



**EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME**

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGION

2018 IMPACT REPORT

 **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

90% OF A CHILD'S BRAIN DEVELOPS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than any other time in life. Research shows that the quality of a child's early life experiences shape how their brain develops.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state's youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

“

Early development in a young child has a direct impact on who they grow up to be as an adult. That's why we must invest in young children and raise them in positive learning environments to maximize their potential by giving them a strong start. Becoming involved in early childhood development and health is as easy as picking up a book and reading to your child, niece, nephew, sibling or grandchild.”

Mariah Sharpe

2017-2018 Miss Indian Arizona

Colorado Indian River Tribes Champion for Young Children 2018

That's why Arizonans created First Things First

HOW WE WORK



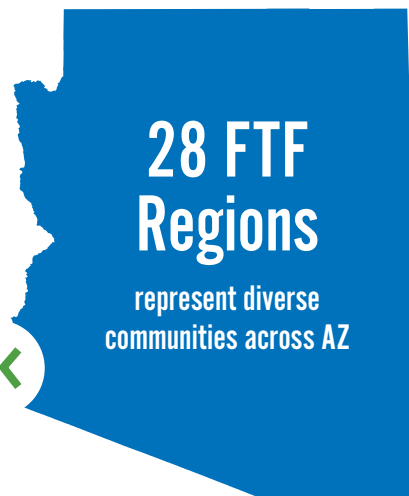
Early Childhood Funds

Allotted by FTF State Board



Local Decision-Making

Each region has 11 volunteer regional partnership council members representing their community. Based on the area's early childhood needs, each council prioritizes goals and strategies to help children birth to age 5 and their families.



Partnerships with Local Early Childhood Providers

First Things First offers grant opportunities; providers implement programs and services in communities.



Community Collaborations

Regions also collaborate with organizations and entities to build a network of programs and services to better support young children.



THIS RESULTS IN MORE KIDS READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

FISCAL YEAR 2018 COLORADO INDIAN RIVER TRIBES REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few highlights of the proven programs and innovative strategies from this region.



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

- 585** Books getting into the homes of infants, toddlers and preschoolers through a local distribution program.
- 506** Resource guides were distributed to families, so parents could easily access support services and resources to help care for their children.
- 32** Infants and toddlers involved with the child welfare system benefitted from training and coordinated efforts to meet their unique developmental needs.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

- 211** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- 30** Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend a high quality preschool and child care program.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

- 73** Educational sessions about nutrition and physical activity to reduce obesity in young children were held.

FIRST THINGS FIRST PARTNERS WITH CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EARLY LEARNING IN THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGION

In the First Things First (FTF) Colorado River Indian Tribes region, families can access quality child care through First Things First's signature program Quality First, which partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona.

With funding from the FTF Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council, Quality First provides quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as training and coaching for teachers to expand their skills and to help create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child. Research shows that children exposed to quality early care and education, no matter the setting, are more ready for kindergarten, do better in school and are more likely to graduate and go on to college.

The Quality First program participants in the Colorado River Indian Tribes region are the Sonshine Center and the Colorado River Indian Tribes Head Start, which recently

achieved a three-star quality rating. Quality First also helps preschools and child care centers to improve the way teachers work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers to create positive and consistent relationships that give young children the individual attention they need.

In addition, the Colorado River Indian Tribes region offers Quality First scholarships to some of the children enrolled in Sonshine Center a Quality First program. These scholarships, though limited, are designed to help eligible families afford quality early care and education for their young children.

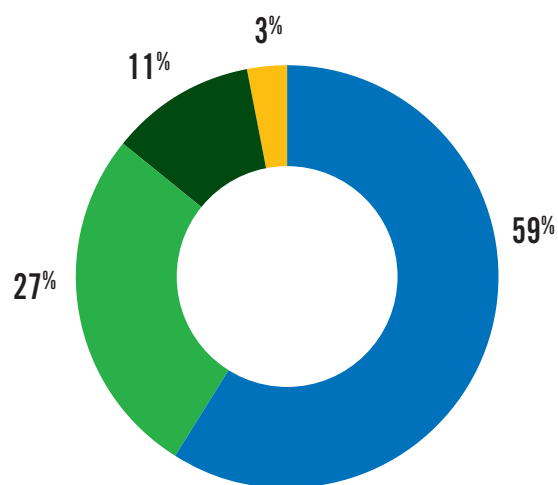
In state fiscal year 2018, more than 211 children in the Colorado River Indian Tribes region had access to a higher standard of early learning through preschool and child care programs by participating in Quality First, and 30 of those children received a Quality First scholarship.

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council is made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and decide how funds will be used to best support the development, education and health of young children birth to age 5. FTF invests in proven programs and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families.

FY18 TOTAL REGIONAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$184,759
Strengthening Families	\$84,929
Preventive Health	\$34,748
Research and Evaluation	\$5,713
TOTAL	\$310,149



FIRST THINGS FIRST COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Elvira Aspa,
Chair

Brad Sale,
Vice Chair

Members

Delise Beavers

Norma Ray

Isabel DeLeon

Monica Rosnagle

Gloria Flores-Lopez

Brian Wedemeyer

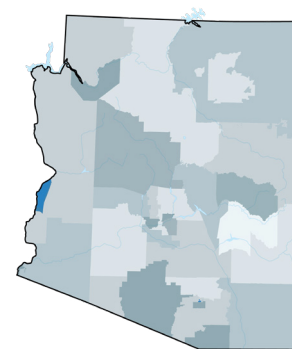
Veronica Homer

Ashley Pascual,
FTF Senior Regional Director
apascual@firstthingsfirst.org

928.854.8732

Erin Taylor,
FTF Community Outreach Coordinator
etaylor@firstthingsfirst.org

928.854.8732



The Colorado River Indian Tribes Region is defined as the Arizona part of the Colorado River Reservation, including the town of Parker. The region lies entirely in La Paz County. The Colorado River Indian Tribes Region includes Legislative District 4. Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Colorado-River-Indian-Tribes