

2013
ANNUAL REPORT



NAVAJO/APACHE
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Why Early Childhood Matters

Research shows that 80% of a child's brain is formed by age 3; more than 90% by age 5. Because of this rapid development, what happens to children in the early years lays the foundation for a lifetime. Research has demonstrated that kids with quality early childhood experiences do better in school. They are more likely to advance into college and successful careers. They also tend to be healthier and demand less from the public welfare system.

On November 7, 2006, Arizonans made a historic decision on behalf of our state's smallest citizens. By majority vote, they made a commitment to all Arizona children 5 and younger: that kids would have the tools they need to arrive at school healthy and ready to succeed.

The voters backed that promise with an 80-cent per pack increase on tobacco products, so some reliable funding for early childhood services for our youngest children would be available.

The initiative also created the statewide First Things First Board and the 31 regional partnership councils that share the responsibility of ensuring that these early childhood funds are spent on strategies that will result in improved education and health outcomes for kids 5 and younger.

Not all children have the same needs; and voters designed First Things First to meet the diverse needs of Arizona



communities. Decisions about which early education and health strategies will be funded are made by the 31 regional partnership councils made up of community volunteers. Each regional council member represents a specific segment of the community that has a stake in ensuring that our children grow up to be healthy productive adults, including: parents, tribal representatives, educators, health professionals, business leaders, philanthropists and leaders of faith communities. The regional councils study the challenges faced by children in their communities and the resources that exist to help kids in their area. Because of all these factors, the regional councils know best what their kids need.

The Navajo/Apache region includes most of southern Navajo and Apache counties.

Regional Council Members

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Kalman Mannis, <i>Chair</i> | Dr. Jeffrey Northrup |
| Leslie Meyer, <i>Vice Chair</i> | Betsy Peck |
| Kristalei Baskins | Dr. Catherine Taylor |
| Claude Endfield | |
| Kirk Grugel | |
| Nestor Montoya | |

A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN IN OUR REGION

Demographics

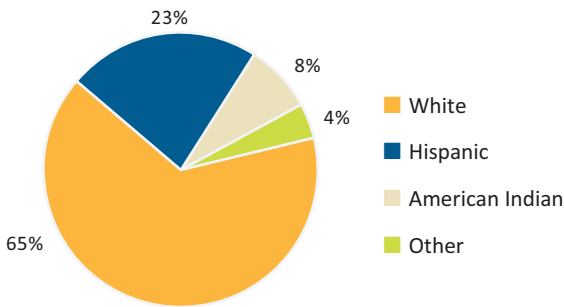
6,009

Number of Kids Under 6 in Region

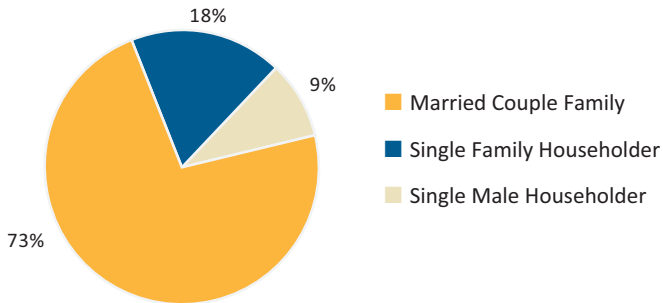
8%

Percentage of Population Under 6

Ethnic Breakdown of Kids Under 5 in Region



Family Types of Kids Under 6 in Region



Education

67%

Percentage of 3-4 Year-olds statewide who don't go to preschool

8-60%

Percent of 3rd grade students not passing AIMS in reading depending on district

Economics

\$21,909-57,973

Median Family Income depending on area and family type

8.5%

Unemployment Rate

Health

27%

Percentage of Pregnant Women Who Do Not Receive Early Prenatal Care

12%

Percentage of Births to Teen Mothers

8%

Percentage of Babies Born at Low Birth Weight

OUR REGION'S PRIORITIES

Research regarding children 5 and younger in the Navajo/Apache region revealed the need for the following programs to promote optimal development and school readiness:

Access to Quality Child Care – Research shows that children exposed to high quality early education are more prepared when they enter kindergarten, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate and go on to college. The region has addressed the need for high quality early learning by funding strategies to improve the quality of child care in the region and expand the skills of early educators working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. In addition, the region has funded scholarships that allow more children ages 5 and younger to access early learning programs.



Family Support- The region recognizes parents as the first and most important teachers in their child’s life, and funds a range of programs to strengthen families. The programs are voluntary and include assistance to families in locating a regular medical provider and accessing other resources need to meet their child’s needs, including medical care, as well as in-home visitation from nurses and other early childhood professionals for families who face multiple challenges.

Professional Development- The region funds a variety of professional development opportunities to expand the skills of those working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers, including scholarships to increase access to higher education for child care professionals and incentives to keep the best teachers working with our youngest kids.

Health - Quality healthcare is a vital component of any successful early childhood development program. The region funds oral health screenings and the application of fluoride varnishes to prevent tooth decay – a major cause of school absence later on. The region also funds programs to increase parent awareness of the importance of nutrition and physical activity in helping young kids establish habits early on that promote healthy weight.

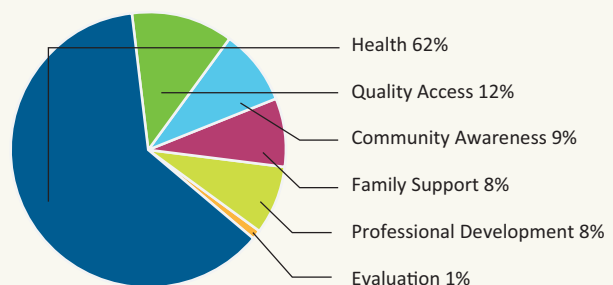
Community Outreach and Awareness - Awareness of the importance of early childhood is crucial so that all stakeholders can do their part to support school readiness. The Community Outreach and Awareness strategy provides grassroots support and engagement to increase parent and community awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.

Financial Report

EXPENDITURES BY GOAL AREA – FY2013

Health	\$770,199
Quality Access	158,870
Community Awareness	112,527
Professional Development	101,664
Family Support	93,436
Evaluation	6,803

TOTAL **\$1,243,500**



OUR REGION'S IMPACT

Child Care Infants, Parents Take Healthy Steps Together

Babies, like the rest of us, are not all the same. They are individuals with likes and dislikes that can be different from another baby, even a sibling. In a safe and secure world, babies learn to trust and spend time and energy exploring and learning about their world.

About 90% of a child's brain develops before they enter kindergarten. The experiences of children in their first five years determine whether their brain develops in ways that promote positive future learning, behavior and health. For children to be successful in school and beyond, they must start out on the right path. Early childhood programs can help give children a solid start in life and a foundation upon which they can build.



Healthy Steps Newborn Behavioral Observation (NBO) is a free program funded by First Things First and offered through Summit Regional Medical Center in Show Low to all families with a new baby. The service is for all new parents, not just those who have never had a baby before. In fact, seasoned parents may be surprised at what they can learn.

DeAnn Davies, Director of Healthy Steps at Summit Regional Medical Center, recalled a case when she was visiting babies and their families in the couplet unit at Summit and was told that one of the mothers had just given birth to her ninth child and wouldn't need the NBO because she was so experienced. DeAnn visited her anyway. Right away, the baby showed her preference to faces over toys when DeAnn held up a red ball but the baby looked right around it and sought out her face instead. The "new" mother was amazed! DeAnn asked her, "So, what do you think your baby's favorite toy is?" "My face!" exclaimed the delighted mom. "You could have saved me so much money with the other eight!" Next, DeAnn showed the mom the baby's familiarity with her voice and the connection that they had developed before the baby was even born!

"The (newborn observation) has evolved to become a tool which builds relationships in a family instantly. That has become the basis of the success of Healthy Steps, engaging families on a long term basis," Davis said.

This team of specialists, trained in Boston at the Harvard Medical School NBO program with the Braselton Institute, brings their expertise to Summit Regional Medical Center to enhance the parent/child experience in the White Mountains so that kids will be ready for school and set for life!

76

CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF CHILD CARE THROUGH QUALITY FIRST.

924

PARENT KITS DISTRIBUTED

1723

FLUORIDE VARNISHES APPLIED TO PROTECT AGAINST TOOTH DECAY

43

INFANTS, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS TO ACCESS EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

1739

ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN

MOVING FORWARD

The Navajo/Apache Regional Council remains committed to the success of every child in the region. The regional council's expectation is to promote and support ongoing coordination, collaboration and leveraging of all available resource to encourage sustained positive system changes on behalf of young children.

Several social service agencies and other entities are working to strengthen families and promote positive education and health outcomes for young children within the region, and they could do more with additional funding from public and private funders. However, many of these providers lack the capacity to successfully compete for the grant funding available.

The region will continue to use its expertise and resources to increase the capacity among local providers to ensure additional resources can be brought to the region to help more children arrive at school with the tools they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond!



Grantees – FY2013

- Arizona Board of Regents for and on behalf of University of Arizona
- Arizona Department of Health Services
- Association for Supportive Child Care
- Central Arizona College
- Navajo County Library District
- Navajo County Public Health Services District
- North Country HealthCare
- Northland Pioneer College
- Pima County Health Department
- Southwest Human Development
- Summit Healthcare Association
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- Valley of the Sun United Way

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