

LA PAZ/MOHAVE 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 La Paz/Mohave Regional Council hired a consultant to synthesize regional data, develop a region-specific parent survey, facilitate guided discussion groups with early childhood professionals servicing the region and conduct seven key informant interviews. The regional council actively participated in three workshops to identify their regional priorities by using the Elements of a Healthy Community model (the Elements of a Healthy Community model was designed and produced by Vitalyst Health Foundation in collaboration with community partners; the Elements are inspired by the work of the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) in order to address the regional gaps and barriers.

The regional council is addressing the needs of the region by focusing on targeted areas of the region in the following ways:

- Quality First Scholarships will meet the needs of families in the most rural areas of the region. The regional partnership council prioritized the six most rural zip codes in the region with child care centers to receive Quality First scholarships. The regional partnership council has given approval for 2-star rated centers to receive Quality First scholarships as they realize these centers are located in rural, isolated parts of the region.
- The FTF La Paz/Mohave Regional Council determined the need was to provide home visitation services in parts of the region where there are gaps in services. The regional partnership council shifted their approach from a universal approach to a targeted approach for Home Visitation. Their approach is to specifically address the gaps in services, focusing on areas where there is no home visitation available as well as meeting the needs of families with risk factors such as, lower-income families that might "slip through the cracks," families where a livable income to meet basic needs is a stressor, families with multiple children under age 5, families with child developmental concerns and families isolated from necessary services. The regional council also determined that home visiting services would need to be implemented at the highest intensity of the program model that is awarded the grant, as the target population is for families with risk factors.
- Family Support Systems Change Strategy will continue the work of the Service Coordination Strategy from the past funding cycle. The strategy will move the foundational work established by the program coordination specialist throughout the region during the past funding cycle. The regional council has identified the need to add an additional program coordination specialist in consideration of the large geographic area to better support the system change work in the region. The two program coordination specialists will cover separate parts of the region in order to support the entire region in coordinating equitable access to health services, especially in rural areas, meeting the needs of families in rural areas through coordination of early childhood providers and school districts (center hubs of the community) to bring services into the communities.
- The La Paz/Mohave Regional Council recognizes the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe as a nested integral part of the region. As such, the tribe has been purposefully included in the Family Support Coordination Strategy, as well as the Family Support Literacy Systems Change Strategy. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe's Child Care Center, which holds a Quality Plus Rating, is the designated Quality First Center within the community. This inclusion emphasizes the importance of cultural sensitivity and intentional planning to ensure that the tribe's unique needs and contributions are fully considered.

The FTF La Paz/Mohave Regional Council was able to closely analyze the region from multiple perspectives, including data from reports, community partner perspectives, key informant perspectives and perspectives of families. The regional council determined their priorities based on the information and discussions they had. They were able to understand how the schools in the most isolated communities are the main trusted source for support and how essential they are in their communities. The regional council was able to pinpoint gaps in services and identify opportunities for both continued and new coordination efforts throughout the region's most isolated communities.

Regional Allocation and Proposed Funding Plan Summary SFY24 – SFY27
La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

| Allocations and Funding Sources | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| FY Allocation | \$3,074,116 | \$3,074,116 | \$2,664,037 | \$3,141,973 |
| Population Based Allocation | \$1,942,344 | \$1,942,344 | \$1,755,606 | \$1,942,344 |
| Discretionary Allocation | \$1,131,772 | \$1,131,772 | \$908,431 | \$1,199,629 |
| Carry Forward From Previous Year | \$1,648,480 | \$1,516,442 | \$1,461,054 | \$870,840 |
| Total Regional Council Funds Available | \$4,722,596 | \$4,590,558 | \$4,125,091 | \$4,012,813 |
| Strategies | Approved Allotted | Approved Allotted | Approved Allotted | Proposed Allotted |
| Quality First Academy | \$11,500 | \$10,595 | \$9,680 | \$9,680 |
| Quality First Assessment | | \$39,976 | \$93,120 | \$93,120 |
| Quality First Coaching & Incentives | \$281,470 | \$229,650 | \$179,320 | \$179,320 |
| Quality First Scholarships | \$1,645,795 | \$1,186,824 | \$1,005,485 | \$948,024 |
| First Things First College Scholarships | \$21,000 | \$21,000 | \$21,000 | \$21,000 |
| Child Care Health Consultation | \$78,200 | \$90,949 | \$87,176 | \$87,176 |
| Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation | \$24,480 | \$244,800 | \$269,280 | \$293,760 |
| Family Support & Literacy Systems Change | \$220,000 | \$220,000 | \$220,000 | \$220,000 |
| Family Support Coordination | \$480,000 | \$477,000 | \$477,000 | \$477,000 |
| Home Visitation | \$1,089,250 | \$1,089,250 | \$1,089,250 | \$1,089,250 |
| Statewide Evaluation | \$130,473 | \$130,473 | \$130,473 | \$130,473 |
| Total | \$3,982,168 | \$3,740,517 | \$3,581,784 | \$3,548,803 |

| Fiscal Year | 2020 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| % to Board Priorities | | 96.72 % | 96.51 % | 96.35 % | 96.32 % |
| | 8.50% | 9.32 % | 9.92 % | 10.31 % | 10.40 % |
| Fiscal Year | 4 Year Average | | | | |
| % to Board Priorities | 96.48% | | | | |
| % to Quality First* | 9.97% | | | | |

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

Change Table SFY26-SFY27
La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council

| Changes: | SFY26 | SFY27 |
|--|--|--|
| Strategy Name: Quality First Scholarships | | |
| Funding Level Changes: | \$1,005,485 | \$948,024 |
| Rational for Change: | The regional council is continuing its planned step-down approach for Quality First Scholarships and reducing the regional allocation by approximately 15% each year during the funding 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 Change: | \$269,280 | \$293,760 |
| Service Unit Change: | Home visitation programs served: 6 Center-based programs served: 19 | Home visitation programs served: 6 Center-based programs served: 21 |
| Rational for Change: | The regional council is prioritizing continued access to early childhood mental health consultation following the end of DES expansion funds in June 2024. The original plan focused on gradually building capacity with mental health consultation for four home visitation programs and adding early care and education centers over time. Through strategic funding decisions, the council has been able to steadily increase access each year, ensuring strong regional implementation and ongoing program success. As a result, services have expanded beyond the initial plan and will continue to grow throughout the funding cycle. This intentional, phased approach strengthens the region’s ability to meet the social-emotional and behavioral needs of young children while supporting early childhood professionals and parents of young children across the region. | |