
SFY 2012 Regional Funding Plan

South Pima Regional
Partnership Council

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Submitted to the
First Things First State Board
for January 24-25, 2011



FIRST THINGS FIRST

**SOUTH PIMA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
FUNDING PLAN SFY 2012
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

- I. Regional Allocation Summary (Funds Available)**

- II. Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012**
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 - B. Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments
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- III. System Building Impact**

Appendix

New Strategy Worksheets New Strategy Worksheets

Section I
Regional Allocation Summary

The following chart shows the total available funds to the Regional Council, by funding sources.

Allocations and Funding Sources	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012
Population Based Allocation	\$3,788,004.00	\$3,097,019.00	\$3,093,579.00
Discretionary Allocation	\$2,031,214.00	\$1,802,326.00	\$1,820,945.00
Other (FTF fund balance addition)		\$678,974.82	\$600,150.00
Additional Income (other than FTF tobacco tax)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carry Forward from Previous Year		\$2,220,680.51	\$1,798,108.54
Total Regional Council Funds Available	\$5,819,218.00	\$7,799,000.33	\$7,312,782.54

Section II Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012

For 2012 planning, Regional Councils are asked to review the strategies from years prior while they consider direction for SFY 2012. At their September 2010 meeting, the First Things First Board adopted priorities as were recommended by the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force. Following is the list of five priorities for First Things First action within the next one to three years. These are the roles for which FTF will establish measurable benchmarks and devote resources in order to achieve results for Arizona's young children and their families. These priorities are services which could be funded at both state and regional levels. Throughout this 2012 Regional Funding Plan, there are references to these new priorities. They are:

Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education programs.

Supports and Services for Families - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

Building Public Awareness and Support - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.

Professional Development System - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.

Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services - Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.

In addition, the Task Force recommended that FTF take a leadership role in three priorities that focus on program and process development at the state level. These are:

Early Childhood System Funding – Secure, coordinate, and advocate for resources required to develop and sustain the early childhood system. [This does not mean that FTF would be the sole funder of the early childhood system, but would take an active role in helping to increase and coordinate available resources.]

Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation - Convene partners and provide leadership in the development and implementation of a comprehensive early care and education system that is aligned both across the spectrum of settings and with the full continuum of the educational system.

Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and implementation of quality standards for early childhood care and education programs and related curricula and assessments. [This is integral to improving the quality of early care and education settings.]

Section II A Progress with SFY 2010 and 2011 Funding Plans And SFY 2012 Planning

The table below provides a summary of the Regional Partnership Council’s prioritized needs and strategies for SFY 2012, as well as information on progress in SFY 2010 and SFY 2011.

PRIORITY 1 : ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS						
<p>Description of prioritized need: <i>Access to high quality early care and education programs</i> Regulated child care is lacking or insufficient in some communities in South Pima, especially the rural communities. These communities lack the infrastructure to provide child care without planning support and funding to build or improve buildings to be used for child care. Although the need for child care continues to exist, especially in rural communities, the economic downturn has created a situation where demand is down. Some centers that expanded utilizing First Things First funding to provide more spaces for children have been unable to fill the newly created slots due to the cuts to the child care subsidy. Affordability of child care has become a greater priority at this time. The cluster of strategies that follow address these needs.</p>						
<p>Strategy: <u>Expansion: Increase slots in regulated classrooms/homes and capital expense</u></p>						
<p>Regional Title and/or short description: <i>Expansion of Child Care: Expand number of regulated homes and centers by providing funds for planning and facility improvement or expansion</i></p>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Center based providers served	Up to 6 centers/homes	4	3	3	1	2
Home based providers served	Up to 6	0	0	0	0	0
Increased slots for participating children	*NA	NA	*84	150	Contract not awarded	50
<p>* At the time of the grant award in SFY2010, this service unit had not been determined, however this information was collected by the grantees at the end of SFY2010</p>						
<p>Strategy: <u>Expansion: Increase slots in regulated classrooms/homes and capital expense</u></p>						
<p>Regional Title and/or short description: <i>Recruit and Support Child Care: Recruit and support child care providers especially in targeted zip code areas; provide ongoing professional development and quality enhancement support.</i></p>						

SOUTH PIMA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
Regional Funding Plan SFY 2012

Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Center based providers served	10	10	2	10	10	2 – DHS Centers
Home based providers served	20	20	16	20	20	10-DHS licensed Group Homes 18 DES Certified Homes
Increased slots for participating children	*NA	*NA	*NA	*NA	*NA	150
* At the time of grant award in SFY2010, this service unit had not been identified. Service unit will be utilized formally in SFY2012.						
Strategy: <u>Quality First</u> (Statewide)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Quality First: <i>Expand the number of child care centers and family child care homes in the South Pima region participating in Quality First beyond the statewide funded number. Program components include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program assessment • Individualized coaching and quality improvement planning • Financial incentives • T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships • Child Care Health Consultation 						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Center based providers participating	18	18	18	31	31	40
Home based providers participating	23	23	22	45	45	68
TEACH (QF) Scholars	47	21	11	107	107	148
CCHC (QF) Centers	18	18	24	31	31	40
CCHC (QF) Homes	23	23		45	45	68

Strategy: <u>Child Care Scholarships</u> (Statewide)						
Regional Title and/or short description: Quality First Early Childhood Scholarships: Provide tuition scholarships to selected Quality First participating homes and centers to address affordability of child care in the South Pima region.						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Children receiving scholarships	440 Emergency child care scholarships	440	481	65	65	65
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success						
<p><i>The South Pima Regional Partnership Council has implemented four strategies to address the prioritized need for access to high quality early childhood programs for all children. At the time the 2010 Funding Plan was developed, there was a high need for child care throughout the region, but the needs varied from the urban areas of Tucson to the rural communities of South Pima. In the urban area, child care centers and homes were at capacity. In the rural areas, regulated child care did not exist or existed in a very limited manner. One strategy that was identified at that time was recruitment and support of child care providers especially in targeted zip codes where no regulated child care existed. This strategy's target service number included recruitment of 10 child care providers to be licensed by the Department of Health Services (DHS) and 20 home child care providers to be certified by the Department of Economic Security (DES). Eight providers became either licensed or certified and 10 additional providers who are in the process of acquiring certification or licensure were recruited. Once licensed or certified, newly recruited providers are required to apply for Quality First.</i></p> <p><i>The second strategy, Expansion of Child Care, was implemented to support capacity and infrastructure issues particularly in rural communities where existing space is limited or non-existent, or existing buildings are in need of improvement or enhancements in order to be utilized for child care. In SFY2010 four grants were awarded. Two of the grants were for expanding existing child care centers to increase their capacity to serve more children. One grant was awarded to a school district to purchase a modular building to expand their current capacity for preschool and child care in a rural community, and another school district received a grant to make improvements to an existing recreation center in order to be able to license it for child care. A total of 85 new child care slots were created in the region through these grants. Any provider receiving funding through this strategy is required to apply for Quality First and all are currently enrolled and participating.</i></p> <p><i>The third strategy implemented by South Pima was expansion of the number of child care providers enrolled in Quality First. The South Pima Regional Partnership Council strongly believes that all children have the right to access high quality child care settings. The Regional Council committed in their first funding plan to increase the number of regionally supported Quality First participating providers each</i></p>						

year. This statewide strategy provides the level of support through the various components that is needed to impact the quality of services provided. For this reason, the Regional Council has committed to increase the number of programs funded for Quality First Participation for SFY2012 to 68 child care homes and 40 child care centers

In March of 2009, emergency scholarships were implemented as part of the statewide emergency response. The scholarships were quickly used in the South Pima region and in May of 2010, the South Pima Regional Council added additional funding to this strategy through the end of June, 2010. In November, 2010, the South Pima Regional Partnership Council voted to add Early Childhood Scholarships as a funded strategy for SFY2011 and to continue it into SFY2012. This strategy is anticipated to begin January 2011. This strategy will be implemented following the First Things First Quality First Child Care scholarship model.

2. Strategy Challenges

The two expansion strategies implemented in SFY2010 and 2011 experienced some success and encountered barriers that impacted their success.

Recruitment and Support of Child Care encountered several challenges. One such challenge was establishing coordination with the Department of Economic Security regarding DES certification and on-going support and monitoring. This was eventually resolved by creating a unit base purchase agreement with DES resulting in a minor revision of the program model. There were challenges with recruiting child care providers in some of the smaller, more isolated communities. It can be difficult entering a small tight-knit community and the time and frequency of visits needed to identify potential child care providers in these communities is extensive. Perhaps the biggest barrier was the downturn of the economy. With the unemployment rate increasing dramatically and cutbacks in DES subsidies, some of the newly recruited providers were unable to fill their slots and get their business going. Where there had previously been waiting lists, vacancies now exist as more families have turned to unregulated, less expensive care, friend and family care or an unemployed family member providing child care.

The economic downturn also had some impact on the child care providers who expanded their centers. This impact was greatest for centers located in communities where there is a high level of poverty and a larger reliance on DES child care subsidy. Those programs have vacancies although they maintain a wait list for families who are unable to pay tuition but are not currently able to access DES subsidies.

One last challenge was the inability for one school district to complete the project for which funds were awarded. They returned the funds when they encountered barriers with a previously executed Memorandum Of Understanding with a charter school at the same facility.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

The South Pima Regional Partnership Council plans to continue the SFY2011 strategies into SFY2012. The 2010 Needs and Assets Report demonstrates that there continues to be a need for child care services especially in the rural communities. The South Pima Regional Council is participating in the Child Care Demand and Capacity Study with the University Consortium and hopes to have data specific to the region regarding the need for regulated child care.

- Recruitment and Support of Child Care will continue at the same level of funding but will focus more on recruitment of child care homes rather than centers or moving unregulated providers to regulation rather than recruitment of center-based settings. As the economy has impacted families' ability to afford center-based child care, more families have turned to unregulated care. The Regional Council believes reaching out to identify and assist these unregulated home

provider to become regulated needs to be stressed. In addition, more emphasis will be placed on supporting those newly recruited providers to market their services, network with other providers in the area and continue to enhance their quality.

- The South Pima Regional Council also approved continuing to support the Expansion of Child Care strategy but at a reduced allotment for SFY2012. Discussion for a government to government agreement with Pima County Community Development to act as the administrative home for expansion funds is in process. The need for expansion of early care and education programs remains in specific areas of the region. There is interest and commitment on the part of the new superintendent of a small, rural school district to provide early childhood education programs but improvements would need to be made to the existing building and outdoor area in order to make it appropriate to serve children under the age of five. Another school district in the region has approved plans for building an early childhood facility adjacent to a new elementary school.*
- Regionally funded Quality First slots will be increased from 76 slots to 108 slots for SFY2012.*
- In November, 2011, the South Pima Regional Partnership Council approved adding a new strategy, Quality First Child Care Scholarships, utilizing the statewide model. The Regional Council approved this strategy as a short term response to the impact on affordability of child care the current state of the economy has created while recognizing that this strategy is not aligned with the long-term direction the Regional Council envisions for this region. Child care providers who have been funded through the South Pima Regional Partnership Council for expansion are eligible to receive child care scholarships. This new strategy supports the goal of expanding access to quality programs for South Pima children and additionally supports the goals of the expansion strategies. The Regional Council will increase funding to provide scholarships for a 12 month period.*

4. First Things First Priorities

All four of the strategies implemented by the South Pima Regional Partnership Council to address this priority are aligned with the First Things First Priorities. Each strategy addresses Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Child Care and Education Settings from a slightly different angle but taken together as a cluster, address all of the goals listed below:

- More regulated early care and education programs attain a rating of 3 stars or higher*
- More families know about the importance of quality and of selecting early care and education programs that have attained a rating of 3 stars or higher.*
- More children are enrolled in early care and education programs that have attained a rating of 3 stars or higher.*
- There are more quality early care and education programs available to families across Arizona.*
- Quality early care and education programs are affordable for all families.*

PRIORITY 2 : COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

Description of prioritized need: Families with young children have increased access to services that provide them with the tools they need to enhance their role as their child's most important teacher. A range of services and programs provides for various levels of support to allow families to access services best addressing their needs.

Strategy: <u>Home Visitation</u>						
Regional Title and/or short description: Home Visiting and Community Based Parenting Education: <i>Families receive support in their homes or in community based settings that provide them with information on child development to enhance their skills as parents (home visitation component)</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Families receiving home visitation services	222	203	234	237	278	278
Strategy: <u>Parent Education Community-Based Training</u>						
Regional Title and/or short description: Home Visiting and Community Based Parenting Education: <i>Families receive support in their homes or in community based settings that provide them with information on child development to enhance their skills as parents (community based parenting component)</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Adults attending education sessions	259	361	*2,263	259	267	267
*Number of adults attending may be duplicated if they attended multiple sessions.						
Strategy: <u>Center-Based Literacy</u>						
Regional Title and/or short description: Early Literacy: <i>Early literacy coaches work with child care providers and parents in Quality First enrolled centers and homes to enhance language and literacy development. Additionally, high quality lending library are provided to each participating center and literacy kits are available through check-out for home providers.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Providers receiving literacy professional development	131	135	207	125	125	125
Families attending family literacy workshops	142	142	142	**700	**850	**850
Children attending family literacy workshops	*NA	*NA	*226	*NA	*NA	*NA
Number of books distributed	Service units do not apply specifically to South Pima strategy					
* Service unit had not been determined at the time of grant award in SFY2010. This data was collected by the grantee at the end of 2010.						
**These numbers will be duplicated as families may attend more than one session.						

Summary of Progress and Challenges
Rationale for Changes to SFY12
Alignment with Strategic Direction

1. Strategy Success

The South Pima Family Support strategies have all been successful and have exceeded their target service numbers. As a result of the impact of the economic downturn on families, more families looked for support services including home visitation programs and community based parenting programs such as the Parents As Teachers Stay and Play sessions. As many as 50 families turned out for the sessions hosted in the Sunnyside Unified School District for sessions that are intended to serve approximately 20 families. Likewise sessions held in the 85730 zip code are over capacity. Stay and Play sessions in Sahuarita and Amado are well attended and the Stay and Play session held in Ajo marked the first First Things First parenting support services delivered to that community and have been well-received by the community. Community based parenting education has proven to be a valuable strategy for providing family support services in rural communities and communities that lack these kinds of opportunities. Families attending Stay and Play sessions consistently attend and anecdotally share how much they and their child(ren) get out of the sessions.

The South Pima early literacy strategy has placed high quality lending libraries in every child care center enrolled in Quality First. Professional development sessions on developing early literacy are provided to the child care staff and workshops on literacy are offered to the families of children enrolled in these centers. In addition, Family Read Aloud nights that are scheduled in several community settings have been well attended and each family leaves with literacy ideas and a book to take home. A collection of high quality literacy kits have been developed for supporting literacy in all home providers enrolled in Quality First in the South Pima Region. Each kit contains several books centered on a theme as well as activity ideas for extending literacy using the books in the kit and other related literacy materials such as puppets, writing materials, songs and music, and materials that support phonemic awareness and alphabet knowledge. The kits are rotated among the homes with the literacy coach and the Quality First coach assisting in the delivery and exchange of kits. In addition, every family child care provider received a small collection of high quality books for their home.

All home visitation programs slots were filled with a total of 234 families were served through this intensive family support strategy. 117 children under the age of five received a developmental screening with approximately 25% referred for further evaluation.

2. Strategy Challenges

All family support strategies implemented by the South Pima Regional Council met with success, which does not mean they did not encounter some challenges. The greatest challenge was the effort to establish programs in the very rural communities. The grantees were committed to identifying and hiring local residents to implement these programs. Utilizing a local individual would eliminate the need for extensive travel and build on already established relationships, as well as provide a basis for better understanding the unique needs of families in their community. Hiring staff locally with the level of qualifications and education typical to these well-established programs proved challenging and took much longer than anticipated. For example, after several attempts to advertise and interview for a family educator in Ajo, a family educator went from Tucson to Ajo once every two weeks to facilitate the Parents As Teachers Stay and Play sessions. Eventually, an individual who had been attending the sessions expressed an interest in receiving the necessary training to assume the position.

In Amado, another small rural community, a part-time person was identified to facilitate the program and after a slow start, now has regular attendance and has expanded to offer sessions in Arivaca, another small community approximately 35 miles away.

The early literacy program encountered some challenges in identifying a mechanism to distribute literacy kits and provide on-going support to family child care providers who typically are the only adults in the home. By establishing a working relationship with the Quality First coach assigned to the provider, they have been successful in removing the barrier for getting the literacy kits to the providers, supporting them with how to use the materials and facilitate the rotation of the kits.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

No changes are anticipated for SFY2012. The South Pima Regional Partnership Council plans to continue the strategies at the current levels of funding.

4. First Things First Priorities

All three of the current South Pima Family Support strategies are aligned with the First Things First Priority Supports and Services for Families including:

- *More families who want or need assistance have access to a continuum of services, supports, and resources in their communities to increase their competence and confidence to ensure their children enter school healthy and ready to succeed.*
- *More families have access to the knowledge, skills, and resources to assist their children with emergent literacy and language development.*
- *Family services and supports that lead to effective parenting are delivered in accordance with standards of practice.*
- *Family services and supports are planned, developed, funded, and delivered in a coordinated manner that best meets the needs and preferences of families and leverages available resources.*

PRIORITY 3 : HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS IN THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION FIELD

Description of prioritized need: Highly qualified early care and education professionals are essential to providing high quality care and education. A range of strategies address continued education and incentives for professionals to increase their formal education and remain in the field.

Strategy: Scholarships TEACH (Statewide)

Regional Title and/or short description: **Expand T.E.A.C.H.** Provide additional T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for early childhood professionals beyond those provided through the Quality First program.

Service Units

Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Participating scholars	54 (with 2 designated for Tohono O’odham Nation)	54	13	54 (with 7 designated for Tohono O’odham Nation)	54	54 – (with 10 designated for Tohono O’odham Nation)

Strategy: <u>FTF Professional REWARD\$ (Statewide)</u>						
Regional Title and/or short description: Professional REWARD\$: <i>Provide financial incentives tied to educational attainment to compensate and retain early care and education professionals in the field.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Incentive awards distributed	86	86	49	120	120	A minimum of 90 until all funds expended
Strategy: <u>Scholarships Non-TEACH (Multi-Region)</u>						
Regional Title and/or short description: Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP): <i>Provide tuition support for early childhood professionals working in regulated child care settings.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Participating scholars	Strategy was not funded in SFY2010			55	55	55
Strategy: <u>Scholarships Family Support Professionals</u>						
Regional Title and/or short description: Home Educator Tuition Supports: <i>Provide tuition support for home educators working in home visitation programs</i> <i>Note: This strategy was never implemented.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Professionals receiving scholarships	Not implemented			Not implemented		Removed
Strategy: <u>Community-Based Early Childhood Training</u>						
Regional Title and/or short description: Innovative Professional Development: <i>Provide professional development opportunities through innovative approaches by building on a collaboration with Central Pima's Innovative Professional Development strategy. Professional development opportunities are tied to college credit with academic support by a faculty member from a higher education institution.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Participating Professionals	Not implemented			Not implemented		130

Summary of Progress and Challenges
Rationale for Changes to SFY12
Alignment with Strategic Direction

1. Strategy Success

As of November 2010, none of the South Pima professional development strategies have been fully successful in meeting their target service numbers. However, outreach activities related to enrolling T.E.A.C.H. scholars were provided throughout the region. The seven T.E.A.C.H. scholarships designated for professionals working on the Tohono O'odham Nation were filled and helped reduce the number on their wait list. Although the designated number of REWARD\$ incentives were not awarded in SFY2010, as of November 2010, 100 of the 120 incentives for SFY2011 had been awarded. The Professional Career Pathways Project was recently approved by the Board in December and had not had time to be implemented. It was added as a new strategy for SFY2011 to address a gap in the professional development continuum.

2. Strategy Challenges

Out of the 54 regionally funded T.E.A.C.H. scholarships approved for SFY2010, only 13 were awarded. Two of those were awarded to scholars on the Tohono O'odham Nation through a collaboration with the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council. Out of the 47 T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for regionally funded expansion of Quality First, only 21 were awarded in SFY2010. Data for SFY2011 is not yet available. Possible barriers may include the application process, requirements for eligibility, lack of support by the program for the scholar, and educational barriers to accessing college courses. Although outreach activities have occurred throughout the region, the number of scholars applying and successfully receiving a scholarship continues to lag below the target service number.

First Things First Professional REWARD\$ also did not meet its target service number. The strategy was not implemented until late in the spring of 2010 and outreach to child care providers especially those in more rural communities did not have the level of impact anticipated.

Scholarships for Family Support Educators was never implemented by the South Pima Regional Partnership Council. The original intent was to amend the home visitation contracts to provide additional funding for scholarships for home visitation professionals (home educators) because they were not eligible to receive TEACH scholarships. This effort was unsuccessful for two reasons. First, it altered the original scope of work, and logistically, the grantees did not have the infrastructure that allowed them administer the scholarships. The funding amount was very small and did not warrant releasing a request for grant proposal for an administrative home.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

The South Pima Regional Partnership Council made several changes to the strategies addressing this priority area.

Through conversations with the Tohono O'odham Nation Regional Partnership Council and the T.E.A.C.H. specialist, the South Pima Regional partnership Council learned that the Tohono O'odham Nation had a waiting list for T.E.A.C.H. scholarships. In the spirit of collaboration, the South Pima Regional Partnership Council moved to designate up to 10 T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for early childhood professionals working on the Tohono O'odham Nation. Funding levels and target service numbers will remain the same overall. As awareness of the REWARD\$ program increases, so should the number of early childhood professionals accessing T.E.A.C.H. and other professional development opportunities that are tied to attaining college degrees.

The funding level for REWARD\$ was decreased although the intention of the Regional Council is not to decrease service numbers. To date, the average incentive is \$600. The per unit cost provided to the regional councils for the purpose of budgeting for this strategy is \$2,350. As a result of this discrepancy, the South Pima Regional Council is meeting its target service number but has a significant level of funding remaining. If this trend continues into SFY2012, the Regional Council should be able to exceed its target service number even with a reduced level of funding.

Another change for SFY2012 is the elimination of the Scholarships for Family Support Educator strategy. The Regional Partnership Council has been unable to implement this strategy.

The South Pima Regional Partnership Council recognizes that T.E.A.C.H. and PCPP do not meet the professional development needs of all early childhood professionals who wish to further their education in early childhood. As a result, they approved a new strategy, Innovative Professional Development, based on the model currently being implemented in Central Pima. This will provide an opportunity for collaboration with the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council.

4. First Things First Priorities

The three strategies implemented by the South Pima Regional Partnership Council to address the need for highly qualified early childhood professionals align with the First Things First Priority of a Professional Development System. In particular, these strategies insure:

- *More early care and education professionals have access to ongoing education and training to meet their professional development requirements and goals across Arizona.*
- *More early childhood care and education professionals across Arizona have degrees and/or credentials in early care and education.*

PRIORITY 4 : HEALTHY CHILDREN

Description of prioritized need: *Improve access to preventative health information and services including enrollment in appropriate health insurance programs and oral health services.*

Strategy: Health Insurance Enrollment

Regional Title and/or short description: **Health Insurance Outreach and Enrollment:** *Provide outreach and support to increase health insurance enrollment through the use of the AZ Health E application and educate families about preventative health practices. Provide outreach in settings that are accessible to families.*

Service Units

Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Families receiving health insurance enrollment assistance	720	720	394	720	720	720

Strategy: <u>Oral Health</u>						
Regional Title and/or short description: Preventative Oral Health: Provide preventative oral health services including dental screenings and fluoride varnish applications to children in child care settings. Provide oral health education to parents and health provides.						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Children receiving oral health screenings	2,800	2,800	1904	2,800	2,800	2,800
Children receiving fluoride varnish	2,800	2,800	1920	2,800	2,800	2,800
Adults participating in oral health trainings	1068	1068	NA - These are not reported separately from professionals on the current data report	1068	1068	1068
Health professionals participating in trainings	40	40	100 (likely duplicated)	40	40	40
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
<p>1. Strategy Success</p> <p><i>Both South Pima Regional Council health strategies have met with some success and some challenges in SFY2010, but it is anticipated that target service numbers will be met in SFY2011. Both of the South Pima's health strategies fell short of meeting the target service numbers for SFY2010 for screening and application of fluoride varnish and oral health screenings, and for insurance enrollment. However, 1920 of the proposed 2800 children received fluoride varnish applications. The oral health strategy exceeded the number of health professionals participating in trainings on the importance of early oral health screening. The target service number was 40 health professionals and 100 attended trainings although it is possible some of these are the same professionals who attended more than one session. 919 oral health kits including toothpaste, toothbrush and dental floss were distributed to children as part of the screening process. Children were taught how to properly brush and floss their teeth. As a result of the screening process, 483 referrals were made for free or low cost care.</i></p> <p><i>The South Pima Health Insurance Outreach and Enrollment strategy was not implemented until May 1, 2010, providing for only two months of services. Capacity building in the rural areas was the focus of the</i></p>						

first two months of implementation. This included subcontracting with other health partners, purchasing licensing rights to use the Arizona Health E application and providing training on its use. In spite of the startup barriers, 394 of the proposed 720 families received support with health insurance enrollment. Health staff has been actively providing outreach by participating in multiple community events and venues targeting families with young children through the entire South Pima region.

2. Strategy Challenges

One of the challenges shared by both of the South Pima Regional Council health strategies has been the delays in working through the government process for approvals for hiring staff, sub-contracting with partner agencies and general approval of the grant award. These processes took longer than anticipated and slowed the initial implementation of the strategies.

The oral health strategy has also encountered some difficulty getting the cooperation of child care providers to participate by allowing oral health staff to do dental health screenings and fluoride varnish applications on children enrolled in their programs. This has been especially true for family child care providers. Establishing working relationships with some child care providers to provide access to the families and children has proven to be a barrier that the grantee is working to eliminate.

3. Strategy Changes for 2012

No changes are anticipated for SFY2012. The South Pima Regional Partnership Council plans to continue the strategies at the same funding level.

4. First Things First Priorities

Both the South Pima oral health and insurance outreach strategy align with the First Things First Priority Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services. As a result of these strategies, more children across Arizona have access to preventative oral health services and more families are aware of children’s health insurance and how to enroll their children. The South Pima health insurance outreach and enrollment strategy goes one step beyond in that it also provides families with preventative health information such as immunization schedules, well-child check-up schedules, developmental milestones, nutrition and exercise guidelines, and support in connecting to a medical home. The oral health strategy provides families with information on early oral health and disease prevention and works to educate health professionals on the importance of oral health screening by age one.

PRIORITY 5: KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION OF IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

Description of Prioritized Value: Knowledge and information of the importance of early childhood development and health

Strategy: Community Outreach (Statewide) (FTF Directed)

Regional Title and/or short description: *Participate in the Cross-Regional Communications efforts with the four other Regional Partnership Councils in Pima County. Community Outreach efforts include identifying and presenting to local organizations, organizing site visits, gathering stories related to the impact of FTF strategies, recruiting and retaining champions for early childhood education and health.*

Strategy: Community Awareness (Statewide) (FTF Directed)

Regional Title and/or short description: *Participate in the Cross-Regional Communications efforts with the four other Regional Partnership Councils in Pima County. Community awareness activities include participating in community events, and distributing educational materials.*

Strategy: Media (Statewide) (FTF Directed)
Regional Title and/or short description: <i>Participate in the Cross-Regional Communications efforts with the four other Regional Partnership Councils in Pima County. Media efforts include purchasing television and radio spots, billboards, and other approved media buys.</i>
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
1. Strategy Success <i>The South Pima Regional Council communications strategy has provided an opportunity for cross regional collaboration. Each of the five regions in Pima County came together to create a cross-regional plan that included all four of the First Things First Communications strategy and implementation began in the late spring, 2010. Representatives of each regional council meet regularly to discuss, plan and execute cross-regional community awareness, outreach and education on the importance of early childhood development and health as well as the role of First Things First. To date regional staff and outreach consultants participated in 43 community events and have recruited 177 champions for early childhood.</i>
2. Strategy Challenges <i>The greatest challenge was the delay in a central communications plan to provide the framework and guidance for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development and health. Once a plan was provided, the regional council moved quickly to approve funding and explore ways to leverage funding and impact across Pima County by joining with the other four regional councils in Pima County to execute the components of the plan. Another challenge has been the use of a consulting firm for community outreach. Coordination with the multiple staff employed by the firm for this work has been challenging and has not provided the results the cross-regional communications plan had hoped to achieve. This is in part to the fact that no one person is committed full time to this work. The work is complex and multi-faceted and understanding the nuances of each of the regional areas requires full time attention. Another challenge has been identifying effective media mechanisms for the smaller rural communities and additional options are being investigated.</i>
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 <i>The South Pima Regional Partnership Council will continue to execute all components for the First Things First Communications Plan.</i>
4. First Things First Priorities <i>The South Pima communications strategy aligns with the First Things First Priority: Building Public awareness and Support by helping educate the public of the benefits of investing in early childhood development, health and early education and supporting the identification and growth of a pool of early childhood champions throughout the region.</i>
PRIORITY 6: COORDINATION, COLLABORATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
Description of prioritized need: Provide professional support to develop or enhance coordination, collaboration and capacity development in underserved and rural communities.
Strategy: <u>Service Coordination</u>
Regional Title and/or short description: Coordination of Services: <i>Provide the leadership and resources necessary to support two geographic areas on developing the capacity to better meet the needs of</i>

<i>children and families through building upon the informal networks and coalitions within each individual community and in the larger geographic area through the coordination of services.</i>						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
Participating partner agencies	Not funded in SFY2010			10	10	10
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success <i>This strategy is new to South Pima for SFY2011 and the RFGA award has not yet been approved by the First Things First Board.</i>						
2. Strategy Challenges <i>Implementation of the strategy has not yet begun. It is anticipated that there may be some barriers associated with working with isolated rural communities such as turf issues and developing relationships and trust. The rural communities targeted through this strategy identify gaps in or lack of services, but also lack capacity to address these gaps internally, yet are not receptive to “outsiders” working within their communities.</i>						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 <i>The South Pima Regional Partnership Council intends to fund this strategy at an increased level for SFY2012 in order to annualize it since the SFY2011 funding level is for a 5 month period only.</i>						
4. First Things First Priorities <i>The South Pima Coordination of Services strategy is closely aligned to one of the three priorities in which the First Things First will take a leadership role: Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation. More specifically, this strategy aligns with supporting agencies and organization involved in early care and education to have a common understanding and share ownership in ensuring access for all children to high quality, culturally responsive early care and education, helping identify funding to eliminate gaps in services and prevent duplication, and insuring that early care and education programs and services are identified and aligned.</i>						

PRIORITY 6: REGIONAL EVALUATION	
Strategy:	Regional Needs and Assets
Short Description:	<i>The South Pima Regional Partnership Council has added additional funding for the Regional Needs and Assets Report to carry out primary data collection in the small rural communities whose needs are not as well-identified by census data as the larger communities. In addition, the regional council wants the vendor to incorporate findings from the Child Care Demand and Capacity Study into the Needs and Assets Report and to provide support to the Regional Council with interpretation of 2010 Census data, Child Care Demand and Capacity Study and primary data collection for SFY2013 planning.</i>

Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
<p>1. Strategy Success</p> <p><i>The 2010 Regional Needs and Assets process was successful in part because of the fact that each regional council was able to select the vendor best suited to their region. This provided another opportunity for cross-regional collaboration with Central and North Pima using the same vendor. The process was improved due to the fact that there was more time to do the work, the vendor had access to more data sources, and the vendor was extremely responsive to the regional council and had frequent contact with the coordinator throughout the entire process.</i></p> <p><i>The 2010 Regional Needs and Assets report has a wealth of relevant information. The vendor organized a section with zip code maps and data boxes related to that zip code for easy access. This section provides a quick way to locate data specific to a zip code and allows for easy comparison across zip codes. It will be helpful in sharing with agencies serving that zip code including school districts. In addition, the Regional Partnership Council allotted funds for some primary data collection in some of the smaller rural communities that are not well represented in state or county level data sources. Key stakeholder interviews and a web survey were conducted regarding the needs of these communities for child care and early childhood education.</i></p>
<p>2. Strategy Challenges</p> <p><i>The 2010 Regional Needs and Assets process proved to have presented very few challenges. The biggest challenge was due to the delay in procuring vendors which ultimately delayed the start of the work. Access to data from other state agencies and organizations remains a challenge. In some cases data was requested but was not provided for the 2010 Needs and Assets Report. The timeliness of receiving data requested also presented challenges in the development of the report.</i></p>
<p>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</p> <p><i>Overall, the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets process and report was successful. It is hoped that vendors will have more time to collect, analyze, and synthesize data. The South Pima Regional Partnership Council has approved a slight increase in funding to do some primary data collection, incorporate the findings of the Child Care Demand and Capacity Study, and provide the regional council with some support in understanding how to best utilize the data to drive decisions for future priority needs.</i></p>

PRIORITIZED NEED: Food Insecurity (items not being addressed/funded in 2012)						
Description of prioritized need: Children’s nutritional needs are met.						
Strategy: Food Security						
Regional Title and/or short description: Emergency Food Boxes						
Service Units						
Service Units	SFY 10 Target	SFY 10 Contracted	SFY 10 Actual	SFY 11 Target	SFY 11 Contracted	SFY 12 Target
# Food Boxes	NA	NA	4551 for all of Pima County	Not funded		Not funded
# children receiving food	NA	NA	5196 for all of Pima County	Not funded		Not funded
# adults receiving food	NA	NA	4551 for all of Pima County	Not funded		Not funded
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success <i>This strategy was implemented as part of the First Things First Emergency Response in spring of 2009 and was not identified as a priority for South Pima and never funded as a regional strategy.</i>						
2. Strategy Challenges <i>None noted</i>						
3. Strategy Changes for 2012 <i>Not applicable</i>						
4. First Things First Priorities <i>Not applicable</i>						

SOUTH PIMA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
Regional Funding Plan SFY 2012

Section II B
Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments

South Pima Regional Partnership Council Funding Plan					2012 Proposed Allotments
	2010		2011		2012
FY Allocation	\$5,819,218.00		\$5,578,319.82		\$5,514,674.00
Carry Forward From Previous Year	na		\$2,220,680.51		\$1,798,108.54
Total Funds Available	\$5,819,218.00		\$7,799,000.33		\$7,312,782.54
Strategies	Allotted	Expended	Allotted	Awarded	Proposed
Expansion: Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense (Expansion of Child Care)	\$323,480.00	\$462,315.77	\$476,519.00	\$476,519.00	\$477,153.00
Expansion: Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense (Recruit and Support Child Care)	\$435,529.00	\$210,856.48	\$396,529.00	\$396,529.00	\$396,529.00
Quality First (Statewide)	\$745,583.00	\$397,725.49	\$1,678,796.60	\$1,639,659.61	\$1,937,000.00
Child Care Health Consultation (Statewide)	\$136,667.00	\$65,487.09	\$253,333.00	\$248,533.44	\$432,000.00
Child Care Scholarships (Statewide)	\$1,032,968.00	\$1,003,736.54	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00
Home Visitation	\$964,870.00	\$943,491.00	\$973,082.00	\$973,046.00	\$973,046.00
Parent Education Community-Based Training	\$48,400.00	\$40,578.66	\$48,400.00	\$48,400.00	\$48,400.00
Center-based Literacy	\$112,087.00	\$112,012.33	\$112,090.00	\$112,090.00	\$112,090.00
Scholarships TEACH (Statewide)	\$356,250.00	\$41,753.86	\$473,910.00	\$473,910.00	\$446,200.00
FTF Professional REWARD\$ (Statewide)	\$180,000.00	\$30,300.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$211,500.00
Scholarships Non-TEACH (Multi-Region)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
Scholarships Family Support Professionals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community-Based Early Childhood Education Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
Health Insurance Enrollment	\$49,887.00	\$15,692.33	\$188,295.00	\$188,295.00	\$188,295.00
Oral Health	\$224,998.00	\$153,951.88	\$224,998.00	\$224,998.00	\$224,998.00
Communications (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$100,000.00	\$80,090.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Awareness (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,961.00	\$951.63	\$18,961.00
Community Outreach (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$46,564.00	\$0.00	\$46,564.00
Media (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$74,475.00	\$74,475.00	\$74,475.00
Service Coordination	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
Needs and Assets	\$26,700.00	\$20,025.00	\$12,426.00	\$12,425.67	\$30,000.00
Evaluation-Regional	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Evaluation-Statewide	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$226,779.00	\$226,778.80	\$0.00
Arizona Health Survey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,928.52	\$8,928.52	\$0.00
Child Care Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$97,730.14	\$97,730.14	\$0.00
Children's Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,138.77	\$2,138.77	\$0.00
Parent Kits - Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,983.54	\$0.00	\$0.00
Evaluation 2012	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$260,663.00
Food Insecurity	\$23,299.00	\$20,520.53	\$953.22	\$953.22	\$0.00
Total	\$4,760,718.00	\$3,598,537.49	\$6,000,891.79	\$5,781,361.80	\$6,777,874.00
Carry Forward to Following Year		\$2,220,680.51	\$1,798,108.54		\$534,908.54

SOUTH PIMA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
Regional Funding Plan SFY 2012

Section II C Information about changes in funding level for strategies from 2011 to 2012

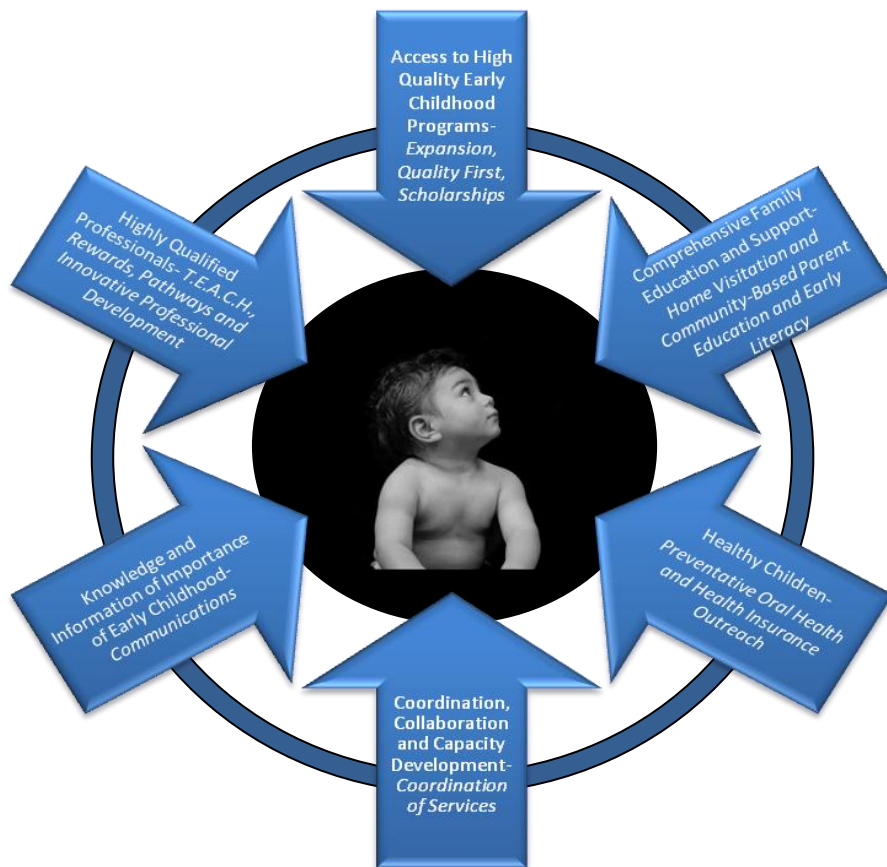
Strategy Name	Previous Funding Amount (SFY 2011)	New Funding Amount (SFY 2012)	Rationale for Change in Funding
Expansion of Child Care – Expand Child Care & Capital Investment	\$476,519	\$477,153	Reduced the SFY2011 amount in December. Currently have grant in place for \$77,153. Regional Partnership Council wants to have \$400,000 available for grant award for SFY2012.
Quality First - Regional	\$1,891,730	\$2,637,000	The Regional Partnership Council is committed to increasing the number of child care centers and homes enrolled in Quality First. This increase reflects an additional 9 centers and 23 homes.
Quality First Child Care Scholarships	\$250,000	\$500,000	The original amount allocated in SFY 2011 was \$250,000 for approximately 65 scholarships. This was for a 6-month period only. This increase provides funding for approximately 65 scholarships for up to 12 months.
T.E.A.C.H.	\$205,200	\$178,200	Funding for TEACH was reduced slightly based on the new per unit cost provided. The number of participating scholars to be funded remains at 54. 10 of these scholarships will be awarded to professionals working on the Tohono O’odham Nation.
First Things First Professional REWARD\$	\$300,000	\$211,500	The South Pima Regional Partnership Council decreased the funding level and target service number from 120 to a minimum of 90 incentives utilizing the unit cost of \$2,350. Incentives averaged \$600 in SFY2011. The Regional Council would like to set a minimum but continue awards until all funding allotted is expended.
Professional Career Pathways Project	\$25,000	\$50,000	This strategy was approved by the Regional Council in December and funded only for the summer semester for SFY2011. The increase reflects the Regional Partnerships Council’s desire to fund for all three semesters for SFY2012.
Community-Based Early Childhood Education Training	\$0	\$200,000	This is a new strategy for SFY2012; therefore no funds were awarded in SFY2011.
Cross-Regional Communications – Media/Advertising	\$44,475	\$74,475	The increase reflects the Regional Partnership Council’s desire to fund public awareness activities through media at a higher level.
Service Coordination	\$100,000	\$150,000	Implementation of this strategy for SFY2011 was for five months only. The increase reflects annualizing the strategy to implement for a 12 month period for SFY2012.
Carry Forward	Regional Council has planned carry forward for sustainability of current strategies in SFY2013. Due to the large amount of carry forward in SFY2011, strategies were added to address unmet needs and expand scope and reach.		

Section III System Building Impact

To begin its SFY2012 strategic planning, the South Pima Regional Partnership Council utilized a process they used successfully in previous years. Three workgroup sessions were scheduled and community stakeholders were invited to participate. Armed with the newly approved 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report, SFY2010 end of year implementation and financial data and the Early Childhood Task Force Priorities, these workgroup sessions began by first revisiting the First Things First Mission and Vision statements and South Pima's core social and program values as reflected in the collective strategies funded in SFY2010 and SFY2011. The statement "budgets are social documents; budgets reflect program values" made by Josh Allen and Karen Woodhouse at the Arizona Early Childhood Summit in September 2010 was used to frame the discussion as the Regional Council and community members talked about the values set forth by the Regional Partnership Council over the past year and a half.

The workgroups revisited each prioritized need from the previous two years, and using the newly available 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report (draft) and the fiscal year 2010 implementation data, discussed if the regional values (needs) from the previous years were still priorities.

As a result of these discussions, the Regional Council reorganized the strategies around each prioritized need as reflected in the visual below:



Each cluster of strategies reflects the developing infrastructure put in place to address the overarching value. Taken together, they contribute to the vision of a system of early childhood education and health for South Pima.

For example, the South Pima Regional Council has four strategies that address quality, access and affordability: 1) Expansion of Child Care; 2) Recruit and Support Child Care; 3) Quality First; and 4) Quality First Child Care Scholarships. Each strategy addresses a different challenge in addressing this need. This cluster of strategies is universal and works to establish the infrastructure to provide high quality programs to all children in all areas of the region. Two of these strategies target the establishment of the infrastructure. Quality First focuses on improving the quality of existing and new early care and education programs, and Quality First Child Care Scholarships addresses the affordability of quality care and education. The priority of this value is also reflected in the level of funding that the South Pima Regional Council has directed toward this need.

Closely linked to quality, access and affordability, is the need for well educated early childhood professionals. In order to have high quality early care and education programs, professionals working with children must be well educated and qualified. A continuum of professional development strategies is in place, each strategy is meeting the need of a diverse early childhood work force. Through examination of the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report and 2010 implementation data, it became evident that a gap existed in addressing this goal. The eligibility requirements of T.E.A.C.H. created a barrier for some professionals. In response to this, the Regional Council allotted funds to implement the Professional Career Pathways Project (PCPP) and recently approved a fourth strategy to address yet another identified gap, Innovative Professional Development. This strategy, new to the South Pima region, has been successfully implemented in Central Pima and will provide an opportunity for cross-regional collaboration. It will help address the gap in professional development faced by home visitation educators and family, friend and neighbor child care providers. These professionals are not eligible for either T.E.A.C.H. or PCPP because they do not work within the structure of a regulated program.

Additionally, the South Pima Regional Partnership Council has been intentional about addressing the needs of the rural communities throughout the region by focusing on building capacity in these communities, as well as building capacity within existing organizations to expand services into rural communities they have not traditionally served. Expansion of Child Care, Recruitment of Child Care, and Service Coordination are strategies that specifically target capacity development in rural communities. Home visitation, Community-Based Parenting Education, and Health Insurance Enrollment are strategies that encourage organizations to expand their service reach into rural communities they have not previously served.

These examples demonstrate the system-building occurring in the South Pima Region. These strategies are in the implementation stage and many have experienced some challenges related to capacity building. At the same time, there have been many successes in a short period of time. Although each strategy is organized by a priority need, they are interconnected and taken as a whole, are beginning to build an infrastructure that did not previously exist in many of the communities in South Pima.

The South Pima Regional Partnership Council recognizes that not one size fits all. The South Pima region is vast and encompasses largely rural communities and some urban areas. This diversity adds both a richness and as well as a challenge to identifying strategies that have significant scope and reach necessary to achieve outcomes. Strategies that may be very effective in more heavily populated communities, may be ineffective in small, isolated rural communities. The South Pima Region has strived to identify strategies that can be implemented region-wide recognizing that in some rural communities, implementation presents additional challenges. To address this barrier, the Regional Council has created some strategies that focus only one community, or on a geographical cluster of communities.

Coordination and collaboration efforts have been ongoing in the South Pima region. There has been coordination between the Regional Councils in the Southeast Region through the development of a cross-regional communications plan and pooling of resources for implementation. A cross-regional communications workgroup meets regularly to discuss and plan the direction the councils work in building public awareness and support. The Central, North and South Pima Regional Councils intentionally selected a common vendor for the 2010 Needs and Assets Report to ensure efficiency in data collection that is relevant to all three regions. Multi-region Request for Grant Applications have been utilized when feasible, insuring that there is coordination between similar services and maximization of resources. Grantee collaboration meetings have been held both within the region and cross-regionally. These meetings allow grantees to share information about programs and services, discuss possible collaborations, and share information and resources where applicable.

Coordination has also been intentional between strategies. For example many of the strategies implemented by the South Pima Regional partnership Council are linked to or support one another. South Pima has invested heavily in Quality First. Additionally, they have expanded T.E.A.C.H. and funded REWARD\$. The Early Literacy strategy is linked to Quality First enrolled providers. South Pima's Oral Health strategy works with child care providers including those enrolled in Quality First. Community Awareness is embedded throughout all of South Pima's strategies. Another way coordination is occurring is among grantees. A strong example is the Family Support Alliance. This coalition of providers meets monthly to coordinate referrals and services for families within the region, and also across North Pima and Central Pima regions.

Regional Coordinators and Regional Council members have presented information on their region's strategies to other regional councils upon request. The South Pima Regional Council has expressed an interest in better understanding what strategies the other regions in the area are implementing and looking at the possibility of coordination such as is reflected by the recently approved innovative professional development strategy implemented successfully by Central Pima. The South Pima Regional Partnership Council has collaborated with the Tohono O'odham Regional Partnership Council to support 10 T.E.A.C.H. scholarships to early childhood professionals working on the Tohono O'odham Nation. And most recently, the South Pima Regional Partnership Council is implementing a coordination of services strategy to address lack of capacity of two geographic rural corridors in South Pima. Alone, each community does not have the capacity to address the gaps in services for young children, but with

support to develop partnerships both within the specific community and with neighboring communities, capacity to address gaps in services may be possible.

As the South Pima Regional Partnership Council enters its third year, there is developing evidence that the collective work of the regional council, community partners and families is beginning to take root and thoughtful, responsible decision-making will lead this region to a place where all children birth through five will receive the supports they deserve that will allow them to succeed in life.

Appendix

STRATEGY WORKSHEET

Strategy Name: <i>Community Based Early Childhood Education Professional Development</i>				
Strategy Description: Innovative Professional Development Implement innovative strategies to support professional development opportunities that bring subject matter experts (i.e. visiting faculty, published authors, researchers, etc.) to the South Pima Region early childhood educators in collaboration with the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council. These professional development opportunities would be tied to college credit with academic support and consultation by an early childhood faculty representative from a higher education institution, such as a local university or community college.				
Goal Area: <i>Professional Development</i> Goal: First Things First will build a skilled and well prepared early childhood development workforce.				
Key Measure/s: 1. Total number and percentage of professionals working in early childhood care and education settings with a credential, certificate or degree in early childhood development 2. Total #number and percentage of professionals working in early childhood care and education who are pursuing a credential, certificate or degree				
Target Population: <i>This strategy will target all professionals working in the field of early childhood in the South Pima Region, with the possibility to cross-regionally collaborate with other Regional Partnership Councils to encourage additional early childhood professionals to participate. The vision is to provide a minimum of three communities of practice to target the southern part of Tucson, including Vail, the Sunnyside School District area and Three Points community, the Sahuarita/Green Valley area, and family, friend and neighbor child care providers.</i>				
Regional Council Target Service Numbers	units	SFY 2012	SFY 2013	SFY 2014
	<i>Participating Professionals</i>	<i>Approximately 130</i>	<i>Approximately 130</i>	<i>Approximately 130</i>
Performance Measures: 1. Number of degreed professionals in early care and education 2. Number of administrators with ECE degrees 3. Number of professionals pursuing degrees in early childhood education				
SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy				

TOTAL ALLOTTMENT for proposed strategy \$ 200,000

Budget Justification/Estimates of Costs:

Describe how the total allocation for the strategy was determined, including characteristics unique to the region.

\$200,000 will fund the following components of Innovative Professional Development:

9 Day Comprehensive Communities of Practice Model

Allocated funds: \$72,000

At least 2 and up to 3 learning communities of early childhood professionals (approximately 30 participants per community) will participate in ongoing professional development. Each learning community will gather approximately 9 times throughout the year to gain professional development through a variety of methods, such as hearing various speakers at the local, state and national levels, and applying theory into practice (i.e. meeting in a classroom to apply newly learned skills) on the identified topic of study.

3 Day Comprehensive Communities of Practice Model

Allocated funds: \$30,000

3 day Conference Model (similar to above 9 day model) for approximately 100 early childhood professionals.

College Credit Hours Established Learning Community Participants

Allocated funds: \$26,000

College credit hours range from \$60-\$300 per credit hour (averaging \$180) X 1 credit hour for each participant

\$26,000/\$180 (average amount of college credit) = An average of 144 professionals acquiring college credit

Participants will be required to access college credit scholarships through the South Pima T.E.A.C.H. and Professional Careers Pathways Project strategies first if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Higher Education Institution Representative

Allocated funds: Up to \$72,000

Part-time faculty position at a higher education institution to coordinate, facilitate and support professional development seminars, conferences and other professional development opportunities in addition to teaching coursework and serving as an academic support to early childhood professionals.

\$70,000 (approximate of salary for a faculty member within a two year institution on a 9/10 month contract)

Benefits for Faculty Member: \$20,000

OR Part Time Faculty Option

\$30,000 (expansion of an adjunct faculty/part time faculty position within an early childhood program at a higher education institution) that could consist of up to two paid positions without Benefits.

There is the strong potential for cost savings and maximizing resources on all components of this strategy through coordination and collaboration with the Central Pima Regional Partnership Council. For example, conferences could be open to professionals in both regions and costs shared. Faculty cost might be shared. Communities of practice might overlap especially for those held within the Tucson area.