PHOENIX SOUTH REGION

EARLY EXPERIENCES BUILD THE FOUNDATION FOR A LIFETIME

PHOENIX SOUTH REGION

2018 IMPACT REPORT

FIRST THINGS FIRST
90% OF A CHILD’S BRAIN DEVELOPS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

From birth to age 5, a child's brain develops more than any other time in life. Research shows that the quality of a child's early life experiences shape how their brain develops.

First Things First partners with families and communities to help our state’s youngest children prepare for kindergarten and beyond.

It’s impossible to overstate the importance of providing early childhood resources to Arizona families. We can provide opportunities and information that working parents need now and lay the foundation upon which all of our future accomplishments will be built. No matter what your top priority is - the economy, public safety, innovation, and etcetera – the biggest return on investment can be found in early childhood care and education.”

Jessica H. Jarvi
Vice Chair
Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council

That’s why Arizonans created First Things First

HOW WE WORK

Early Childhood Funds
Allotted by FTF State Board

Local Decision-Making
Each region has 11 volunteer regional partnership council members representing their community. Based on the area’s early childhood needs, each council prioritizes goals and strategies to help children birth to age 5 and their families.

Partnerships with Local Early Childhood Providers
First Things First offers grant opportunities; providers implement programs and services in communities.

Community Collaborations
Regions also collaborate with organizations and entities to build a network of programs and services to better support young children.

THIS RESULTS IN
MORE KIDS READY FOR KINDERGARTEN
FISCAL YEAR 2018 PHOENIX SOUTH REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Here are a few highlights of the proven programs and innovative strategies from this region.

**STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY**
- 16,758 Instances a family or caregiver received early childhood information and/or resources or referrals through family resource centers.
- 9,702 Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child’s healthy development.

**QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE**
- 7,560 Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.
- 1,320 Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high quality preschools and child care programs.

**PREVENTIVE HEALTH**
- 9,930 Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing, and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.
- 6,721 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against childhood tooth decay.

**PHOENIX SOUTH QUALITY FIRST CENTER HELPS CHILDREN START KINDERGARTEN WITH CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS TO SUCCEED**

When kids get kicked out of preschool, it’s hard on both the kids and parents. That’s what Director/Co-Founder Sue Johnson observed after running The Family School based in the First Things First Phoenix South region for more than 25 years.

“When a child has not been diagnosed with a special need and labels herself as bad, your heart breaks,” said Johnson.

The Family School participates in FTF’s signature program, Quality First, which partners with early childhood providers in Arizona to increase quality improvements that help young children thrive.

Johnson said Quality First provided a way to fund and expand their work, support staff and provide scholarships for families.

“Quality First provided coaches that assist teachers with their education and growth and also a nurse health consultant to give extra support to families,” said Johnson. “Quality First also offered scholarships so diverse families have the ability to receive the highest quality early childhood education at our center.”

This means The Family School can help parents who cannot find any other child care options because of their child’s behavior. The school also serves foster parents for children who do not trust adults. All of these children have found a home at The Family School, year after year.

“When The Family School decided to address the needs of a diverse population, the most important consideration was ratios,” said Johnson. “A one-teacher-to-five-student ratio exists in the preschool and one-to-four ratio in the toddler classroom. Typical children, children in crisis and children from many backgrounds can come together to safely learn while having their social-emotional needs met with our trained staff.”

Johnson believes Quality First is an important part of improving early childhood care in Arizona.

“The collaboration with Quality First unites our mutual goals to create a partnership that benefits The Family School and the early childhood community in Phoenix,” said Johnson.

Read more local stories at firstthingsfirst.org/regions
PHOENIX SOUTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council is made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and decide how funds will be used to best support the development, education and health of young children birth to age 5. FTF invests in proven programs and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families.

FY18 TOTAL REGIONAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Child Care and Preschool</td>
<td>$9,143,488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening Families</td>
<td>$3,933,956</td>
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<td>Preventive Health</td>
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<td>Research and Evaluation</td>
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<td>Workforce Development and Training</td>
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<td>Parent and Community Awareness</td>
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<td>Coordinating Support</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,855,028</strong></td>
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FIRST THINGS FIRST PHOENIX SOUTH REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Karen Stewart, Chair
Jessica Jarvi, Vice Chair
Aubrey Barnwell
Joyce Harper
Bill Johnson
Patricia Merk
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The Phoenix South Region is primarily the southern part of the city of Phoenix. Phoenix South Regional Partnership Council provides services in the city of Phoenix, south of Thomas Road, but also including the communities of Maryvale, north of Thomas (full ZIP code areas of 85031 and 85033 and the city of Phoenix portion of 85037). The region does not include Ahwatukee. The Phoenix South Region includes Legislative Districts 19, 24, 27, 29 and 30. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Phoenix-South