



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.



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 the Phoenix Public Library Early Literacy Programs, Arizona Kith and Kin Project, and Family Resource Centers.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

8,890 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child’s healthy development.

4,276 Families or caregivers served by receiving referrals or by participating in activities at family resource centers.

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Preventive Health

1,316 Children received fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

4,782 Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

2,333 Children received a screening to detect tooth decay, which, left undetected and untreated, could cause damage to permanent teeth.

Quality Preschool and Child Care

6,503 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

1,148 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

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.

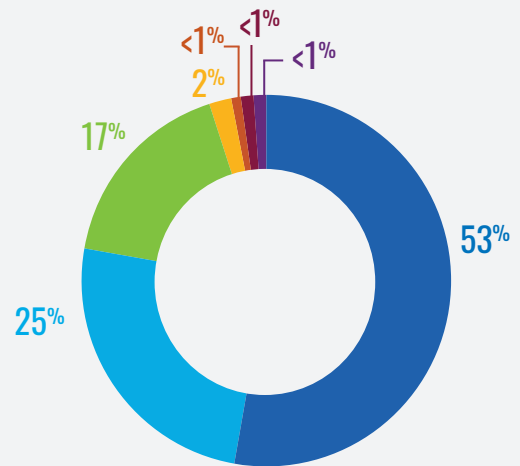


Strengthening Families

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

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$8,694,998
Strengthening Families	\$4,050,046
Preventive Health	\$2,845,206
Research and Evaluation	\$401,369
Workforce Development and Training	\$135,222
Parent and Community Awareness	\$120,176
Coordinating Care	\$48,112
Total	\$16,295,129



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.

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Vice Chair
Jessica Jarvi

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Sakina Pasha
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