



## 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 Pinal Region, there are **34,984 children** (under age 6), with **19% 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 parent education, home visitation and family, friend and neighbor.

## Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

**1,442** Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child’s healthy development.

**509** Parents and other caregivers participated in evidence-based trainings designed to improve knowledge of parenting practices and children’s development.

### Preventive Health

**3,225** Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

**1,051** Children received fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

### Quality Preschool and Child Care

**3,001** Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

**310** 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

## Casa Grande grandmother learns to adjust to her granddaughter's learning style

Betty Mosher enrolled in the Family, Friend and Neighbor program when her granddaughter Jada was 1. A friend told Mosher about the program that empowers caregivers with tools to encourage healthy development in the children in their care. The friend was participating for her own children and the children she cared for.

The First Things First Pinal Regional Partnership Council funds the Family, Friend and Neighbor program to empower caregivers with tools to encourage healthy development in the children in their care.

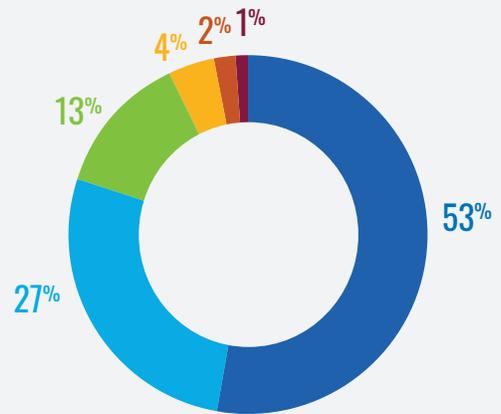


### Strengthening Families

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	\$3,074,740
Strengthening Families	\$1,589,507
Preventive Health	\$739,686
Parent and Community Awareness	\$215,470
Research and Evaluation	\$126,586
Service Coordination	\$93,481
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,839,470</b>



## FTF Pinal 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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## Scan to Learn More and Connect with Staff

[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pinal](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pinal)

