



Yuma Regional Partnership Council

| Allocations and Funding Sources | 2013 | Recommendations to the Board - FY13 Strategies and Allotments |
|---|--------------------|--|
| FY Allocation | \$5,261,084 | |
| Population Based Allocation | \$2,901,761 | |
| Discretionary Allocation | \$1,703,541 | |
| Other (FTF Fund balance addition) | \$655,782 | |
| Carry Forward From Previous Year | \$3,135,789 | |
| Total Regional Council Funds Available | \$8,396,873 | |
| Strategies | Proposed Allotment | |
| Quality First (<i>statewide</i>) | \$571,066 | Recommend approval |
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships (<i>statewide</i>) | \$970,054 | Recommend approval |
| Child Care Health Consultation (<i>statewide</i>) | \$85,680 | Recommend approval |
| Scholarships TEACH (<i>statewide</i>) | \$52,800 | Recommend approval |
| Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships | \$1,198,000 | Recommend approval |
| Scholarships non-TEACH | \$55,000 | Recommend approval |
| Inclusion of Children with Special Needs | \$230,991 | Recommend approval |
| Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals | \$100,000 | Recommend approval |
| Oral Health | \$303,266 | Recommend approval |
| Family, Friends & Neighbors | \$150,000 | Recommend approval |
| Mental Health Consultation (<i>statewide</i>) | \$123,000 | Recommend approval |
| Home Visitation | \$1,458,774 | Recommend approval |
| Food Security | \$50,000 | Recommend approval |
| Parent Education Community-Based Training | \$150,000 | Recommend approval |
| Family Support – Children with Special Needs | \$280,000 | Recommend approval |
| Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense | \$15,000 | Recommend approval |
| Reach Out and Read | \$100,000 | Recommend approval |
| Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness | \$44,275 | Recommend approval |
| Community Awareness (<i>FTF Directed</i>) | \$35,000 | Recommend approval with the line item budget submitted to the CEO for approval |
| Community Outreach (<i>FTF Directed</i>) | \$83,000 | Recommend approval |
| Media (<i>statewide</i>) | \$109,263 | Recommend approval |
| Statewide Evaluation (<i>statewide</i>) | \$144,955 | Recommend approval |
| Proposed Allotment Total: | \$6,310,124 | |
| Total Unallotted | \$2,086,749 | |

YUMA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

**Regional Funding Plan
Three Year Strategic Direction
SFY 2013-2015**

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Funds Available State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2012- 2015

- II. Review of SFY 2012 Funding Plan**
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 - A. Overview: Setting the Strategic Direction
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SFY 2013 -2015 Regional Partnership Council Budget

Section I.**Regional Allocation Summary**

Funds Available State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2012- 2015

Yuma Regional Partnership Council

| Allocations and Funding Sources | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| FY Allocation | \$5,257,627 | \$5,261,084 | \$5,271,606 | \$5,291,375 |
| Population Based Allocation | \$2,977,900 | \$2,901,761 | <i>(fy14 and fy15 allocations are estimates only, for purposes of planning)</i> | |
| Discretionary Allocation | \$1,758,063 | \$1,703,541 | | |
| Other (FTF Fund balance addition) | \$521,664 | \$655,782 | \$5,271,606 | \$5,291,375 |
| Carry Forward From Previous | \$4,465,727 | \$3,135,789 | \$2,086,749 | \$1,067,506 |
| Total Regional Council Funds | \$9,723,354 | \$8,396,873 | \$7,358,355 | \$6,358,881 |

Section II.

Review of SFY 2012 Funding Plan

II A. SFY 2012 Regional Partnership Council Priorities

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council continues their focus upon and support for the mission of First Things First to give children the maximum opportunities for optimal development before they enter kindergarten. The Regional Council is working towards building and implementing a system which supports families and communities in raising healthy children who are ready to enter school with a strong foundation for success. The Regional Partnership Council has planned their strategies very carefully, and continues focusing in the areas of Health, Family Support, and Access to Quality Child Care and services for children with special needs. The Regional Council's plan forward focuses on identification of needs and putting forward the strategies that will make the most impact, build upon a service delivery system that brings together all local agencies to collaborate and provide the best service delivery system available in a rural community.

Through the recommendations of the community and the Yuma Regional Needs and Assets report, the Yuma Regional Partnership Council has focused on areas of need through a combination of strategies addressing the priority goal areas established by First Things First. The following is a brief overview of the priorities addressed in SFY 2012:

Health

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council envisions a coordinated system of quality early care, intervention, and a skilled workforce to meet the needs of all children, particularly those with special needs. The Recruitment of Therapists/Stipends and Loan Forgiveness Strategy was developed to begin addressing this need in the community. Additionally, the Mental Health Consultation strategy addresses the need for early care and education programs to receive support geared toward building the capacity and improving the abilities of the early care and education providers to not only identify, but reduce the conditions in child care settings that may contribute to social-emotional concerns among young children. Another strategy designed to build capacity and improve the quality of early care and education facilities is the Child Care Health Consultation strategy that supports providers in offering a safe and healthy early childhood environment for children in programs that are not participating in Quality First. The Oral Health strategy's intent is to provide oral screenings and fluoride varnish application for children. Oral screenings and fluoride varnish applications reduce the incidence of cavities and set the stage for healthy teeth throughout childhood. The intent of this strategy is to reach up to 6000 children birth through five.

Professional Development

The Regional Council recognizes that in the rural communities there is a greater need for early childhood professional development. The Council's priority was to provide a continuum of Professional Development opportunities that would meet the needs of all Early Childhood Educators in the region, from Home-based providers with limited English to Center staff and Directors with a desire to pursue an Associate's Degree. The service delivery of the Community Based Training of the Early Care and Education of Professionals' strategy will continue to provide training opportunities for those working with or preparing to work in the early childhood education field. In addition, the TEACH Scholarships and non-TEACH strategies each contribute to build the capacity of the early childhood work force. This blend of strategies has a capacity to reach a significant percent of the early childhood education workforce, particularly those home based providers with limited English-speaking abilities.

Quality, Access and Affordability

The Regional Council continues with their intent to provide the families and children in the Yuma Region with services that address the need for access to affordable quality child care. Under this goal area there is a continued focus on the importance of improving the quality of early care and education experiences. With the Pre-K Expansion and Child Care Scholarships, children have access to quality child care centers and pre-schools. With the implementation of the Promoting Inclusive Settings strategy, children with special needs are now receiving developmentally appropriate services in early childhood centers and homes. Through the Home-based provider recruitment strategy more providers have been established as regulated settings. Finally, through the Family, Friend and Neighbor (Kith and Kin) strategy more unregulated care providers are receiving community trainings and support resources to increase their knowledge and ability to deliver quality care services.

Family Support

The Council envisioned a continuum of family support services for young children and their families, and has developed a series of interwoven strategies to build a system of care for children and families beginning before birth and extending through age five. The Home Visitation strategy provides education, support and connection to community resources for new parents and for parents of child with special needs. The Community based Literacy strategy expands the capacity of early language and literacy by providing services in libraries throughout the region. The Reach Out and Read strategy will continue to work through pediatricians to promote early literacy and provide books to families. The Food security strategy not only provides nutritious food for families in need, but also provides nutrition education and financial literacy to families to assist them in planning for nutrition needs of their children. The service continuum developed through these strategies move from targeted services for at-risk infants and toddlers to more universal services such as early literacy.

Community Outreach and Awareness

The Regional Council also implements a staff-directed Community Outreach and Awareness strategy to increase public awareness and community support through presentations and participation in community events.

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council is committed to working with community stakeholders and incorporating their ideas and knowledge of community needs in the planning process. The community stakeholders meetings are held on an annual basis and include representatives of grantees, school districts, medical service providers, community agencies, local Tribal governments and others in the community that are on the front lines serving families and children. An additional intent of the Regional Council is for grantees to coordinate the delivery of services in the community. Grantees attend quarterly coordination meetings intended to streamline service delivery, identify service gaps and prevent duplication of services. An example of coordination is the Food Security and Early Literacy grantees jointly planning events so that children will receive themed children's books about nutrition, and parents will receive materials and education on how to purchase and prepare nutritious foods. The Regional Council incorporated information from the Regional Needs and Assets Report, stakeholder and grantee meetings to devise a series of strategies that best suit the needs of the community.

II B. SFY 2012 Strategies and Units of Service Review

| Yuma Units of Service | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Strategy Description | Fiscal Year 2012 | |
| | Targeted Units | Contracted Units |
| Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness Strategy | | |
| Number of participants receiving Stipends and/or Loan Forgiveness | 3 | 3 |
| Number of therapists receiving loan forgiveness | 0 | 0 |
| Number of therapists receiving stipends | 0 | 0 |
| Mental Health Consultation Strategy | | |
| Number of center based providers served | 5 | 5 |
| Number of home based providers served | 2 | 2 |
| Number of people receiving tuition reimbursements | 0 | 0 |
| Child Care Health Consultation Strategy | | |
| Number of center based providers served | 15 | 22 |
| Number of home based providers served | 45 | 55 |
| Oral Health Strategy | | |
| Number of children receiving oral health screenings | 0 | 0 |
| Number of fluoride varnishes applied | 6,000 | 0 |
| Number of participating adults | 0 | 0 |
| Number of participating professionals | 40 | 0 |
| Number of prenatal women receiving oral health screenings | 0 | 0 |
| Prenatal Outreach Strategy | | |
| Number of adults attending training sessions | 280 | 280 |
| Number of adults receiving home visitation | 100 | 100 |
| Scholarships TEACH Strategy | | |
| Number of professionals receiving scholarships | 30 | 49 |
| Scholarships non-TEACH Strategy | | |
| Number of professionals receiving scholarships | 35 | 35 |
| Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education | | |
| Number of participating professionals | 250 | 300 |
| Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships Strategy | | |
| Number of FTF-funded pre-K children | 160 | 270 |
| Number of private/public partner pre-K sites receiving support | 4 | 4 |
| Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support | 6 | 6 |

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships Strategy | | |
| Number of children receiving scholarships | 176 | 174 |
| Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense Strategy | | |
| Number of center based providers served | 0 | 0 |
| Number of home based providers served | 25 | 40 |
| Number of increased slots for participating children | 0 | 160 |
| Inclusion of Children with Special Needs Strategy | | |
| Number of center based providers served | 15 | 8 |
| Number of home based providers served | 20 | 16 |
| Number of increased slots for participating children | 50 | 50 |
| Quality First Strategy | | |
| Number of center based providers served | 7 | 14 |
| Number of home based providers served | 10 | 20 |
| Family, Friends & Neighbors Strategy | | |
| Number of home based providers served | 90 | 90 |
| Family Support – Children with Special Needs Strategy | | |
| Number of families served | 80 | 75 |
| Home Visitation Strategy | | |
| Number of families served | 440 | 375 |
| Community-based Literacy Strategy | | |
| Number of books distributed | 0 | 0 |
| Number of children served | 0 | 375 |
| Parent Education Community-Based Training Strategy | | |
| Number of participating adults | | |
| Number of participating adults | 1,000 | 750 |
| Reach Out and Read Strategy | | |
| Number of books distributed | 6,436 | 6,436 |
| Number of participating practices | 3 | 3 |
| Food Security Strategy | | |
| Number of food boxes distributed | 2,000 | 1,800 |

Notes: Quality First Service Numbers: The Quality First strategy has Target Service Units of Homes and Centers. For this unique strategy, the Contracted Service Numbers will show as twice as much in comparison to the Targeted Service Numbers. This is due to implementation of the strategy through two service contracts (one for QF Coaching/Incentives, and a second for QF Assessments).

Scholarships TEACH and Child Care Health Consultation (CCHC) Service Numbers:

The Scholarships TEACH strategy and the CCHC strategy have Target Service Numbers which reflect the strategy targets of “additional TEACH” or “additional CCHC”. The Contracted Service Numbers include the “additional TEACH (or additional CCHC)” in addition to the Service Numbers funded through the regionally funded Quality First package. Therefore, for many regions, the Target Numbers will appear lower than the Contracted Numbers.

II C. SFY 2012 Funding Summary Review

| Yuma Regional Council FY'12 Funding Plan | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Allocations and Funding Sources | 2012 | |
| FY Allocation | | \$5,257,627 |
| Population Based Allocation | | \$2,977,900 |
| Discretionary Allocation | | \$1,758,063 |
| Other (FTF Fund balance addition) | | \$521,664 |
| Carry Forward From Previous Year | | \$4,465,727 |
| Total Regional Council Funds Available | | \$9,723,354 |
| Strategies | Allotted | Awarded |
| Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness | \$183,301 | \$183,301 |
| Mental Health Consultation | \$125,000 | \$125,000 |
| Child Care Health Consultation | \$308,000 | \$293,252 |
| Oral Health | \$303,266 | \$225,176 |
| Prenatal Outreach | \$438,800 | \$438,800 |
| Scholarships TEACH | \$142,100 | \$142,100 |
| Scholarships non-TEACH | \$77,000 | \$77,000 |
| Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals | \$133,320 | \$133,320 |
| Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships | \$1,080,000 | \$1,080,000 |
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense | \$45,500 | \$45,000 |
| Inclusion of Children with Special Needs | \$231,000 | \$230,991 |
| Quality First | \$310,000 | \$305,200 |
| Family, Friends & Neighbors | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |
| Family Support – Children with Special Needs | \$280,000 | \$279,726 |
| Home Visitation | \$1,019,974 | \$1,016,593 |
| Community-based Literacy | \$150,000 | \$112,500 |
| Reach Out and Read | \$100,000 | \$99,281 |
| Food Security | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| Needs and Assets | \$25,000 | |
| Community Awareness | \$70,000 | \$70,000 |
| Community Outreach | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| Media | \$120,349 | \$120,349 |
| Statewide Evaluation | \$144,955 | \$144,955 |
| To Be Determined | | |
| Total Allotted/Awarded/Expended: | \$6,587,565 | \$6,422,543 |
| Total Unallotted/Unawarded/Unexpended | \$3,135,789 | \$165,022 |

II D. Review of Progress

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council continues to be committed to building an early childhood system that addresses the needs of this rural community. The Regional Council identified existing resources and needs to design the best and most effective service delivery system for families of children birth through five years. The Regional Council has ongoing concerns that the social service infrastructure continues to be impacted by the state's economic crisis and the budget cuts to state agencies which provide services to children and families. Evidence of this crisis can be found in the high rates of unemployment and poverty in the Yuma Region.

In developing an early childhood system, the Regional Council also recognizes the challenges in implementing new services in a rural community. The Regional Council has identified the need to build community capacity through a variety of approaches including implementing strategies in manageable stages, close monitoring and collaboration with existing grantees and recruiting grantees to the region. In combination these approaches have resulted in the successful implementation of all regional strategies in FY 2012.

The Regional Council has also identified coordination of services and collaborative efforts between agencies as critical to achieving the outcomes desired as well as the vision of the Regional Council for children and families

Family Support

Under the Home Visitation umbrella there are several programs that are providing services to families pre-natal to age five including Health Families, Choices for Teen Parents and Parent Awareness and Education. The Regional Council envisioned a comprehensive service delivery model to include a robust Service Coordination component that provided individualized services through home visits and linkage to community resources to best meet the needs of children and families. The current Home Visitation strategy was successful in reaching families and in providing community-based training. There has also been significant progress in serving families in the home and in referring families to community resources. A renewed focus will be to provide the individualized family services and service coordination components which align with the Council's intent.

The Parent Coaching Children with Special Needs strategy works with families that have children with developmental delays who are not eligible for services through Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) or DES/Division of Developmental Disabilities. Families receive training and coaching to address and identify the issues that their children are facing with more confidence and acceptance. This strategy had implementation delays related to community capacity and first began providing services in February 2011. Outreach and enrollment of families moved quickly from that point. The Parents as Teacher model used in this program has been successful in overcoming the natural reluctance of families with children with special needs to accept that their children require specialized services.

The Early Literacy strategy began services in November 2011. These services are provided through the six local libraries in the Yuma Region. This strategy provides a series of workshops that assist parents, grandparents and teachers on how to use quality educational programs and content to help their young children get a head start on reading. During each session parents also have the opportunity to practice what they have learned with their children. This strategy will serve 750 families during this fiscal year, increasing to 1,000 during FY13. The Early Literacy strategy provider will also collaborate with the Food

Security and Oral Health providers to coordinate community events to allow the community to receive a combination of services in one setting.

Reach Out and Read has also been very successful in their recruitment efforts with local pediatricians and physicians and met their target services numbers. Under this strategy a total of 9 physicians have been recruited to increased and support early literacy to families and children birth to age five.

The Food Security strategy is designed to provide healthy nutritious foods to families with children birth to five through the distribution on 1,800 food boxes. This service also provides nutrition and financial literacy education for participants. The grantee will work in collaboration with the Oral Health and Early Literacy grantees to provide community events.

Health

The Oral health strategy faced some challenges in finalizing the agreement. Two separate requests for grant agreements were released without an award being made. The respondents did not have sufficient capacity to implement all of the strategy elements throughout the region. A government to government agreement has been executed and services will begin in January. The delays highlight the capacity issues found in implementing strategies in rural areas. The Recruitment/Stipends and Loan Forgiveness strategy initially had difficulty in meeting target service numbers. The Regional Council reduced target service numbers and added an allotment for Loan Forgiveness to the strategy in order to attract more professionals to the Yuma Region. This resulted in the addition of one Physical Therapist and applications from two Speech and Language Pathologists. The Regional Council's intent in the Pre-Natal Outreach strategy was focused upon the service coordination and individualized services provided through home visits. The Pre-Natal strategy while considered successful in reaching families became focused more upon community based training rather than individualized family services and service coordination which was the Council's intent.

Quality, Access and Affordability

The Pre-K and the Child Care Scholarship strategies have proven to be very successful in the region. The Pre-K strategy has promoted collaboration and coordination between the private and pre-school school partners. The Pre-K strategy provided quality pre-school experiences for 270 children which far exceeded the targeted service units. The Regional Councils has focused in obtaining quality services for all children birth through age five in the region. This has been done through the Quality First Strategy which has been successful in filling all vacancies funded by the region. The Mental Health Consultation grantee initially struggled to recruit qualified staff but we now have one Mental Health Consultant working with programs. Once staff was hired targeted service units were quickly met. This strategy currently serves five center-based and two home-based child care providers.

The Inclusion for Children with Special Needs has been very successful in this region. That strategy addressed one of Council's priorities to provided training, coaching and education to child care providers to increase their capacity to serve children with special needs. Early Child Education Plus program (ECEI+ program) has developed two program options: Intensive Individualize Program and Targeted Technical Assistance program. This program has targeted five child care centers, three group homes and ten Family Home Care providers. The Technical Assistance option has one child care center and one family home care provider. Child care providers, knowing they now have support, are more open and receptive to enrolling children with differing abilities into their programs.

Professional Development

The T.E.A.C.H scholarship strategy has progressed markedly with the assignment of a new outreach coordinator and is on a trajectory to meet target service numbers. A total of eighteen scholars are

participating in T.E.A.C.H. this year. The non-TEACH strategy has made great strides in meeting target service number during this fiscal year. The Community-based Training for Early Child Educators has exceeded its target service numbers by providing training through a series of workshops to over 300 child care providers. This strategy has been very successful in reaching home-based child care providers, particularly Spanish speaking providers who would otherwise not have opportunities for professional development.

Community Awareness

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council allocated funding to a Community Awareness strategy to develop an awareness campaign in SFY2011 and 2012 in conjunction with the state's efforts. The intent of the council was to establish a system of effective communication in a culturally sensitive manner, which would raise awareness and establish the importance of early care and education as a top priority for the Yuma community. This strategy has resulted in the recruitment over 1,200 champions during FY 2011-2012. These champions are a reflection of the community including parents, service agencies, educators, grantees, local, State and Tribal governments and service groups. This strategy is part of a state-wide, cross-regional communications plan.

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council is intentional in its focus and supports the mission of First Things First to give children the maximum opportunities for optimal development before they enter the Elementary school system. The Regional Council is working towards building and implementing a system which supports families and communities in raising healthy children who are ready to enter school with a strong foundation. The Regional Partnership Council has planned their strategies very carefully, focusing on the identification of needs and putting forward the strategies that will make the most impact, build upon a service delivery system that will bring together all local agencies to collaborate and provide the best delivery system available in a rural community.

Section III.

Three Year Strategic Direction: SFY 2013-2015 Regional Funding Plan

III A. Overview

The Yuma Regional Partnership Council continues to be committed to building an early childhood system that will address the needs of this rural community outlined in the Regional Needs and Assets Report. The Regional Council recognizes the challenges of the rural community and envisions a localized comprehensive early childhood development system that will provide the services that are lacking in the region. During its first years, the Yuma Regional Council worked toward identification of existing resources and methods in which to determine the best and most effective service delivery system for families of children birth through five years.

The essence of the region's funding plan and proposed strategies is to compliment or enhance current services which may no longer be as widely available to families in Yuma County. The Yuma Regional Partnership Council has identified coordination of services and collaborative efforts between agencies as critical to achieving the outcomes desired as well as the vision of the Regional Council for children and families. There is also a need to increase public awareness of the importance of early childhood development that the Regional Council is addressing with the community awareness strategy.

Setting the Strategic Direction

The Regional Council continues with their vision in building an early childhood system in the Yuma Region and continues their efforts to build capacity to better serve the families and children in our region. Capacity building has been approached in several ways: by implementing strategies in more manageable stages, encouraging and facilitating community collaborations, and by recruiting service providers from other areas of the State. The Regional Council considered all the regional needs and recommendations from the community that were outlined and identified at the Community Stakeholders Strategic Planning session. These stakeholder meetings have been held on an annual basis as part the strategic planning process for the Yuma Region. These meetings have grown in the number and variety of representatives attending. A total of 38 community members from a variety of community agencies were present to discuss and prioritize community needs with Regional Council members and FTF staff. As Council reviewed all of their strategies and their funding levels and sustainability for SFY 2013 – 2015 they considered all recommendations and reviewed all strategies and their effectiveness and impact on the community. The Council adopted the priorities identified through the Stakeholder meeting. These are:

- Readiness for School
- Services for Children with Disabilities
- Access to affordable Quality Child Care
- Parents' awareness of the needs of young children

System Building

The Regional Council reviewed these priorities and collectively reviewed and identified School Readiness indicators that aligned with the priorities. The Regional Council also reviewed grantee data and financial reports to best determine the effectiveness of strategies. The Regional Council utilized all of this

information in developing strategies that would move and enhance the development of an early childhood system.

It was identified that school readiness was still a priority and funding was maintained or increased for the Pre-k and Child Care Scholarship strategy to continue addressing this priority. The Quality First strategy and its various program components that include coaching, financial incentives, licensure fee assistance, Child Care Scholarships, Scholarships T.E.A.C.H, and Child Care Health Consultation were increased to address the priority need to access affordable Quality Child Care. The Family, Friend and Neighbor strategy will continue and the allotment for the Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense and Recruitment strategy will be reduced to match current expenditures.

Serving children with special needs is another priority of the Regional Council. These are services that have been lacking in the region and have been addressed by the Inclusion to Children with Special Needs and the Parent Coaching strategies. The Mental Health strategy also address a need that was much needed in this region to address the need for early care and education to reduce the conditions in child care settings that may contribute to social-emotional concerns among young children. These services were maintained at the current funding levels.

The continuum of professional development opportunities will continue with minor modifications to allotments to better align with prior year expenditures. This includes Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals, T.E.A.C.H. and non-Teach scholarships.

The Oral Health strategy addresses the importance of oral health care and decreases preventable oral health problems in children will be maintained at the current funding level. The Retention Stipends/Loan Forgiveness allotment will be reduced to reflect the administrative costs of maintaining the commitment to previously recruited therapists. The Pre-Natal Outreach strategy was removed as a Health strategy and this population will be served through a Home Visitation strategy under Family Support.

Lastly, the need to provide education and awareness of the needs of young children to parents and child care providers is addressed by the following strategies: The Family Support – Children with Special Needs, Parent Education Community Based Training, Reach Out and Read and Family Support-Home Visitation. The Home Visitation strategy will have a renewed emphasis upon service coordination and individualized services for families based on their needs.

The Yuma Regional Council will continue to move forward with their vision to implement strategies and provide services to meet the needs of this community.

Section III B.

Strategic Plan for SFY 2013 – 2015

Regional Priorities, Selected FTF Indicators and Priority Roles, and Strategies to Achieve Outcomes

| Regional Priority to be addressed | School Readiness Indicators Correlated to the needs and priority roles | FTF Priority Roles in the Early Childhood System | SFY 2013-2015 Strategies |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>School Readiness – Limited pre-school opportunities, parents need education about preparing children for school</p> <p>Children w/Disabilities – lack of therapy services, early identification of special needs</p> <p>Access to affordable Quality Child Care – High Unemployment/ Poverty rates, more/Family, Friend and Neighbor Care</p> <p>Parent’s awareness of the needs of young children.</p> | <p>#/% children demonstrating school readiness at kindergarten entry in the development domains of social-emotional, language and literacy, cognitive, and motor and physical</p> <p>#/% of children with special needs/rights enrolled in an inclusive early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 stars</p> <p>#/% of children receiving well child visits</p> <p>#/% of children ages 2-5 at a healthy weight (Body Mass Index-BMI)</p> <p>#/% of children age 5with untreated tooth decay</p> <p>% of families who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child’s safety, health and well being</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services – Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality care services (including oral health and mental health)and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Quality First (including CCHC, TEACH and Child Care Scholarships)</p> <p>Pre-K Scholarships</p> <p>Scholarship-non TEACH</p> <p>Inclusion of Children with Special Need</p> <p>Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals</p> <p>Oral Health</p> <p>Family, Friends and Neighbors</p> <p>Mental Health Consultation</p> <p>Home Visitation</p> <p>Food Security</p> <p>Parent Education Community Based Training</p> <p>Family Support–Children with Special Needs</p> <p>Expansion: Increase slots and/or capitol expense</p> <p>Reach Out and Read</p> <p>Recruitment Stipends/Loan Forgiveness</p> <p>Community Outreach</p> <p>Community Awareness</p> <p>Media</p> |

Section III C.

Strategy Descriptions including Target Populations and Funding Levels

| | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Strategy: Quality First | | | |
| Strategy Description Supports provided to early care and education centers and homes to improve the quality of programs, including: on-site coaching; program assessment; financial resources; teacher education scholarships; and consultants specializing in health and safety practices. | | | |
| Strategy Narrative Quality First expands the number of children who have access to high quality care and education, including developmental appropriate learning materials, early literacy focused curriculum and teachers trained to work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Research indicates that children exposed to high quality early care and education experiences have healthier relationships, enhanced language development and improve academics. First Things First identified the need to fund a quality improvement and rating system for early care and education programs serving children birth through five. Quality Rating Systems are being viewed as a framework for a broader, Comprehensive early childhood system. Quality First is Arizona’s voluntary quality improvement and rating system addresses multiple aspects of early care and education through research-based indicators of quality. Quality First provides various program components that include: coaching, financial incentives, licensure fee assistance, Child Care Scholarships, T.E.A.C.H scholarships, Child Care Health Consultation, program assessment, assignment of star rating and specialized technical assistance of star rating and specialized technical assistance. This strategy addresses the identified Regional need “Limited access to quality, affordable early care and education”; increasing availability of high quality early care and education settings. In addition, to addressing children’s readiness for kindergarten as well as the number of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a quality rating. | | | |
| Target Population Description There are approximately 213 regulated child care providers in the Yuma Region. There are currently 30 child care programs participating in Quality First, of these there are 12 centers and 18 homes. The Regional Council also proposes to add funding in the SFY 2013 to 2015 funding plan cycle to increase the target service units by 2 centers and 2 homes as well as add 6 pre-school sites for rating only. This strategy will reach approximately 19% of the regulated providers in the region. | | | |
| Target Service Units– Quality First | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Number of Center Base providers served | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Number of Home Based providers served | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Quality First | \$571,066 | \$571,066 | \$571,066 |
| Child Care Health Consultation | \$85,680 | \$85,680 | \$85,680 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Scholarships T.E.A.C.H | \$52,800 | \$52,800 | \$52,800 |
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships | \$730,054 | \$730,054 | \$730,054 |
| Target Service Units – Child Care Health Consultation | | | |
| Number of center-based providers served | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Number of home based providers served | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Target Service Units –Scholarships T.E.A.C.H | | | |
| Number of professionals receiving scholarships | 54 | 54 | 54 |
| Target Service Units – Quality First Child Care Scholarships | | | |
| Number of children receiving scholarships | 167 | 167 | 167 |

| |
|--|
| Strategy: Scholarships TEACH (Addition to QF package) |
| <p>Strategy Narrative</p> <p>This strategy addresses the need for a skilled and educated childhood workforce. The T.E.A.C.H program provides scholarships for higher education and credentialing to early care and education teachers in order to improve the professional skills of those providing care to children 5 and younger. The T.E.A.C.H program is an established and recognized program in the region and recipients receive tuition support, books, travel and paid release time that provides scholars with the opportunity to enhance their education and receive a Child Development Associate’s certificate.</p> <p>The Scholarship T.E.A.C.H strategy has progressed markedly over the past two years with the assignment of a new outreach coordinator and has met target service numbers.</p> |
| <p>Target Population Description</p> <p>Scholarships T.E.A.C.H are being added to the Yuma Funding Plan, in addition to those that come with the Quality First package. The Regional Council has added 16 scholarships for SFY 2013 – 2015 which results in a total of 54 scholarships that will be available in the region.</p> |

| |
|---|
| Strategy: Quality First Childcare Scholarships (Additional to QF Package) |
| <p>Strategy Narrative</p> <p>Provides scholarships to children to attend quality early care and education programs. The intent of this strategy is to increase access to child care for low income working families. Helps children remain in safe, supportive environments while their parent’s works.</p> <p>The Regional Council envisions a continuum of services for children birth through five. The Quality First Child Care Scholarships strategy will cover the gap for infants and toddlers which are not covered by our Pre-Kindergarten strategy. The proposed Quality First Child Care Scholarship Strategy will target children birth through age five in the region. This expanded are range will allow siblings to be served by same provider, instead of splitting the children to different providers. This strategy will increase by an additional 45 slots in order to continue access to early care services to families. This strategy is also designed to assist with stabilizing programs in our region.</p> |

Target Population Description
 The Quality First program will provide 122 scholarships to children in the region. The Regional Council intent is to provide additional full-time scholarship for up to 45 more children age’s birth through five in Quality First program throughout the region.

Strategy: Quality First (Rating Only)

Strategy Narrative
 Rating Only participation includes two components of Quality First: the assessment and assignment of a star rating. In SFY 2013, all Pre-Kindergarten sites receiving Pre-Kindergarten scholarships will be required to be rated by Quality First and in SFY 2014 all Pre-Kindergarten sites will be required to have a star rating of at least three stars in order to continue providing scholarships.

Target Population Description
 The rating only option will be utilized by school districts currently providing Pre-Kindergarten scholarships. There are six current Pre-K sites which will participate in the rating only option.

Strategy: Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships

Strategy Description
 Provides scholarships to quality preschool programs in a variety of settings to allow programs to serve more children.

Strategy Narrative
 The Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship strategy allocates funds for the provision of high quality, early care and education in a center or classroom based setting that promotes a safe and healthy environment that staffs well-qualified and experienced staff; provides a developmentally and culturally appropriate environment that is child centered and promotes learning. There is also a mixed delivery system component to this strategy. Ensuring that all children have access to a high quality early childhood program, including but not limited to: public schools, private and for-profit and non-profit, Head start and faith based programs for families who children need part day, full day, school based or center based services can participate.

This strategy also recognizes the importance of the link between pre-kindergarten programs and kindergarten, which is reinforced by a technical assistance/mentoring component designed to ensure the communication and connections between pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs. The Pre-K strategy has been very successful and exceeded target service numbers of 160. The strategy has brought together the private and public child care providers promoting collaboration and coordination of programs and services. In this SFY 2013-2015 funding plan, the funding and slots will be increased from 160 to 200 to meet the demand for Quality child care services in our region.

This strategy works in combination with the Quality First Child Care Scholarships in providing a continuum of service the families of child birth to age five.

Target Population Description
 Currently we have 6 pre-school sites and 4 private pre-k sites receiving support through which 270 children have been served both in full day and partial day programs. These children, ages 3-5 would not otherwise have access to quality early care and education during the two years prior to their kindergarten entry. The intent is to increase the number of full-time scholarships available so that up to 200 children can be served in full day programs throughout the region.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of FTF-funded pre-K children | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Number of private/public partner pre-K sites receiving support | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships | \$1,198,000 | \$1,198,000 | \$1,198,000 |

| Strategy: Scholarships Non-T.E.A.C.H | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Strategy Description Provide scholarships for higher education and credentialing to early care and education teachers | | | |
| Strategy Narrative Professional Career Pathway Project is a scholarship program offered at community colleges throughout Arizona for early childhood education classes. The program pays tuition and registration fees for specific courses in Early Childhood education, including those necessary for the child development associate (CDA). The Scholarship non-TEACH strategy has made great strides in meeting target service number during this fiscal year. This strategy is very appropriate for a rural community that has a high majority of Spanish speaking providers that seek the certification that will allow for employment or provision of services to the child birth to age five in the community. This strategy has been able to approach the target service number without expending the funding allotted. The Regional Council has determined that this strategy can meet community needs at a reduced target service numbers and allotment. | | | |
| Target Population Description Early care and education professionals working in early care and education. Individuals must be employed or volunteer in center-based programs, family child care provider homes. The target service numbers is reduced from 35 to 25 to align with prior year utilization. | | | |
| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Number of professionals receiving scholarships | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Scholarships Non-T.E.A.C.H | 55,000 | 55,000 | 55,000 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Strategy: Inclusion of Children with Special Needs | | | |
| Strategy Description Provides consultation and training to child care providers about how to best meet the needs of children with special needs in their early care and education settings. | | | |
| Strategy Narrative The intent of this strategy is to provide consultation and training of child care providers about to best meet the need of children with special needs in their early care and education settings. The strategy promotes the inclusion of special needs children in early education activities. The Early Care and Education Inclusion+ (ECEI+) Program provided through this strategy is designed to help early care and education providers support children, ages birth to five, with developmental delays or disabilities, in the classroom, group home and family child care settings. The intent is to increase the knowledge of providers concerning children with special needs and provide guidance and support to providers to improve outcomes for special needs children. The Inclusion for Children with Special Needs has been successful in this region. This program serves five child care centers and ten Family Home Care providers. Child care providers, knowing they now have support, are more open and receptive to enrolling children with differing abilities into their programs. This strategy has allowed child care providers to establish a specialized plan and provide coaching that will allow special needs children to receive developmental appropriate services. This strategy is on target to meet service numbers in SFY 2012. This strategy will maintain the target service numbers and funding for SFY 2013 to 2015. | | | |
| Target Population Description The target population is to serve children with special needs in the community. There are approximately 700 children that are identified and screened for developmental disabilities. The service numbers for this strategy are eight child care centers and sixteen family home care providers /group homes in the Yuma Region that have children with special needs in their facilities. The strategy is currently serving 5 centers and 10 home care providers. This strategy provides training, coaching and assist in implementing intervention plans that will best meet the needs of the special needs child. The strategies has been particularly effective in outreach to home based providers, particularly the Spanish speaking providers. | | | |
| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Number of centered-based providers served | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Number of home-based providers served | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Number of increased slots for participating children | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Inclusion of Children with Special Needs | \$230,991 | \$230,991 | \$230,991 |

Strategy: Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals

Strategy Description
 Provides quality education and training in community settings to early care and education professionals.

Strategy Narrative
 The intent of this strategy is to expand and provide professional development opportunities for those working with or preparing to work with children ages birth to five. This strategy also provides training to Home-based providers, including bi-lingual and mono-lingual Spanish speaking providers. Another component of this strategy is to provide college credit for all participants that complete Early Childhood courses.

The Community-based Training for Early Child Educators has exceeded its target service numbers. This strategy has been very successful in reaching home-based child care providers, particularly Spanish speaking providers who would otherwise not have opportunities for professional development.

This strategy has exceeded its target service numbers and managed to provide professional development services at a lesser funding level than allotted. The funding level will be decreased to align with expenditures without compromising service delivery.

Target Population Description
 The intent is to provide professional development opportunities for those working with or preparing to work with children from birth to age five. According to the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report, 71% of the child care providers surveyed reported interest in professional development. Additionally, only 52% of the providers surveyed reported that they some college or a college degree. This strategy will focus on reaching up 300 early care professionals. There is a strong emphasis in this strategy on providing outreach and services to home-based providers, particularly those regulated providers whose primary language in Spanish. These providers have limited opportunities and may be reluctant to participate in formal college-level training. This strategy provides the opportunity to receive training and receive educational credit towards a Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate or towards and Associates of Art degree. The allotment for this strategy is reduced in FY13 to more closely reflect the expenditures in prior years.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of participating professionals | 300 | 300 | 300 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |

Strategy: Oral Health

Strategy Description
 Provides oral health screenings and fluoride varnish in a variety of community-based settings; provide training to families on the importance of oral health care for their children; and provide outreach to dentists to encourage service to children for a first dental visit by age one.

Strategy Narrative
 Many pediatricians highlight dental problems as a major health problem among low-income children. Dental and gum problems can be minimized through regular preventive dental services. Experts therefore recommend that children as young as one year old be examined for evidence of developing early childhood dental caries, the most common form of childhood oral diseases. The Regional Needs and Assets report reported that 65% of the children birth through five in the region had experienced tooth decay which was higher than the Statewide norm. Additionally, only 51% of the children had seen a dentist in the past year. Additionally, a significant number of parents report the need to travel more than 10 miles to secure dental services for their children. This is a contributing factor to the lack of dental care. This strategy is designed to make services more accessible by bringing preventive oral health services to all communities in the region.

The Oral health strategy faced some challenges in identifying a provider and finalizing an agreement. The agreement has been executed and services will begin in January. The delays highlight the capacity issues found in implementing strategies in rural areas. This strategy together Parent Education Community-Based Training(Literacy) and Food Security programs will provide a series of community events to allow families to receive a number of inter-related services in one setting.

This strategy will maintain the current target service numbers and funding for the SFY 2013 to 2015.

Target Population Description
 Families of children from birth to age five in Yuma County with limited access to dental care. Target services numbers are up to 6000 children from birth to age five receiving oral health screenings and fluoride vanishingings.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of children receiving oral health screenings | 6000 | 6000 | 6000 |
| Number of fluoride varnishes applied | 6000 | 6000 | 6000 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Oral Health | \$303,266 | \$303,266 | \$303,266 |

Strategy: Family, Friends and Neighbors

Strategy Description
 Supports provided to family, friend and neighbor caregivers include training and financial resources.

Strategy Narrative
 The intent of this strategy is to provide early childhood training and support to family, friend and neighbor caregivers. Research shows that approximately 81% of the kith and kin providers indicated making specific changes in the care they provide to children as a result of their involvement in program. The program goals are to provide early childhood training and support to providers, increase knowledge of elements of quality child care and of available community training and support resources, increase the kith and kin providers' perception of their reliability and quality of care they provide, and their level of satisfaction with being child care givers. In this past year, center-based care has dropped significantly and vacancies are at a rise in those types of settings. Many families are choosing kith and kin care over formal child care settings, during these hard economic times. The Arizona Kith and Kin Project provide education and information to family, friend and neighbors who care for young children. While providers are the direct participants, the

beneficiaries are the children in their care and the families of these children.

National estimates suggest that as many as 60 percent of all children need child care due to parent’s employment and of these, as many as 50 percent of children ages 5 and under are cared for in home-based settings. This strategy was piloted in the region through a statewide competitive grant. The Regional Council has recognized its effectiveness and has adopted Family, Friends and Neighbors as a regional strategy. The Yuma Regional Council and the Cocopah Tribal Regional Partnership Council are working together to provide these services to the Kith and Kin providers on the Cocopah Reservation.

This strategy has been effective in the region and will be maintain at the current funding level.

Target Population Description

The regions Family, Friends and Neighbors caregivers. This strategy will reach approximately 90 unregulated child care providers, including mono-lingual or bi-lingual Spanish speakers, This strategy has been effective in engaging and maintaining the participation of the unregulated caregivers in the Yuma Region.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of home-based providers served | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Family, Friends and Neighbors | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |

Strategy: Mental Health Consultation

Strategy Description

Provides mental health consultation to teachers and caregivers, and tuition reimbursement to support professional development to increase capacity of workforce.

Strategy Narrative

Mental Health Consultation provides assistance to early childhood educators in identifying and developing classroom interventions so that children with behavioral health concerns can be maintained in stable, quality learning environments. This strategy is designed to improve the capacity of child care providers to support healthy social-emotional development of children in their care. A mental health consultant works with educators to increase their knowledge of healthy social-emotional development and enable them to identify challenging behaviors and utilize techniques that will address and improve classroom dynamics to ensure a healthy environment for all children. The intent of this strategy is to target children who are in a child care setting and who are demonstrating challenging behaviors in the classroom setting. The mental health consultant will observe both the entire classroom and the individual children to assist and teach the educators to manage behavior and interactions of the children in their care

Target Population Description

The Regional Council while recognizing the effectiveness of this strategy opted to maintain the current service and funding levels. The Regional Council noted the extended time required to recruit and hire staff. It was felt that the capacity to staff this service in the region had been reached at this time. The target for this service is Quality First center and home-based providers in the Yuma Region.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|

| | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Number of center-based providers served | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Number of home-based providers served | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Mental Health Consultation | \$123,000 | \$123,000 | \$123,000 |

Strategy: Family Support- Home Visitation

Strategy Description:
 Provides voluntary in-home services for infants, children and their families, focusing on parenting skills, early physical and social development, literacy, health and nutrition. Connects families to resources to support their child’s health and early learning.

Strategy Narrative:
 The goal of this strategy is to develop a continuum of Family Support programs from pre-natal to age five. It will provide education, voluntary in-home services for infants, children and their families, along with providing support and connection to community resources for new parents and for parents of children with special needs. This strategy will include an increased focus on the service coordination component and ensure that families and children are receiving coordinated care and are being provided with resources to local service providers that will best meet the developmental needs of the child.

The funding level for this strategy will be increased to reflect the emphasis on more intensive home-based individualized services.

Target Population Description
 This service is intended to provide a continuum of home visitation services for families beginning at the Pre-Natal stage through age two. This service will provide families the support and resources they need through in-home services on a variety of topics, such as parenting skills, early childhood development and literacy and connect parents with community resources through a service coordination component to help them better support their child’s health and early learning.

Target Service Units were set at 400 in order to have the intended impact upon families.

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Number of families served | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Family Support-Parent Education and Service Coordination | \$1,458,774 | \$1,458,774 | \$1,458,774 |

Strategy: Food Security

Strategy Description: Distribute food boxes and basic necessity items to families in need of assistance who have children birth to 5 years old.

Strategy Narrative
 The intent for this strategy is expanding access to nutritious food and providing nutrition information that supports the needs of the families in the Yuma Region.

The Regional Needs and Assets report outlines that nearly 30% of the children ages birth through five years in Yuma County live under the poverty level. Nearly one-third of parents surveyed stated that they had gone without basic needs (such as child care, housing, or medical care) in the past 12 months.

Hardship for families continue in the Yuma Region, often parents do not have the resources to provide adequate food and nutrition for their children, leaving them hungry, and at risk for poor development.

The strategy will maintain the current years goals, with a target of providing up to 2000 food boxes to families and provide resources and health and nutrition information that supports the needs of families with children birth through age five. This strategy together with Oral Health and Parent Education Community-Based Training – Literacy will provide a series of community events to allow families to receive this combination of services in one setting.

Target Population Description
 The Yuma Region’s children from birth to age five and their families that have been impacted by the current economic crisis. This strategy expands access to nutritious food and provides nutrition and financial literacy information that supports the need of families.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Number of food boxes distributed | 2000 | 2000 | 2000 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Food Security | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |

Strategy: Parent Education Community-Based Training

Strategy Description
 Provides education and training for families on language and literacy development of their young children.

Strategy Narrative:
 This strategy will optimize developmental outcomes that ensure children enter school ready to learn. One component of children’s readiness for school consists of their language and literacy development. Children’s early experiences with books and print greatly influence their ability to comprehend what they read. This strategy provides workshops that show parents, grandparents and teachers how to use quality educational programs and content to help their young children get a head start on reading.

A recent study showed that of those children who weren’t read to at kindergarten, only 6% of them performed well on standardized test In 3rd grade. Typically, children who are unprepared for kindergarten do not make up the initial learning gap.

Children who have early learning skills as they enter kindergarten do better in school, are more likely to graduate with a high school diploma, and more successful in their careers, and are less likely to be involved in crimes and drugs.

The Parent Education Community-Based Training (Literacy) strategy started services in November 29, 2011 and will provide workshops throughout the 6 local libraries in the Yuma Region and will also coordinate community events with the service providers of the Food strategy and Oral Health strategy to allow the community to receive a combination of services in one setting.

This strategy will maintain with same levels of funding as in SFY 2012.

Target Population Description
 The target population is reaching all children birth through five in the region. The Yuma Regional Needs and Assets Report states that only 42% of the parents in the region read to their children two times or less in the week. The Regional Council recognizes the need of all parents to receive services to increase their confidence in supporting their child’s learning and health development. This strategy will target up to 1000 families with children birth through five in the Yuma community of all income levels.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of participating adults | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Parent Education Community-Based Training – Literacy | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |

Strategy: Family Support -Children with Special Needs

Strategy Description
 Improves the education and health of children with special needs who don’t qualify for publicly funded early intervention programs

Strategy Narrative
 Provides coaching, mentoring, group activities and services to the parents of children with special needs to increase parent capacity and knowledge to support their children who may be at risk for developmental delay. Services are designed to help their child reach his/her fullest potential.

This strategy specifically targets children who have been screened and referred for evaluation of eligibility for intervention services and were found ineligible through Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) or the local school district. Although these children do not qualify for state and/or federally funded specialized services, they can still benefit from enhanced support by their families and caregivers.

Target Population Description
 Families within the Yuma Region with children ages birth through three who may be at risk of developmental delay and have been found ineligible for Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) or Arizona DES/Developmental Disabilities services.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of families served | 140 | 140 | 140 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Parent Coaching -Children with Special Needs | \$280,000 | \$280,000 | \$280,000 |

| Strategy: Expansion- Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Strategy Description Recruits new or existing providers to begin to serve or expand services. May assist with planning, licensing or certification process for new centers or homes, or provide support to a provider to improve the quality of facility or programs. | | | |
| Strategy Narrative This strategy recruits providers and assists them with state licensing or certification processes by providing incentives to increase retention and recruitment of these homes. Home-based providers experience a number of expenses during the certification process which may cause them to decide to opt out of child care certification. One of these expenses is the increased costs of liability insurance for newly certified home-based providers. This strategy has been success in implementation and also was determined that the cost originally calculated to assist with licensing or certification varied from provider to provider and was less than originally expected. This lead to funding exceeding the expenditure anticipated. The funding for this strategy will be decreased to align with expenditures and will maintain target service numbers. | | | |
| Target Population Description The Council’s intent is to increase the number of home-based regulated providers. This strategy incentive to increase the recruitment and retention of regulated child care homes. This strategy will focus on reaching up to 25 home-based providers in the Yuma Region. The funding for this strategy has been reduced significantly in FY13. This reduction aligns with the expenditures of prior years and reflects lower than anticipated costs for the incentives to providers. The average cost of liability insurance was significantly less than anticipated. | | | |
| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Number of Home based providers served | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Number of centered based providers served | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of increased slots for participating children | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Expansion- Increase Slots and/or Capital Expense | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | \$15,000 |

| Strategy: Reach Out and Read |
|---|
| Strategy Description: Trains pediatric practices to engage parents and young children in early literacy activities; provides books to pediatricians or their staff to distribute to families with young children |
| Strategy Narrative Reach Out and Read trains doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud and to give books to children at pediatric checkups from six months to five years of age, with a special focus on children growing up in poverty. By building on a unique relationship between parents and medical providers, Reach Out and Read helps families and communities encourage early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success in reading. |

Children who have early learning skills as they enter kindergarten do better in school, are more likely to graduate with a high school diploma, and more successful in their careers, and are less likely to be involved in crimes and drugs. Studies show that of those children who were not read to at kindergarten, only 6% of them performed well on standardized test in 3rd grade. According to the 2010 Regional Needs and Assets Report nearly 20% of parents in the region reported that they had not read to their children in the previous week.

The intent of this strategy is to provide early literacy specifically to families of children birth to age five living in poverty. The goal of Reach Out and Read is to ensure that doctors and nurses give literacy-related advice and children’s books are routinely as immunizations at pediatric visits. The target for this strategy is children birth to five and their families.

The grantee has been able to enroll a total of three pediatric sites, including nine physicians to educate parents and families the importance of early literacy and provide books to families that might otherwise not of had access to.

The strategy will maintain at same funding levels for SFY 2013 to 2015.

Target Population Description

The target population is to recruit and retain three participating medical practices and to distribute age appropriate books to children birth through age five during well-child visits at these practices.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of practices | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Number of books distributed | 6,436 | 6,436 | 6,436 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Reach Out and Read | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |

Strategy: Recruitment – Stipends / Loan Forgiveness

Strategy Description

Improves the quality and range of therapeutic and intervention services in underserved communities. Offers professionals financial incentives to work in underserved communities.

Strategy Narrative

Expand families’ access to high quality professionals and services for children birth to age 5 in Yuma County by providing stipends to therapist who provide services within the Region.

The Regional Council envisioned greater accessibility to high quality professionals through the Recruitment and Retention of Therapist strategy by expanding access to families with children birth to five in Yuma County by providing stipends and loan forgiveness to therapist who provides services within the region. The Council’s hope was to recruit one Speech and Language Pathologist, one Occupational Therapist and one Physical Therapist to the region.

This strategy initially had difficulty in meeting target service numbers. The Regional Council reduced target service numbers and added Loan Forgiveness to the strategy in order to attract more professionals to the

Yuma Region. This resulted in the addition of one Physical Therapist and applications from two Speech and Language Pathologist. Based upon the continued difficulty in meeting the target service numbers the council decided to reduce the funding allotment for FY 13 to reflect only the administrative costs of monitoring and disbursing incentives to the therapists recruited to the region in FY 12.

Target Population Description
 The target population is to maintain this strategy for up to three therapists recruited by the end of FY12. There is approximately a waitlist of 200 children requiring therapeutic services. The intent of the council is to recruit and retain one Speech and Language Pathologist, one Occupational Therapist and one Physical Therapist.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|---|----------|-------|-------|
| Number of participants receiving stipends and/or loan forgiveness | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Recruitment – Stipends / Loan Forgiveness | \$44,275 | 0 | 0 |

Strategy: Community Outreach

Strategy Description
 Provides grassroots support and engagement to increase parent and community awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.

Strategy Narrative
 This strategy is FTF-directed. It addresses the prioritized need to raise-awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health in the region. A Community Outreach Coordinator implements various tactics as part of a statewide, cross-regional communication campaign. The goal is to recruit “Champions” who are aware of the importance of Early Childhood Development and will inform others in the community. A total of 1,265 champions have been recruited in the region to date.

Target Population Description
 This is a universal strategy that targets the citizens of the entire region.

| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| No service units | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Community Outreach | \$83,000 | \$83,000 | \$83,000 |

Strategy: Community Awareness

Strategy Description
 The Community Awareness strategy uses a variety of community-based activities and materials to increase public awareness of the critical importance of early childhood development and health.

| | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Strategy Narrative | | | |
| This strategy is FTF-directed. It addresses the prioritized need to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health in the region. The intent is that all Arizonans will be actively engaged in supporting young kids in their communities. | | | |
| This strategy will increase the awareness of the importance of the early childhood years through involvement and sponsorships of events in the region, the development of additional events and the distribution of materials(leave behinds) that call attention to the importance of early childhood and the mission of First Things First. | | | |
| Target Population Description | | | |
| This is a universal strategy that targets the citizens of the entire region. | | | |
| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| No Service Units | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Community Awareness | \$35,000 | \$35,000 | \$35,000 |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Strategy: Media | | | |
| Strategy Description | | | |
| Increases public awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health via a media campaign that draws viewers/listeners to the ReadyAZKids.com web site. | | | |
| Strategy Narrative | | | |
| The Yuma Regional Council believes that media is an effective mechanism to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood health and development among parents and the general public. This strategy focuses on building awareness across the region through bi-yearly approved media buys which will consist of television ads, radio spots, theater ads, and online emerging media activities. | | | |
| Target Population Description | | | |
| This universal strategy reaches the general public throughout the Yuma Regional. Specifically, the Council hopes to link parents, educators, health providers, and policy makers with messaging that promotes early childhood development, resulting in increased community support. Funding levels remains the same for SFY 2013 and throughout the nest two years. | | | |
| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| No Service Units | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Media | \$109,263 | \$109,263 | \$109,263 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Strategy: Statewide Evaluation | | | |
| Strategy Description Statewide Evaluation includes the studies and evaluation work which inform the FTF Board and the 31 Regional Partnership Councils. Examples include: the baseline Needs and Assets reports, specific focused studies, and statewide research and evaluation on the developing early childhood system. | | | |
| Strategy Narrative First Things First has, and is growing, a multi-level system of research and evaluation strategies designed to be responsive to the informational needs of varied stakeholder groups, including the First Things First Board, Regional Partnership Councils, and Arizona citizens. The research and evaluation system is designed to provide both depth and breadth of high quality information, from collecting programmatic data to evaluating the overall impact of the First Things First Early Childhood System model. The system provides a framework for conducting statewide and regional studies centered on identifying current and changing needs of families and children birth to five, and the impact of programs and strategies across all First Things First priority areas. The First Things First research and evaluation system is a knowledge building system, designed to advance the understanding of needs, activities, and effectiveness. Individually and collectively, research and evaluation strategies generate data and findings which can be used to identify trends and changes in school readiness indicators and therefore to support strategic planning and decision-making which promotes the health and well-being of young children. | | | |
| Target Service Units | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| No target service units | | | |
| Funding Level | FY 13 | FY 14 | FY 15 |
| Statewide Evaluation | \$144,955 | \$144,955 | \$144,955 |

Section III. D. Proposed Funding Summary
 SFY 2013 - 2015 Regional Partnership Council Budget

| FY 2013 - 2015 Yuma Funding Plan Summary | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allocations and Funding Sources | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| FY Allocation | \$5,261,084 | \$5,271,606 | \$5,291,375 |
| Population Based Allocation | \$2,901,761 | | |
| Discretionary Allocation | \$1,703,541 | | |
| Other (FTF Fund balance addition) | \$655,782 | \$5,271,606 | \$5,291,375 |
| Carry Forward From Previous Year | \$3,135,789 | \$2,086,749 | \$1,067,506 |
| Total Regional Council Funds Available | \$8,396,873 | \$7,358,355 | \$6,358,881 |
| Strategies | Proposed Allotment | Proposed Allotment | Proposed Allotment |
| Quality First | \$571,066 | \$571,066 | \$571,066 |
| Quality First Child Care Scholarships | \$970,054 | \$970,054 | \$970,054 |
| Child Care Health Consultation | \$85,680 | \$85,680 | \$85,680 |
| Scholarships TEACH | \$52,800 | \$52,800 | \$52,800 |
| Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships | \$1,198,000 | \$1,198,000 | \$1,198,000 |
| Scholarships non-TEACH | \$55,000 | \$55,000 | \$55,000 |
| Inclusion of Children with Special Needs | \$230,991 | \$230,991 | \$230,991 |
| Community Based Professional Development Early Care and Education Professionals | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| Oral Health | \$303,266 | \$303,266 | \$303,266 |
| Family, Friends & Neighbors | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |
| Mental Health Consultation | \$123,000 | \$123,000 | \$123,000 |
| Home Visitation | \$1,458,774 | \$1,458,774 | \$1,458,774 |
| Food Security | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| Parent Education Community-Based Training | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |
| Family Support – Children with Special Needs | \$280,000 | \$280,000 | \$280,000 |
| Expansion: Increase slots and/or capital expense | \$15,000 | \$15,000 | \$15,000 |
| Reach Out and Read | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| Recruitment – Stipends/Loan Forgiveness | \$44,275 | - | - |
| Community Awareness | \$35,000 | \$35,000 | \$35,000 |
| Community Outreach | \$83,000 | \$83,000 | \$83,000 |
| Media | \$109,263 | \$109,263 | \$109,263 |
| Needs and Assets | | \$25,000 | |
| Statewide Evaluation | \$144,955 | \$144,955 | \$144,955 |
| Proposed Allotment Total: | \$6,310,124 | \$6,290,849 | \$6,265,849 |
| Total Unallotted | \$2,086,749 | \$1,067,506 | \$93,032 |