



EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME

PINAL 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.



As a city mayor and a business leader, I have seen firsthand how important education, workforce development and strong, safe communities affect economic development. It does not happen without investments in early childhood. Invest now or pay later!"

Craig H. McFarland

Mayor

City of Casa Grande

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 PINAL REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

1,302

Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.

635

Families completed a voluntary series of parenting education classes.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

1,903

Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

385

Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

3,944

Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

2,887

Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIP HELPS COOLIDGE BOY BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT

When it came to their youngest son, Thunder, Jessica and Sammy Moore handled his early education differently than their three older children.

"I was afraid to let the other kids go (to preschool) when they were young," Jessica Moore said. "I did everything for my kids, so much so, that they were the opposite of Thunder when they entered kindergarten; they were much less confident and much needier. Now I see the difference of what preschool can do."

The Moores enrolled Thunder in Kids Klub, a Quality First center in Coolidge. Kids Klub is one of about 1,000 child care and preschool providers throughout Arizona that partners with Quality First, a signature program of First Things First, to improve the quality of their early learning programs.

Thunder attends Kids Klub with help from a Quality First scholarship, which helps eligible families afford to send their child to quality child care centers and preschools. Quality is one of the most important factors

to consider in child care and preschool. Research shows that quality early learning settings help young children develop important skills – like motivation, self-control, focus and getting along with others – that make a big difference in their ability to succeed in school and in life.

Sammy Moore has watched his son grow emotionally and physically.

"Thunder is the most disciplined of our four children and is learning how to be more grown-up," he said. "He even packs his lunch to get ready for his day and he follows rules. Thunder is just way more advanced than his siblings were at that age."

After attending Kids Klub for almost three years, Jessica Moore said Thunder, now 5, has transitioned from being shy to very outgoing.

"He is happy, confident and more independent," she said. "Thunder learned about team work, how to play within a group and how to be a friend to others. He looks forward to learning. Then he comes home, eats dinner and talks with his family about what he learned that day."



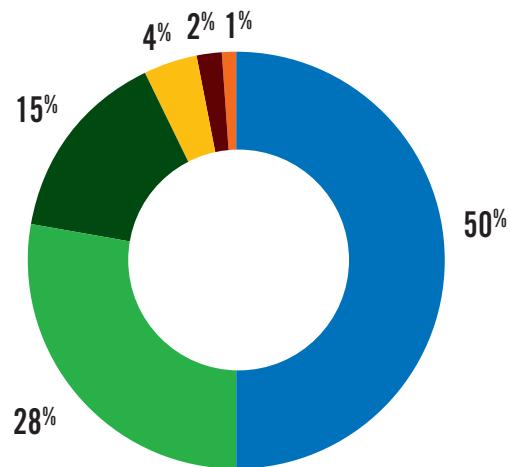
Read more local stories at firstthingsfirst.org/regions

PINAL REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Pinal 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	\$2,621,988
Strengthening Families	\$1,469,108
Preventive Health	\$737,607
Parent and Community Awareness	\$214,917
Research and Evaluation	\$114,567
Coordinating Support	\$98,083
TOTAL	\$5,256,271



FIRST THINGS FIRST PINAL REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael Kintner,
Chair

Members

Kameron Bachert

Jason Clark

Stuart Fain

Briana Frenzel

Christina Jenkins

Lillian Downing,
Vice Chair

Lisa Raymond

Adam Saks

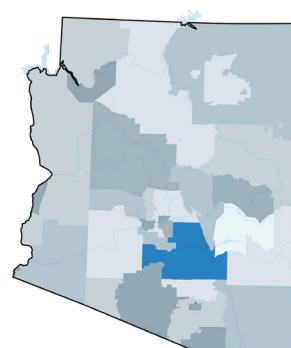
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The Pinal Region is defined as Pinal County, not including the lands belonging to the Gila River Indian Community, the Tohono O'odham Nation or the San Carlos Apache Tribe. The region does include the land belonging to the Ak-Chin Indian Community. The Pinal Region includes Legislative Districts 8 and 11. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pinal