



FIRST THINGS FIRST

2019 IMPACT REPORT 

Pima North 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.

“Early education plays a critical role in all areas of development as a child learns and grows. Making it essential that a child is exposed to learning using a variety of modalities that support brain development and enhance their thinking and behavior overtime as they transform through each stage of their life. A child's early learning years lay the foundation for all that is to come!”

Susan Shinn

Chair of FTF Pima North Regional Partnership Council

Fiscal Year 2019 Pima North Region Impact Highlights

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



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

9,016

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

445

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.

94

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



Quality Preschool and Child Care

7,395

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

950

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



Preventive Health

458

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

Additional strategies:



337 Early childhood educators

received professional development to improve their qualifications for working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



721 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.



Nurse-Family Partnership program helps pregnant Tucson mother ensure her baby is healthy, safe and ready to learn

When Rosalinda Vergara found out she was going to be a mom, her aunt recommended that she enroll in Easterseals Blake Foundation Nurse-Family Partnership, a program funded in part by the Pima North Regional Council.

Nurse-Family Partnership serves first-time, low-income prenatal mothers, caregivers and their children from no later than 28 weeks of pregnancy until the child turns age 2. The program includes one-on-one home visits by a trained public health registered nurse to participating clients.

Vergara was introduced to her home visitor, Ella during her first trimester and their relationship began to take shape. The first-time mom has always lived with depression and anxiety, and her pregnancy pushed her anxiety over the roof.

“Ella helped immensely by setting up appointments for me to meet with a behavioral health expert,” Vergara said. “When I talked to Ella about being worried about postpartum depression, she reassured me that I was going to be OK. She helped me to set up a plan for my health and a team to support me, including a doula who was there for my son’s birth and who visited me two to three times a week until he was 12 weeks old.”

Vergara delivered her son, Yediel by cesarean section and was grateful that as she healed the doula was there. “My doula was there to hold my baby while I napped and once she even brought a foot scrub over,” she said.

Having a registered nurse serve as her home visitor has helped Vergara again and again.

“Working with Ella was so valuable, I had quite a few complications during my pregnancy and Ella was there for me each time,” Vergara said. “She supported me with information and research and empowered me to advocate for myself and my baby.”

As Vergara looks forward to what’s next as a mother, now a mother of a 4 month old son with giant sparkling eyes, she talks about keeping Ella close.

“I have lots of loving family but it is different with Ella,” Vergara said. “It is so helpful to have someone who is an expert share ideas and resources with me. She was there during my scariest moments as a new mother and I know she can answer the questions my mom and family members cannot.”

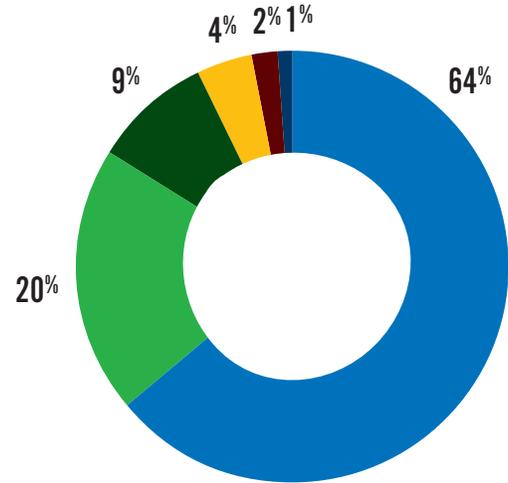
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FTF Pima North Regional Council

The FTF Pima North 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	\$6,001,884
● Strengthening Families	\$1,831,005
● Workforce Development and Training	\$776,507
● Preventive Health	\$451,638
● Research and Evaluation	\$262,117
● Parent and Community Awareness	\$89,941
TOTAL	\$9,413,092



FTF Pima North Regional Partnership Council

Chair
Susan Shinn

Vice Chair
Kirk Grugel Short

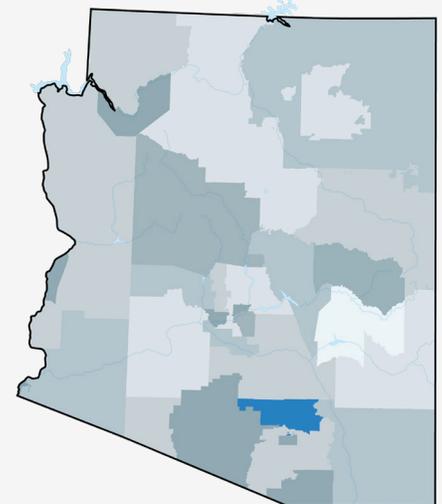
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The Pima North Region is defined as the northern portion of Pima County, not including the lands belonging to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation. The region includes the city of South Tucson, the towns of Oro Valley and Marana, and the unincorporated communities of Catalina Foothills, Tanque Verde, Picture Rocks, Catalina, Avra Valley and Nelson. It does not include the Redington area in the northeastern corner of Pima County, which is assigned to the Cochise Region. The Pima North Region includes Legislative Districts 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pima-North