



Investing in Our Future: Positive Outcomes of Early Childhood Investments

First Things First (FTF), Arizona's early childhood agency, represents a commitment Arizonans made to our youngest children – that they would have the support they need to start school healthy and ready to succeed. Many young children in Arizona face significant barriers to their success, including poverty, trauma and lack of access to needed resources. In the FTF Colorado River Indian Tribes Region, there are **739 children** (under age 6), with **38% living in poverty**. Here is how FTF is working to support young children and their families in this region.



90% of a child's brain grows before kindergarten.
Early childhood matters.



FTF invests in proven programs, like Quality First, and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families. Some of the FTF-funded services in this region include the Colorado River Indian Tribes Early Literacy Program and Colorado River Indian Tribes Nutrition and Physical Activity Program.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

360

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

33

Early childhood professionals and adults attended activities to learn more about the importance of early childhood development.



Quality Preschool and Child Care

151

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

23

Children participated in a summer transition program to prepare to be successful in kindergarten.



Scan to read the family story

Culturally tailored books to showcase Native languages for children in the Colorado River Indian Tribes community

A book project to promote language preservation for children in the First Things First Colorado River Indian Tribes Region was recently unveiled. The books, aimed at children from birth to age 5, will focus on colors, animals and numbers in the different languages of the region's four distinct tribes: the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo.

The FTF Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council funds native language preservation strategies to give parents and caregivers tools to promote their children's language development that are culturally appropriate.

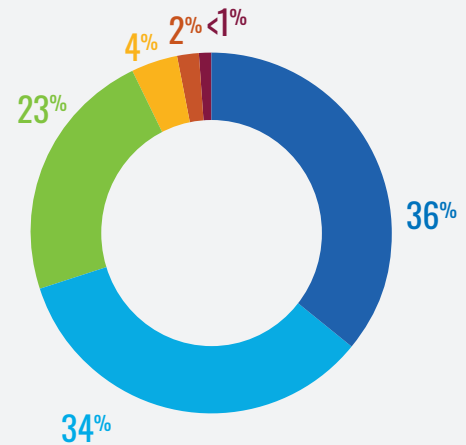


Strengthening Families

Positive early experiences, like nurturing relationships with parents and caregivers, promote healthy brain development and learning. First Things First expands families' access to the information, services and supports they need to help their young children achieve their fullest potential.

State Fiscal Year 2023 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$96,315
Strengthening Families	\$90,197
Preventive Health	\$60,815
Parent and Community Awareness	\$10,000
Research and Evaluation	\$6,313
Service Coordination	\$659
Total	\$264,298



FTF Colorado River Indian Tribes 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.

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Norma Ray

Vice Chair
Elvira Aspa

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Delise Beavers
Gloria Flores-Lopez
Joanna Hermes
Daris Laffoon

Monica Rosnagle
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FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Colorado-River-Indian-Tribes

