

COCONINO 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 Coconino Regional Partnership Council has developed the SFY24-27 Strategic Plan in close consultation and partnership with key community agencies and members to reveal relevant opportunities for First Things First to address the greatest needs of children ages birth to age 5 and their families. This approach, in part, included facilitating a virtual town hall of our community stakeholders that established consensus on the issues and barriers impacting early childhood in the Coconino Region and, further, identified action steps to shape our strategic funding plan and systems change work. Additionally, the Coconino Region partners with three tribes. The tribal councils of the tribes in the Coconino Region have been continuously engaged in discussions to support the regional council in better understanding and addressing the needs of children and families. These discussions have helped the regional council better understand the perspectives, identities, values and cultures of the region’s families allowing the regional council to shape their work to create a more relevant and impactful early childhood system. This has led the regional partnership council to identifying and prioritizing strategies that will have two goals: 1) through services and resources, support families and children who may be vulnerable due to inequities in the early childhood system and 2) through systems level coordination, create a high-quality, interconnected and comprehensive early childhood service delivery system in the Coconino Region that is timely, culturally responsive, family-driven, community-based and directed toward enhancing children’s overall development.

**Regional Allocation and Proposed Funding Plan Summary SFY24 – SFY27
Coconino Regional Partnership Council**

Allocations and Funding Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027
SFY Allocation	\$1,904,100	\$1,904,100	\$1,326,534	\$1,663,909
Population Based Allocation	\$981,290	\$981,290	\$886,949	\$981,290
Discretionary Allocation	\$922,810	\$922,810	\$439,585	\$682,619
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$835,038	\$972,279	\$1,088,229	\$553,424
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$2,739,138	\$2,876,379	\$2,414,763	\$2,217,333
Strategies	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Proposed Allotted
Quality First Academy	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
Quality First Coaching & Incentives	\$314,640	\$314,640	\$297,115	\$297,115
Quality First Scholarships	\$854,864	\$659,264	\$593,184	\$527,104
First Things First College Scholarships			\$32,400	\$32,400
Child Care Health Consultation	\$81,600	\$81,600	\$99,064	\$99,064
Children's Health Systems Change			\$110,954	\$132,554
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation		\$30,600	\$55,080	\$79,560
Well Child and Family Care	\$300,000	\$310,000	\$320,000	\$330,000
Family Support & Literacy Systems Change	\$110,954	\$110,954		
Home Visitation	\$325,000	\$335,000	\$345,000	\$355,000
Parenting Education		\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
Statewide Evaluation	\$69,095	\$69,095	\$69,095	\$69,095
Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness		\$15,000	\$4,200	\$4,200
Media		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total	\$2,068,153	\$2,068,153	\$2,067,092	\$2,067,092

Fiscal Year	2020	2024	2025	2026	2027
% to Board Priorities		82.15 %	81.66 %	75.80 %	74.24 %
% to Quality First*	13.48%	19.73 %	19.73 %	19.69 %	19.69 %
Fiscal Year	4 Year Average				
% to Board Priorities	78.47%				
% to Quality First*	19.71%				

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

Justification: The Coconino region did not meet the 80% allotment to board priorities due to the decision to fund a Children’s Health Systems Change Strategy. This decision is critical for addressing the systemic challenges that hinder the effectiveness of early childhood services, particularly in rural communities. The strategy focuses on improving provider availability, strengthening community resource networks and enhancing access to care. It fosters greater collaboration among providers and agencies, allowing them to work together more effectively and deliver existing services in a more integrated manner. Importantly, this strategy also positions the region to leverage the state's closed-loop referral system, which is incentivized and designed to ensure families are connected seamlessly to the services and resources they need. The data generated helps identify service gaps, providing critical insights that will inform future decision-making and help shape our priorities moving forward. This approach not only supports the Board's priorities by improving family access to services, but it also strengthens our capacity to make data-driven decisions that address long-term needs and create a more efficient, responsive early childhood system.

**Change Table SFY26-SFY27
Coconino Regional Partnership Council**

Changes:	SFY26	SFY27
Strategy Name: Quality First Scholarships		
Funding Level Changes:	\$593,184	\$527,104
Service Unit Change:	Estimated 37	Estimated 33
Target Population Change:	N/A	N/A
Rational for Change:	Quality First Scholarships decrease is part of a planned gradual reduction over the 4-year funding plan cycle. This adjustment aligns with the State Board’s transition to a cost-of-quality model and supports the council’s long-term strategy to rebalance investments. By shifting a portion of funds, the council is prioritizing additional approaches to strengthen access to quality child care across the region.	
Strategy Name: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation		
Funding Level Changes:	\$55,080	\$79,560
Service Unit Change:	3 Centers, 1 HV Program	4 Centers, 1 HV Program
Target Population Change:	N/A	N/A
Rational for Change:	This change represents a 44% increase in funding, from \$55,080 to \$79,560, to support the addition of one early care and education center, increasing the contracted service unit to 4 home centers and 1 home visitation program in SFY27. The increase responds to demonstrated demand for early childhood mental health consultation and strengthens support for educators, children, and families through preventive, relationship-based services.	
Strategy Name: Children’s Health Systems Change		
Funding Level Changes:	\$110,954	\$132,554
Service Unit Change:	N/A	N/A
Target Population Change:	N/A	N/A
Rational for Change:	This change represents a 19% increase in funding, from \$110,954 to \$132,554, to support the second and final year of the Children’s Health Systems Change contract. The increase supports expanded systems coordination and implementation in rural communities while accounting for rising cost of living and operational expenses, maintaining continuity and progress in advancing access, referral pathways, and cross-sector alignment within the early childhood health system.	