

# # FIRST THINGS FIRST

2019 IMPACT REPORT

## Hualapai Tribe Region



Early experiences build the foundation for a lifetime



# of a child's brain growth happens 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.

“Our home visitation program ensures that parents in the Hualapai region have the tools they need to be confident in their roles. Adding service coordination to our funded strategies ensures that providers work together to better meet the needs of our Hualapai families.”

**Chira Walema**

Chair, FTF Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council

## Fiscal Year 2019 Hualapai Tribe Region Impact Highlights

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



### Strengthening Families and Early Literacy

34

Families received voluntary support from trained providers to improve their parenting skills.



### Quality Preschool and Child Care

50

Children attended a preschool and child care program participating in Quality First



### Preventive Health

51

Children received screenings to detect developmental issues to prevent learning challenges later on.

## Additional strategies:



### 2 Early childhood professionals

received college scholarships to improve their skills in working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers.



## Home visitation program helps Peach Springs girl reach healthy developmental milestones

Racine Whatoname already had two daughters when her youngest Rayne was born, but the gap in years between the older two and the baby made Whatoname feel like a first-time mother all over again.

“Everything felt totally new again,” she said.

Whatoname found support through the Hualapai home visitation program, which is designed to strengthen families in Peach Springs by providing pregnant women and families of young children with personalized information on their child’s health and development. The First Things First Hualapai Region funds the program.

She was first introduced to home visitation by a friend who recommended the program. The more Whatoname learned about the home visitation program, the more she reflected on the early experiences of her two older daughters. Her middle daughter in particular exhibited what Whatoname recognizes now were red flags about her language development.

“It didn’t feel right to me as a mom, but I didn’t really have a frame of reference,” Whatoname said. “She wasn’t really talking, and she knew maybe one or two words when she started Head Start and began getting speech therapy.

“Thinking about that experience (with my middle daughter) and how ready she could have been for school, maybe something like home visitation would have helped me see those things earlier.”

During a recent home visit, Rayne’s parent educator, Carmella Fuentes, reviewed results of the 3-year-old’s Ages and Stages Questionnaire, a screening tool used to a child’s development in three areas, including physical, intellectual and social-emotional. After some discussion, Fuentes introduced an activity that is designed to challenge Rayne’s motor skills, while also showing the mother elements of creating quality learning experiences.

“She’s responding to you in a sustained, interactive way,” Fuentes explained to Whatoname as Rayne alternated between coloring papers and trying to cut them using child-safe scissors.

As they continued to talk, Whatoname mentioned a new challenge: her toddler’s anxiety in public settings such as the grocery store or meeting new people.

While it is common for young children to act shy or express fear in new situations, Whatoname said she was concerned that this change in her youngest daughter’s attitude could impact her readiness to start Head Start, where she’ll be interacting with teachers and other children.

A key component of home visitation is to provide families with the tools to address situations such as this. Fuentes suggested Whatoname try to redirect Rayne’s anxiety such as asking pointed questions to distract or reassure her.

“I’ve learned that it’s okay to ask questions or ask for help,” Whatoname said. “I am so much more comfortable reaching out for feedback now.”

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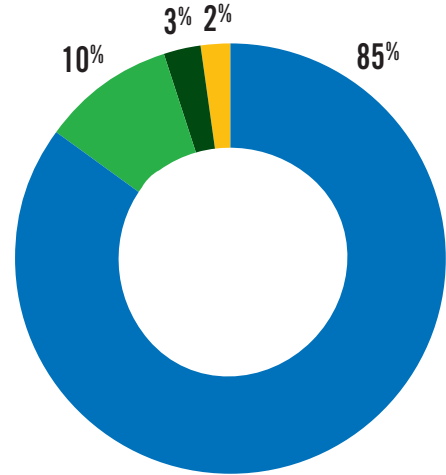
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# FTF Hualapai Tribe Regional Council

The FTF Hualapai 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.

## FY19 Total Regional Program Expenditures

● Strengthening Families	\$90,921
● Coordinating Care	\$10,080
● Preventive Health	\$4,271
● Research and Evaluation	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$108,273</b>



## FTF Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council

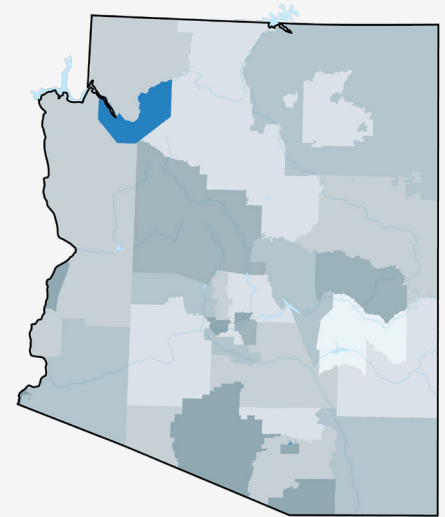
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The boundaries of the Hualapai Tribe Region are the same as those of the Hualapai Indian Reservation. Although the reservation includes lands in Coconino and Yavapai counties, most of the population live in or near Peach Springs in Mohave County. Separate pieces of the reservation lie to the south of Peach Springs, near Valentine and Wikieup. The Hualapai Tribe Region includes Legislative District 7. (Legislative districts are not necessarily congruent with regional boundaries.)

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