



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 South Region, there are **25,171 children** (under age 6), with **26% 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 Home Visitation, Family resource Centers and Professional Development of Early Childhood Practitioners.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

570 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.

Preventive Health

2,010 Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

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

Quality Preschool and Child Care

2,729 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

398 Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high-quality preschools and child care programs.

168 Early childhood educators attended a training or session to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



Scan to read the family story

Home visitation program helps Tucson family encourage daughter’s social and emotional growth

Four-year-old Camila loves to dress up and rarely leaves the house without lipstick. Camila’s mother Annette Vea Lopez didn’t always know how to respond to Camila’s self-expression, but since participating in the Casa de los Ninos Parents as Teachers program, she now embraces her daughter’s fashion choices.

The First Things First Pima South Regional Partnership Council funds home visitation to help parents become their child’s first and best teacher. Parents as Teachers gives families personalized, in-home support through a trained parent educator.

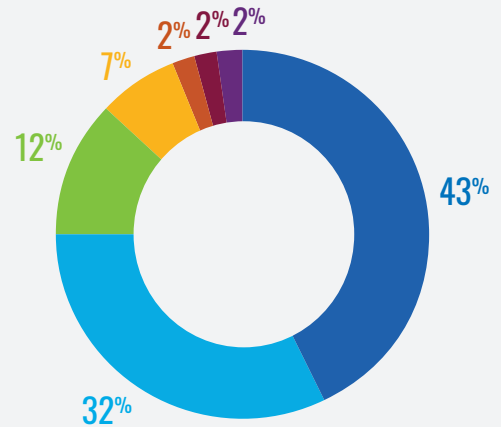


Strengthening Families

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	\$2,683,102
Strengthening Families	\$1,982,355
Preventive Health	\$742,321
Workforce Development and Training	\$472,865
Research and Evaluation	\$141,935
Coordinating Care	\$122,616
Parent and Community Awareness	\$121,814
Total	\$6,267,009



FTF Pima 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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