



Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region

2022 Impact Report



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

90%

of a child's brain grows before kindergarten.

Early childhood matters.

First Things First (FTF) 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 Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region, there are **470 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.



Education is one of the most powerful weapons that one can use. Children need that guidance and knowledge for them to learn and grow, may it be traditional teachings and language or traditional schooling inside of a classroom. First Things First does a great job at showing their support."

Andrea Romero

FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Council Member

FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2022]



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

2,138

Books were given to parents and caregivers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers through a local distribution program.

64

Adults attended parenting activities to learn more about the importance of early childhood development.



Quality Preschool and Child Care

59

Preschoolers participated in early learning activities through a summer program helping children transition to kindergarten.

19

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



Parenting/caregiver workshops at Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library help grandmother learn to communicate with grandson

Maria Humo, a certified home care provider, found herself with a full house when she added the title of foster mom to her list of expertise.

Over the past year, Humo has taken the responsibility of fostering her two grandchildren, Samuel and Aliana, along with providing care for the other young children of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

Despite her 20+ years of experience of working with young children, Humo felt challenged with the specific care her grandson needed.

"Samuel, who is over the age of two, has already had a challenging childhood," the grandmother said. "Due to prenatal drug exposure, Samuel experienced some developmental delays. He's nonverbal."

"I've had experience with children with developmental delays before, but this is the first time I've been a parent to a child with special needs. He (Samuel) didn't know how to communicate. He would get so frustrated, he didn't know how to express his emotions outside of getting violent."

The Tribe provided Humo with early screening resources, where she was able to recognize the challenges facing Samuel.

"The Tribe has done so much for us and provides us with the support we need," she said.

After the boy's first screening, Humo was connected to the Parenting Outreach and Awareness workshops hosted at the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library. The First Things First Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council funds the workshops, which promote the importance of early childhood development and literacy with parents and caregivers through interactive activities.

Humo recalled her first workshop, Paint Night, which provided all the supplies including paint, brushes and age-appropriate books for the children to take home.

"I wasn't sure what to expect," Humo said. "I thought this would just be a fun activity to do with the kids."

It wasn't until Humo completed her workshop that she realized how beneficial it was not only to her grandchildren, but for her, as well.

"These classes helped me better understand how to support Samuel in any activity, by being there to help process those big feelings," she said. "These activities keep his mind busy and focused by allowing him to use his hands. He's very physical and expresses himself that way."

Humo was surprised to see Samuel so engaged and attentive for the entire duration of the workshop.

"He didn't have a single outburst the entire time," she said.

Today, Humo is able to reflect on the stark contrast between Samuel's communication style prior to attending the library programs.

"We use sign language now," she said. "He is finally able to start expressing himself. I can see a difference in him."



Read more FTF stories at
FirstThingsFirst.org/Region-Stories

FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council

FTF regional partnership councils are made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and inform 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 Great Expectations for Teachers, Children, Families and Communities, early educator professional development, Tribal Library Parenting Outreach and Awareness and Pascua Yaqui Head Start Summer Program.

FTF PYT SFY22 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Workforce Development and Training

\$112,359

Strengthening Families

\$60,522

Quality Child Care and Preschool

\$58,453

Coordination

\$44,802

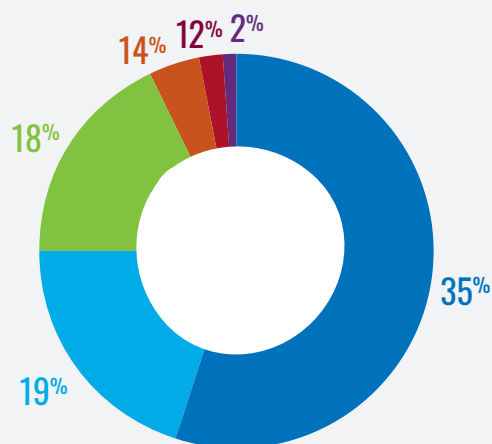
Parent and Community Awareness

\$37,174

Research and Evaluation

\$6,313

Total \$319,622



FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council and Staff

Chair
Cecilia Garcia

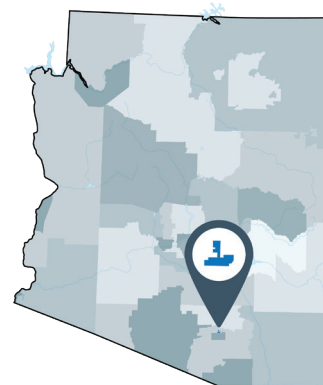
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The **FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region** is defined by the borders of the Pascua Pueblo Reservation in Pima County. The region covers approximately 2.2 square miles. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is one of 10 Arizona tribes that has chosen to be designated as its own First Things First region.

Learn more at
FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pascua-Yaqui-Tribe