



## 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 Navajo/Apache Region, there are **6,166 children** (under age 6), with **30% 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 Early Childhood Learning Collaboratives, Summit Healthy Steps and North Country Healthcare Healthy Steps.

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

### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

854

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

141

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

### Quality Preschool and Child Care

435

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

47

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

### Preventive Health

3,048

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



## Oral health program helps Show Low siblings learn how to care for their teeth

Molly McGavock, a mother of three children, was excited when she heard that there was a program offered in Show Low to help her children learn to care for their teeth. She was most interested in the part that provided an educational component for the children.

*"It takes away the fear and stress for the kids when taking care of their teeth is introduced in a fun way," McGavock said.*

The First Things First Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council funds the oral health program, which provides oral health screenings and referral and navigation services to young children and pregnant women, to ensure early detection of the signs of oral disease.



Scan to read the family story

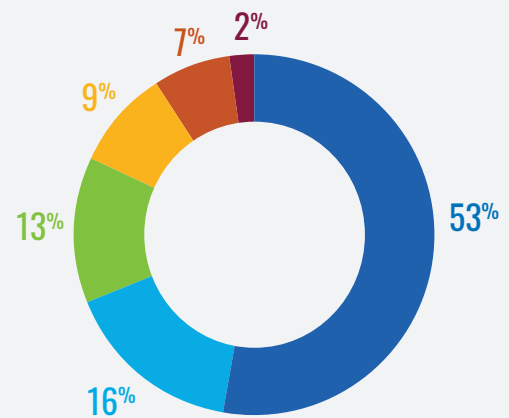


### Strengthening Families

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

Preventive Health	\$824,610
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$249,471
Workforce Development and Training	\$209,179
Strengthening Families	\$145,000
Parent and Community Awareness	\$104,203
Research and Evaluation	\$34,069
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,566,531</b>



## FTF Navajo/Apache 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  
Becky Benda-Dodd

Vice Chair  
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## Scan to Learn More and Connect with Staff

[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Navajo-Apache](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Navajo-Apache)

