



EARLY EXPERIENCES  
BUILD THE FOUNDATION  
FOR A LIFETIME

# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY 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.

“

The greatest gift we can give children— is a successful start in early education and life. As a community, we must build on the capacity of the early childhood system to create connections for children and families that will make an impact in their lifelong educational success and well-being.”

**Elisia Manuel**

Chair

Gila River Indian Community Regional Partnership Council

## 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 GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

- 58** Families received voluntary in-home coaching from trained providers to improve their parenting skills.
- 74** Teen parents were provided with parenting supports, with 11 teen parents enrolling in a voluntary series of parenting education classes.



## QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

- 239** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- 4** Preschools and child care programs participated in Quality First, receiving coaching, quality improvement supports, health consultation, and access to professional development.
- 45** Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.
- 10** Early childhood educators received college scholarships to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

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## QUALITY FIRST PARTNERS WITH CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EARLY LEARNING IN THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

In the First Things First Gila River Indian Community region, families can find information about 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.

Quality First funds 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.

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 FTF Gila River Indian Community region offers Quality First scholarships to some of the children enrolled in a Quality First program. These scholarships, though limited, are designed to help eligible families afford quality early care and education for their young children.

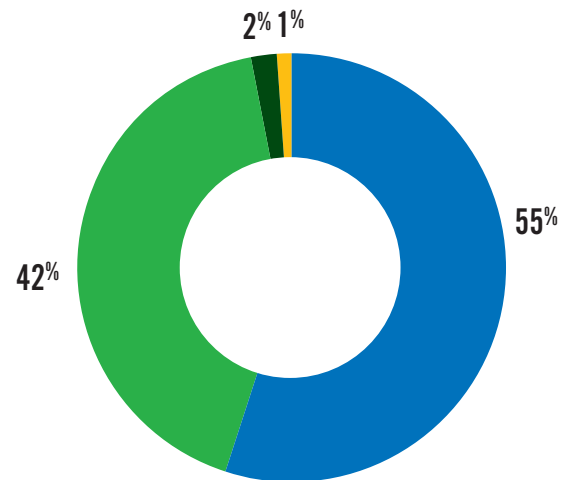
In fiscal year 2018, more than 239 children in the Gila River Indian Community region had access to a higher standard of early learning through preschool and child care programs by participating in Quality First. And 45 of those children received a Quality First scholarship.

# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Gila River Indian Community 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	\$295,143
Strengthening Families	\$227,361
Research and Evaluation	\$11,279
Preventive Health	\$6,856
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$540,639</b>



## FIRST THINGS FIRST GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Elisia Manuel,  
Chair

Sherilyn Analla,  
Vice Chair

Jennifer Johnson,  
FTF Senior Regional Director  
jjohnson@firstthingsfirst.org  
602.771.5006

### Members

Priscilla Antone

Kami Hart

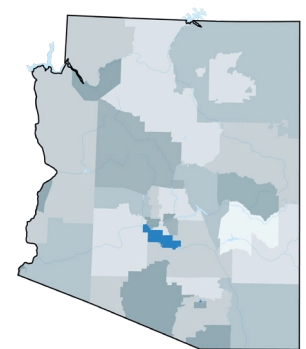
Deborah Chadwick

Jane Johnson

Dale Enos

Sandra Nasewytewa

Priscilla Foote



Geographically, the Gila River Indian Community is located on 372,000 acres of land in south-central Arizona. The community lies south of the cities of Phoenix, Tempe and Chandler, and north of Casa Grande, and its east to west borders run from Coolidge to Tolleson. The Gila River Indian Community Region includes Legislative Districts 8 and 27. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Gila-River-Indian-Community](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Gila-River-Indian-Community)