



**# FIRST THINGS FIRST**

**2019 IMPACT REPORT**

# Northwest Maricopa 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.



There is no better investment that Arizona can make than ensuring every Arizona child has the opportunity for a strong start in life. First Things First makes this possible by supporting the healthy development and education of thousands of children, from birth to age 5, in Northwest Maricopa."

**Erin Hart**

Council Chair of FTF Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

## Fiscal Year 2019 Northwest Maricopa Region Impact Highlights

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



### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

**5,497**

Families or caregivers served by receiving referrals or by participating in activities at family resource centers.

**10,080**

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



### Quality Preschool and Child Care

**6,727**

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

**1,191**

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



### Preventive Health

**460**

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

**2,344**

Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

## Additional strategies:



### 3,408 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.



### 88 Early childhood educators

received college scholarships to improve their qualifications for working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



## West Valley family resource center helps two brothers with structure and routine

Tiffany Vaz was having second thoughts about caring at home for her two young boys, both under age 2.

She was frustrated after realizing that the boys, Johnnie and Charlie needed more than what she knew to give them. Taking the boys out in public was intimidating and caused anxiety.

“As a high school teacher, I know the first five years are the most important, because I know these are the years that shape who they are, but I still needed help,” Vaz said.

One day, Vaz took her boys to play at a park next to the Pendergast Family Resource Center in west Phoenix and was approached by another mom who encouraged her to visit the center, which is funded by the First Things First Northwest Maricopa Region.

There she found parenting classes, parent-child activities and the opportunity for her boys to socialize. During one of the parenting classes, Vaz realized that she did not know how to manage her sons’ behaviors.

As she learned more about child development, she began to understand how creating routines and structure in the home would help with their behaviors.

“I started planning their day and learned how to use positive redirection and how to make every moment a teachable moment,” Vaz said. “The classes helped me learn that their behaviors are okay. Whatever it is, it’s okay and it’s manageable.”

At home, Vaz implements what she learns at the center and shares it with her husband.

“It has made a difference in our family overall,” she said. “I feel supported and better able to support my husband. They even offer daddy and me activities at a convenient time for my husband to spend time with the boys at the center.

“They say it takes a village. Well, we live in a day where it is hard to find a village – people you trust and who are willing to be there. I have found my village and it has changed our lives.”

A year later, she and her sons, who are now 18 months old and 3 years old, continue to visit the center at least twice weekly.

“My concerns about them being able to socialize and communicate with others are no longer concerns,” Vaz said. “I know that they’ll be able to learn better and be successful once they get to kindergarten.”



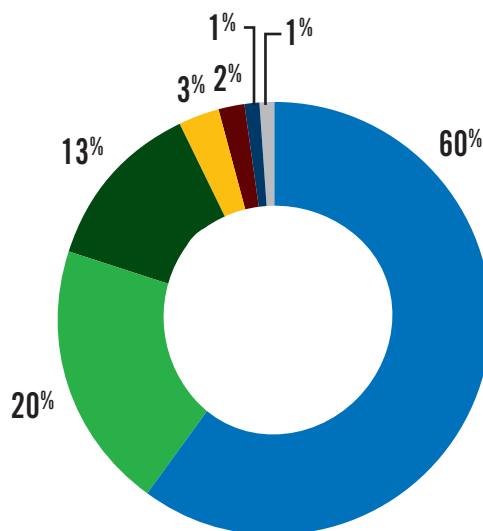


# FTF Northwest Maricopa Regional Council

The FTF Northwest 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.

## FY19 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$6,375,922
Strengthening Families	\$2,091,343
Preventive Health	\$1,454,023
Research and Evaluation	\$273,970
Parent and Community Awareness	\$161,356
Coordinating Care	\$53,010
Workforce Development and Training	\$42,871
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,452,495</b>



## FTF Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

*Chair*  
Erin Hart

*Vice Chair*  
Jannelle Radoccia

### Members

Jane Baumbach

Deborah Pischke

Veronica De La O

Teri Sarmiento

Chuck Fitzgerald

James Scott

Margaret Morales

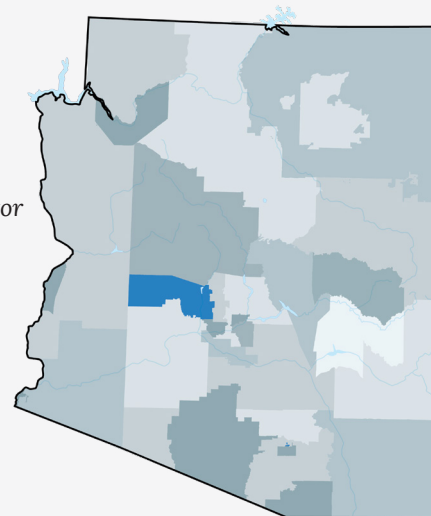
Jennifer Scrivner

Alexandra Oropeza

Eric Santiago,  
FTF Regional Director  
esantiago@firstthingsfirst.org  
602.771.4961

Melisha Bryant,  
FTF Community Outreach Coordinator  
mbryant@firstthingsfirst.org  
602.771.4965

The Northwest Maricopa Region lies entirely in Maricopa County and is densely populated in the east, but very sparsely populated in the west. It includes: six incorporated cities and towns – Peoria, El Mirage, Glendale, Surprise, Wickenburg and Youngtown; several unincorporated places – Aguila, Morristown, Sun City, Sun City West, Waddell and Wittmann; as well as small parts of the city of Phoenix. The Northwest Maricopa Region includes Legislative districts 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 29 and 30. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Northwest-Maricopa](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Northwest-Maricopa)