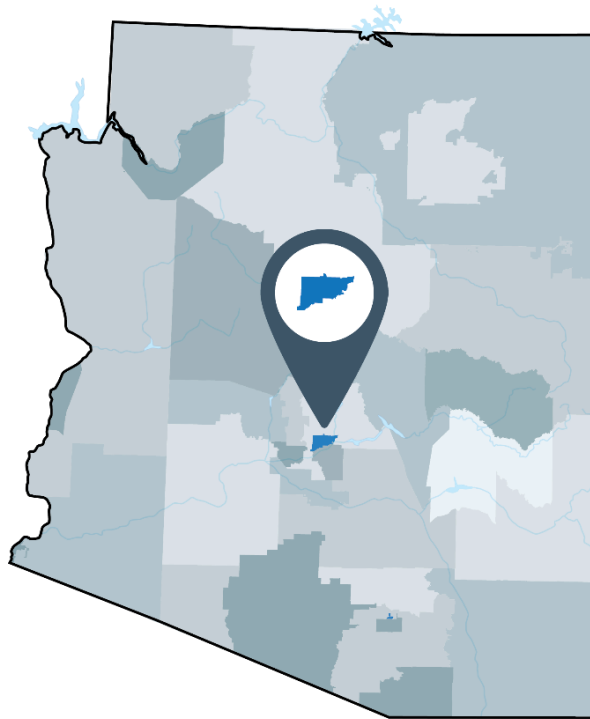


# FIRST THINGS FIRST

**Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community**  
**Regional Partnership Council**  
Population birth through age 5: 730



## State Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Plan

*SFY 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Update*

Presented to the First Things First Board  
January 21, 2025

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## Mission

First Things First is an essential leader and partner in creating a family-centered, equitable, high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, well-being, health and education of all Arizona’s children, birth to age 5.

## Vision

All Arizona’s children are ready to succeed in school and in life.

## Regional Partnership Councils

First Things First’s statewide Board and its 28 regional partnership councils share the responsibility of ensuring that early childhood funds are invested in strategies aimed at improving educational and health outcomes for young children. Regional partnership councils identify the unique needs of their communities and decide how to best support young children and families in their areas. Regional councils, comprised of local volunteers, provide vision and leadership, governance and oversight. They identify, implement and fund strategies and build collaborations aimed at helping young children across Arizona succeed in school and life.

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### Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council

**Christine McIntier**, chair, public school administrator

**Melanie Nosie**, vice chair, at-large representative

**Berlene Dallas**, at-large representative

**Joyce Helmuth**, health services provider

**Virginia Loring**, member of the business community

**Pila Mendoza**, representative of a philanthropic organization

**Felicia Panana**, at-large representative

**Pamela Prasher**, child care provider

**WinterElk Valencia**, representative of the faith community

open, early childhood educator

open, parent of a child age 5 years or younger

**Darlene Vinarskai**, regional director, First Things First

**Jennifer Pike**, administrative specialist, First Things First

**Regional Allocation and Proposed Funding Plan Summary SFY24 – SFY27**  
**Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council**

Allocations and Funding Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027
<b>FY Allocation</b>	<b>\$267,116</b>	<b>\$267,116</b>	<b>\$180,859</b>	<b>\$267,073</b>
Population Based Allocation	\$198,860	\$198,860	\$179,742	\$198,860
Discretionary Allocation	\$68,256	\$68,256	\$1,117	\$68,213
<b>Carry Forward From Previous Year</b>	<b>\$280,519</b>	<b>\$466,158</b>	<b>\$465,627</b>	<b>\$353,984</b>
<b>Total Regional Council Funds Available</b>	<b>\$547,635</b>	<b>\$733,274</b>	<b>\$646,486</b>	<b>\$621,057</b>
Strategies	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Proposed Allotted	Projected Allotted
Transition to Kindergarten	\$45,223	\$45,223	\$45,223	\$45,223
Family Support Coordination	\$231,697	\$231,697	\$231,697	\$231,697
Parenting Education	\$77,096	\$77,096	\$77,096	\$77,096
Reach Out and Read	\$11,248	\$11,248	\$11,248	\$11,248
Statewide Evaluation	\$11,090	\$11,090	\$11,090	\$11,090
Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$382,354</b>	<b>\$382,354</b>	<b>\$382,354</b>	<b>\$382,354</b>
<b>Total Unallotted/Unawarded/Unexpended:*</b>	<b>\$165,281</b>	<b>\$350,920</b>	<b>\$264,132</b>	<b>\$238,3703</b>

Fiscal Year	2020	2024	2025	2026	2027
% to Board Priorities		82.33 %	82.33 %	82.33 %	82.33 %
% to Quality First**	0.00%	0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
Fiscal Year	4 Year Average				
% to Board Priorities	82.33%				
% to Quality First**	0.00%				

\* Per FTF State Board direction, allotments reflect the budgeting of projected spending, therefore in some years’ total allotments may exceed total means of financing. However, actual expenditures against the allotments are expected to be fully supported by revenues, and each year the region is anticipated to end with a carry forward balance which is reflected in the subsequent year’s carry forward balance.

\*\*Includes Quality First Academy, Quality First Coaching and Incentives, Quality First Assessment and Child Care Health Consultation.

## SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

**Please describe how the Regional Partnership Council's SFY24-27 Strategic Plan promotes equity and support of under-resourced and underserved children and their families.**

The FTF Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Partnership Council developed the SFY24-27 Strategic Plan to promote equity and support for under-resourced and underserved children and their families in the region by identifying and implementing strategies that support their needs. An important part of the data came from the 2022 Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Needs and Assets Report and input from regional council members who work with families with young children in the region. The regional council discussed data from the regional needs and assets report that showed the high teen pregnancy rate and the low rate of prenatal care for mothers in the region. In addition, several regional council members who work in social services, health services and early childhood education emphasized the overall need to help families connect and participate in services that are already available in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

The regional council identified five priority areas which included the need for teen parent education, the importance of obtaining prenatal care, the need for more access to early childhood education prior to entering kindergarten, the need for families to become more aware of existing resources and support to families who have been referred to programs and services but have not connected. The regional council then reviewed and discussed specific strategies that would directly address the needs including review of scopes of work. The regional council then refined the proposed approaches and selected SFY24-27 strategies described in this strategic plan that address the prioritized needs and promote equity and support of under-resourced and underserved children and their families in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Region.

**SFY26 FUNDING PLAN UPDATE / CHANGE TABLE**

**SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

**DESIRED OUTCOME: INFORMATION, SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES**

**Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies**

**Educating Families and Caregivers**

- Parenting Education (prioritized)

**Navigating and Connecting Families to Resources**

- Family Support Coordination (prioritized)

**Language and Literacy**

- Reach Out and Read (non-prioritized)

***Successes:***

**Family Support Coordination:**

Although there was a lengthy tribal approval process, the Family Support Coordination contract between First Things First and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community was successfully finalized in the fourth quarter of SFY24. The contract specified that the program would be implemented through the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Tribal Social Services Department located in the region.

The Tribal Social Services Department director developed the job description, which was approved and classified by the Community’s Human Resources Department. Interviews were conducted, and two full-time personnel were hired by the tribe to implement the Family Support Coordination program. The two full-time workers received training from First Things First program staff on implementation, standards of practice and reporting requirements. The program is now in the process of being successfully implemented in the region to help families address the challenges of accessing timely and effective services to address their immediate needs and supports connections to tribal programs.

***Challenges:***

**Parenting Education:**

First Things First contracted with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Education Department in SFY24 to implement the parenting program. The parenting program experienced challenges in recruiting and enrolling parents in the program during its first year of implementation. The program provided two series of parenting classes which met the contracted service unit.

The parent educator implementing the parenting program resigned in July 2024. However, the tribe did identify another person to implement the program. The program is housed at the charter high school located in the region. The regional council has specifically targeted teen parents and is implementing a teen parent curriculum. There are approximately 48 teen parents in the region based on the recent 2024 Regional Needs and Assets Report. The teen parent population is very challenging to engage due to multiple factors from motivation to transportation. The enrollment for this program was very low this year with only two families participating per series.

The new parenting educator plans to work collaboratively with the school administration to better identify and recruit any expectant students and students with young children.

Due to the fact that this is the program’s first year in implementation, the regional council plans to continue to fund the program for SFY26 and will continue to monitor and evaluate the program’s viability going forward.

**DESIRED OUTCOME: PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT.**

**Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies**

**Building Awareness of the Importance of the Early Years**

- Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness (prioritized)

**DESIRED OUTCOME: COORDINATED, INTEGRATED, AND COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM**

**Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies**

**Bridge from ECE to Kindergarten**

- Transition to Kindergarten (non-prioritized)

**Evaluation**

- Statewide Evaluation (non-prioritized)

**Successes:**

**Statewide Evaluation:**

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community 2024 Regional Needs and Assets Report and was approved by the Board in December 2024.

**Challenges:**

**Transition to Kindergarten:**

First Things First has successfully contracted with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community for over 10 years to implement the Transition to Kindergarten Program. However, in SFY24 there were lower than usual enrollment numbers in the program. Some of this could be attributed to families' enrollment in other summer programs provided through the tribe's Family and Child Education Program (FACE) and the Early Childhood Education Center during the summer.

The grantee plans to work on recruitment earlier in the year and revise flyers with more specific information. In addition, the grantee plans to coordinate with other departments in scheduling programs during the summer.