

FIRST THINGS FIRST Pima North Region 2020 Impact Report



From birth to age 5, a child's brain grows more than any other time in life.

90%

of a child's brain growth happens before kindergarten.
Early childhood matters.

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

Many young children in Arizona face challenges that threaten their healthy development and learning. In the FTF Pima North Region, there are **48,064 children** (under age 6) with **27% living in poverty**.

Here is how FTF is working to support young children and their families in this region.



I support early childhood because children need secure positive relationships with adults who are knowledgeable on how to support a young child's development and learning. Children develop and learn at a rapid pace, beginning at birth. This becomes a critical time for a child to have a strong foundation laid for their future development and learning."



Susan Shinn

Chair of FTF Pima North Regional Partnership Council

FTF Pima North Regional Key Impact Highlights [Fiscal Year 2020]



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

9,898

Families of newborns received the Arizona Parent Kit, filled with tips and tools to help support their child's healthy development.

483

Families with young children participated in voluntary home visiting programs proven to reduce parental stress levels, increase connections to community supports, and improve children's cognitive, motor, behavioral and social-emotional development.

106

Parents and other caregivers participated in evidence-based trainings designed to improve knowledge of parenting practices and children's development.



Quality Preschool and Child Care

7,215

Children attended preschools and child care programs participating in Quality First.

645

Children birth to age 5 received a Quality First scholarship to attend high-quality preschools and child care programs.



Preventive Health

445

Children monitored to receive appropriate screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

Additional Strategies

1,884

Children

received a screening to detect tooth decay, which left undetected and untreated could cause damage to permanent teeth, impair speech development and failure to thrive.

309

Early childhood educators

received professional development to improve their qualifications for working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



Registered nurse helps new mom care for infant son in Tucson

When Lydia Rader found out she was going to be a mom, a friend recommended that she enroll in the Easterseals Blake Foundation Nurse-Family Partnership program.

Funded by the First Things First Pima North Regional Partnership Council, the Nurse-Family Partnership program works with first-time, low-income prenatal mothers, caregivers and their children from pregnancy until the child turns age 2.

Prior to the pandemic, the program included one-on-one home visits by a trained public health registered nurse. The home visits have adapted to Skype sessions and phone calls with program participants.

Rader, who lives in Tucson, was introduced to her home visitor, Jocelyn, a nurse, when she was seven weeks pregnant and their relationship began to blossom. The first-time mom was weary of the virtual Skype home visits at first, but then soon realized that she looked forward to their frequent time together.

“Jocelyn went above and beyond every time we met,” Rader said. “She would troubleshoot any questions that I had and would even let me text her when I was in crisis mode.”

For example, when Rader was having trouble breastfeeding her son, Raymond, Jocelyn went step-by-step to find solutions to help the baby latch.

“She is very knowledgeable and patient when it comes to my son,” Rader said.

Having a registered nurse serve as her home visitor has helped Rader again and again.

“Raymond was born around the holidays and Jocelyn dropped by with his first ornament,” Rader said. “It meant so much to me. Month by month, I had so many questions. My family stepped in, but Jocelyn was always available to reassure me that I was doing everything right.”

“I am so thankful for the patience, knowledge, warmth that Jocelyn has brought to my home.” - Lydia Rader, mother

As Rader looks forward to what’s next as a mother, now a mother of a 6-month-old son, who smiles all the time, she talks about how grateful she is to Jocelyn.

“I am so thankful for the patience, knowledge, warmth that Jocelyn has brought to my home,” Rader said. “I hope that other expecting mothers also have an expert like her to share ideas and resources with them.”

 Read more FTF stories at [FirstThingsFirst.org/Region-Stories](https://www.FirstThingsFirst.org/Region-Stories)

FTF Pima North Regional Partnership Council

The FTF Pima North Regional Partnership Council is made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and decide how funds should be used to best support the healthy development and early learning 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. Some of the programs in this region include Quality First, First Smiles Matter and Great Expectations for Teachers, Children, Families and Communities.

FTF Pima North FY20 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Quality Child Care and Preschool

\$5,308,576

Strengthening Families

\$2,024,000

Preventive Health

\$1,027,222

Workforce Development and Training

\$784,272

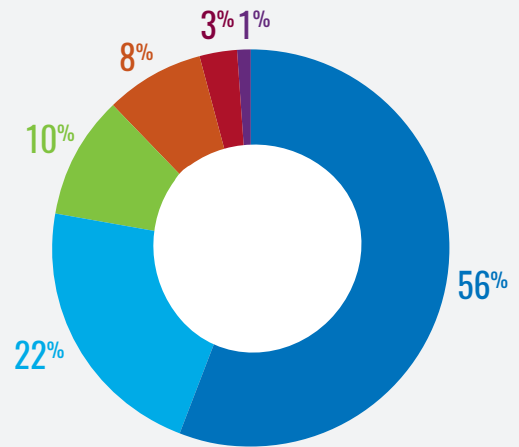
Research and Evaluation

\$286,452

Parent and Community Awareness

\$75,802

Total \$9,506,324



FTF Pima North Regional Partnership Council and Staff

Chair
Susan Shinn

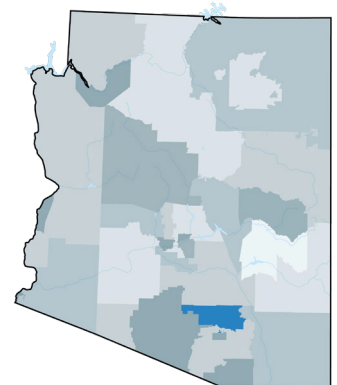
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The **FTF Pima North Region** is defined as the northern portion of Pima County, not including the lands belonging to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Tohono O'odham Nation. The region includes the city of South Tucson, the towns of Oro Valley and Marana, and the unincorporated communities of Catalina Foothills, Tanque Verde, Picture Rocks, Catalina, Avra Valley and Nelson. It does not include the Redington area in the northeastern corner of Pima County, which is assigned to the FTF Cochise Region. The FTF Pima North Region includes Legislative Districts 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at
[FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Pima-North](https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/Regions/Pima-North)