



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 Yuma Region, there are **17,983 children** (under age 6), with **29% 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 Parents as Teachers, Healthy Families and Parenting Education.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]

Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

3,514 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child’s healthy development.

373 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 socio-emotional development.

Quality Preschool and Child Care

2,277 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

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

Preventive Health

2,387 Children received a screening to detect tooth decay, which left undetected and untreated could cause damage to permanent teeth, impair speech development and failure to thrive.

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



Home visitation program provides Yuma family extra layer of support

Maria Canchola was three months pregnant, had two young children at home and was looking for ways to strike a balance between being a good parent and working full-time as a single mom. The Yuma mom heard about the Healthy Families home visitation program and signed up.

The First Things First Yuma Regional Partnership Council funds the home visitation program, which offers personalized in-home support for families with children ages birth to age 5 and expectant mothers.



Scan to read the family story

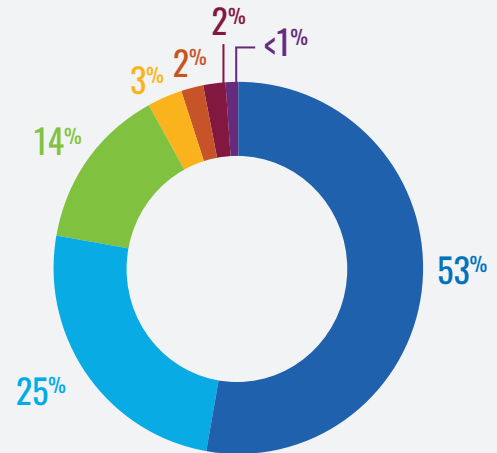


As both the City of Yuma Mayor and a father, I believe it is extremely important to ensure our youngest in the community have every opportunity to succeed in life. Actively participating in early childhood development and education from day one is key to building strong families, and strong families are a vital component to building strong communities."

Douglas Nicholls, City of Yuma Mayor

State Fiscal Year 2023 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$58,017,327
Strengthening Families	\$27,942,141
Preventive Health	\$15,378,657
Workforce Development and Training	\$3,335,397
Research and Evaluation	\$2,643,281
Parent and Community Awareness	\$2,090,710
Coordinating Care	\$1,039,519
Total	\$110,447,032



FTF Yuma 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.

Chair

Donald Vickers

Vice Chair

Linda Elliott-Nelson

Members

Alma Barrandey

Emilia Cortez

Lizette Esparza

Marla Ford

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