

EARLY EXPERIENCES
BUILD THE FOUNDATION
FOR A LIFETIME

YUMA 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 long-term effects of high quality preschool are fascinating. It helps children persist. It helps them with social skills. They are more likely to hold down a job when they get older. They are more likely to graduate high school and not be arrested. We are teaching them skills early, so they have multiple opportunities to practice them.”

Laurie Doering

Superintendent
Crane Elementary School District

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 YUMA REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

2,884 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.

254 Families received voluntary in-home coaching from trained providers to improve their parenting skills.



QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

1,624 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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



PREVENTIVE HEALTH

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

3,274 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

QUALITY FIRST CENTER HELPS SAN LUIS BOY LEARN SOCIAL AND LITERACY SKILLS TO SUCCEED IN KINDERGARTEN

Crystal Renteria was concerned about her 3-year-old son Tadeo's communication and social skills when she enrolled him in San Luis Preschool.

"Everyone he met, he called them 'ma,'" Renteria said. As a Quality First center, San Luis Preschool, provides a nurturing environment to help children reach their potential.

"With the help of his teachers and services, the impact on his life has been amazing," Renteria said.

First Things First's signature program, Quality First, helps centers make quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as creating learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child.

San Luis Preschool Director Lina Galvan said that while all children



develop at their own pace, there are certain milestones they should reach by age 5. The preschool provides developmental screenings and teachers visit the child's home entering preschool to ensure they are providing them with tools they need to start their first day of school.

Consistency and routine is another way to encourage self-regulation and increase social and emotional skills, Galvan said. The staff has learned to observe and listen to the children.

"Attending school all day to school helped Tadeo with his challenging behavior," Renteria said. The routine also helped improve his social interactions with his peers, she said.

He even joined a local tee ball team.

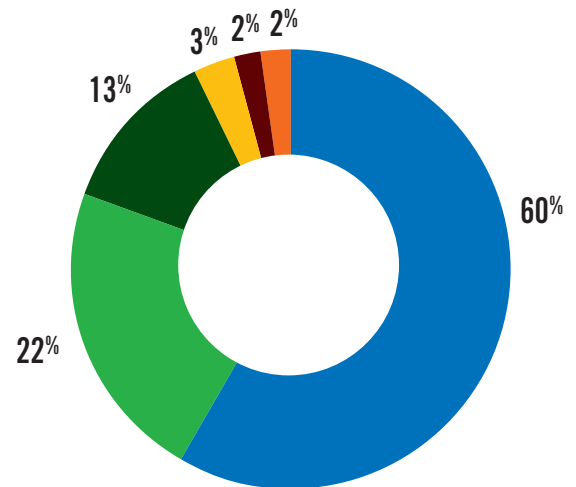
"Watching him play and call his teammates by their names was such a wonderful feeling of hope," Renteria said. "My son is turning 5 years old this year, and he surprises me every day with new words and ideas he learns from school. We all worked together to improve his development."

YUMA REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Yuma 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	\$2,673,337
Strengthening Families	\$1,014,503
Preventive Health	\$554,163
Workforce Development and Training	\$151,320
Parent and Community Awareness	\$105,110
Research and Evaluation	\$103,832
TOTAL	\$4,602,265



FIRST THINGS FIRST YUMA REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mary Beth Turner,
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Ricardo Perez,
Vice Chair

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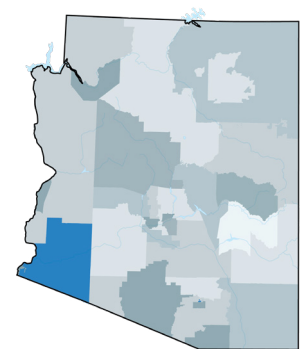
Irene Garza

Donald Vickers

Deborah Guerrero

Mario Ybarra

Irish Holtry



The Yuma Region is defined as Yuma County, not including the lands belonging to the Cocopah Indian Tribe. The Arizona portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation is also located within the region along the Colorado River near the city of Yuma. The Yuma Region includes Legislative Districts 4 and 13. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Yuma