



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 Northwest Maricopa Region, there are **55,078 children** (under age 6), with **20% 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 and Support for Children with Developmental Concerns.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

7,714

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

2,253

Families or caregivers served by receiving referrals or by participating in activities at family resource centers.



Preventive Health

1,100

Children received fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

695

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



Quality Preschool and Child Care

7,292

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

1,012

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

Parents as Teachers Early Intervention Program helps

When Courtney Grell had her first daughter Delaney in 2017, she knew that something was different. Delaney was always hyper, going non-stop. She would have tantrums about putting on her socks or brushing her teeth. The tantrums grew more intense and there was no discipline that worked.

The First Things First Northwest Maricopa Regional Council funds the home visitation program Parents as Teachers Early Intervention – for children with special needs. In the program, families get individualized support and coaching through a home visitor who helps identify and address developmental concerns early, respond to challenging behaviors and support a child’s physical, social and emotional development.

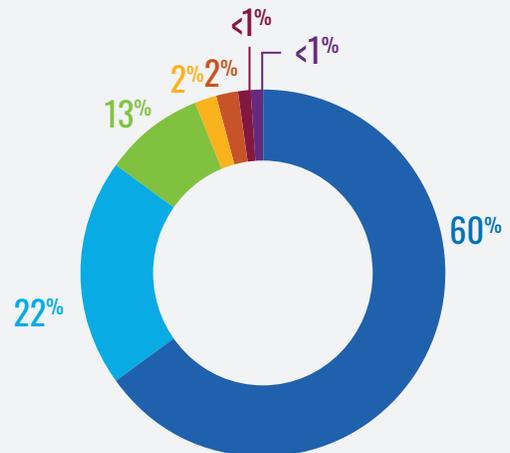


Strengthening Families

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	\$6,017,391
Strengthening Families	\$2,223,541
Preventive Health	\$1,277,258
Research and Evaluation	\$236,088
Parent and Community Awareness	\$185,840
Workforce Development and Training	\$74,899
Coordinating Care	\$68,223
Total	\$10,083,240



FTF Northwest 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.

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Teri Sarmiento

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