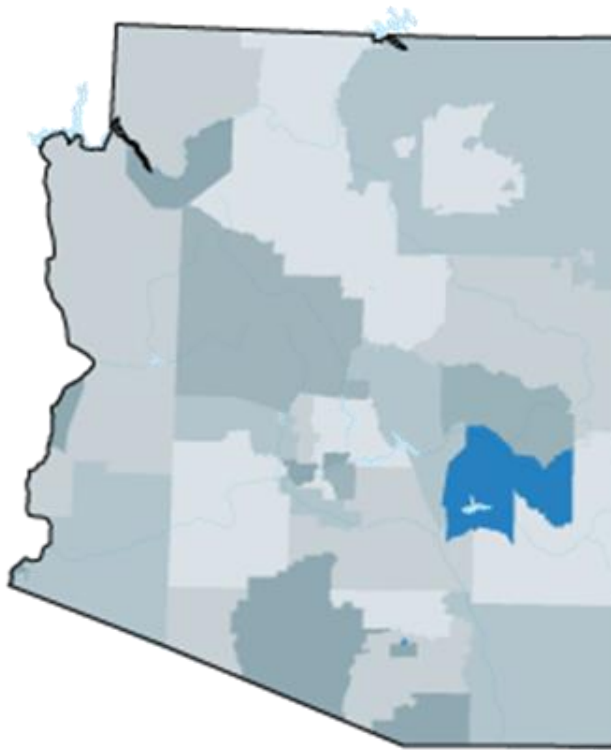




San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council
Population birth through age 5: 1,472



State Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Plan

SFY 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Update

Presented to the First Things First Board
January 23, 2024



Mission

First Things First is an essential leader and partner in creating a family-centered, equitable, high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, well-being, health and education of all Arizona's children, birth to age 5.

Vision

All Arizona's children are ready to succeed in school and in life.

Regional Partnership Councils

First Things First's statewide Board and its 28 regional partnership councils share the responsibility of ensuring that early childhood funds are invested in strategies aimed at improving educational and health outcomes for young children. Regional partnership councils identify the unique needs of their communities and decide how to best support young children and families in their areas. Regional councils, comprised of local volunteers, provide vision and leadership, governance and oversight. They identify, implement and fund strategies and build collaborations aimed at helping young children across Arizona succeed in school and life.

San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

Christine Carlson, chair, public school administrator

Ronald Ritter, vice chair, member of the business community

Tristan Kitch, representative of a philanthropic organization

Randee Kitcheyan, at-large representative

Nolita April Noline, child care provider

Kelly Pahe-Reede, health services provider

Jaymie Swift-Hooke, parent of a child age 5 years or younger

Flora Talas, early childhood educator

Elliot Talgo, Sr., at-large representative

open, representative of the faith community

open, at-large representative

LaToya Beatty, regional director, First Things First

Victoria Marin, administrative specialist, First Things First

San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council
Promoting Equity and Supporting Under-Resourced/Underserved Children and Their Families

The San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council's SFY24-27 strategic plan promotes equity and support of under-resourced and underserved children and their families by:

- Utilizing the 2022 regional needs and assets report that highlighted the need to:
 - Support families living in poverty. Poverty rates in the region among young children are triple those seen statewide and exceed rates seen across all Arizona reservations combined.
 - Support and offer additional outreach and services to identify the youngest children with special needs and to offer more early education teachers and staff the support needed for children with special needs.
- Approaching the development of this funding plan with the sense of *Shił Gozhóó*: the sense of happiness and contentment that comes from understanding the balance between oneself, one's family, one's community and the land. To this end, the regional council was intentional in strategies that would ensure the four elements - social, physical, mental and spiritual components - are connected and work together to achieve balance. Based on a cultural concept of interconnectedness, meaning that all things are related, the selected strategies are linked in recognition that the wellness of young children in the San Carlos Apache Region will require efforts that address the four elements from a relational world view and the Apache Way of Life.
- Learning from the community and having discussions with the San Carlos Apache Early Childhood Development and Health Collaborative and the San Carlos Apache Tribe's Education Committee which brought trusted guidance and rationale when choosing strategies.

Regional Allocation and Proposed Funding Plan Summary SFY24 – SFY27
San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council

Allocations and Funding Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027
FY Allocation	\$638,391	\$638,391	\$670,024	\$670,024
Population Based Allocation	\$430,841	\$430,841	\$430,841	\$430,841
Discretionary Allocation	\$207,550	\$207,550	\$239,183	\$239,183
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$472,225	\$539,360	\$473,740	\$315,515
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$1,110,616	\$1,177,751	\$1,143,764	\$985,539
Strategies	Allotted	Proposed Allotted	Proposed Allotted	Proposed Allotted
Inclusion of Children with Special Needs	\$75,000			
Quality First Academy	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Quality First Coaching & Incentives	\$158,660	\$158,660	\$158,660	\$158,660
Quality First Scholarships	-	-	-	
First Things First College Scholarships	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$10,800
Child Care Health Consultation	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,000
Developmental and Sensory Screening	\$58,000	\$58,000	\$58,000	\$58,000
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	\$110,160	\$110,160	\$110,160	\$110,160
Community Based Language and Literacy	\$78,000	\$78,000	\$78,000	\$78,000
Family Resource Centers		\$133,000	\$133,000	\$133,000
Family Support Coordination	\$58,000			
Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities	\$147,556	\$147,556	\$147,556	\$147,556
Statewide Evaluation	\$27,823	\$27,823	\$27,823	\$27,823
Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000
Media	\$11,250	\$11,250	\$11,250	\$11,250
Total	\$828,249	\$828,249	\$828,249	\$828,249
Total Unallotted/Unawarded/Unexpended*:	\$282,367	\$349,502	\$315,515	\$157,290

Fiscal Year	2020	2024	2025	2026	2027
% to Board Priorities		89.63 %	89.63 %	89.63 %	89.63 %
% to Quality First**	15.20%	23.86 %	23.86 %	23.86 %	23.86 %
Fiscal Year	4 Year Average				
% to Board Priorities	89.63%				
% to Quality First**	23.86%				

*Per FTF State Board direction, allotments reflect the budgeting of projected spending, therefore in some years' total allotments may exceed total means of financing. However, actual expenditures against the allotments are expected to be fully supported by revenues, and each year the region is anticipated to end with a carry forward balance which is reflected in the subsequent year's carry forward balance.

**Includes Quality First Academy, Quality First Coaching and Incentives, and Child Care Health Consultation.

SFY25 FUNDING PLAN UPDATE / CHANGE TABLE SAN CARLOS APACHE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL	
DESIRED OUTCOME: ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY, CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION.	
<u>Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies</u>	
Quality First	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quality First Academy (prioritized) ○ Quality First Coaching and Incentives (prioritized) 	
<i>Successes:</i> In SFY24, Quality First implemented a revision to the model resulting in service levels that are based on the needs of participating centers and homes. The revisions are anticipated to create efficiencies that allow more regulated early care and education programs to participate and continue the quality improvement trajectory that has shown consistent increases in quality rating over time.	
<i>Challenges:</i> In SFY25, federal pandemic relief funding to support statewide expansion of 413 programs to participate in Quality First will end, zero of which were located in the San Carlos Apache Region.	
DESIRED OUTCOME: INFORMATION, SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES	
<u>Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies</u>	
Educating Families and Caregivers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities (prioritized) ○ Community Based Language and Literacy (prioritized) ○ Family, Friend and Neighbor Care (prioritized) 	
Navigating and Connecting Families to Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family Resource Centers (prioritized) 	
<i>Challenges:</i> Issues related to awarding grants through Requests for Grant Applications (RFGA) for the Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities and the Family, Friend and Neighbor Care Strategies required the regional partnership council to change the funding mechanisms from the RFGA process. Both strategies are now grant agreements and are not yet determined for awarding. It is the goal of the regional council that these grant agreements will have a start date of July 1, 2024. Issues related to awarding grants through RFGA for the Inclusion of Children with Special Needs and Family Support Coordination Strategies required the attention and discussion of the San Carlos Apache Regional Partnership Council. After two RFGA releases and no applications received, the regional council was guided through a root causes activity to support them in seeing other options that can lead them to a similar outcome as they first desired. Through this activity the regional council took the recommendation of its Strategic Direction Committee and combined the funding allotments to create one allotment and one strategy. The regional council is proposing adding the new strategy of Family Resource Centers.	

Changes: The Family Resource Centers Strategy is new for SFY25. The regional council took the recommendation of its Strategic Direction Committee and combined the funding allotments of the Inclusion of Children with Special Needs and Family Support Coordination Strategies to create one allotment and one new strategy.		
Changes:	SFY24	SFY25
Family Resource Centers		
Funding Level Changes:	\$0	\$133,000
Service Unit Change:	-	Number of parenting activities conducted: 144
Family Support Coordination		
Funding Level Changes:	\$58,000	\$0
Service Unit Change:	Number of families currently enrolled: 12-25	-
DESIRED OUTCOME: WELL-PREPARED, HIGHLY SKILLED AND APPROPRIATELY COMPENSATED PROFESSIONALS		
<u>Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies</u>		
Professional Development for ECE Professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (prioritized) First Things First College Scholarships (prioritized) Child Care Health Consultation (prioritized) 		
Successes: Relationship building and strategic collaboration have occurred between the First Things First early childhood mental health consultation grant partner and the San Carlos Apache Regional Director. As a new strategy in the region, the grant partner and subcontractor are required to obtain proper tribal permission to conduct any services in the San Carlos Apache Region. Together with the grant partner and subcontractor, the regional director drafted a tribal resolution document under the guidance of the tribe's Attorney General's office. Approval of the tribal resolution remains pending due to scheduling of the tribe's Education Committee.		
Changes: As noted above, the regional council combined the funding allotments for two strategies to create one allotment and one new strategy.		
Changes:	SFY24	SFY25
Inclusion of Children with Special Needs		
Funding Level Changes:	\$75,000	\$0
Service Unit Change:	Number of center-based providers served : 9	0

DESIRED OUTCOME: PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT.	
<u>Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies</u>	
Building Awareness of the Importance of the Early Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness (prioritized) ○ Media (prioritized) 	
DESIRED OUTCOME: ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY PREVENTATIVE AND CONTINUOUS HEALTH CARE.	
<u>Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies</u>	
Identifying and Addressing Developmental Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developmental and Sensory Screening 	
DESIRED OUTCOME: COORDINATED, INTEGRATED, AND COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM	
<u>Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies</u>	
Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Statewide Evaluation 	