



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 Pima North Region, there are **48,064 children** (under age 6), with **25% 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 Home Visitation and Great Expectations for Teachers, Children, Families and Communities.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

- 9,198** Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child’s healthy development.
- 441** Families with young children participated in voluntary home visiting programs proven to reduce parental stress levels, increase connections to community supports, and improve children’s cognitive, motor, behavioral and social-emotional development.
- 156** Parents and other caregivers participated in evidence-based trainings designed to improve knowledge of parenting practices and children’s development.

Quality Preschool and Child Care

- 8,545** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- 1,118** Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high-quality preschools and child care programs.

Preventive Health

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



Tucson preschool teacher gains more understanding of trauma-informed care practices

Throughout her 22-year career, preschool teacher Candy Kennelly has continuously pushed herself to grow and be a better educator. When she learned about a professional development opportunity that would help her gain understanding of trauma-informed care practices, Kennelly was quick to sign up.

The First Things First Pima North Regional Partnership Council funds Great Expectations providing early childhood practitioners access to professional development that improves their knowledge of the development and learning of children birth to age 5.



Scan to read the family story

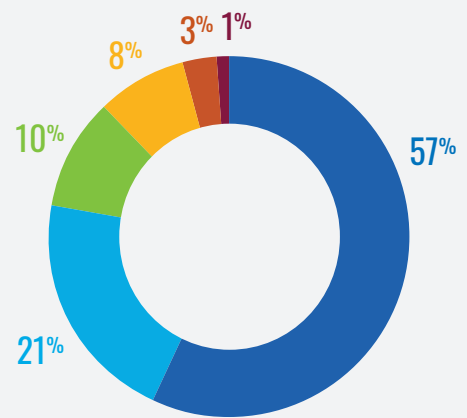


Strengthening Families

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

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$5,185,787
Strengthening Families	\$1,935,376
Preventive Health	\$957,794
Workforce Development and Training	\$725,230
Research and Evaluation	\$225,873
Parent and Community Awareness	\$90,450
Total	\$9,120,511



FTF Pima North 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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