



## # FIRST THINGS FIRST

2019 IMPACT REPORT

# Coconino Region



Early experiences build the  
foundation for a lifetime





# of a child's brain growth happens 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.



We all benefit when our children do well. Just as we are taught to nurture and water our corn, we must nurture and support our children so that they have the tools to be successful. We hope that you will help us to spread the message that the earliest years matter the most. Askwali!"

**Noreen E. Sakiestewa**

Director of Department of Education and Workforce Development, the Hopi Tribe

## Fiscal Year 2019 Coconino Region Impact Highlights

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



### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

**1,372**

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

**52**

Families with young children participated in voluntary home visiting programs proven to reduce parental stress levels, increase connections to community supports, and improve children's cognitive, motor, behavioral and socio-emotional development.



### Quality Preschool and Child Care

**1,110**

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

**189**

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



### Preventive Health

**928**

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

**483**

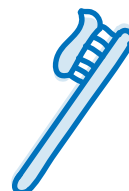
Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

## Additional strategies:



### 138 parents and other caregivers

participated in evidence-based trainings designed to improved knowledge of parenting practices and children's development.



### 773 Children

received a screening to detect tooth decay, which left undetected and treated could cause damage to permanent teeth, impaired speech development and failure to thrive.



## Home visitation program helps keep young Hopi boy on track with his milestones

LeeAnn Sherman had no idea what she was doing when she took on the role of caregiver to her baby nephew, Mason. Sherman had never been a mother, but now she was caring for a 3-month-old baby. Sherman was at a Bashas' grocery store when she stopped to look at the bulletin board covered with flyers about programs and events in Hopi. That's when she saw a flyer for Parents as Teachers.

The home visitation program, which is funded by the First Things First Coconino Region, provides at-home visits for families of young children. The primary caregiver, who is typically a parent, but could also be a grandparent or another adult identified as a primary caregiver, receives regular in-home visits from a trained professional who provides parenting information, models ways to support healthy development and shares connections to other community resources.

"I was so relieved to see that something like this existed, because I didn't know anything about raising a child," Sherman said. As soon as she got home, she called and got connected with Alyssa Fredericks, the Parents as Teachers home visitor for the Hopi community.

The first time Fredericks went to Sherman's house for a visit, Sherman said she immediately felt a sense of relief.

"My mom was there, too. She has experience raising children, but she saw this as a chance to relearn all the healthy ways to raise a child," Sherman said.

The coach and caregiver soon got to work in identifying developmental milestones to accurately track his healthy development. Before she enrolled in the program, Sherman didn't know what developmental milestones were. Now, Mason, who is almost 2, is meeting and exceeding all his milestones for his age.

"Because of the activities LeeAnn and I have created together, Mason is well above the grade on social-emotional intelligence," Fredericks said. "He can match a cut out of an emoji and pair it with the expression in an activity book."

For Sherman, a favorite part of the program are the community events called Group Connects, where her parent coach connects her to other caregivers who are going through similar experiences. It helps Mason get social experience and helps Sherman feel supported by her community.

The past two years of Mason's life have seen his biological parents come in and out of his life. Recently, Mason's mother passed away and that sparked something in his father, Leonard. He now participates in the home visits with Sherman.

"He's here now and all we've ever wanted was for Mason to have his dad," Sherman said. "I think having Alyssa's ongoing support is a big reason why Leonard decided to be in his child's life."

---

**"Because of the activities LeeAnn and I have created together, Mason is well above the grade on social-emotional intelligence."**

---

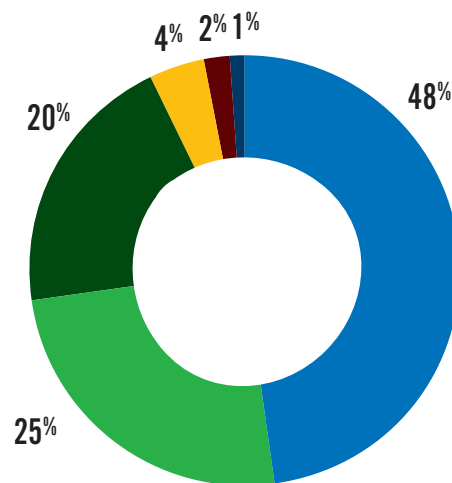


# Coconino Regional Council

The FTF Coconino 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.

## FY19 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$1,090,039
Preventive Health	\$558,639
Strengthening Families	\$440,561
Parent and Community Awareness	\$97,698
Research and Evaluation	\$62,225
Workforce Development and Training	\$22,424
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,271,585</b>



## FTF Coconino Regional Partnership Council

Chair  
Steve Peru

Vice Chair  
Scott Deasy

### Members

Kelly Bernard

Kelly McCue

Beth Frost

Noreen Sakiestewa

Beth Johndrow

Paula Stefani

Cindy May

Debbie Winlock

Peter Van Wyck,  
FTF Regional Director

[pvanwyck@firstthingsfirst.org](mailto:pvanwyck@firstthingsfirst.org)

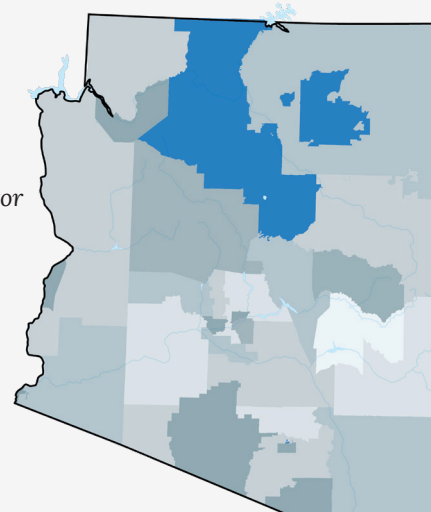
928.637.0412

Bonn Baudelaire,  
FTF Community Outreach Coordinator

[bbaudelaire@firstthingsfirst.org](mailto:bbaudelaire@firstthingsfirst.org)

928.637.0416

The Coconino Region includes most of Coconino County, minus the Navajo Nation and the Hualapai Reservation, plus Winslow, the Hopi Reservation, and the Kaibab Paiute Reservation. The Havasupai Reservation is also part of the region. While the majority of the region's young children live in or near Flagstaff, many live in towns or rural areas. The Coconino Region includes Legislative Districts 6 and 7. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Coconino](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Coconino)