



EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME

SOUTHWEST MARICOPA 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 will ensure children have a bright future. Literacy, good health and social skills, all start in infancy. If you can reach a parent or caregiver and empower them with support and solutions, you can make a tremendous impact on the community. Every child deserves a great start.”

Amanda Reyes

Chair

Southwest Maricopa 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 SOUTHWEST MARICOPA REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

14,134 Instances a family or caregiver received early childhood information and/or resources or referrals through family resource centers.

212 Families completed a voluntary series of parenting education classes.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

2,215 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

2,259 Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

1,425 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

IN-HOME CHILD CARE PUTS QUALITY FIRST AND HELPS BOY TEST EARLY INTO KINDERGARTEN

When Eduardo Jr. and Margarita Lino started looking for child care for their 2-year-old son, Albert, they didn't know what to expect.

Their neighbors had told them of an in-home child care center that offered scholarships for eligible families.

"My first thought was it would just be another place that watched kids, Margarito Lino said. "I was wrong, it was much more. I soon realized that I wasn't just leaving my child to be watched, I was putting Albert in an environment where he would be nurtured and exposed to early learning."

With help from a Quality First scholarship, the Linos enrolled Albert at Deshika Perera's licensed in-home child care in Buckeye, which serves children ages 1 to 5. Perera's center participates in First Things First's signature program, Quality First, which uses research proven methods to create nurturing, educational



and social environments so children can be prepared for and succeed in kindergarten.

"In the beginning, Deshika would send us text updates and pictures, this really put our minds at ease and helped in the transition of leaving our first born in a new environment," Margarita Lino said.

The Linos soon began noticing changes in Albert's desire to explore and his good manners. He also always wanted to learn more because his mind was being stimulated.

Today, Albert is 4 years old and recently tested early into kindergarten. Albert's younger brother, Ezekiel, now goes to Perera's in-home child care. The Linos believe Albert's ability to test early into kindergarten is due to the partnership shared between them and Perera's Quality First home child care.

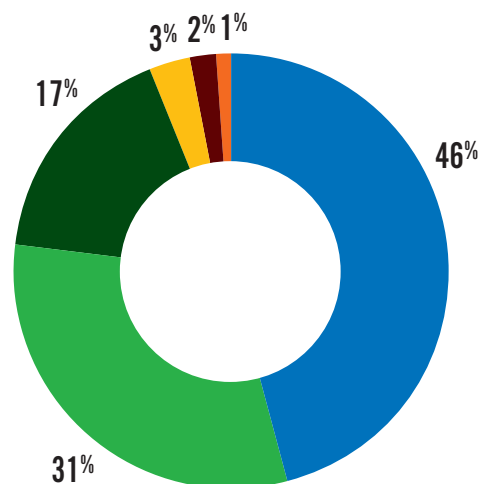
"It has helped the boys so much," Eduardo Lino said. "They have gained so many tools, and we see the difference. They are so smart. But you also have to do your part. Learning begins at birth and you must continue the positive interactions at home. It is a shared responsibility."

SOUTHWEST MARICOPA REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Southwest Maricopa 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	\$2,005,529
Strengthening Families	\$1,344,535
Preventive Health	\$765,385
Research and Evaluation	\$94,665
Parent and Community Awareness	\$88,498
Coordinating Support	\$31,726
TOTAL	\$4,330,338



FIRST THINGS FIRST SOUTHWEST MARICOPA REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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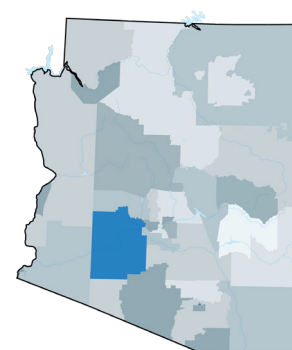
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Lisa Hickman

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The Southwest Maricopa Region spans 4,325 square miles across the Southwest Valley. The largest region in Maricopa County, it is a predominantly rural area that has been one of the fastest-growing population centers in the state. This expansive region includes Avondale, Buckeye, Gila Bend, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Tolleson and Tonopah. The Southwest Maricopa Region includes Legislative Districts 4, 13 and 19. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Southwest-Maricopa