



## # FIRST THINGS FIRST

2019 IMPACT REPORT —————

# Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community 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.



The brain grows from birth to age 5 at a faster rate than any other time. It is important that parents understand the importance of this critical stage for development and learning. Our council supports parenting education in our region to give parents the skills to help promote learning and foster future success in the lives of our children."

**Chris McIntier**

Chair of FTF Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

## Fiscal Year 2019 SRP-MIC Region Impact Highlights

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



### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

**162**

Parents and caregivers attended workshops to learn about parenting and early childhood and supportive resources.

**19**

Children participated in activities and attended a class to get prepared to attend kindergarten.



### Quality Preschool and Child Care

**6**

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

## Additional strategies:



### 333 Books

were given to families with children birth to age 5 to encourage parent-child interaction and reading.



## Parenting class helps young mom and dad from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community look at discipline differently

Shaina Fulwider and her husband, Winston, suddenly became parents in 2013, after starting their family through kinship foster care with their older son, Wazzie.

“We were new to parenting,” said Fulwider. “I got Wazzie when I was 19. I babysat my entire life, but parenting was different. My husband had no prior experience with children whatsoever.”

Living in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, they decided to take a parenting class from the Salt River Early Childhood Education Center’s Wish Parent Education program, which is funded by the First Things First Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Region.

“I wanted to change and break the cycle of how I was raised,” said Fulwider. “I needed to stop yelling. We needed to upgrade our parenting skills.”

Through the Conscious Discipline® parenting class, parents learned about early childhood development and how to engage and be sensitive to their children’s feelings and perspectives. When disciplining, Fulwider was encouraged to give an explanation for why a behavior is not acceptable or dangerous.

“When I got Wazzie, he’s a child, so I think I know better than him,” said Fulwider. “I didn’t really consider his part. The class taught me to be more thoughtful about how I talk to him and about how my words will affect him.”

In the following years, the couple adopted Wazzie and his young sister, Genesis and brother, Kaden. The parents now use the same kind of engagement and discipline for the two young children. Wazzie is now helping out with his younger brother and sister.

“He understands what I tell him,” said Fulwider. “I can hear him in the other room talking to his sister and telling her the reasons why she shouldn’t jump on the bed. Right there, he’s teaching his sister.”

Fulwider is also putting into practice new ways to engage her children. It’s helped to improve the family’s communication with each other.

“After we took the class, we really started talking more, sitting with each other, reading books, trying to understand each other and communicate,” said Fulwider. “We pay attention to them more. Before it was like they came home, we’d let them watch a movie, then eat dinner and go to bed. Now, we read a book every night. We sit at the table and talk to each other about each other’s day. When we watch a movie, we talk about the movie as we are watching it. We have a full-on conversation. Before, it was like be quiet and don’t talk. There is definitely more communication, more attention.”

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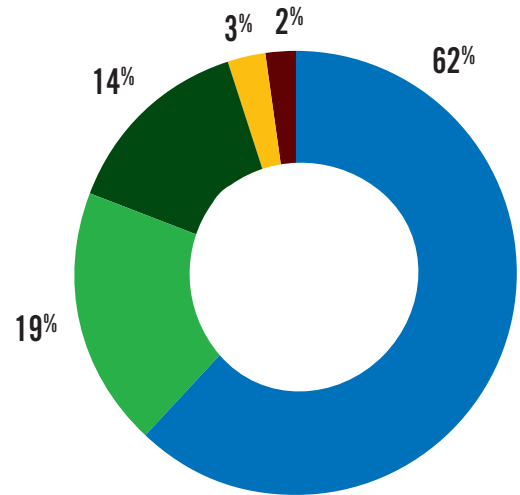
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# Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Council

The FTF Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community 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

Strengthening Families	\$78,462
Preventive Health	\$24,102
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$18,002
Research and Evaluation	\$3,149
Parent and Community Awareness	\$1,891
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$125,606</b>



## FTF Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council

**Chair**  
Christine McIntier

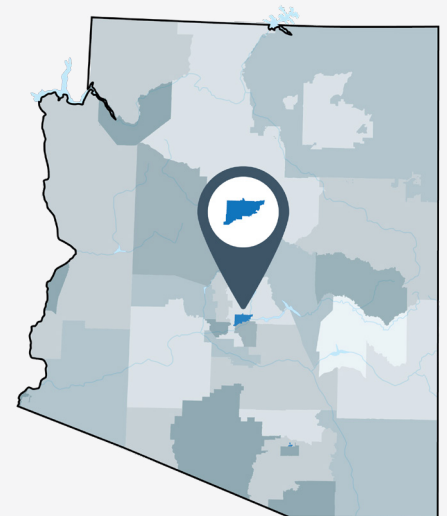
**Vice Chair**  
Felicia Panana

**Members**  
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Deborah DeVold  
Paula Flores

Joyce Helmuth  
Felicia Jimerson  
Virginia Loring

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The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, a sovereign tribe located 15 miles northeast of Phoenix, is one of 10 Arizona tribes that have chosen to be designated as its own First Things First region. The region has the same boundaries as the Salt River Reservation and covers about 85 square miles, entirely within Maricopa County, bordering the cities of Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa and Fountain Hills. The Community is home to the Pima ("Akimel O'Odham," River People) and the Maricopa ("Xalychidom Pipaash," People who live toward the water). Legislative districts include: 26. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



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