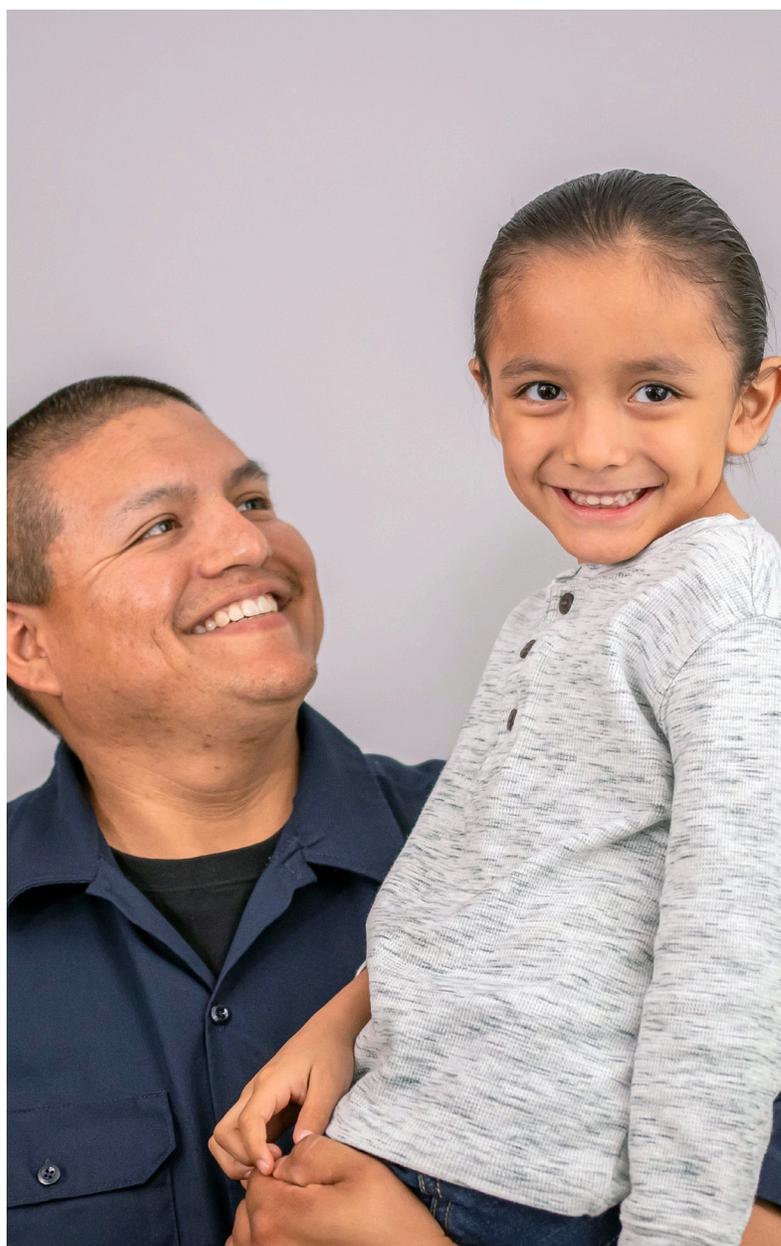


FIRST THINGS FIRST

San Carlos Apache Region

2020 Impact Report



From birth to age 5, a child's brain grows more than any other time in life.

90%

of a child's brain growth happens before kindergarten.
Early childhood matters.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state's youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

Many young children in Arizona face challenges that threaten their healthy development and learning. In the FTF San Carlos Apache Region, there are **1,435 children** (under age 6) with **56% living in poverty**.

Here is how FTF is working to support young children and their families in this region.



It is important that our children are invested in from birth to help with their overall development. Early education should be a major priority. It will have a positive impact on our community and strengthen it for future generations."



Jaymie Swift Hooke

Vice Chair of FTF San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

FTF San Carlos Apache Regional Key Impact Highlights [Fiscal Year 2020]



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

7,706

Books got into the homes of infants, toddlers and preschoolers through a local distribution program.

129

Adult caregivers attended classes on the importance of nutrition and physical activity for the healthy development of young children.



Quality Preschool and Child Care

297

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

5

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



Preventive Health

253

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

Additional Strategies

245

Adults

attended parenting activities to learn about early child care development in a fun setting.



Developmental screening helps San Carlos boy get support to speak clearly

Anntonia Cutter was concerned that her 3-year-old son, Johnathan wasn't speaking clearly yet. They had just moved to San Carlos, and Cutter wanted to make sure Johnathan had a strong start in the community.

"He used to get so frustrated when trying to communicate with us, because we couldn't understand him," Cutter said.

She was discouraged and wasn't sure how to get help. She called the First Things First Globe Regional office and was referred to the FTF San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council, which funds the Developmental and Sensory Screening program.

After being screened through the Developmental and Sensory Screening program, Thuy Talgo-Bishop, the health educator, walked Cutter through steps that resulted in Jonathan enrolling into the Rice Preschool, where he received speech and language therapy.

"Early screenings are important because it assists kids who may have potential delays, so they can get the help they need before kindergarten," said Talgo-Bishop. "Children can minimize delays they might otherwise have without these early screenings."

Cutter was so happy to finally get the help she felt her son needed. Cutter said that Johnathan loves preschool, and she can now understand him when he speaks.

"When I heard those first clear words, I was so overwhelmed that I started to cry. It's so wonderful to hear my son say, 'I love you mom!'" - Anntonia Cutter, mother

"When I heard those first clear words, I was so overwhelmed that I started to cry," she said. "It's so wonderful to hear my son say, 'I love you mom!' Johnathan loves to sing and I love hearing him as well. I'm just so happy."

Johnathan talks more now that he is understood, which is increasing positive interactions with his mom and other adults in his life and building his confidence.

"He is so much happier now," Cutter said. "He used to get so frustrated when trying to communicate with us, because we couldn't understand him. I'm so happy he was screened and got the help he needs. It has really changed him and us as a family. I have such a sense of peace now and am happy that I persevered to get my son the help he needed."



Read more FTF stories at [FirstThingsFirst.org/Region-Stories](https://www.FirstThingsFirst.org/Region-Stories)

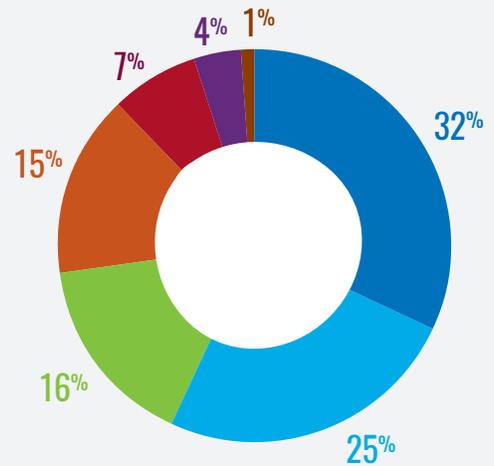
FTF San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

The FTF San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council is made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and decide how funds should be used to best support the healthy development and early learning 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. Some of the programs in this region include Grow It, Try It, Like It!, developmental and sensory screenings and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

FTF San Carlos Apache FY20 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Preventive Health	\$199,587
Strengthening Families	\$153,365
Parent and Community Awareness	\$98,695
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$96,853
Workforce Development and Training	\$41,860
Research and Evaluation	\$18,614
Coordinating Care	\$735
Total	\$609,709



FTF San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council and Staff

Chair
Flora Talas

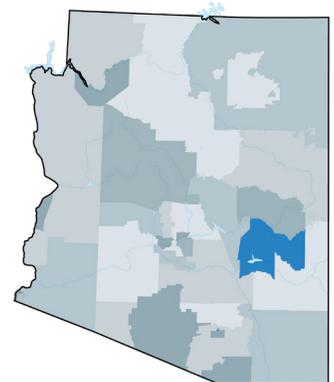
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The boundaries of the **FTF San Carlos Apache Region** are defined to be those of the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. The region covers almost 3,000 square miles in east-central Arizona. Most of the region lies within Gila and Graham counties, although there is a small, uninhabited section in Pinal County. The reservation, which was established in 1871, is divided into four districts: Seven Mile Wash, Gilson Wash, Peridot and Bylas. The FTF San Carlos Apache Region includes Legislative District 7. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at
[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/San-Carlos-Apache](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/Regions/San-Carlos-Apache)