

SOUTHWEST MARICOPA 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 First Things First Southwest Maricopa Region is the largest region by land within Maricopa County. The region spans 4,804 square miles across the Southwest Valley and has one of the fastest-growing populations in the state. The landscape of the Southwest Maricopa Region includes the cities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park and Tolleson and the rural communities of Gila Bend, Tonopah, Arlington, Palo Verde and Harquahala.

Current statistics show that nearly one in five adults in Southwest Maricopa have a bachelor’s degree or higher. In Arlington, Tolleson and Tonopah nearly one in four adults did not complete high school with Gila Bend at over one in five. Thirty-two percent of children in the region live with a single-parent, 52% in Gila Bend and 42% in Avondale. Relatively high percentages of children in the region, specifically in Gila Bend, Tonopah and Arlington are living with a grandparent with no parent present. The Gila Bend Unified School District struggles with chronic absenteeism, high dropout rates and low rates of graduation. Nineteen percent of the children in the Southwest Maricopa Region live with the complex challenges of poverty. Sub-regional data shows a great deal of poverty in areas like Arlington with 46% of children living in poverty and 40% in Gila Bend.

For these reasons, the Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council continues to prioritize investing in family support and education strategies that meet the complex needs of families and caregivers with young children throughout the region. The regional council has prioritized targeted outreach and enrollment efforts to reach families living in the more rural, isolated and underserved communities in the region who have limited access to family support services, lack transportation and reside within food deserts. These efforts are meant to also reach children living in single-parent households, grandparents raising grandchildren and children living in poverty. One example of the regional council’s response to equity and supporting underserved children is the council’s strategically prioritized investment in family resource centers in the Gila Bend, Buckeye, Avondale and Pendergast communities. Investing in these approaches continues to show the regional council’s dedication to serve children birth to age 5 and the diverse families within the region.

Regional Allocation and Proposed Funding Plan Summary SFY24 – SFY27
Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Allocations and Funding Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027
FY Allocation	\$4,234,845	\$4,234,845	\$3,797,276	\$4,234,428
Population Based Allocation	\$3,566,730	\$3,566,730	\$3,223,822	\$3,566,730
Discretionary Allocation	\$668,115	\$668,115	\$573,454	\$667,698
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$1,388,869	\$1,446,311	\$1,351,404	\$650,701
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$5,623,714	\$5,681,156	\$5,148,680	\$4,885,129
Strategies	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Proposed Allotted
Early Learning Systems Change		\$80,000		
Quality First Academy	\$12,500	\$11,510	\$11,880	\$11,880
Quality First Coaching & Incentives	\$346,550	\$333,014	\$324,495	\$324,495
Quality First Scholarships	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Transition to Kindergarten		\$160,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
First Things First College Scholarships			\$110,000	\$110,000
Child Care Health Consultation	\$85,000	\$99,526	\$106,988	\$106,988
Children's Health Systems Change	\$134,999	\$97,666	\$97,666	\$97,666
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000	\$320,000
Family Support for Children with Developmental Concerns	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Nutrition and Physical Activity	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Family Resource Centers	\$875,000	\$875,000	\$925,000	\$925,000
Family Support & Literacy Systems Change	\$29,166	\$29,166	\$29,166	\$29,166
Family Support Coordination	\$180,000			
Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Home Visitation	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$375,000
Home Visitation Coordinated Referral System	\$86,000	\$63,333	\$63,333	\$63,333
Partnering with Child Welfare Systems	\$16,666	\$16,666	\$16,667	\$16,666
Statewide Evaluation	\$175,838	\$175,838	\$175,838	\$175,838
Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness	\$28,115	\$28,115	\$28,115	\$28,115
Media	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
Total	\$4,942,834	\$4,942,834	\$4,942,148	\$4,942,147

Fiscal Year	2020	2024	2025	2026	2027
% to Board Priorities		84.27 %	81.78 %	83.40 %	83.40 %
% to Quality First*	7.99%	8.98 %	8.98 %	8.97 %	8.97 %
Fiscal Year	4 Year Average				
% to Board Priorities	83.21%				
% to Quality First*	8.97%				

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