



FIRST THINGS FIRST

2019 IMPACT REPORT

Tohono O'odham Nation 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 Tohono O'odham Nation and Regional Partnership Council recognizes the value and effectiveness of services being delivered in the community and home. If we want our youngest members and families to reach the greatest height, we must start by meeting them where they are at."

Kymberlii Tenario

Chair of Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

Fiscal Year 2019 Tohono O'odham Nation Region Impact Highlights

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



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

38

Children who benefited from coordinated supportive services given to parents and caregivers to help their family thrive



Quality Preschool and Child Care

279

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

25

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

3

Early childhood educators received college scholarships to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers

Additional strategies:



43 Early childhood educators

received support through professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of teacher-child interactions.



Tohono O'odham Nation elder finds joy in guiding and shaping young children

As an elder and leader in the Sif-Oidak District on the Tohono O'odham Nation, Marjorie Juan helps care for those who are often the most vulnerable in any community – children and seniors. She is a role model, inspiring the young people of her community to reach for more and to excel through education.

For decades, Juan has found joy in guiding and shaping young children.

“They are precious,” she said. “I let them know they are special. I love teaching them the social skills and to respect, share and be honest.”

The path to earning two college degrees was not a simple one for Juan, whose career in early childhood education on the Tohono O'odham Nation spans more than three decades.

Juggling work and family, it took 23 years for Juan to complete the coursework for her general equivalency diploma, or GED, but she never gave up. Once Juan passed that hurdle, her dreams grew. She is a proud graduate of the Tohono O'odham Community College class of 2011 with an associate degree in early childhood education. In 2015, Juan received a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Prescott College.

Inspiring her along the journey of higher education was the Tohono O'odham Community College Community of Practice, which is one of the 17 Communities of Practice developed by United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona's Great Expectations for Teachers, Children, Families and Communities. Great Expectations is funded through a grant from First Things First, which partners with families and communities to help Arizona's young children be ready for success in kindergarten and beyond.

“It would have been very hard for me to get my degree without the Tohono O'odham Community College Community of Practice,” Juan said. “It gave me a better understanding of the growth that takes place in early childhood, working with special needs children, working with parents, getting them involved in the school system. They helped me be a better teacher.” The Community of Practice armed Juan with a toolbox of strategies to provide developmentally appropriate activities to children, including children with special needs.

“We attended training sessions in Tucson that were very valuable, especially in working with special needs children – children with hyperactivity and autism,” she said. “They took us to Tucson to show us how the techniques work in actual classroom settings.”

When Juan walked on stage to receive her diploma at Tohono O'odham Community College, she became the first in her family to graduate from college.

Excerpted from Great Expectations Realized, a publication from United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona and First Things First.

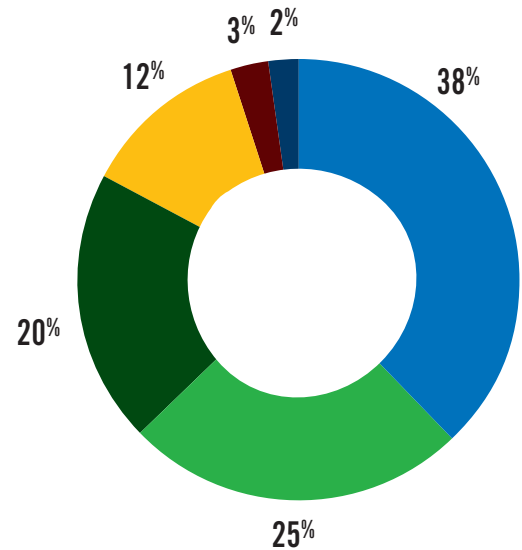
“It would have been very hard for me to get my degree without the Tohono O'odham Community College Community of Practice,” Juan said. “It gave me a better understanding of the growth that takes place in early childhood, working with special needs children, working with parents, getting them involved in the school system. They helped me be a better teacher.”

FTF Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Council

The FTF Tohono O'odham Nation 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	\$197,477
Workforce Development and Training	\$131,533
Strengthening Families	\$109,166
Parent and Community Awareness	\$65,000
Preventive Health	\$14,006
Research and Evaluation	\$13,762
TOTAL	\$530,945



FTF Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council

Chair
Kymberlii Tenario

Vice Chair
Louis Johnson

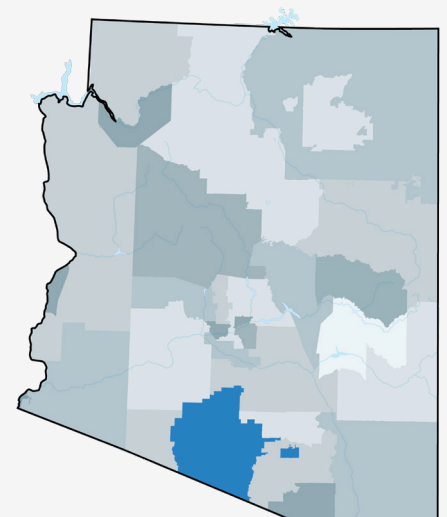
Members

Elsa Bonilla
Cheryl Conde
Joseph Mease

Jesse Navarro
April Shandley
Marisa Werner

Lisette DeMars,
FTF Regional Director
ldemars@firstthingsfirst.org
520.628.6694

The Tohono O'odham Nation's lands are located within the Sonoran Desert in south central Arizona. The boundaries of the First Things First Tohono O'odham Region are the same as the Nation's federally recognized reservation boundaries. These include the noncontiguous San Xavier (Tucson) and San Lucy (Gila Bend & Glendale) districts; Florence Village, a small community outside the City of Florence in Pinal County; and the nine contiguous districts that make up the majority of Western Pima County and small southern portions of Maricopa and Pinal counties. They include Gu Vo, Hickiwan, Sif Oidak, Gu Achi, Pisinemo, Chukut Kuk, Sells, Shuk Toak and Baboquivari districts. The Tohono O'odham Nation Region includes Legislative District 4. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)



Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Tohono-Oodham-Nation