



EARLY EXPERIENCES  
BUILD THE FOUNDATION  
FOR A LIFETIME

# COCOPAH TRIBE REGION

2018 IMPACT REPORT

# 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 very important that we, as parents, grandparents or caregivers, understand that the first five years of our children's life are critical. Given the information and support from First Thing First, we can enhance our children's brain development. With these tools, our Native American children can grow in a happy home, enjoy education and learn life skills. This pathway leads to a healthy and successful life!”

**J. Deal Begay Jr.**

Cocopah Tribe Vice Chair  
FTF Cocopah Regional Partnership Council Chair

## That's why Arizonans created First Things First

### HOW WE WORK



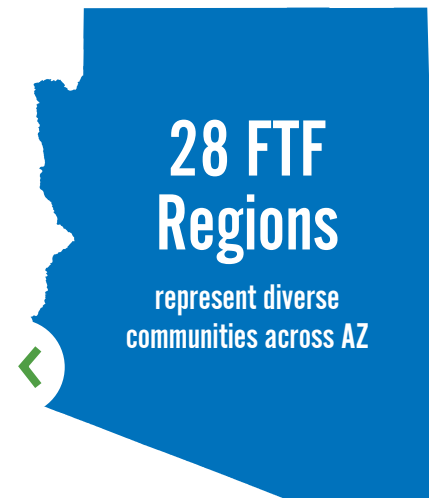
#### Early Childhood Funds

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.



28 FTF Regions

represent diverse communities across AZ

#### 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 COCOPAH TRIBE REGION IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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



#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND EARLY LITERACY

20 Families received voluntary in-home coaching from trained providers to improve their parenting skills.



#### QUALITY PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE

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



#### PREVENTIVE HEALTH

10 Children received screenings to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

58 Food boxes distributed to families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers to meet food insecurity needs.

## QUALITY FIRST PARTNERS WITH CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EARLY LEARNING IN THE COCOPAH TRIBE REGION

In the First Things First Cocopah Tribe region, families can find information about quality child care through First Things First's signature program Quality First, which partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona.

Quality First funds quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as training and coaching for teachers to expand their skills and to help create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child. Research shows that children exposed to quality early care and education, no matter the setting, are more ready for kindergarten, do better in school and are more likely to graduate and go on to college.



Quality First also helps preschools and child care centers to improve the way teachers work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers to create positive and consistent relationships that give young children the individual attention they need.

These type of quality early learning settings also help young children develop important skills – like motivation, self-control, focus and getting along with others – that make a big difference in their ability to succeed in school and in life.

In fiscal year 2018, 19 children in the Cocopah Tribe region had access to a higher standard of early learning through preschool and child care programs by participating in Quality First.

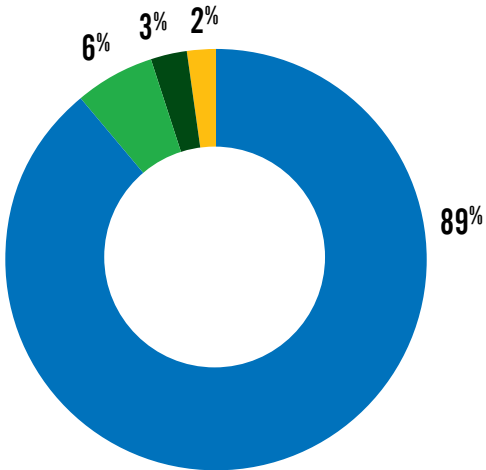
Read more local stories at [firstthingsfirst.org/regions](http://firstthingsfirst.org/regions)

# COCOPAH TRIBE REGIONAL COUNCIL

The FTF Cocopah Tribe 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

Strengthening Families	\$68,632
Quality Child Care and Preschool	\$4,971
Research and Evaluation	\$2,100
Preventive Health	\$1,475
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,178</b>



## FIRST THINGS FIRST COCOPAH TRIBE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

J. Deal Begay,  
Chair

Diane White,  
Vice Chair

Nohemi Ortega,  
FTF Regional Director

Members

Onawa Allen

Elizabeth Renaud

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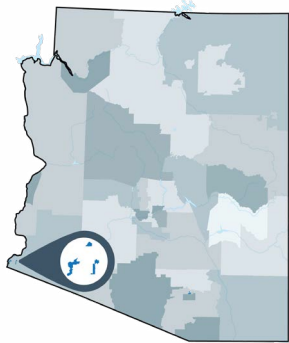
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Paula Twist Koolick

Paul Soto



The Cocopah Indian Tribe is a federally recognized, sovereign tribe located in the most southwestern corner of Arizona, 13 miles south of Yuma and along the Colorado River. The Cocopah (Kwapa), also known as the River People, have historically lived along the lower Colorado River and delta. They are descendants of the Yuman-language speaking people that occupied the lands along the Colorado River. The current Cocopah Reservation is comprised of three noncontiguous regions: East, North and West Reservations. The boundaries of the First Things First Cocopah Tribe Region match those of the Cocopah Reservation. The Cocopah Tribe Region includes Legislative District 4. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

Learn more at: [FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Cocopah-Tribe](https://FirstThingsFirst.org/Regions/Cocopah-Tribe)