



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 Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region, there are **470 children** (under age 6), with **52% 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 Great Expectations for Teachers, Children, Families and Communities, early educator professional development, Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library parenting outreach and awareness and the Pascua Yaqui Head Start summer program.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

4,549 Books were given to parents and caregivers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers through a local distribution program.

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

Quality Preschool and Child Care

45 Preschoolers participated in early learning activities through a summer program helping children transition to kindergarten.

6 Early childhood educators received support through professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of teacher-child interactions.



Find Free Programs Near You

The First Things First Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council funds the Professional Development for Early Childhood Professionals Strategy which cultivates well-prepared, highly skilled and appropriately compensated early child care professionals. It provides education and training in community settings to professionals providing care and education to babies, toddlers and preschoolers.



Find free programs near you

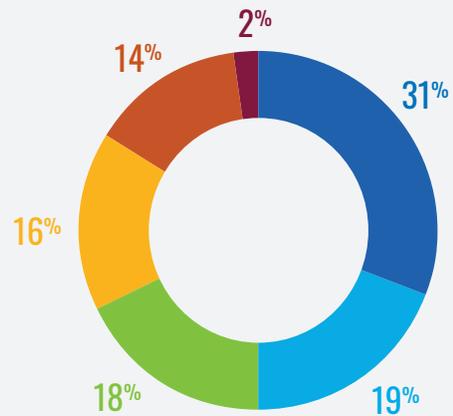


"Our Ili uusim, our children, carry the future of our people, our tribe and our culture and ceremony in their hearts. By providing them with the essential tools of early childhood development, we ensure a brighter, stronger and capable child. By providing them with resources to support them, their imagination soars, their learning unfolds and we as a tribal community are assured that our legacy continues with each day the sun rises to shine upon the faces of our children."

Amalia Reyes, FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Council Member

State Fiscal Year 2023 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Workforce Development and Training	\$93,961
Strengthening Families	\$55,903
Coordination	\$55,181
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$46,241
Parent and Community Awareness	\$42,982
Research and Evaluation	\$4,862
Total	\$299,130



FTF Pascua Yaqui Tribe 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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John Jensen

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Gloria Escalante
Rosie Gutierrez
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