



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 Tohono O'odham Nation Region, there are **1,180 children** (under age 6), with **69% 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 Quality First Scholarships and Family Support Coordination.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

20

Families received support coordination to efficiently connect them to services to meet the needs of their children.



Quality Preschool and Child Care

34

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

35

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



Maternal and child health program gives Tohono O’odham families tools to help children’s healthy development

For years, Rolanda Reyna has helped families of young children in the Tohono O’odham Nation connect with community resources that can offer support. As a longtime Maternal Health and Child Health Advocate, Reyna has traveled to various communities in the Nation supporting the needs of families and caregivers with children ages 0-5. It’s when the brain develops more rapidly than at any other time, according to research.



Scan to read the family story

The First Things First Tohono O’odham Nation Regional Partnership Council funds the Family Support Coordination Strategy, which links families with resources ranging from early childhood health, education, intervention and development services to utility assistance, food security and support for parents returning to school.

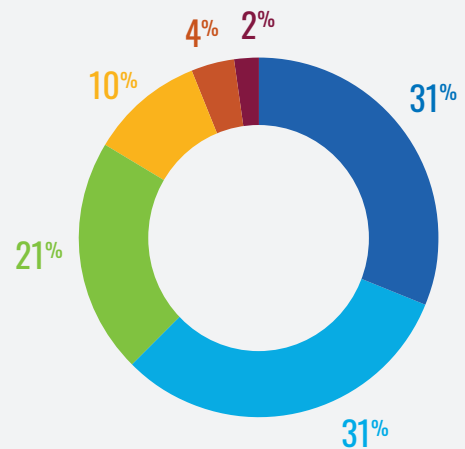


Strengthening Families

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Workforce Development and Trainings | \$111,881 |
| Quality Child Care and Preschool | \$111,019 |
| Strengthening Families | \$75,049 |
| Parent and Community Awareness | \$36,284 |
| Preventive Health | \$17,753 |
| Research and Evaluation | \$11,860 |
| Total | \$363,845 |



FTF Tohono O’odham Nation 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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