FIRST THINGS FIRST

Statewide Initiatives and Grants Update
April 2009

Quality First!

- 850 applications were received as of April 10, 2009.
- Wave 1 selection and notification of 78 centers was completed March 27, 2009.
- Wave 2 selection and notification of 64 centers was completed April 6, 2009.
- Wave 3 selection and notification of 58 centers was completed April 14, 2009.
- Wave 4 selection and notification of 100 family child care homes was completed April 15, 2009.
- The monthly meeting with Quality First grantees was held March 26, 2009 in Tucson. Presentations were made about child care health consultation and T.E.A.C.H. ARIZONA.
- The first statewide training for Coaches was held April 9, 2009, at FTF. Coaches received the same overviews of child care health consultation and T.E.A.C.H. ARIZONA, reviewed the orientation procedures and the Quality First Handbook for providers, and were oriented to the Quality First database
- Quality First Assessors and supervisors attended the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS) training held April 13 – 17, 2009 at First Things First.
- Statewide training for Assessors was held April 21 to review assessment policies and procedures and the Quality First database.
- Diana Robles, Administrative Assistant for Quality First, was hired and began work April 9, 2009.

T.E.A.C.H. ® ARIZONA

- The administrative home, Association for Supportive Child Care, continued its outreach efforts by attending Regional Partnership Council meetings, meeting with community colleges, distributing new flyers and fact sheets and meeting with providers throughout the state. Sharon Brady, T.E.A.C.H. Coordinator, presented information about T.E.A.C.H. at the Quality First Coaches training on 4/9/09 at FTF.
- Meetings have been scheduled to resolve questions about the Professional Career Pathways Program (PCPP) (funded by DES) and its relationship to T.E.A.C.H. Three Regional Funding Plans provide for scholarships for PCPP, as well as for T.E.A.C.H.
- Five application forms have been created for CDA Assessment and AA degrees in early childhood education/child development.

Child Care Health Consultation

- The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Pima County has been sent to their attorney for signature.
- Negotiations with Maricopa County Health Department are in process; additional county health departments throughout the state will be contacted by April 30, 2009.
- The draft scope of work was completed by Policy and sent to Finance. This scope of work includes both CCHC within Quality First centers and homes, as well as CCHC funded by Regional Councils for programs not participating in Quality First.
- Developers of CareFacts, the CCHC software, met with FTF Program and Business Services consultants on April 27, 2009, to adapt it to Quality First.
- Nine health professionals attended CCHC training in Tucson during the week of April 6-10.
- A similar training was held in Maricopa County the same week.

Parent Kits

- Parent Kits continue to be delivered to birthing hospitals throughout the state according to schedule.
- 2520 English and 660 Spanish Kits were given to families in March, for a total of 3,180 Kits.
- The grand total for January through March is 10,180 Kits.
- The PALS data system, which will provide accurate counts of Kits delivered to hospitals and distributed to new parents, is in development phase.
- Hospital visits are scheduled for Tuba City, Ganado, Chinle, Polacca, Whiteriver, Fort Defiance, San Carlos and Sells.

Compensation and Retention RFGA

- The RFGA was released on March 18, 2009, and proposals are due April 29th.
- The Committee Review team will review and score proposals on May 4 and 6, 2009.
- The recommendation for funding will be sent to the Board in May 2009.
- A contract for a Compensation and Retention administrative home will go into effect July 1, 2009.

Access to Oral Health Screening and Care

- Senior Policy Specialist is attending the Head Start Oral Health Meeting in May between oral health providers and Head Start.
- Networking with dental associations, colleges and other agencies is continuing.

Physician Education and Outreach

- Senior Policy Specialists will complete first draft of the RFGA Scope of Work for an administrative home by April 24, 2009.
- The final draft Scope of Work will be sent to Finance by May 8, 2009.

Workforce Support and Readiness – Speech Language Pathologists

- A planning meeting was held with the Arizona State University (ASU) contact in the Speech Language Department.
- Policy Staff are working with Finance and Procurement personnel to complete the IGA with ASU.
- ASU is recruiting students for fall program.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and Continuing Education

- Senior Policy Specialists will complete first draft of the RFGA Scope of Work for an administrative home by April 24, 2009.
- The final draft Scope of Work will be sent to Finance by May 8, 2009.
- An IGA is in development which would allow the Department of Health Services to administer incentives and loan forgiveness programs for mental health professionals, in addition to those currently provided to health professionals.

Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) Grant

- This federal initiative provides $147,000 annually to help states to plan, develop and implement collaborations and partnerships to support families and communities in their development of children who are healthy and able to succeed at school entry.
- Funding is by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
- Key components include access to health care and medical homes, early childhood education and child care, mental health, family support and parenting education.
- In previous applications, the AZ Department of Health Services was the grantee and First Things First was a partner. This year's grant proposal designated First Things First as the grantee, in partnership with the ADHS, AHCCCS, DES, ADE and community partners.

- The proposal was submitted March 13, 2009, an award is expected within the month, and the next three year funding cycle begins June 1, 2009.

Project LAUNCH (*The Tapestry Project)*

- Arizona is one of 6 states awarded Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) grant funds by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a five year period.
- Project LAUNCH is designed to promote the wellness of young children ages birth to 8 years of age by addressing the physical, emotional, social, and behavioral aspects of their development.
- The Arizona Department of Health Services is the designated grantee.
- Partners include First Things First, Governor's Office for Children, and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.
- The grant requires that activities at the state level are coordinated with the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant administered by First Things First.
- Arizona is focusing its Project LAUNCH activities in the South Mountain area of Phoenix, specifically zip codes 85040 and 85041, located in the FTF South Phoenix Region; members of the Project LAUNCH sit on the Council.
- The Health Advisory Committee of First Things First is the designated advisory council for the LAUNCH effort, as well as for the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.