



## 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 East Maricopa Region, there are **58,035 children** (under age 6), with **12% 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 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 Family Resource Centers, Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers.

## Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]



### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

**4,209** Families or caregivers served by receiving referrals or by participating in activities at family resource centers.

**175** 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.



### Preventive Health

**1,602** 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.

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



### Quality Preschool and Child Care

**11,209** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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



Scan to read the family story

## Healthy Families program helps Chandler girl develop and thrive

When Chandler’s parents Adrianna and Josh Beach had their fifth child, Ruby, they felt their family was complete and knew they wanted the best for all of their kids. To the Beach family, that included providing each child what they needed to thrive and be healthy and happy. During her hospital stay, mom Adrianna learned about a program to help support her as a parent and the health and development of her new baby.

The FTF East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council funds the Healthy Families program, which provides parents with free, in-home visits from a parent educator.

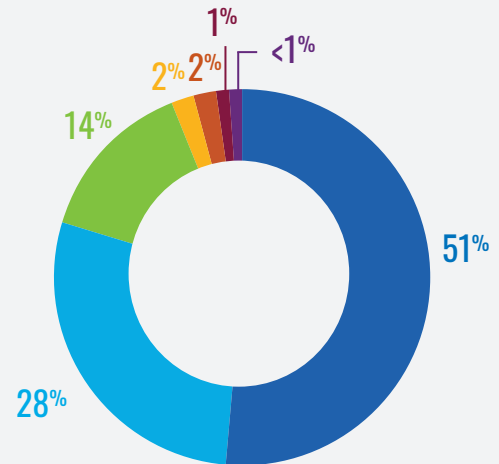


### Strengthening Families

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	\$4,084,144
Strengthening Families	\$2,254,192
Preventive Health	\$1,091,709
Workforce Development and Training	\$187,884
Research and Evaluation	\$171,200
Parent and Community Awareness	\$100,296
Coordinating Care	\$68,223
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,957,747</b>



## FTF East Maricopa 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.

*Chair*  
**Lenay Dunn**

*Vice Chair*  
**Barbara Milner**

*Members*  
**Antonio Alcala**  
**Juan Aristizabal**  
**Lisa Bautista**  
**Victoria Corlett**  
**Trinity Donovan**

**Lynn Hockenberger**  
**Inez Martinez**  
**Delanyo Smith**  
**Mitzie Warner**

## Scan to Learn More and Connect with Staff

[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/East-Maricopa](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/Regions/East-Maricopa)

