

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES 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 Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council developed its SFY24-27 strategic plan using a strategic planning committee made up of regional council members with guidance from a consultant specializing in tribal communities. The regional council members utilized data reports, community input through family events and two meetings with tribal council members to collectively identify the needs of children birth to age 5 and families. The strategic planning committee’s goal was to better understand the needs of the community, the impact of the regional council’s current strategies and the readiness of the community to engage with FTF-funded programs. The Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation spans Arizona and California, with 84% of the reservation located in Arizona. The Colorado River Indian Tribes Region includes the Arizona part of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation and the town of Parker, Arizona. Parker is the closest town with access to services for families and is partially on the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation, and this creates a blended community of tribal and non-tribal members. Many of the programs are open to everyone in both communities. The tribe consists of four distinct tribes: Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo. With four different tribes, the regional council understands that not all of the tribal members have the same cultural practices and languages, which can create a challenge in preserving the culture and languages. The regional council always encourages programs to integrate any tribal teachings that will tie into their lessons to help preserve culture and language. In addition, the regional council’s plan includes recommendations for programs to offer evening or weekend sessions to accommodate families’ work schedules. The regional council expects strategy implementation to include activities provided in the housing hubs of the region to alleviate barriers, such as transportation, for families to access services. The regional council developed its strategic plan with intentionality around the flexible implementation of strategies to have the greatest impact on children and increased engagement with the community.

Regional Allocation and Proposed Funding Plan Summary SFY24 – SFY27
Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Partnership Council

Allocations and Funding Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027
FY Allocation	\$260,144	\$260,144	\$159,009	\$277,072
Population Based Allocation	\$174,922	\$174,922	\$158,105	\$174,922
Discretionary Allocation	\$85,222	\$85,222	\$904	\$102,150
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$98,080	\$210,237	\$236,406	\$140,921
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$358,224	\$470,381	\$395,415	\$417,993
Strategies	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Proposed Allotted
Early Learning Systems Change	\$46,508	\$91,079	\$91,079	\$91,079
Quality First Academy	\$1,000	\$920	\$880	\$880
Quality First Coaching & Incentives	\$19,330	\$18,202	\$18,200	\$18,200
Quality First Scholarships	\$104,000			
Child Care Health Consultation	\$6,800	\$8,008	\$7,926	\$7,926
Nutrition and Physical Activity	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$62,000
Book Distribution	\$6,000			
Community Based Language and Literacy	\$65,000	\$71,000	\$71,000	\$71,000
Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities		\$59,429	\$59,429	\$59,429
Statewide Evaluation	\$11,506	\$11,506	\$11,506	\$11,506
Total	\$322,144	\$322,144	\$322,020	\$322,020

Fiscal Year	2020	2024	2025	2026	2027
% to Board Priorities		75.31 %	77.18 %	77.17 %	77.17 %
% to Quality First**	8.91%	8.42 %	8.42 %	8.38 %	8.38 %
Fiscal Year	4 Year Average				
% to Board Priorities	76.71%				
% to Quality First*	8.40%				

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

Justification for not meeting 2020 Quality First %:

The Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Council has maintained their support for Quality First in the region, and this plan maintains participation for the same number of early care and education providers. The percentage is lower based on the lower costs projected to continue implementing the Quality First strategies in the region.

Justification for not meeting the 80% allotment to Board Priorities:

The regional council was provided with information, guidance and technical assistance regarding the First Things First Strategic Plan, State Fiscal Years 2024-2027. The regional council made some changes to their strategies. This did not change their percentage in meeting the boards 80%. The regional council continue to stand in continuing the unique challenges families are experience based on the families need. This included the Board’s six priority areas and Foundational Guidance #1, #2 and #3 related to Quality First and Quality First Scholarships. The regional council understood the importance of aligning with the statewide strategic direction as they assessed data about local needs and identified priorities as well as strategies. Ultimately, the regional council was faced with significant capacity and infrastructure issues including a lack of existing child care programs i.e. a child care desert. As a result, the region did not meet the recommended funding level for the Board-identified priorities and supports funding other local priorities. The regional council will continue to assess and look for future opportunities to continue to align with the Board’s priority areas and support Quality First.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Council’s SFY24-27 Strategic Plan allocates over 77% of its funding to Board Priorities. The Nutrition and Physical Activity, was deemed critical by the regional council to support school readiness in the region but is outside of the Board Priorities, in addition to the Statewide Evaluation strategy. The CRIT Regional Council has increased their funding plan percentage allotted to Board priorities greatly from the current/previous strategic plan.

According to the 2022 Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Needs and Assets Report, AZ MERIT data from the Arizona Department of Education show that 61% of third graders are not meeting proficiency standards for English Language Arts, compared to 54% of third graders

statewide. The CRIT Regional Council would like to focus on supporting children with early literacy opportunities. They will be funding Community Based Language and Literacy to give families opportunities to attend workshops and events that help educate and provide opportunities to engage their children in language and early literacy. As supplemental support, the Book Distribution Strategy will give children a library of books to support their literacy development at home. Based off the CRIT community engagement survey, many families don't have age appropriate books to read to their children. In addition, the CRIT Regional Council wanted to provide opportunities for families to engage in less screen time for their child and to build opportunities for parent/child bonding.

Obesity is associated to health outcomes, such as higher risks of diabetes, cancer and heart disease. From the 2022 Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Needs and Assets report, 37% of Colorado River Indian Tribes children 2 years and older are obese or overweight, and the rate has increased overall from 29% in 2015. The rate is higher than the state average, and this caused concern for the regional council. The Colorado River Indian Tribes Regional Council conducted a Caregiver survey within the region from November 2021 – February 2022. According to the Caregiver survey, when caregivers were asked what types of support they feel they most need to help with their child/children, nutrition and physical activity opportunities was one of the top services that caregivers indicated. With the experience and data available to them, there was a need to support families in developing a healthier lifestyle and support healthy child development. The regional council chose the Nutrition and Physical Activity Strategy as one of their top priorities to continue.

Exhibit 5.6. Types of services and support caregivers indicate they need

Service	Percent
Child Development	53%
Nutrition/Physical Activity	44%
Early literacy	44%
Behavior	40%
Health Services	22%
Guardianship	18%
Special Education	13%
Legal	13%
Other	0%

*Note: Survey respondents (n=45) could select multiple responses
Harder+Company Community Research. (2022). [FTF CRIT Region Caregiver Survey]. Unpublished data.*