



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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August 3, 2009

Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board
First Things First
4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

RE: Pascua Yaqui Tribe Needs and Assets Report 2009

Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council, we are pleased to provide you an update on the work that has been done in relation to the Needs and Assets Report for this region:

- The draft of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Needs and Assets Report 2009 was sent to the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council and appropriate departments on June 26, 2009 and as of last update, is undergoing review by the Tribal Research Review Committee; the tribe entity responsible for approving all data collection.
- During the July 21, 2009 meeting, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council passed a motion to approve the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Needs and Assets Report 2009 contingent upon any other remarks from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council, Tribal Research Review Committee, Tribal Liaison and Tribal Council. The final version of the Needs and Assets Report will be completed by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council by September 1, 2009 making the document ready to publish.

Background

In February 2008, the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council passed a resolution supporting the tribe as a separate region within First Things First. In June 2008, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe elected a new Tribal Council comprised of eleven officials. Due to the election, new Council Oversight Committees for Education, Health and Social Services were appointed. The committees are comprised of only Tribal Council Members and are established by ordinance. First Things First staff and Regional Partnership Council members worked very closely with the new Tribal Leaders and Division Directors during this transition. The Regional Partnership Council had to forego the work associated with a formal needs and assets report because of the timelines for First Things First in relation to the election and establishment of these various Tribal committees. The largest factors affecting the completion of the Needs and Assets Report for this Region were the organizational changes that took place in early 2008. Prior to the FTF Regional Council formation the creation of a

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new Tribal law called the Research Protection Ordinance took place. This ordinance creates the protocol for all data collection within the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The Regional Council could not collect any data for the Needs and Assets Report until the Research Review Committee and the Tribal Council gave them approval. However, First Things First and Tribal staff, as well as the appointed volunteers, worked alongside the Tribal Education Division Interim Director, Ms. Juanita Ayala, to accomplish much of the legwork needed to develop the partnership with tribal leaders which now brings us to the point of drafting, approving and publishing this report.

As you know, the communication and collaboration between Pascua Yaqui Tribe Leaders and First Things First is very important for the success of our work. We appreciate the opportunity to update you on the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Needs and Assets Report 2009. Once the final protocol described above is completed, the Regional Partnership Council will submit the final report with the final Executive Summary to the State Board at its September 22, 2009 regular meeting. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Shanna Ioane Tautolo, Chair
Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council

CC: Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council
Amalia Reyes, Vice Chair, Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Partnership Council
Juanita Ayala, Education Division Interim Director

Enclosure- Draft Executive Summary of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Regional Needs and Assets Report 2009