



EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME

COCONINO 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.

“

Supporting early childhood development is important not only to the future success of our children, but to the success and growth of our communities. That's what inspires me to be involved with this incredibly important initiative that I hope many others will embrace as well.”

Cindy May

Owner and Chief Marketing Strategist
Cindy May Marketing

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.



28 FTF Regions

represent diverse communities across AZ

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 COCONINO REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

- 1,120** Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.
- 123** Families received voluntary in-home coaching from trained providers to improve their parenting skills.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

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



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

- 1,115** Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.
- 841** Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIP HELPS FLAGSTAFF GIRL ACCESS PRESCHOOL WITH INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION

Autumn Emkeit and her husband knew they needed to find a pre-kindergarten program that could meet the educational and developmental needs of their young daughter, Grace.

After researching a variety of child care centers, San Francisco de Asis Catholic Preschool in Flagstaff was exactly what they were looking for. They liked that staff could work with Grace, who has spina bifida, a birth defect that occurs when the spine and spinal cord don't form properly.

Grace's enrollment at the preschool was made possible through a Quality First scholarship, which helps eligible families access quality early learning.

At San Francisco, Grace is able to remain in the classroom with her peers, which is an important part of her learning, Emkeit said.

The preschool is part of First Things First's

Quality First program, which partners with child care and preschool providers across Arizona to improve the quality of early learning. Quality First funds quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as training for teachers to expand their skills and to help create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child.

The type of personalized attention that Grace receives is given to all the students, said Lisa Barquin, the preschool's director.

"The learning is driven by individual interactions with the teacher," Barquin said. "There's a lot of one-on-one work to make sure the child gets the support they need wherever they're at."

For Grace's parents, it's made all the difference for their daughter's learning. They see their daughter learning how to problem solve on her own, which "is the building block to becoming a successful adult," Emkeit said.

"Grace is more ready than ever to begin kindergarten because of this Quality First center," she said. "This center is the full embodiment of what quality education looks like."

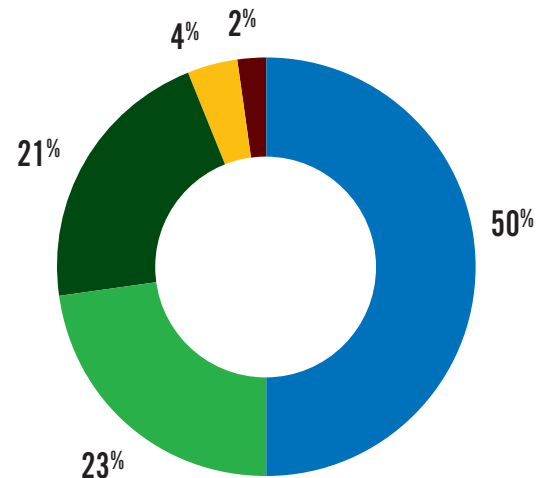


COCONINO REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Coconino 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	\$1,080,843
Preventive Health	\$512,358
Strengthening Families	\$460,320
Parent and Community Awareness	\$82,073
Research and Evaluation	\$48,529
TOTAL	\$2,184,123



FIRST THINGS FIRST COCONINO REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Steve Peru,
Chair

James Scott Deasy,
Vice Chair

Peter Van Wyck,
FTF Regional Director

Members

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Noreen Sakiestewa

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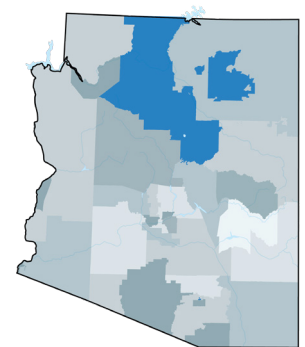
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The Coconino Region includes most of Coconino County, minus the Navajo Nation and the Hualapai Reservation, plus Winslow, the Hopi Reservation, and the Kaibab Paiute Reservation. The Havasupai Reservation is also part of the region. While the majority of the region's young children live in or near Flagstaff, many live in towns or rural areas. The Coconino Region includes Legislative Districts 6 and 7. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Coconino