

**PHOENIX SOUTH 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 Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council has a vision that young children in the Phoenix South Region thrive through First Thing First's family-led kindergarten readiness initiatives supported by the community.

Phoenix South is a diverse region with a plethora of history, culture, community pride and hard-working families. Unfortunately, those hard working families often struggle to meet basic needs due to low wages, limited English proficiency, limited education and housing insecurity. According to the Regional Needs and Assets Report, nearly one-third (30%) of residents in the Phoenix South Region lives in poverty, almost double that of Maricopa County (16%). When it comes to young children, more than four in 10 (42%) live in poverty in the region. Compounding high poverty, 39% of families in Phoenix South are facing housing insecurity. Additionally, a smaller proportion of adults have more than a high-school education in the Phoenix South Region (39%) than in Maricopa County (64%), Arizona (62%), and the United States overall (60%). This difference is also seen specifically in mothers giving birth, with a smaller proportion of births in the region to mothers with more than a high-school education (37%) than the county (58%) and state (56%). Simultaneously, 47% of children in Phoenix South Region live with one or two foreign-born parents; this is higher than the county as a whole (30%). Household language use also reflects these demographic patterns; a higher proportion of individuals speak a language other than English at home in the Phoenix South Region (55%) than in the county (27%) and state (27%). There is also a higher percentage of limited-English-speaking households in the region (12%), than in the county and state (4% in each).

Findings from the Regional Needs and Assets Report illustrate opportunities for the regional council and community stakeholders in early childhood health and development systems to focus work on the communities' most vulnerable families. The Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council strategic plan promotes equity and support of under-resourced and underserved families by funding services and programs that target those most at risk, such as Quality First Scholarships and Home Visitation. To promote language and literacy development, the council has chosen to implement a Community Based Language and Literacy Strategy. Additionally, the regional council has chosen to specifically target refugee families who often struggle to access services and navigate the complex early childhood development and health systems. Finally, the regional council has chosen to fund strategically placed family resources centers, so that they are easily accessible to families with transportation barriers.

To guide their work over the next four years, the regional council has adopted the following guiding principles.

The Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council will:

- Insist on diversity, treat everyone with courtesy and equality, and support and encourage our communities' values.
- Support programs and practices that demonstrate a commitment to quality and success through realistic measurable outcomes.
- Make decisions that are in the best interest of children.
- Partner with community and family stakeholders to develop and implement solutions that build and strengthen the early childhood development and health systems in Phoenix South and other First Things First (FTF) regions.
- Operate with transparency and hold the highest ethical stands for ourselves and those with whom we work.
- Advocate for diversity in our practices, resource-allocating decision making.
- Support innovative approaches.

In addition, the regional council envisions supporting a tiered approach to ensure all families have access as well as supporting services that address the needs of the most vulnerable families in the region. The regional council will do this by:

- Ensuring services are provided in multiple languages.
- Identifying and partnering with service partners that serve the most vulnerable (homeless and domestic violence shelters, low income housing facilities, refugee facilities).
- Targeting school districts that serve students whose families live under the federal poverty line.

With the leadership of the Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council and the many assets and committed stakeholders in the community, the region is positioned to continue to build on positive trends and ensure all children are ready to succeed in school and in life.

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

Allocations and Funding Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027
FY Allocation	\$14,883,333	\$14,883,333	\$12,330,786	\$13,852,710
Population Based Allocation	\$10,791,226	\$10,791,226	\$9,753,751	\$10,791,226
Discretionary Allocation	\$4,092,107	\$4,092,107	\$2,577,035	\$3,061,484
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$5,829,258	\$6,048,975	\$5,550,341	\$2,396,596
<b>Total Regional Council Funds Available</b>	<b>\$20,712,591</b>	<b>\$20,932,308</b>	<b>\$17,881,127</b>	<b>\$16,249,306</b>
Strategies	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Proposed Allotted
Early Learning Systems Change	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000
Inclusion of Children with Special Needs	\$154,000	\$154,000	\$154,000	\$154,000
Quality First Academy	\$71,000	\$68,172	\$66,880	\$66,880
Quality First Assessment		\$312,228	\$228,920	\$228,920
Quality First Coaching & Incentives	\$2,011,310	\$1,809,648	\$1,562,178	\$1,562,178
Quality First Scholarships	\$7,021,128	\$7,021,128	\$7,339,288	\$7,339,288
Child Care Health Consultation	\$482,800	\$590,062	\$602,306	\$602,306
Children's Health Systems Change	\$75,000	\$97,667	\$97,667	\$97,667
Developmental and Sensory Screening	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Family Support for Children with Developmental Concerns	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Community Based Language and Literacy	\$157,500	\$157,500	\$157,500	\$157,500
Family Resource Centers	\$1,950,000	\$1,949,999	\$1,949,999	\$1,949,999
Family Support & Literacy Systems Change	\$129,167	\$229,167	\$229,167	\$229,167
Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
Home Visitation	\$1,947,374	\$1,947,374	\$1,947,374	\$1,947,374
Home Visitation Coordinated Referral System	\$86,000	\$63,333	\$63,333	\$63,333
Partnering with Child Welfare Systems	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$16,667
Statewide Evaluation	\$575,244	\$575,244	\$575,244	\$575,244
Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Media	\$115,300	\$115,300	\$115,300	\$115,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,627,490</b>	<b>\$16,942,489</b>	<b>\$16,940,823</b>	<b>\$16,940,823</b>

Fiscal Year	2020	2024	2025	2026	2027
% to Board Priorities		94.18%	94.15%	94.15%	94.15%
% to Quality First*	10.88%	15.42%	16.40%	14.52 %	14.52 %
Fiscal Year	4 Year Average				
% to Board Priorities	94.16%				
% to Quality First*	15.21%				

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