

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE 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 boundaries of the First Things First White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Council are the same as the White Mountain Apache Reservation (sometimes called Fort Apache Indian Reservation). The region covers more than 2,500 square miles in Apache, Gila, and Navajo counties with the lowest elevation in the Salt River Canyon at 2,600 feet above sea level to the highest point at 11,400 feet on the peak of Mount Baldy. There are twelve communities identified by the U.S. Census: Canyon Day, Carrizo, Cedar Creek, Cibecue, East Fork, Fort Apache, Hondah-McNary, North Fork, Rainbow City, Seven Mile, Turkey Creek, and Whiteriver. Whiteriver, the largest of these communities, serves as the capital with Cibecue and McNary following. There are approximately 2,003 children birth to age 5 in the region and 51% live in poverty, with the highest percentage of poverty among those from the Canyon Day community.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Council has developed the SFY 2024-2027 Strategic Plan through a comprehensive approach which considered the current and greatest needs of all children birth to age 5 and their families. The regional council contributed to discussions surrounding the coronavirus pandemic impact in the region. Prior to COVID impacting the region as significantly as it did, the tribal council requested First Things First regional staff and White Mountain Apache Tribe Head Start (WMAT Head Start) staff to address the low enrollment of children in WMAT Head Start. This led First Things First staff to have internal discussions for a campaign in the region to build the awareness of the importance of early childhood education. Throughout the pandemic, there was a significant decrease in children receiving quality early childhood education, behavioral health services, early intervention services such as those offered through White Mountain Apache Tribe Child Find and well-child visit attendance. The regional partnership council also shared their knowledge and expertise from their respective professional backgrounds, reviewed past impact reports, and analyzed the latest Regional Needs and Assets Report which included supplemental reports. These discussions helped identify and prioritize needs most significant in the region, which led to identifying and prioritizing strategies that would best fit children and their families. These strategies target at risk families in the region with a focus on the cognitive, physical and social-emotional health and well-being of each child. The regional partnership council’s highest priority at the conclusion of strategic planning was meeting the needs of families with children who have developmental concerns. Building awareness of the importance of early childhood was the second priority with discussions primarily on gathering families for activities in the community to build trust of services offered through First Things First grant partners and tribal organizations.

**Regional Allocation and Proposed Funding Plan Summary SFY24 – SFY27
White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council**

Allocations and Funding Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027
FY Allocation	\$676,296	\$676,296	\$902,422	\$711,320
Population Based Allocation	\$452,826	\$452,826	\$409,292	\$452,826
Discretionary Allocation	\$223,470	\$223,470	\$493,130	\$258,494
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$1,071,795	\$1,033,305	\$1,003,953	\$1,033,293
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$1,748,091	\$1,709,601	\$1,906,375	\$1,744,613
Strategies	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Approved Allotted	Proposed Allotted
Quality First Academy	\$3,000	\$2,761	\$3,000	\$3,000
Quality First Coaching & Incentives	\$99,330	\$95,946	\$91,975	\$74,813
Quality First Scholarships	\$374,916	\$374,916	\$491,586	\$508,748
First Things First College Scholarships	\$32,400	\$32,400	\$43,200	\$43,200
Child Care Health Consultation	\$20,400	\$24,023	\$27,737	\$27,737
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation			\$52,500	\$52,500
Family Support for Children with Developmental Concerns	\$240,000	\$240,000	-	
Family Support & Literacy Systems Change	\$117,370	\$117,370	\$150,000	\$150,000
Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$165,000	\$165,000
Reach Out and Read	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,400	\$31,400
Statewide Evaluation	\$29,538	\$29,538	\$29,538	\$29,538
Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Media	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total	\$1,115,954	\$1,115,954	\$1,115,936	\$1,115,936

Fiscal Year	2020	2024	2025	2026	2027
% to Board Priorities		73.06 %	73.06 %	94.78 %	94.53 %
% to Quality First*	8.52%	10.99 %	10.99 %	10.50 %	9.45 %
Fiscal Year	4 Year Average				
% to Board Priorities	83.99%				
% to Quality First*	10.48%				

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

Changes:	SFY26	SFY27
Strategy Name: Quality First Coaching & Incentives		
Funding Level Changes:	\$91,975	\$74,813
Rational for Change:	The allotment for Quality First Coaching and Incentives is reduced as a result of demonstrated progression in quality improvements and cost model efficiencies.	