

**Strategy 7: Collaborate on a regular basis with other Regional Partnership Councils in Maricopa County to enhance the coordination and communication of services, programs, and resources for young children and their families across regions.**

While there is strong recognition of the many programs and service providers who have come together in their efforts to serve young children, a need exists for even greater coordination and collaboration among public and private agencies. Several key informant interviews conducted among the Maricopa regions in 2008 revealed that service providers felt that the lack of services in the region and the lack of coordination of services are preventing the development of a support system for children and families that is so desperately needed. In addition, the surveys revealed that the Maricopa Region as a whole lacks a well-identified point of entry or coordination of services that can support parents in obtaining the information and services they need to ensure children have the greatest chance of success in school.

To address this in the Southwest and Northwest Maricopa regions, the Regional Councils will work together to fund a strategy to address cross regional coordination. With this strategy, the Regional Councils will work together to: develop a mechanism for service coordination, secure funding to support First Things First goals, share knowledge and expertise, problem solve issues that cross regional boundaries, collect data, share resources, and establish a seamless system of service delivery with strong continuity across providers. Coordination efforts will also decrease duplication of services; allow communities to build on and enhance existing, high-quality services; and leverage dollars for the highest return on the state's early childhood investment.

There are six components to this strategy:

1. Development of a mechanism for service coordination.
2. Data collection and information sharing across regions.
3. Development of resources to be shared across regions.
4. Enhance collaboration by creating planning opportunities for the Northwest and Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Councils to align goals and work together on issues that cross regional boundaries.
5. Create planning and problem-solving opportunities for service providers to align goals and work together to find solutions for region-wide issues that could not feasibly be addressed at the individual program level.
6. Dedicate specific funding to seek out, identify, and apply for grants that support the First Things First goals.
7. Provide advocacy education and training to service providers and community members in alignment with FTF advocacy and communication efforts.

The Northwest and Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Councils will collaborate to fund an applicant to implement the aforementioned six components of this coordination strategy. The applicant, in cooperation with regional service providers, will seek to: ensure the needs of the most at-risk families are addressed; coordinate outreach activities to encompass both regions; coordinate delivery of services; identify the communities and target populations that lack access to effective home visitation, child care, parenting, or medical services; and, gather and review data about existing services to identify gaps and meet the needs of the young children and their families across the regions. It is expected that these activities will result in improved coordination of programs currently operating in the region. Responsibilities of the applicant will include, but are not limited to, the following:

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:** Identify and promote community resources that link families to support services, and to

coordinate programs and services to ensure that resources are being used effectively, without duplication. This will be achieved by identifying “point(s) of contact” within the regions where both families and providers can turn for information, resources, referrals, and services that support the development of young children and the development and distribution of a resource directory (s) that will provide families and providers access to information on regionally specific programs and services, as well as standardized messages to promote a child’s optimal health and development. The resource directory (s) is to also serve as a cross regional resource guide that identifies regional resources; including resource descriptions, hours of operation, services/programs/classes offered, and all eligibility requirements. Information will be available in a variety of mediums (i.e. print, electronic, etc.) to ensure that it is accessible to all families within the regions.

**NETWORK COORDINATION:** The goal under network coordination is the establishment and maintenance of a service delivery network of early childhood education, development, and health providers/programs within the region. Through regular Network meetings, the Network will provide the forum for service providers to share information, reduce duplication, maximize resources, and address service gaps. Specific implementation strategies and outcomes for the service delivery will be identified by the Network participants. The applicant will be responsible for keeping the Regional Councils informed on the proceedings of the Network; this will be achieved through quarterly presentations to the Regional Councils and through the production of a comprehensive written annual report.

All First Things First grantees for the Northwest and Southwest Maricopa Regular Councils will be required to participate in the Service Delivery Network. The Network will work to enhance all providers regardless of First Things First funding, as well as parent involvement. Potential areas of focus of the Network may include the following:

- Parenting Education- address the needs of cross regional parent education programs; identify existing programs and recommend changes in order to address the unique needs of at risk parents, including: pregnant and parenting teens, families with Court or CPS referrals, families living in geographically isolated communities, and other target populations identified by the Regional Partnership Councils; develop a parent education guide and a cross regional Parent Education Calendar to be incorporated into the cross regional resource guide; identify those communities/ neighborhoods and target populations that lack access to effective parenting education.
- Home Visitation- assess and address the needs of cross regional home visiting programs by developing a comprehensive home visiting system, which may include: convening home visiting program managers, developing methods to coordinate home visiting programs to ensure the needs of the most at-risk families are addressed; coordinate outreach activities; review referral processes and identify those communities/neighborhoods and target populations that lack access to effective home visitation services; and gather and review data.
- Early Care and Education –assess the needs of early care and education providers; identify issues affecting access to quality early care and education; develop approaches to increase quality and accessibility; identify opportunities that promote the open exchange of ideas of providers and provides opportunities for professional development; engage center and home based providers participating in Quality First and T.E.A.C.H. Arizona in networking opportunities; explore the idea of developing a pool of substitute teachers/providers to allow providers to attend professional development trainings.

- Health Care - assess the needs of health care professionals working with the zero through five population and identify issues affecting access to and utilization of quality health care, as well as, develop strategies to address those needs; engage the health care community in issues related to school readiness, early childhood development and health; develop a health resource guide including a Health and Safety Community Events Calendar that upon completion will be incorporated into the cross regional resource guide; develop, maintain.

**OUTREACH & ADVOCACY:** The applicant will be responsible for working with the Regional Coordinators and Regional Councils to increase awareness and support for issues related to school readiness and early childhood development and health and may include the following:

- Increase awareness of early childhood issues among policy makers, business leaders, faith leaders, civic leaders, and philanthropic leaders.
- Increase community awareness of cross regional services and resources.
- Standardize messaging.
- Increase local media coverage.
- Educate the business community, and local business associations, on the economic impact of early childhood education on business and employability.
- Engage local policy makers, business leaders, faith leaders, civic leaders, health care professionals, and parents in the efforts of the Regional Partnership Councils.
- Provide recognition system for community partners and leaders who support the efforts of the Regional Partnership Councils.
- Provide advocacy training to parents and providers.

**REPORTING:** The applicant will be charged with working in cooperation with the Northwest/Southwest Cross Collaboration Subcommittee of the Regional Councils, collaborating with others working on coordination within Maricopa County, and engaging service providers within the regions to achieve desired outcome goals. The applicant will also be responsible for ensuring that the Regional Partnership Councils are kept current on progress and efforts made by the applicant. This will be achieved by requiring that the applicant make a formal report to Northwest and Southwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Councils within three months of beginning work and at least quarterly thereafter. Finally, the applicant will be responsible for the completion of quarterly reports, and an annual report that provides the Regional Councils a written synopsis of the applicant's activities and progress toward goals.

**Lead Goal:** FTF will lead cross-system coordination efforts among state, federal and tribal organizations to improve the coordination and integration of Arizona programs, services, and resources for young children and their families.

**Key Measures:**

- Percentage of families who report they are satisfied with the level of coordination and communication among agencies serving their children.
- Percentage of families who report they are satisfied with the decision making and planning opportunities in the early childhood system.
- Total number and percentage of public and private partners who report they are satisfied with the extent and quality of coordination between public, private, and tribal systems.

**Target Population:** Regional Partnership Council Members throughout Maricopa County, service providers, policy makers, local business, faith based community, nonprofit community, philanthropic organizations, local governments, community based organizations, schools, service organizations, and families.

Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council  
REGIONAL COUNCIL 2010 Allocation: \$6,328,813

Proposed Service Numbers	SFY2010 July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010	SFY2011 July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011	SFY2012 July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012
	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Performance Measures SFY 2010-2012</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a mechanism for service coordination.</li> <li>2. Amount of grant and donation dollars obtained for achievement of Regional strategies/ strategic target.</li> <li>3. Number of partners satisfied with quality of coordination /Strategic target</li> <li>4. Number of identified improvements in coordination /Strategic target</li> </ol>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How is this strategy building on the service network that currently exists:</b></li> </ul> <p>Efforts at the state level will strengthen the ability of Regional Partnership Councils to achieve their goals and build a statewide comprehensive system of cross-coordination. Agencies that are currently providing services will be asked to participate in information and resource sharing. The Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council will build on existing partnership, including our local Arizona Early Education Fund group and others, to mobilize the public around early childhood issues.</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What are the opportunities for collaboration and alignment:</b></li> </ul> <p>The broad nature of this strategy allows stakeholders to collaborate in a variety of innovative and creative ways to better coordinate, integrate and communicate services in the region. In order to promote collaboration and alignment, the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council will require a Coordination and Communication Plan from every grant applicant. Regional Partnership Councils will collaborate and work together with service providers, key community leaders, and families to develop a mechanism for seamless service delivery and coordination within Maricopa County. Regional Partnership Councils will collaborate to problem solve and find solutions for Countywide issues that could not feasibly be addressed at the local level. Regional Partnership Council Members will work together to share expertise. Regional Partnership Councils will collaborate to secure additional funding to support First Things First Goals.</p>			
<b>SFY2010 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy</b>			
Population-based allocation for proposed strategy		<b>\$189,864</b>	
<b>Budget Justification:</b> <p>The decision was made by the Northwest Maricopa Regional Partnership Council to allocate approximately 3% of regional funds to this strategy. Potential costs to implement this strategy include: development of mechanism for service coordination, training, educational materials, information sharing, data collection, staffing, meeting costs, outreach costs, etc.</p>			