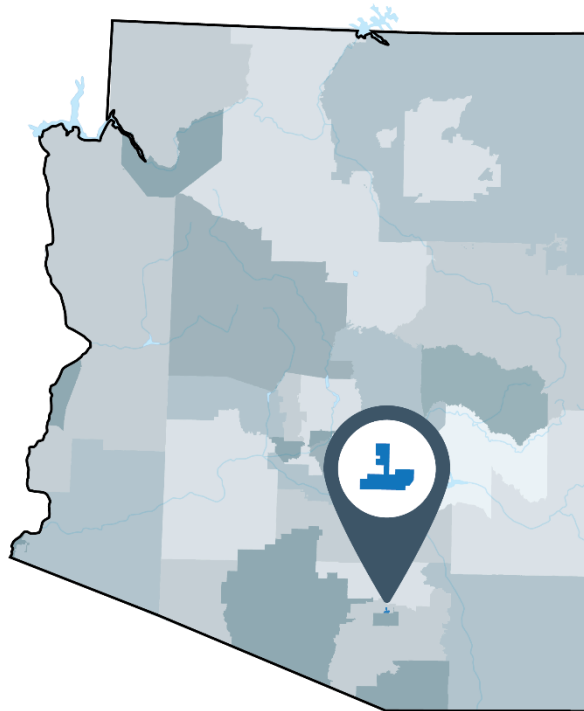




# FIRST THINGS FIRST

**Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council**  
Population birth through age 5: 357



## State Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Plan

*SFY 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan Update*

Presented to the First Things First Board  
January 23, 2024



### **Mission**

First Things First is an essential leader and partner in creating a family-centered, equitable, high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, well-being, health and education of all Arizona’s children, birth to age 5.

### **Vision**

All Arizona’s children are ready to succeed in school and in life.

### **Regional Partnership Councils**

First Things First’s statewide Board and its 28 regional partnership councils share the responsibility of ensuring that early childhood funds are invested in strategies aimed at improving educational and health outcomes for young children. Regional partnership councils identify the unique needs of their communities and decide how to best support young children and families in their areas. Regional councils, comprised of local volunteers, provide vision and leadership, governance and oversight. They identify, implement and fund strategies and build collaborations aimed at helping young children across Arizona succeed in school and life.

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### **Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council**

**Cecilia Garcia**, chair, health services provider

**John Jensen**, vice chair, representative of a philanthropic organization

**Marilynn Correa Sando**, early childhood educator

**Marcus Diaz**, at-large representative

**Rosie Gutierrez**, child care provider

**Shanna Ioane Tautolo**, at-large representative

**Amalia Reyes**, at-large representative

**Andrea Romero**, parent of a child age 5 years or younger

**Hector Youtsey**, member of the business community

open, representative of the faith community

open, public school administrator

**Tiburcia Yocupicio-Chambers**, regional director, First Things First

**Roxanne Ochoa**, administrative specialist, First Things First

**Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council**  
**Promoting Equity and Supporting Under-Resourced/Underserved Children and Their Families**

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe reservation and nearby surrounding communities are considered to be child care deserts. There is a significant need for child care, especially to support low-income, wage earning families who reside in the Pascua Pueblo Reservation (also known as New Pascua). In response, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Council continues supporting the tribal government's work to enhance the tribal early childhood development and health system based on continued conversations and partnerships with tribal leaders and staff. Currently, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, in partnership with the regional council and other community partners, is working to create the first child care center on the reservation, including the development of a Pascua Yaqui Curriculum with emphasis in Yoeme language, history, and culture. The center will serve between 120-143 children ranging in ages from birth to age 7 once constructed.

In addition, the Pascua Pueblo Reservation has a significant need for preschool services for low-income families with children who are eligible for the Pascua Yaqui Head Start but are not receiving services due to the lack of capacity of the program. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Council desires to continue the partnership with the Pascua Yaqui Head Start to provide a kindergarten-transition programming to support more young children on the reservation to have equitable access to early learning experiences that will bolster kindergarten readiness.

**Regional Allocation and Proposed Funding Plan Summary SFY24 – SFY27  
Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council**

Allocations and Funding Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027
FY Allocation	\$175,700	\$175,700	\$150,000	\$150,000
Population Based Allocation	\$82,533	\$82,533	\$82,533	\$82,533
Discretionary Allocation	\$93,167	\$93,167	\$67,467	\$67,467
Carry Forward From Previous Year	\$36,651	\$54,780	\$65,862	\$23,333
<b>Total Regional Council Funds Available</b>	<b>\$212,351</b>	<b>\$230,480</b>	<b>\$215,862</b>	<b>\$173,333</b>
Strategies	Allotted	Proposed Allotted	Proposed Allotted	Proposed Allotted
Early Learning Systems Change	\$60,000			
Quality First Increase		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Transition to Kindergarten	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
First Things First College Scholarships	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$10,800
Children's Health Systems Change	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
Statewide Evaluation	\$6,229	\$6,229	\$6,229	\$6,229
Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness	\$8,500	\$18,933	\$20,500	\$20,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$220,529</b>	<b>\$220,962</b>	<b>\$192,529</b>	<b>\$192,529</b>
<b>Total Unallotted/Unawarded/Unexpended:*</b>	<b>(\$8,178)</b>	<b>\$9,518</b>	<b>\$23,333</b>	<b>(\$19,196)</b>

Fiscal Year	2020	2024	2025	2026	2027
% to Board Priorities		76.76 %	63.23 %	73.39 %	73.39 %
% to Quality First**	0.00%	0.00 %	9.05 %	10.38 %	9.41 %
Fiscal Year	4 Year Average				
% to Board Priorities	71.57%				
% to Quality First**	7.08%				

\*Per FTF Board direction, allotments reflect the budgeting of projected spending, therefore in some years’ total allotments may exceed total means of financing. However, actual expenditures against the allotments are expected to be fully supported by revenues, and each year the region is anticipated to end with a carry forward balance which is reflected in the subsequent year’s carry forward balance.

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

Justification for not meeting the 80% allotment to Board Priorities: The Pascua Yaqui Tribe Region is a child care desert and lacks existing child care programs, which has led to significant care capacity issues. Although the region did not meet the recommended funding level for the board-identified priorities, the regional council did add the Quality First suite of strategies to support the Ili U’usim Mahtawa’apo Pascua Yaqui Tribe Head Start in SFY25. The regional council is committed to exploring the future expansion of Quality First in the region, which includes the Pascua Yaqui Tribe child care center currently under construction, anticipated completion in SFY26.

**SFY25 FUNDING PLAN UPDATE / CHANGE TABLE  
PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

**DESIRED OUTCOME: ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY, CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION**

**Strategy Area and Funded Strategies**

**Quality First**

- Quality First Academy (prioritized)
- Quality First Coaching and Incentives (prioritized)

***Successes:***

In State Fiscal Year 2024 (SFY24), Quality First implemented a revision to the model resulting in service levels that are based on the needs of participating centers and homes. The revisions are anticipated to create efficiencies that allow more regulated early care and education programs to participate and continue the quality improvement trajectory that has shown consistent increases in quality rating over time.

***Challenges:***

In SFY25, federal pandemic relief funding to support a statewide expansion of 413 programs to participate in Quality First will end. Although the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council will support the transition of the one expansion program, the Ili U’usim Mahtawa’apo Pascua Yaqui Head Start, throughout other regions there will be a significant number of Quality First participants potentially disenrolled and placed on the Quality First waitlist. Discussions are in progress at the statewide level to determine potential supports so that participants funded through expansion will not need to be disenrolled and put back on a waitlist.

***Changes:***

The regional council recognizes the importance of maintaining Quality First supports to the Ili U’usim Mahtawa’apo Pascua Yaqui Head Start, which is a part of the statewide expansion and presently funded through federal pandemic relief funding. The program will remain in Quality First shifting from federal pandemic relief funding to regional council funding beginning in SFY25.

Changes:	SFY24	SFY25
<b>Quality First Increase</b>		
Funding Level Changes:	\$0	\$20,000

**DESIRED OUTCOME: INFORMATION, SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES**

**Strategy Area and Funded Strategy**

**Educating Families and Caregivers**

- Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities (prioritized)

***Successes:***

The tribal social services division child care program staff continue working on the creation of the Yoeme Curriculum for the Early Learning Center. Community members, early care and education providers, tribal leaders and staff as well as First Things First regional staff attend colloquies and most recently the Itom Lutu’uria Symposium that are part of the Yoeme Curriculum design and development process. This collaborative work aligns with the Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities Strategy. The intent of this approach is to support the creation of materials to be used in the classrooms that will be implementing curricula with emphasis in Yoeme language, history and culture. These materials may include curricula friendly guides, pamphlets to share with families and classroom displays.

Tribal partners implementing this strategy have engaged in conversations about opportunities to share with each other, the community and other tribal departments and programs the tribal heritage materials that they are creating. These conversations align with the regional council’s strategic vision of increasing opportunities to connect tribal families to their indigenous language, culture, history, community and lifeway through the creation and distribution of materials reflective of their tribal heritage.

**Challenges:**

The Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities Strategy grant partner has experienced transitions in staff and presently, the partner is in the recruitment and hiring process.

**Changes:**

State Fiscal Year 2024 marks the first year of implementation of the Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities Strategy. The regional council recognized the time needed to develop the resources before there can be sharing and distribution of the resources. In response, the regional council identified a lower Service Unit to give time necessary to support the development of resources. Once resources are created in SFY24, the Service Unit will increase for SFY25-27.

Changes:	SFY24	SFY25
<b>Language, Literacy and Culture in Tribal Communities</b>		
Service Unit Change:	Number of materials distributed: 350	Number of materials distributed: 450

**DESIRED OUTCOME: WELL-PREPARED, HIGHLY SKILLED AND APPROPRIATELY COMPENSATED PROFESSIONALS**

**Strategy Area and Funded Strategy**

**Professional Development for ECE Professionals**

- o First Things First College Scholarships (prioritized)

**DESIRED OUTCOME: PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT**

**Strategy Area and Funded Strategy**

**Building Awareness of the Importance of the Early Years**

- o Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness (prioritized)

**Successes:**

The regional council continues funding First Things First (FTF) sponsorships for community events on the reservation (i.e. community baby showers and Children’s Day). These sponsorship funds support partners in sharing resources beneficial to young children and their families. In addition, FTF is recognized via the logo on the flyers and invitations as well as verbal recognition of FTF sponsorships and the opportunity for FTF regional staff to share materials at the events.

The regional council and regional staff continue working in partnership with various tribal departments and programs to provide books and educational reinforcement items to families and caregivers with young children.

First Things First regional and communications staff continue drafting public service announcements about the importance of early childhood development and health. The public service announcements are sent to KPYT Radio Station for their production and broadcasting. This partnership with the Pascua Yaqui radio station allows FTF the opportunity to share public service announcements and information about the work of First Things First and the regional council.

**Changes:**

The regional council increased the funding amount for the Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness Strategy in SFY25 to provide more FTF sponsorships for events on the reservation (\$10,000) and purchase more books and educational reinforcement items (\$8,933). This funding decision is on alignment with the regional council’s priority to increase collaboration with community partners to provide information, education and resources to families, caregivers and community members about the importance of early childhood development, language development and literacy.

Changes:	SFY24	SFY25
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**Educational Promotion and Brand Awareness**

Funding Level Changes:	\$8,500	\$18,933
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**DESIRED OUTCOME: ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY PREVENTATIVE AND CONTINUOUS HEALTH CARE**

**Strategy Area and Funded Strategy**

**Health Resource Coordination**

- Children’s Health Systems Change

**Successes:**

As part of the Children’s Health Systems Change Strategy development process in SFY24, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council engaged in conversations about the best approach to implement this strategy. Thanks to a strong partnership with the Tribal Health Services Division, the regional council shifted from a procurement funding mechanism, as originally approved in the SFY24 funding plan, to a direct grant agreement with the tribe to expedite implementation. The grant agreement and funding mechanism change was approved by the FTF Board in December 2023.

**Changes:**

The regional council increased the funding amount for SFY25 since the focus of the work will be conducting a study to learn from families and caregivers of young children and expectant mothers about what types of local media they use and which places they go to receive information, specific to accessing tribal health-based services (i.e. social media, marquees, banners, etc.). The research proposal that will be presented and hopefully approved by Tribal Council will center on primary data collection such as surveys and focus groups of the Pascua Yaqui community, with an emphasis on families and caregivers of young children and expectant mothers. The regional council and Tribal Health Services Division will use community feedback to create an awareness campaign and approaches in SFY26 and SFY27 that align with ways Pascua Yaqui Tribe families and caregivers access information.

Changes:	SFY24	SFY25
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**Children’s Health Systems Change**

Funding Level Changes:	\$10,000	\$40,000
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**DESIRED OUTCOME: COORDINATED, INTEGRATED, AND COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM**

**Strategy Areas and Funded Strategies**

**Bridge from ECE to Kindergarten**

- Transition to Kindergarten

## Evaluation

- Statewide Evaluation

### **Successes:**

The Transition to Kindergarten Strategy grant partner, Ili U'usim Mahtawa'apo Pascua Yaqui Head Start continues to work in partnership with the Local Educational Agency, which is the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), to plan and implement an intensive, four-week summer program. This partnership between TUSD and the Pascua Yaqui Head Start supports tribal children experience an early childhood learning environment, supports families in understanding the importance and magnitude of the transition to kindergarten and helps promote a strong bridge between home and school. The partner is working closely with TUSD to support the SFY24 Transition to Kindergarten program that will take place beginning summer 2024.