

Funded through tobacco revenue, Arizona voters established **First Things First** (FTF) as the state's only public funding source dedicated exclusively to early childhood. The work is rooted in profound respect for tribal sovereignty and a commitment to working in collaboration with tribes in Arizona.

FTF partners with **19 federally recognized tribes** in Arizona, ensuring that Native voices shape early childhood programs and investments, and that young children entering school in tribal communities are healthy and ready to succeed.

### Tribal Representation & Decision-Making

Decisions made by the statewide FTF Board are guided by input from 28 regional partnership councils. These councils are made up of 11 dedicated volunteers who live or work in the communities they serve, and recommend how to invest early childhood funds. In addition, every FTF regional partnership council whose geographic area includes tribal lands must have one tribal public official or employee.

### Tribal Engagement Options

Tribes choose how to engage with FTF to best meet their community's needs:



Their tribal lands are **treated as a separate region** by the statewide FTF Board.



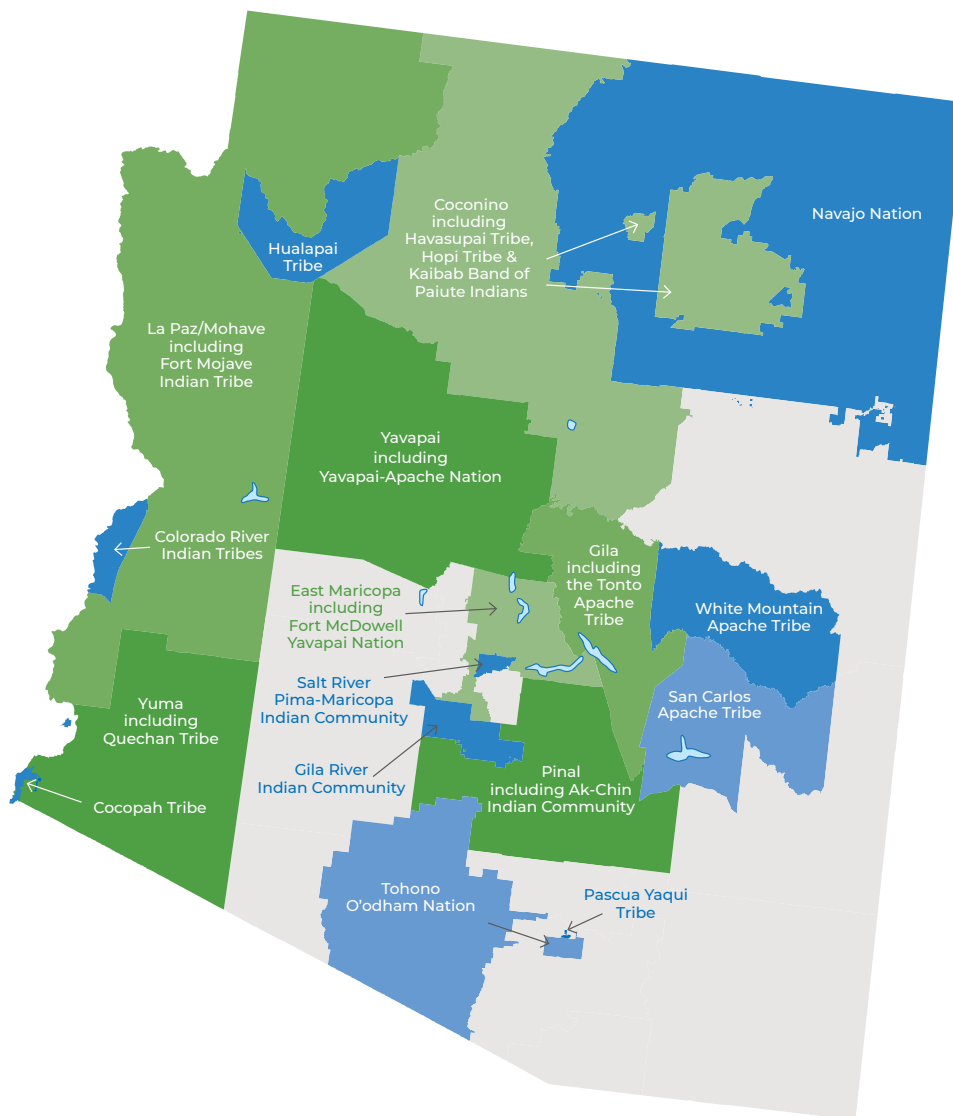
They participate in a **designated FTF geographical region** where their tribal lands are located.

# Investing in Young Children in Tribal Communities

FTF funds programs and services that support culture, care and connection from the start.

Through partnerships in tribal nations, we are:

1. Improving the quality of early care and education
2. Creating well-educated and highly skilled early educators.
3. Supporting families and caregivers through parenting programs, like home visitation.
4. Promoting early literacy and language by connecting children to their tribal language and culture.



## Tribes Who Have Chosen to Have Their Own FTF Region:

- Cocopah Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Gila River Indian Community
- Hualapai Tribe
- Navajo Nation
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- White Mountain Apache Tribe

## Tribes Participating in FTF Geographic Regions:

- Coconino, including Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe and Kaibab Paiute Tribe
- Gila, including the Tonto Apache Tribe
- La Paz/Mohave, including Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
- East Maricopa, including Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
- Pinal, including Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Yavapai, including Yavapai-Apache Nation
- Yuma, including Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Tribe