

FIRST THINGS FIRST
Coconino 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 Coconino Region, there are **9,652 children** (under age 6) with **27% living in poverty**.

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

“Early childhood matters to me, because we live in a world where parents are expected to know how to raise a child without any education on the subject. Since 90% of the brain is developed by age 5, sometimes parents miss the best years to educate their children. This issue is a multi-generational issue that must be addressed on all fronts.”

Matt Ryan

District 3 Representative for the Coconino County Board of Supervisors

FTF Coconino Regional Key Impact Highlights [Fiscal Year 2020]

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

1,274 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.

41 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 social-emotional development.

Quality Preschool and Child Care

1,110 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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

Preventive Health

1,375 Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

347 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

Additional Strategies

551 Children received a screening to detect tooth decay, which left undetected and untreated could cause damage to permanent teeth, impair speech development and failure to thrive.

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



Flagstaff Quality First center provides stability for young girl during coronavirus pandemic

Earlier this year, Jan Meade and Tally Thomas were left feeling much uncertainty when the coronavirus pandemic started.

Both work in the healing industry in Flagstaff and they depend on massage, acupuncture and other in-person healing methods for their income to provide for their family. They knew that the stress of not being able to continue working would create a huge burden on the family.

Before the pandemic, they both worked part-time in order to spend as much quality time with their family as possible.

“We were so nervous once the pandemic hit,” Thomas said. “We didn’t know what to do, whether to continue sending Lalita to Foresight Learning Center, or not.”

Foresight Learning Center is one of a handful of child care centers in Coconino County that stayed open once the pandemic hit. The center also participates in First Things First’s Quality First program, which partners with child care and preschool providers across Arizona to improve the quality of early learning. Quality First funds quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as training for teachers to expand their skills and achieve their best.

As soon as the pandemic started, Foresight staff implemented additional procedures to provide children, their families

and staff with a safe and low-risk environment. As a Quality First participant, Foresight was able to maintain Quality First scholarship funding, which provided additional economic stability to the center. The First Things First Coconino Regional Partnership Council invests in the Quality First program and scholarships to provide quality care to families who might otherwise not be able to afford it.

Thomas felt very reassured that she could continue sending Lalita to the center amidst the world of uncertainty.



“Once I talked to the teachers at Foresight, I felt that it was safe to continue sending Lalita to child care,” she said.

Thomas is grateful that Lalita was able to remain in a high-quality learning environment.

“I love everyone at Foresight, it feels like a second home for her and I trust them completely.” - Tally Thomas, mother

“I’m in love

with Foresight Learning Center, she’s been there a little over a year,” Thomas said. “I love everyone at Foresight, it feels like a second home for her and I trust them completely. She always comes home happy with tons of art projects to show us!”



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

FTF Coconino Regional Partnership Council

The FTF Coconino 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 Parents as Teachers, Smart Smiles and Healthy Steps.

FTF Coconino FY20 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Quality Child Care and Preschool

\$1,139,693

Preventive Health

\$597,815

Strengthening Families

\$348,734

Parent and Community Awareness

\$97,390

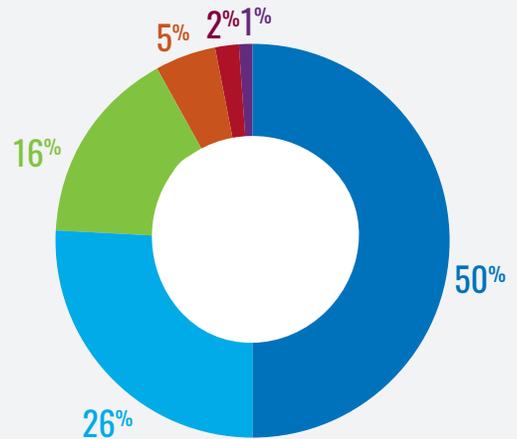
Research and Evaluation

\$67,996

Workforce Development and Training

\$41,484

Total \$2,293,112



FTF Coconino Regional Partnership Council and Staff

Chair
Steve Peru

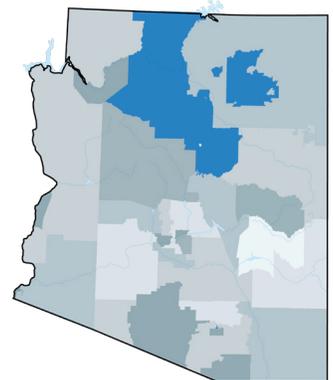
Vice Chair
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Members
Kelly Bernard
Beth Johndrow
Kelly McCue
Emily Patch

Noreen Sakiestewa
Carletta Tilousi
Debbie Winlock

FTF Regional Director
Peter Van Wyck
pvanwyck@firstthingsfirst.org
928.637.0412

FTF Community Outreach Coordinator
Bonn Baudelaire
bbaudelaire@firstthingsfirst.org
928.637.0416



*The **FTF Coconino Region** includes most of Coconino County, minus the Navajo Nation and the Hualapai Reservation, plus Winslow, the Hopi Reservation, and the Kaibab Paiute Reservation. The Havasupai Reservation is also part of the region. While the majority of the region's young children live in or near Flagstaff, many live in towns or rural areas. The FTF Coconino Region includes Legislative Districts 6 and 7. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)*

Learn more at
[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Coconino](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/Regions/Coconino)