

COCOPAH TRIBE 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 Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council has developed the SFY24-27 Strategic Plan through a holistic approach that considered the most current and greatest needs of children birth to age 5 and their families. Major priorities were identified using the Elements of a Healthy Tribal Community framework (developed by Arizona’s Tribes in partnership with Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and Vitalyst Health Foundation 2020) and gathering data from formal reports, history and the cultural practice of storytelling and conversation. The identified priorities included supporting families and caregivers in parenting practices, healthy child development and transitioning to kindergarten off the reservation.

The strategies selected for funding respond to the multiple high risk factors of families of young children in the region. These risk factors include: 59% of children in the Cocopah Tribe Region are living under the poverty level, far more than the state (23%); 61% of households with children birth to age 5 are single female parent households or grandparents raising grandchildren; and, 25% of children in the region are overweight or obese. Also, the Cocopah Tribe region is comprised of three noncontiguous regions: The East, North and West Reservations, causing isolation between the three areas.

Due to the compounding risk factors, every child in the Cocopah Tribe Region is in need of intensive services to support their early childhood development. The strategies presented in this plan are intensive and targeted to serve all children birth to age 5 and their families in the region, focusing on cognitive, physical and social emotional health and well-being. Furthermore, the regional council through a Family Support Systems Change Strategy will address staffing issues in the region with the goal of providing culturally appropriate, continuous and coordinated family support services.

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

Allocations and Funding Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027
FY Allocation	\$150,001	\$150,001	\$84,738	\$150,001
Population Based Allocation	\$30,811	\$30,811	\$27,849	\$30,811
Discretionary Allocation	\$119,190	\$119,190	\$56,889	\$119,190
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$180,469	\$207,428	\$189,512	\$105,249
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$330,470	\$357,429	\$274,250	\$255,250
Strategies	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Proposed Allotted
Quality First Academy	\$500	\$466	\$440	\$440
Quality First Assessment		\$4,429		
Quality First Coaching & Incentives	\$9,350	\$4,921	\$8,785	\$8,785
Transition to Kindergarten	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Child Care Health Consultation	\$3,400	\$3,434	\$3,961	\$3,961
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation		\$6,120	\$6,120	\$6,120
Nutrition and Physical Activity	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Family Support & Literacy Systems Change	\$14,500	\$14,500	\$14,500	\$14,500
Home Visitation	\$106,580	\$106,580	\$106,580	\$106,580
Statewide Evaluation	\$6,229	\$6,229	\$6,229	\$6,229
Total	\$210,559	\$216,679	\$216,615	\$216,615

Fiscal Year	2020	2024	2025	2026	2027
% to Board Priorities		63.79 %	64.81 %	64.80 %	64.80 %
% to Quality First*	0.00%	6.29 %	6.11 %	6.08 %	6.08 %

Fiscal Year	4 Year Average
% to Board Priorities	64.56%
% to Quality First*	6.14%

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

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

During the strategic planning process, the regional council was provided with information, guidance and technical assistance regarding the First Things First Strategic Plan, State Fiscal Years 2024-2027. 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. As a result, the region did not meet the recommended funding level for the Board-identified priorities and supports funding other local priorities that meet the needs of young children in the region. 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.

This year the Regional Council continues to prioritize strategies that align with the Board priorities and, without taking away any focus from those important priorities, the regional council has also taken into consideration certain needs that were exasperated as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, particularly in the area of health. The Nutrition and Physical Activity Strategy (NAPA) will be funded to address the high prevalence of childhood obesity in the region, estimated to be at 25% for children ages 2 to 5 years during 2020 (according to the 2022 Regional Needs and

Assets Report). NAPA is also the continuation of a health awareness campaign funded by the Cocopah Tribe Regional Partnership Council during the SFY19-23 strategic plan. The campaign was a first step to address childhood obesity in the region. Now the region is ready to engage in more formalized nutrition and physical activity opportunities that will support families in leading healthy lifestyles.

Additionally, the Cocopah Tribe does not have its own school district or any K-12 school within its reservation, which means children entering kindergarten will experience leaving the reservation to enter a new public school system for the very first time. Kindergarteners and their families need support to make this transition successful. The Transition to Kindergarten Strategy will provide children and their families the opportunity to become familiar with the school system and school campus, to learn classroom routines, be provided with opportunities for socialization and learn about family involvement opportunities.

Of the eight strategies the regional council is proposing in the SFY24-27 strategic plan, it is only the two strategies described above and the statewide evaluation strategy which do not align with the Board prioritized areas. However, the data and context provided supports the regional council's recommendations to prioritize the need to implement the two strategies to support the healthy development and transition to off-reservation school systems for young children in the Cocopah Tribe Region.