From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than any other time in life. In fact, 90 percent of brain growth happens before kindergarten.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state's youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

**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 recommends strategies to improve the health and learning of children birth to age 5.

**Partnerships with Local Early Childhood Providers**

First Things First offers grant opportunities; contracted 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 Helping AZ’s Youngest Kids

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Investments Across Arizona

With statewide oversight and accountability, decisions about how to invest early childhood funds – the majority of which are secured through tobacco revenues – are informed at the local level by community leaders who rely on data to determine how best to invest in proven programs and innovative strategies. In State Fiscal Year 2021, First Things First invested $141 million in strategies to improve early childhood health and development across the state.

Priority Funding Areas

- **Quality Child Care & Preschool**: 49%
- **Strengthening Families**: 22%
- **Preventive Health**: 11%
- **Other programmatic expenditures (Grants, Gifts & Donations)**: 3%
- **Workforce Development & Training**: 2%
- **Family/Community Engagement**: 4%
- **Research & Evaluation**: 1%
- **System Coordination**: 1%

93% of funds go directly to programs and services for young children and families.

Learn More

**See Our Impact**
First Things First publishes reports every year, so you can see the results of FTF work and funding. You can view our Annual Reports, Regional Impact Reports and Needs and Assets Reports. Visit: FirstThingsFirst.org/reports

**Visit Your Region**
You can learn more about FTF’s 28 regions by visiting each regional page, to find out more about council members, specific programs in each region and read local success stories. Visit: FirstThingsFirst.org/regions

**Stay Up to Date on FTF News**
Each month, FTF sends out its Latest News update, where you can get information on the latest reports and research, success stories and other happenings across Arizona. Sign up for our newsletter and other resources. Visit: FirstThingsFirst.org