



Investing in Our Future: Positive Outcomes of Early Childhood Investments

First Things First (FTF), Arizona's early childhood agency, represents a commitment Arizonans made to our youngest children – that they would have the support they need to start school healthy and ready to succeed. Many young children in Arizona face significant barriers to their success, including poverty, trauma and lack of access to needed resources. In the FTF Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Region, there are **197 children** (under age 6), with **54% living in poverty**. Here is how FTF is working to support young children and their families in this region.



90% of a child's brain grows before kindergarten.
Early childhood matters.



FTF invests in proven programs, like Quality First, and innovative strategies through grants to community organizations that provide services to children and families. Some of the FTF-funded services in this region include Tribal Language Preservation, Hualapai Home Visitation, and book distribution.

Regional Key Impact Highlights [State Fiscal Year 2023]



Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

7

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.



Preventive Health

6

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



Quality Preschool and Child Care

36

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



Bilingual books in Hualapai and English promote language development

The First Things First Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council funds the Native Language Preservation Strategy to give parents and other caregivers tools to promote their children’s language development that is appropriate to their children’s age and culture. Over the past few years, community leaders have encouraged a child’s first language to be Hualapai. For several years, the FTF Hualapai Tribe Regional Council has funded the creation of sets of bilingual storybooks in English and Hualapai for families of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. This past year, the last set of books was completed and promoted at community events throughout the region.



Find free programs near you

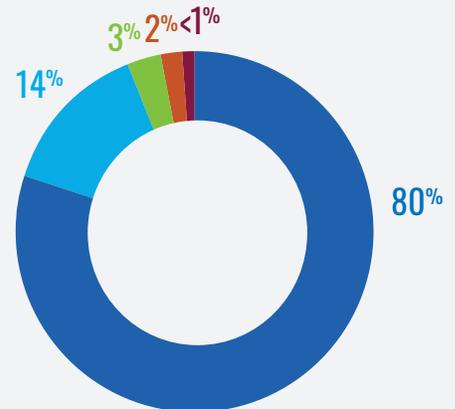


Strengthening Families

Positive early experiences, like nurturing relationships with parents and caregivers, promote healthy brain development and learning. First Things First expands families’ access to the information, services and supports they need to help their young children achieve their fullest potential.

State Fiscal Year 2023 Total Regional Program Expenditures

Strengthening Families	\$112,041
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$19,888
Preventive Health	\$4,173
Research and Evaluation	\$2,585
Coordinating Care	\$701
Total	\$139,389



FTF Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council

FTF regional partnership councils are made up of volunteers who study the unique needs of the local community and inform how funds should be used.

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Chira Walema

Vice Chair
Jane Baumbach

Members
Renee Beecher
Fannie Hunt
Wanda Quasula

William Santiago
Sienna Silas
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