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 Phoenix South Region, there are 61,377 children (under age 6), with 34% living in poverty. Here is how FTF is working to support young children and their families in this region.

Quality Preschool and Child Care

- Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First: 6,503
- Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high-quality preschools and child care programs: 1,148

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

- Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development: 8,890
- Families or caregivers served by receiving referrals or by participating in activities at family resource centers: 4,276
- Families or caregivers served by receiving referrals or by participating in activities at family resource centers: 299

Preventive Health

- Children received fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay: 1,316
- Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on: 4,782
- Children received a screening to detect tooth decay, which, left undetected and untreated, could cause damage to permanent teeth: 2,333

Regional Key Impact Highlights

[State Fiscal Year 2023]

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 Phoenix Public Library Early Literacy Programs, Arizona Kith and Kin Project, and Family Resource Centers.
Phoenix home-based child care program boosts family’s love of reading in child

As Marquisa Regnier toured Sky Preschool in Phoenix, she knew right away that it would be a good fit for her toddler. Deloney’s preschool is enrolled in Quality First, a program designed to help early care and education providers improve the quality of their programs in ways that help young children learn, grow and thrive.

The First Things First Phoenix South Regional Council funds Quality First so families in the community have access to centers that provide quality care and education.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Child Care and Preschool</td>
<td>$8,694,998</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening Families</td>
<td>$4,050,046</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preventive Health</td>
<td>$2,845,206</td>
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<td>Research and Evaluation</td>
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<td>Workforce Development and Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent and Community Awareness</td>
<td>$120,176</td>
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<td>Coordinating Care</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,295,129</strong></td>
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FTF Phoenix South 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
Patricia Neff

Vice Chair
Jessica Jarvi

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Joyce Medina Harper
Joshua Henry
Sakina Pasha
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