have computers, do not know how or where to search on a computer. Word of mouth from other parents—usually mothers—was how most people learn about resources, and that often only after a problem has become a crisis. Families without a "mother network" do not even have access to this source of information.

Suggestions and Ideas

Interviewees had many ideas about how to address the problems and make improvements. Increasing cooperation among agencies was seen as a positive way of maximizing the use of existing resources; hope was expressed that FTF could facilitate further collaborations.

Funding of existing and threatened programs was seen as important. The enhancement of legislators' and decision-makers' knowledge of the role these programs play in early brain development was seen as one tool for increasing government funding. Support for programs by churches through provision of space for programming was identified as a potential source of in-kind support for programs, especially childcare. The use of volunteers including skilled senior citizens and university and college student interns was seen as an underutilized source of human capital.

A centralized, up-to-date source of information about services was seen to be critical to addressing families' needs. There was general agreement that this resource should be in print rather than online, available where parents gather, for example at schools, businesses, pediatricians' offices, and libraries. Interviewees suggested that local publications could periodically offer such a directory as a community service.

Making programs more user-friendly would enhance families' access to services. Specific suggestions included: simplifying application procedures, providing convenient hours and locations for applications and services, creating clear simple explanations of program requirements in English and Spanish, reducing caseloads for each worker, and providing families with an advocate, and accompanying benefits with relevant education and information.

Interviewees overwhelmingly believe that FTF should support early learning, and that the funds should get out into the community very quickly with a minimum of bureaucratic delay. Funding access to high quality affordable childcare, so that children can learn in a safe setting while parents work was the single most frequently recommended program area. Subsumed in this area were the following specific recommendations: funding incentives for teachers to continue their work in early learning, funding scholarships for teachers to increase the overall level of professionalism among those working in early learning settings, including specialized training for work with special needs children;

funding a childcare quality rating system, so that parents can choose the setting that best meets their children's needs; and funding preschool for all children, so they will be emotionally and academically ready for kindergarten.

Following far behind, other recommended priority areas included expanding home-visiting programs, and developing and disseminating well researched developmental tools to parents.

APPENDIX C
ST. LUKE'S HEALTH INITATIVES SURVEY RESULTS

In 2008, the Arizona Health Survey was completed by St. Luke's Health Initiatives. The survey included more than 4,000 households, which makes it one of the most extensive surveys ever undertaken in the state. The purpose of the survey was to help researchers, community leaders, and policy makers understand the health and well-being of Arizona citizens. The results can be used to create new opportunities for Arizona-specific policies, grants, planning, community engagement, and program development.

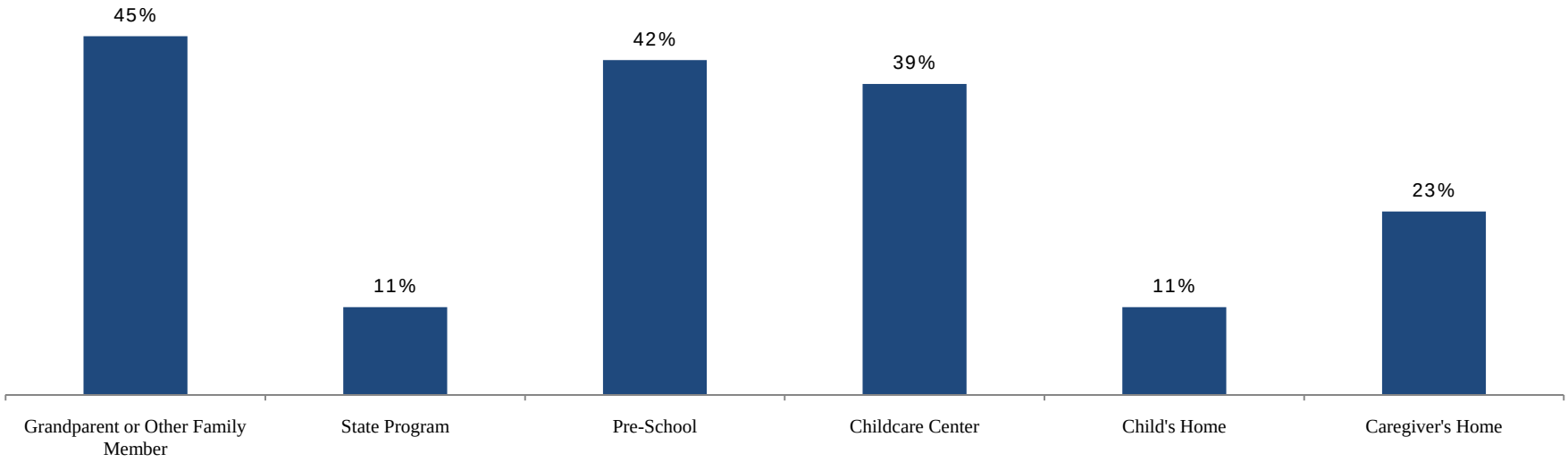
Our area of focus for this report is the child survey, which screened children between the ages of 0 and 12 years old. The adult member of the household with the most knowledge of the child's health was given the survey via telephone. Nearly 650 respondents answered this survey, primarily consisting of Maricopa County residents.

This section highlights a few of the survey questions and responses from these households with children.

Childcare Providers for a Child in a Typical Week

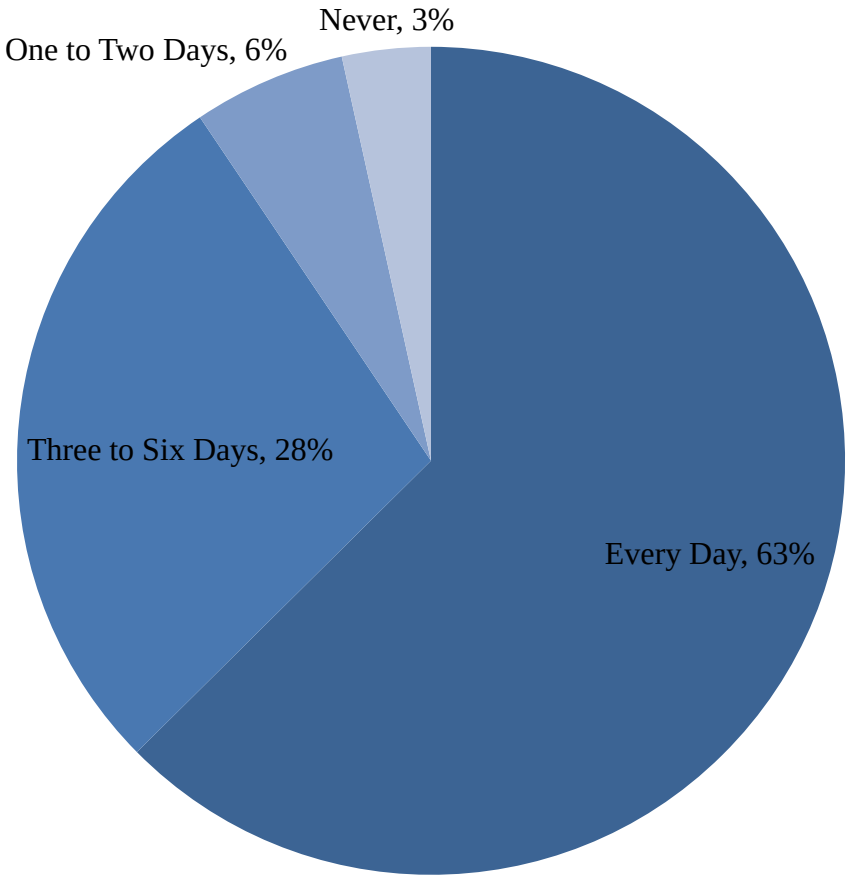
Respondents may choose more than one provider, so these numbers add to more than 100%.

Based on these survey results, the most common child care provider in a typical week was the child's grandparent or other family member. Close behind is the number of children who received care from a pre-school.



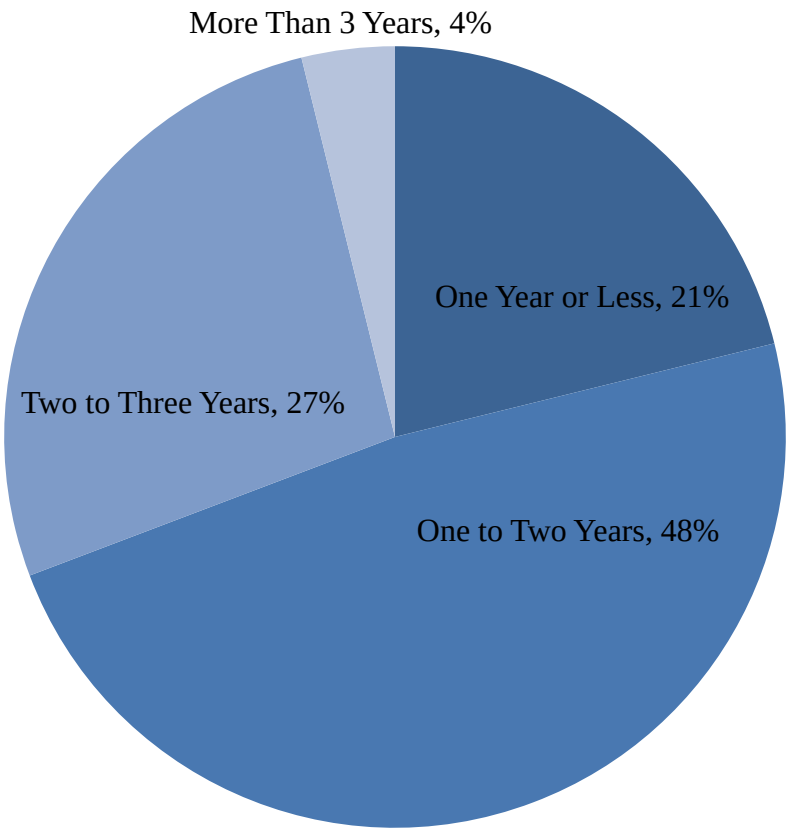
Days Per Week You Read with Your Child

Studies have shown that reading to a child on a frequent basis is an important factor in their literary development. A majority of respondents reported reading to their child on a daily basis.



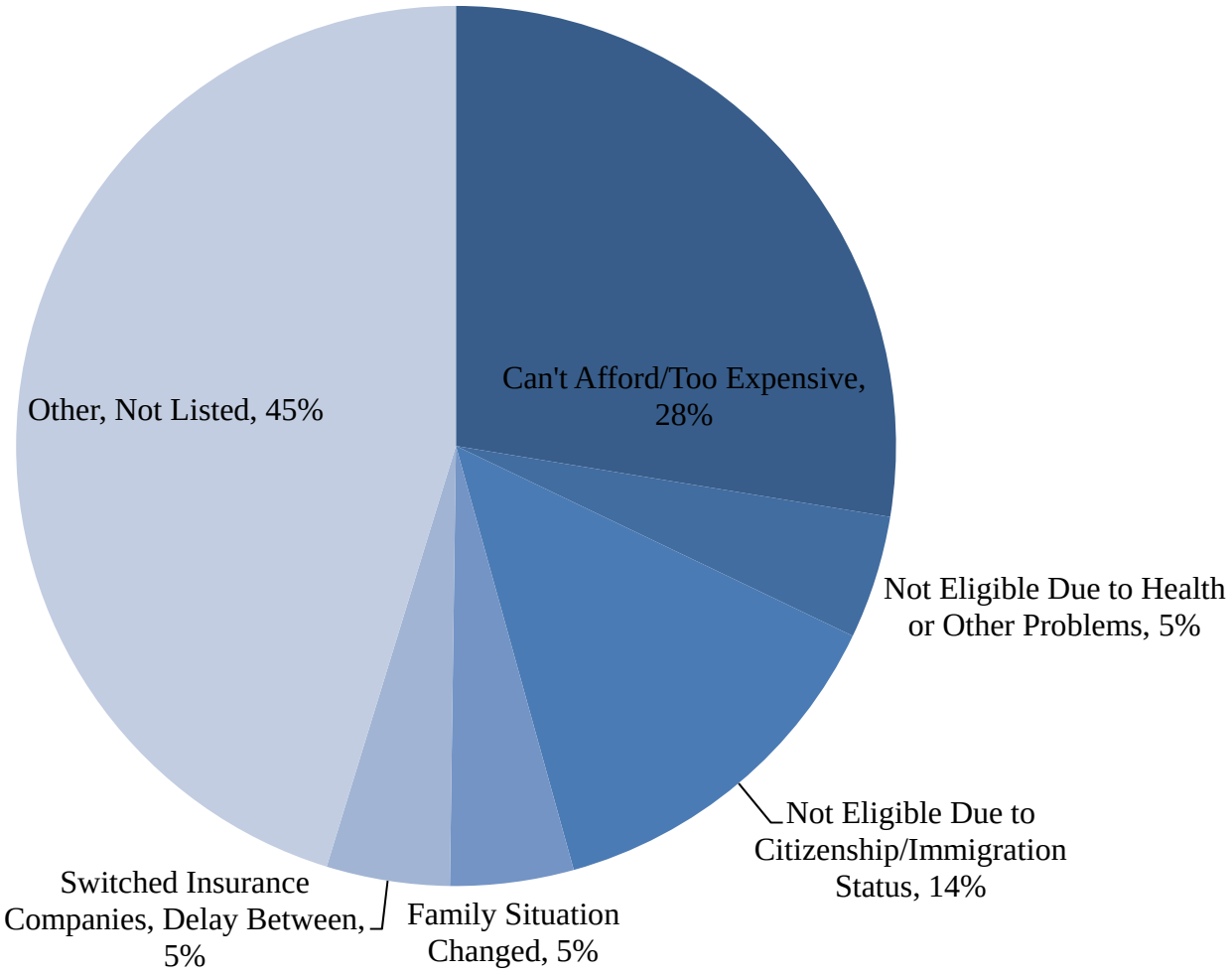
Time Since Last Medical Doctor Visit

Slightly disturbing is the relatively high percentage of children who have not visited a medical doctor within the last two years. A yearly check up is important in identifying health problems the child may have developed.



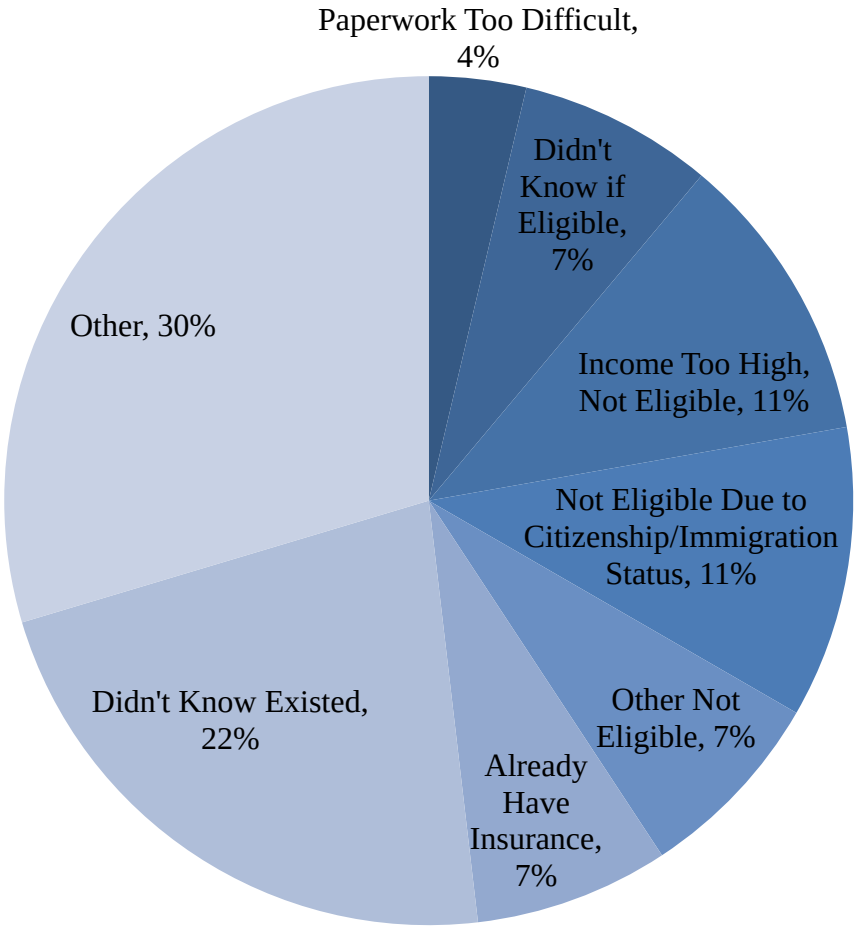
Reason Child Does Not Have Health Insurance

One of the most common reasons for a child not being covered by some type of health insurance was that it was too expensive. This is important because it highlights the need for affordable health insurance options, like KidsCare.



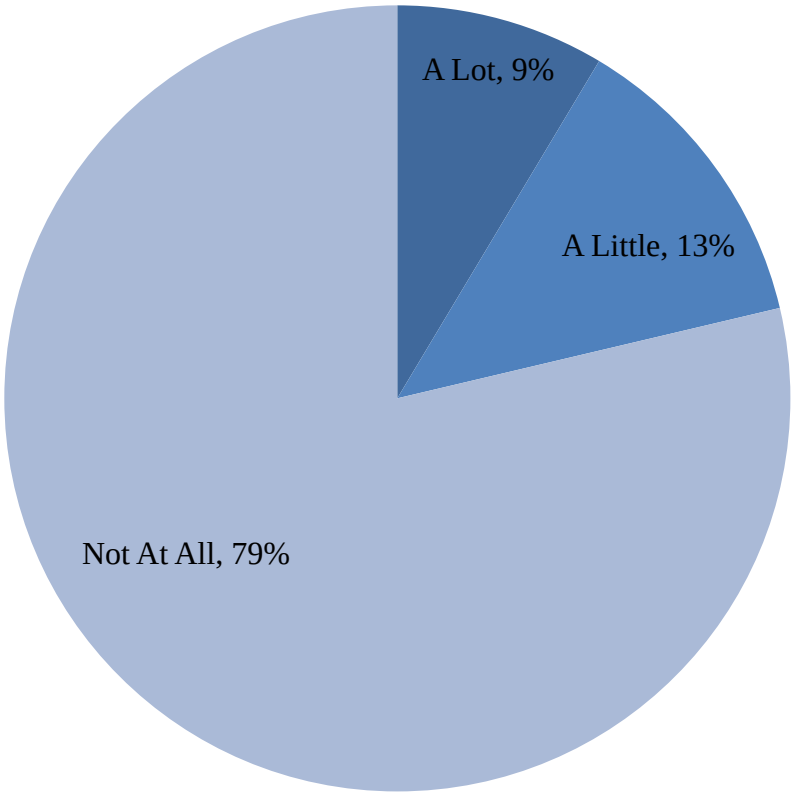
Reason Child is Not Enrolled in KidsCare

A relatively large percentage of children who were not enrolled in KidsCare had not been enrolled because their parent(s) didn't know the program existed. If the KidsCare program starts accepting applications again, this statistic verifies the importance of educating the public about this coverage.



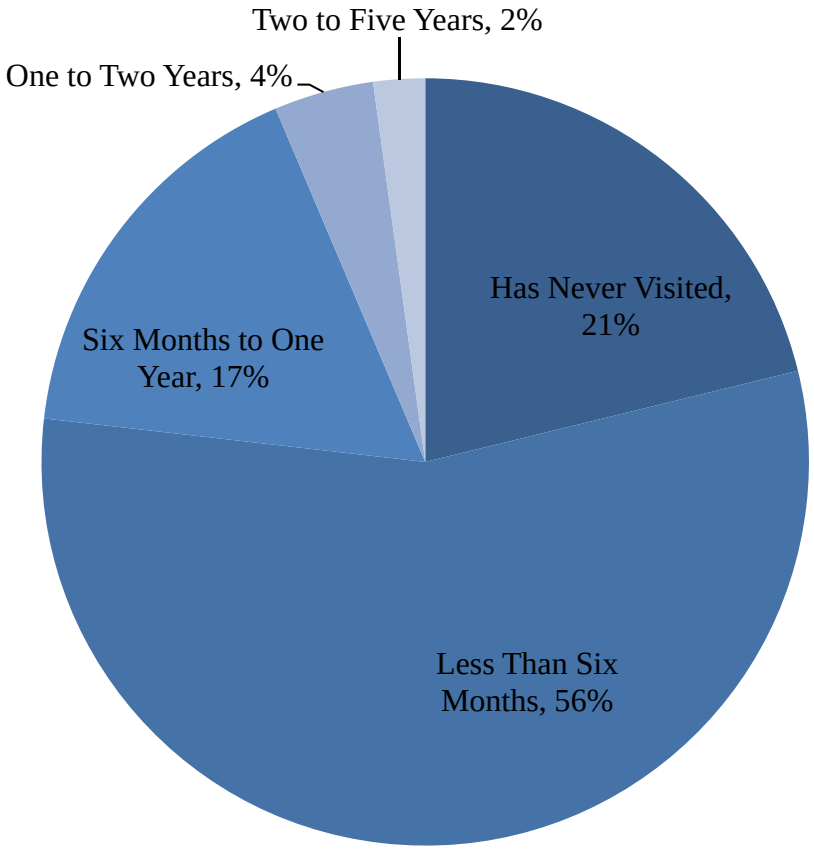
Parents Concern About Their Child's Abilities Compared to Other Children Their Age

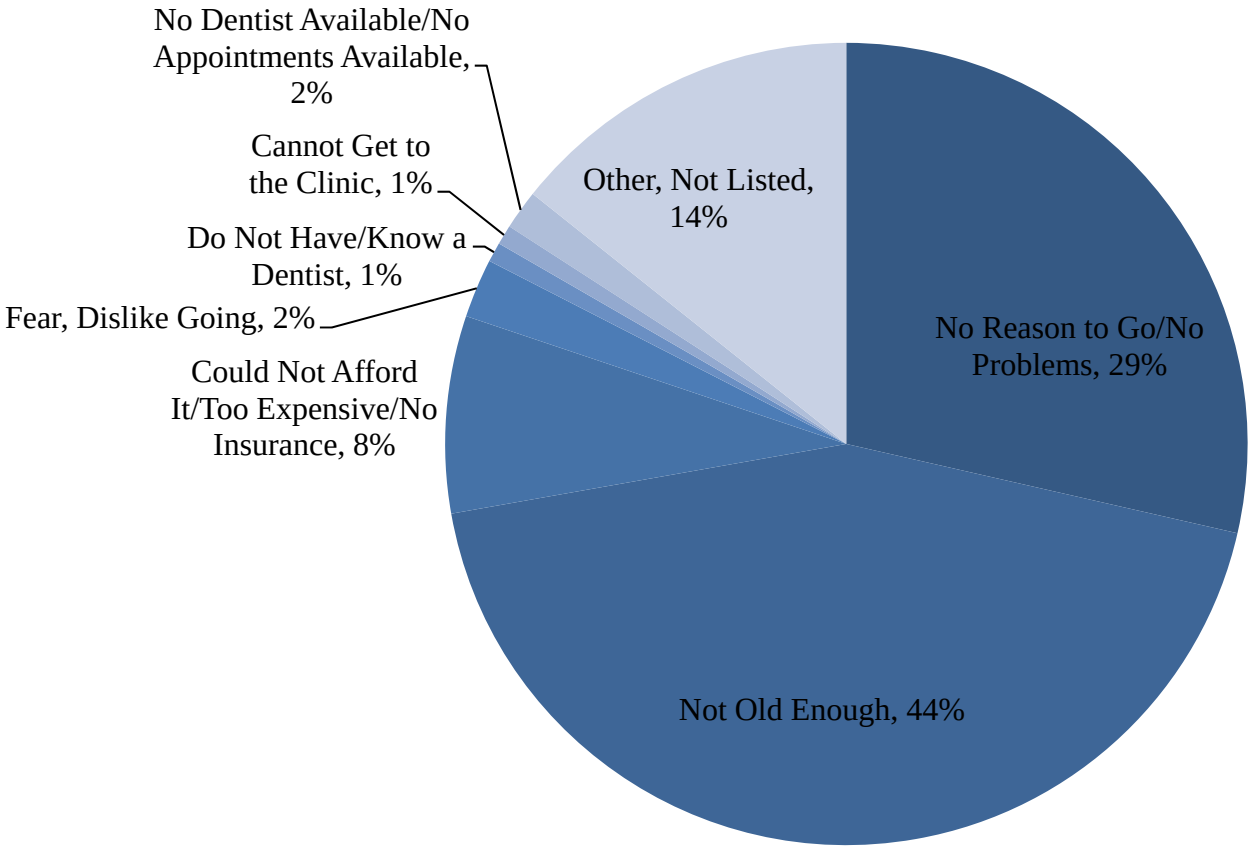
Most parents were not concerned at all about their child's abilities compared to other children their age. This does not necessarily mean all of those children are without problems; their parents may not recognize signs of developmental, behavioral or learning delays.



Time Since Last Dental Clinic Visit

The majority of respondents stated that their child had visited the dentist in the last six months. A good sign considering that good dental care is important for overall child health. However, one out of five respondents said their child has never been to the dentist, putting those children at risk for a range of health problems.



Reasons for Not Visiting the Dental Clinic

Of some concern is the rather large percentage of children who have not gone to the dentist because parents said their child was not old enough. The American Dental Association recommends that a child see the dentist for the first time within six months of the appearance of their first tooth or by their first birthday, whichever comes first.