



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

# **TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION 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 society, the greatest investments we can make is in our children. The Tohono O'odham Nation and citizens of Arizona – parents, caregivers, education professionals, business leaders, health professionals and elected officials – have a responsibility to create safe environments where all children are ready for school and set for life."

**Kymerlii Tenario**

Chair

Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

## That's why Arizonans created First Things First

### HOW WE WORK



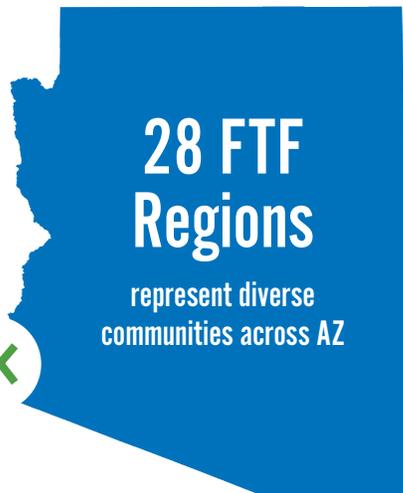
#### Early Childhood Funds

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 TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

**122** Instances of coordinated supportive services given to parents and caregivers to help their family thrive.



## QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

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

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

**5** Early childhood educators received college scholarships to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

**150** Instances where early childhood educators received support through professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of teacher-child interactions.

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## QUALITY FIRST SCHOLARSHIP SETS SELLS GIRL ON ROAD TO EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

Norbert Wilson is a proud father of three young girls. He dreams that one day they will all graduate from college and give back to their community.

“There are so many benefits to getting a good education, but mostly it’s an avenue to a better lifestyle,” Wilson said.

So he was excited when his youngest daughter, Talise, got a Quality First scholarship to enroll in the pre-k program at Indian Oasis Elementary School in Sells.

Quality First, First Things First’s signature program, partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona. Research shows that children exposed to quality early care and education are more ready for kindergarten, do better in school and are more likely to graduate and go on to college.



The Quality First scholarships help eligible families afford quality early care and education for their young children.

Talise had always been a little shy, but within months of enrollment, Wilson began to see an improvement in her social and communication skills. She came home every day excited to do her homework and share new skills with her sister, such as reading a story book.

Wilson said he first remembers how much she was learning after a song came on the radio and after just a couple of verses, Talise could sing all the lyrics clearly.

For Wilson, not only did the Quality First program help his daughter grow socially and academically, it brought his family closer together.

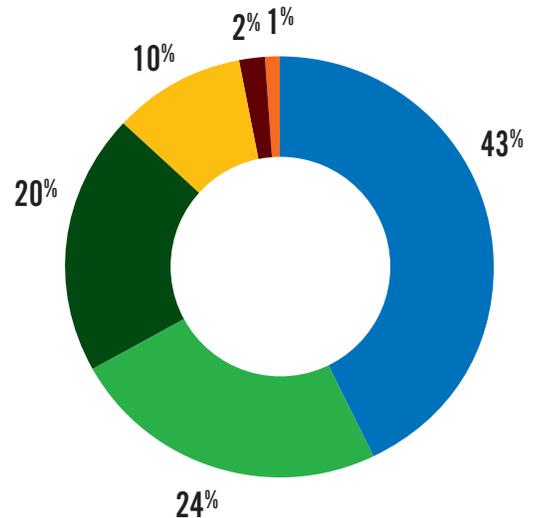
“If you want to get to know your child, you have to be able to communicate,” Wilson said. “This program really helps them with those skills.”

# TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Tohono O'odham Nation 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	\$332,813
	Strengthening Families	\$185,142
	Workforce Development and Training	\$149,040
	Parent and Community Awareness	\$72,523
	Preventive Health	\$16,171
	Research and Evaluation	\$10,737
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$766,426</b>



## FIRST THINGS FIRST TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kymerlii Tenario,  
Chair

Louis Johnson,  
Vice Chair

Members

Elsa Bonilla

Jesse Navarro

Cheryl Conde

April Shandley

Joseph Mease

Dr. Marisa Werner

Travis Le Duc,  
FTF Regional Director

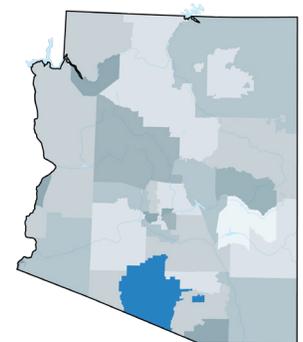
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The Tohono O'odham Nation's lands are located within the Sonoran Desert in south central Arizona. The boundaries of the First Things First Tohono O'odham Region are the same as the Nation's federally recognized reservation boundaries. These include the noncontiguous San Xavier (Tucson) and San Lucy (Gila Bend & Glendale) districts; Florence Village, a small community outside the City of Florence in Pinal County; and the nine contiguous districts that make up the majority of Western Pima County and small southern portions of Maricopa and Pinal counties. They include Gu Vo, Hicikwan, Sif Oidak, Gu Achi, Pisinemo, Chukut Kuk, Sells, Shuk Toak and Baboquivari districts. The Tohono O'odham Nation Region includes Legislative District 4. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Tohono-Oodham-Nation](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/Regions/Tohono-Oodham-Nation)