



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**  
*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

2013  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

**IMPACT**

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# OUR VISION: ALL ARIZONA CHILDREN ARE READY TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE.

## OUR MISSION

First Things First is one of the critical partners in creating a family-centered, comprehensive, collaborative and high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, health and early education of all Arizona children birth through age 5.



## OUR PARTNERS

First Things First gratefully acknowledges the dedication and hard work of the following individuals and organizations to efforts statewide that help more Arizona children start school healthy and ready to succeed:

- The more than 300 volunteers who serve on the statewide Board and 31 regional partnership councils across Arizona – without your leadership, stewardship and community spirit, these funds would not be changing the lives of thousands of Arizona children;
- The hundreds of funded partners statewide – your commitment to providing research-based, culturally relevant programs in dozens of Arizona communities has improved early learning, enhanced children’s health and helped countless parents feel more confident in their role as their child’s first teacher;
- The Arizona early childhood community – your partnership has been crucial in creating an early childhood system that prepares children for school success; and,
- The thousands of early childhood champions statewide – your collective voice in keeping young kids foremost in the minds of Arizonans everywhere will ensure that the school readiness of all children birth to 5 remains a priority for our state now and in the years to come.

# ARIZONA SHINES BECAUSE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMITMENT



On August 20, First Things First launched QualityFirstAZ.com – a tool for parents and providers to learn more about the importance of quality in child care and preschool. With the goal of empowering families as they make decisions about early learning, the site is the latest phase in the implementation of Arizona’s Quality First program. Throughout the state, Quality First is partnering with about 900 regulated child care centers, homes and preschools to make improvements that research shows help children thrive.

The website is also the latest example of the type of quality programming that is raising Arizona’s profile as a state committed to improving outcomes for young children. In the past year, First Things First has had a seat at local, state and national discussions on improving children’s access to programs that will help them start school healthy and ready to succeed. We have also been asked to present on our approaches, programs and successes at national conferences by a variety of organizations, including: Smart Start, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Zero to Three, the National Indian Education Association, the National Black Child Development Institute and the National Center for Family Literacy.

While this increasing recognition of the work going on in Arizona on behalf of children 5 and younger is flattering, we know our true success lies in the lives that are being changed every day as families gain the support they need to feel confident in their role as their child’s first teacher and as more children start school with the tools they need to succeed.

As you read through these pages, you will see reflected in compelling stories and increasing numbers the children birth to 5 who are being impacted by the commitment Arizona has shown to ensuring school readiness for all children. This goes beyond First Things First funding to include the vast numbers of individuals

and organizations who are working to help young kids succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

It is a commitment that matters now more than ever. As the economy continues to improve and more companies find their home in Arizona, it is imperative that we have an educational system that prepares all children to take their place as leaders in those industries. Research shows us that the skills needed to thrive in school, in business and in life – motivation, self-control, focus and self-esteem – are rooted in early childhood. By continuing our commitment to investing in young kids, we will ensure that Arizona continues to serve as an example to others of what’s possible when we ensure that all children are ready for school and set for life!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven W. Lynn".

Steven W. Lynn  
*Chair, First Things First Board*



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Leyvas".

Sam Leyvas  
*Interim Chief Executive Officer*

*90% of a child's brain develops before kindergarten.  
Early experiences lay the foundation for success in  
school and in life.*





## PATH TO LEARNING SUCCESS BEGINS AT BIRTH

Ninety percent of a child's brain develops *before* they start kindergarten. First Things First continues its commitment to improving the quality of early learning so that Arizona's children will have access to a world-class educational system starting at birth. Research shows that children exposed to high-quality early learning are more prepared when they enter kindergarten, do better in school and are more likely to graduate and go on to college. First Things First recognizes that Arizona families need choices when it comes to early learning. Our programs focus on improving quality and access across a variety of settings, including:

- **Quality First** – which partners with almost 900 regulated programs in child care centers, homes and schools to enhance early learning in areas proven to help children thrive;
- **Kith and Kin programs** – which help relatives, neighbors and friends caring for young kids in their homes expand their skills working with young kids, including classes on brain development and early literacy; and,

- **Summer Transition to Kindergarten** – which exposes children who may not have had an opportunity to attend preschool to the routines of school and introduces them to the skills they will need to be successful in kindergarten.

Additional First Things First strategies address other challenges in early learning, such as scholarships to help more families and young children access quality child care and preschool; support for child care staff to attend college courses and earn degrees in early childhood; technical assistance to child care programs in areas such as dealing with behavioral challenges or promoting healthy habits in children; and, incentives to keep the best teachers working with our youngest kids.

When combined, all of these strategies are helping to improve the quality of children's early learning experiences so that they will be ready for school and set for life!

### FISCAL YEAR 2013 SERVICE NUMBERS

**14,121**

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

**46,228**

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

**696**

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS RECEIVED  
SCHOLARSHIPS TO EXPAND THEIR SKILLS  
WORKING WITH INFANTS, TODDLERS  
AND PRESCHOOLERS

**1,692**

STIPENDS TO REWARD LONGEVITY  
AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING AMONG THOSE  
TEACHING OUR YOUNGEST KIDS

## Preschool Expansion Doubles Number of Young Kids Meeting Benchmarks

Four years ago, kids were coming in to Topock's elementary school kindergarten not knowing their letters. Now, the preschool program in Mohave County has doubled the number of students entering kindergarten meeting literacy benchmarks.

The preschool program's success was so profound early on that after the first group of preschoolers graduated to kindergarten, their new teacher found herself having to redo her lesson plans.

"She came to me at 10:20 a.m. on that first day of school and had already run through her lesson plan," Superintendent John Warren said. "The children knew it all."

First Things First began funding the Topock preschool program four years ago. Warren said without that funding, Topock's preschool program wouldn't exist.

Quality early learning programs prepare children for success in kindergarten by exposing children to foundational information and skills – such as letter and shape recognition, sharing and decision-making.

An average spring day at the Topock preschool begins with the children and their teachers working on pre-reading skills such as recognizing the relationship between letters and the sounds they make. Because of this early exposure to language and literacy, the preschoolers are developing a lasting love for books that will stay with them into the upper grades. They are also building the foundation that will help them meet the growing expectations placed on them in school.

More than a quarter of Arizona's fourth graders are not reading at a fourth grade level. First Things First is helping reverse that trend by helping expose more children to language and literacy in the critical years between birth and 5 years old. The approach appears to be working in Topock.

"There's no falling through the cracks here," Warren said.

## Scholarships Keep Kids Learning, Parents Working

As a single mom of three boys, Angie struggled to afford child care while still keeping food on the table. She has let the lights go out and stretched a half-gallon of milk and a loaf of bread just to make it through the month knowing that she had to pay the child care bill in order to keep working. So it was a welcome relief when Angie first enrolled her middle son, Jordan, in the Quality First scholarship program through Phoenix Christian Daycare.

Jordan is now 8, loves to read and is thriving in second grade. His 2-year-old brother, D'Angelo, has also been able to attend Phoenix Christian with a scholarship. Angie credits the Quality First scholarship program for allowing her sons to attend such a high-quality early learning program.

"The Quality First program at Phoenix Christian Daycare in Phoenix has contributed to a better future for my children," she said. "Because of the Quality First program, I feel confident that my boys are getting the best education to be ready for school. Now I have obtained my GED, I've moved into a better position at work and started college. My big goal is to transfer to ASU and complete my bachelor's degree."

Lori Grosvenor, director of Phoenix Christian Daycare, cannot say enough about how Quality First has impacted early learning at her center. "Just having the opportunity to learn from the Quality First coaches, the training, the workshops ... they've all opened our eyes tremendously," she said. "We are trying to enhance all our programs."

*First Things First strategies are helping to improve the quality of children's early learning experiences so that they will be ready for school and set for life!*





## STRONG FAMILIES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

Strong families are the cornerstone of a strong society. Turns out, they hold one of the keys to their child's academic success, as well. The majority of a child's brain develops by the time she is 5 years old, and the strength of a child's relationships with her family and early caregivers determines whether her brain will develop in healthy ways that promote learning.

First Things First partners with parents, so they feel more comfortable in their role as their child's first teacher. Our funded strategies represent a continuum of programs aimed at meeting parents and caregivers where they are at. Through a governance structure that respects local decision-making, First Things First provides increased access for families to programs that are completely voluntary; culturally responsive; offered in a variety of settings; and, provided at the intensity that meets the individual family's needs and desires.

These programs stress the importance of early education and health, teach invaluable parenting skills and promote early literacy by emphasizing the importance of reading to children at an early age. Programs include:

**Arizona Parent Kits** are provided to every family of a newborn upon discharge from an Arizona hospital or birthing center. The kits include DVDs on healthy parenting practices, an 80-page resource guide and a book to encourage parents to begin reading immediately with their child.

**Birth to 5 Helpline** allows all Arizona parents to call in with questions about their infants, toddlers and preschoolers. The line is toll-free statewide and staffed by early childhood development specialists, registered nurses, disabilities specialists, early literacy specialists and mental health counselors.

**Family Resource Centers and Community-based Classes** provide families with children birth to 5 years old access to information and education on a variety of child development and health topics. The centers are established and classes are offered in areas of the community where families naturally congregate.

**Home Visitation** programs provide participating families of infants and toddlers with information and education on parenting, child development and health topics while assisting with connections to other resources or programs as needed. Home visitors deliver one-one-one coaching and interaction tailored to the needs of individual families.

### FISCAL YEAR 2013 SERVICE NUMBERS

**73,833**

PARENT KITS DISTRIBUTED

**6,795**

ARIZONA FAMILIES ENJOYED STRONGER,  
MORE SUPPORTIVE PARENT-CHILD  
RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH HOME VISITATION

**62,865**

CAREGIVERS ATTENDED VOLUNTARY CLASSES  
IN COMMUNITY-BASED SETTINGS ON TOPICS  
SUCH AS PARENTING SKILLS, CHILD  
DEVELOPMENT, LITERACY AND NUTRITION

**75,652**

FAMILIES ACCESSED EARLY CHILDHOOD  
INFORMATION, TRAINING OR REFERRALS  
THROUGH FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS



## Toddler Defies Doctors' Expectations

Joy and her Aunt Doris were one of the first families to receive support from the Hualapai Maternal Child Health Program, a comprehensive intervention and home visitation program. Doris initially struggled to find help for Joy, who was born with a rare illness and spent her first year of life in and out of hospitals.

Through the program, Nurse Jennifer Pope partnered with the family and helped coordinate Joy's medical appointments. She also connected the family with the Arizona Early Intervention Program so Joy could receive the therapy she needs.

Now 2-year-old Joy is defying doctors' expectations by walking and learning to talk. Doris is teaching Joy English and Hualapai to help preserve her heritage.

Without the program, Doris considered moving from Peach Springs to get the help and services Joy needs.

"I did not want to think negative, I wanted to think positive," Doris said. "I did not want to doubt Joy; I had faith in this little girl."



## Grandma Finds Support in Parenting a Second Time Around

Elena is only 47 years old and is in the challenging role of raising her three grandchildren alone.

Elena enrolled in the Choices for Families voluntary home visiting program in 2011. For 18 months, a parent educator regularly visited the family in their Buckeye home to help Elena build the skills she needed to be the best caregiver for her grandchildren. The program promotes schools readiness by helping families increase their knowledge of early childhood development, gain positive parenting techniques and detect developmental delays early on.

With coaching and mentoring, Elena said she has become a better caregiver. "She (her parent educator) would talk to me about how we were doing and really understood our situation," Elena said. "She would show me different ways to work with the kids. I learned a lot from her."

Six-year-old Ashley, who was 4 when she came to live with her grandmother, would barely speak, but by the time she entered kindergarten, she was talking all the time. Elena also is better able to communicate with 5-year-old Paul, who has autism.

"It was very hard with him, at first," Elena said. "I didn't know what to do, he would cry but I didn't know why." Now, Paul has special assistance and Elena has learned to use a picture communicator system to help her connect with him.

Eduardo had recently had surgery when he came to live with Elena. She was afraid she would hurt him if she held him too much. But, with the help of the parent educators, she learned about his condition and felt more comfortable interacting with him. "I know that he has some limitations, but that as long as we are careful about those, he can do all the things kids his age can do; he's the most active of the bunch!"

Now, all the kids are happy and doing well in school – Ashley is in first grade, Paul has just started kindergarten and Eduardo is an enthusiastic preschooler.

Although the family has graduated from the program, Elena knows that the parent educators are just a phone call away.

"I owe so much to them for all their help," she said.

*When families can access information and support in ways that are comfortable and meaningful for them, they feel empowered to make the best choices for their children.*



## PREVENTATIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS REDUCE LEARNING CHALLENGES

Many elementary school absences and learning problems are caused by developmental delays that were not detected before children entered kindergarten or by chronic illnesses that became more severe due to a lack of preventative care. For example, dental issues caused by untreated tooth decay can lead to speech impediments and increased school absences. Overweight or obese preschoolers are more likely to miss class or repeat a grade later on. And, children with undetected developmental delays are more likely to need special education services when they reach kindergarten.

That's why access to health information, screenings and care are vital components of any successful early childhood development program.

First Things First supports healthy children by providing access to screenings for oral health, medical and developmental issues and creating opportunities for families to learn about brain

development, nutrition, healthy weight and physical activity. First Things First also helps families identify health insurance options and connects them to available health care.

In underserved areas, First Things First funds training in needed specialties, like speech therapy for children, and offers incentives for health care providers to work in smaller communities.

First Things First also works with early childhood health partners to increase collaboration and maximize health resources. For example, First Things First's investments in health promotion and disease prevention are used to leverage additional resources – such as federal grants – that allow these efforts to serve more young children and their families. As a result, more children throughout Arizona can start school healthy and ready to succeed!

### FISCAL YEAR 2013 SERVICE NUMBERS

**37,833**

ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS ADMINISTERED  
TO CHILDREN STATEWIDE

**35,599**

FLUORIDE VARNISHES APPLIED  
TO PROTECT AGAINST DENTAL DECAY

**16,367**

SCREENINGS COMPLETED TO DETECT  
VISION, HEARING AND DEVELOPMENTAL  
ISSUES IN YOUNG KIDS AND PREVENT  
LEARNING CHALLENGES LATER ON

**5,352**

CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM TRAININGS  
FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO HELP THEM  
MEET THE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL NEEDS  
OF KIDS IN THEIR CARE

## Smiling All the Way to School

When 5-year-old Alivia came in to a First Things First-sponsored oral health screening clinic last year, she had chronic pain and decay in six teeth.

“Alivia’s mother told (our staff) that after eating, Alivia would run to the bathroom crying while trying to brush the decay away because of the pain,” said Megan Miks, manager of the community oral health program at Chandler Regional Medical Center.

Left untreated, dental decay can cause eating problems and speech impediments. The pain can also cause children to frequently miss school.

The family did not have insurance or many resources to pay for the amount of dental work Alivia required. But, Miks said the program was able to put the family in touch with a partner dentist, who was able to provide the care free of charge.

“Because of this partnership, Alivia had a very good outcome,” Miks said. “The family is very grateful for the care their daughter was able to receive.”



## Future Looks and Sounds Brighter for Preschool Twins

Hearing, vision and developmental challenges in young children can lead to learning problems later on. If detected early, however, many issues can be corrected or minimized before a child enters school.

This was the case with 4-year-old twins Drew and R.J. Both children received vision and hearing screenings at their child care center through Building a Screening Infrastructure for Children’s Success (BASICS), a program of The Ear Foundation of Arizona funded by First Things First in Central Phoenix.

After their first screening, Drew was referred for further evaluation of her hearing, and R.J. was referred for a comprehensive eye exam. After seeing specialists, Drew was diagnosed with severe hearing deficiency that required ear tubes and adenoid removal. R.J. had near-sighted vision and now wears prescription glasses for studying and computer games.

The preschoolers’ mother said the hearing and vision issues had not been detected during the children’s regular pediatric check-ups.

“I am so thankful for The EAR Foundation and BASICS for alerting me to the problem,” she said. “Because of your service, we fixed two major medical problems and both children are doing great at school.”

Last year, the program visited 60 child care centers and performed just over 2,600 hearing screenings and 2,095 vision screenings. About eight percent of all children screened for hearing and 14 percent of all children screened for vision were referred for further evaluation by their medical home or by a specialist.

*Access to health information, screenings and care are vital components of any successful early childhood development program.*



## FINANCIAL REPORT: PARTNERSHIPS CRUCIAL TO FUTURE SUCCESS

Each year, the First Things First Board works with 31 regional partnership councils statewide to identify and fund the early childhood education, health and family support programs that will help more children arrive at school prepared to succeed. The information detailed in this section provides an overview of the areas funded in fiscal year 2013 and the areas served through those expenditures. While the impact of these funds is significant, research on the needs of young children in communities across Arizona shows that there is still work to be done. As we look for ways to build on past successes and increase investments on behalf of young kids in the future, it is crucial that First Things First continue its efforts to maximize the resources available to promote school readiness for all Arizona kids, including: leveraging all available grant resources, establishing partnerships with non-profits and private entities, and pursuing prudent investments. These efforts will ensure that resources are available to fulfill Arizona's commitment to our youngest kids.

### **Central Maricopa** FY13 Expenditures = \$7,889,731

*The Central Maricopa Region includes the cities and towns of Tempe, Chandler, Guadalupe and Ahwatukee.*

### **Central Phoenix** FY13 Expenditures = \$14,572,509

*The Central Phoenix Region includes most of metropolitan Phoenix.*

### **Central Pima** FY13 Expenditures = \$10,116,496

*The Central Pima region includes most of metropolitan Tucson.*

### **Cochise** FY13 Expenditures = \$2,468,811

*The Cochise Region includes all of the communities in Cochise County.*

### **Coconino** FY13 Expenditures = \$1,776,055

*The Coconino region includes the greater Flagstaff area, Williams, Winslow, Grand Canyon/Tusayan, Page, Fredonia and three tribal areas – Hopi, Havasupai and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians.*

### **Cocopah Tribe** FY13 Expenditures = \$41,542

*The Cocopah Tribe Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the three Cocopah Indian Reservations.*

### **Colorado River Indian Tribe** FY13 Expenditures = \$195,160

*The Colorado River Indian Tribes Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the Town of Parker.*

### **Gila** FY13 Expenditures = \$564,906

*The Gila Regional Partnership Council includes the communities of Gila County including the tribal lands of the Tonto Apache Tribe.*

### **Gila River Indian Community** FY13 Expenditures = \$808,077

*The Gila River Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Gila River Indian Community.*

### **Graham/Greenlee** FY13 Expenditures = \$679,982

*The Graham/Greenlee Region includes the communities of both counties, not including the portion of the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation.*

### **Hualapai Tribe** FY13 Expenditures = \$112,077

*The First Things First Region of the Hualapai Indian Tribe is comprised of the tribal lands of the Hualapai Indian Reservation.*

### **La Paz/Mohave** FY13 Expenditures = \$3,472,738

*The La Paz/Mohave Region includes La Paz and Mohave Counties, including the tribal lands of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.*

### **Navajo Nation** FY13 Expenditures = \$3,161,198

*The Navajo Nation Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Navajo Nation within the state of Arizona.*

### **Navajo/Apache** FY13 Expenditures = \$1,243,500

*The Navajo/Apache Region includes most of southern Navajo and Apache counties.*

### **North Phoenix** FY13 Expenditures = \$9,556,908

*The North Phoenix Region includes several Phoenix ZIP codes north of Glendale Avenue – all the way to the county line. The region includes neighborhoods as diverse as Sunnyslope, the North Central Corridor, Deer Valley, Moon Valley, Anthem and New River.*

**North Pima**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$2,598,783**

The North Pima region includes mostly suburban and rural areas in northern Pima County.

**Northeast Maricopa**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$2,809,753**

The Northeast Maricopa Region includes Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Fountain Hills, Care Free, Cave Creek, Rio Verde, including the tribal lands of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.

**Northwest Maricopa**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$9,787,933**

The Northwest Maricopa Region includes the communities of Glendale, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, El Mirage, Aguila, Morristown, Waddell, Wickenburg, Wittmann and Youngtown.

**Pascua Yaqui Tribe**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$215,493**

The Pascua Yaqui Tribal Region is comprised of the tribal lands of New Pascua.

**Pinal**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$5,245,910**

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council area comprises the geographic boundaries of Pinal County including the tribal lands of the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

**Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$274,240**

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community is bordered by the cities of Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale, Fountain Hills and the Tonto National Forest.

**San Carlos Apache**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$439,652**

The San Carlos Apache Region is comprised of the communities located on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation.

**Santa Cruz**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$1,252,613**

The Santa Cruz Region includes Nogales, Rio Rico, Tubac, Patagonia, Carmen, Tumacacori, Sonoita and Elgin.

**South Phoenix**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$14,425,617**

The South Phoenix Region includes the far West Valley's Agua Fria River basin at 122nd Avenue south of Camelback Road and as far east as 48th Street and Baseline Road.

**South Pima**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$5,854,634**

The South Pima region includes mostly rural areas in southern Pima County.

**Southeast Maricopa**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$10,482,052**

The Southeast Maricopa Region includes the city of Mesa and the towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek.

**Southwest Maricopa**  
**FY13 expenditures = \$3,166,867**

The Southwest Maricopa Region includes the cities of the Southwest Valley – Avondale, Tolleson, Goodyear, Buckeye, Litchfield Park – as well as Gila Bend and Tonopah.

**Tohono O'odham Nation**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$442,964**

The Tohono O'odham Nation Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

**White Mountain Apache Tribe**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$437,763**

The White Mountain Apache Tribe Region is comprised of the tribal lands of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

**Yavapai**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$3,616,855**

The Yavapai Region encompasses all of Yavapai County, including the tribal lands of the Yavapai Apache Nation, as well as a portion of the City of Sedona that is in Coconino County.

**Yuma**  
**FY13 Expenditures = \$5,295,362**

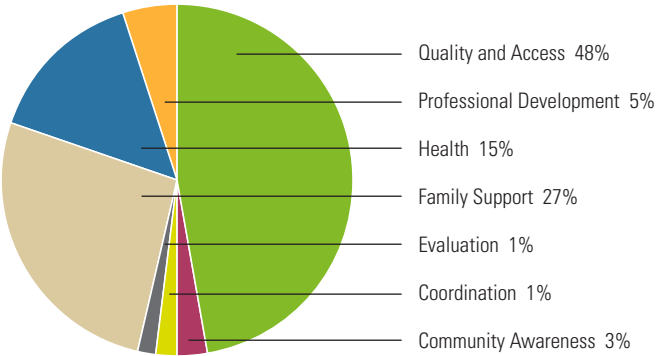
The Yuma Region includes greater Yuma County, including the tribal lands of the Quechan Indian Tribe.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

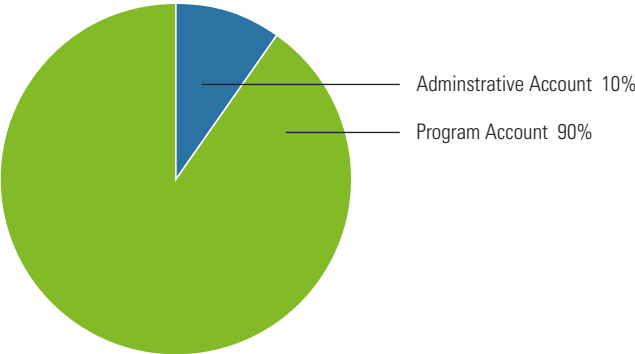
### FY2013 Expenditures by Goal Area

Quality and Access	\$64,158,268
Professional Development	6,687,924
Health	19,252,446
Family Support	35,535,953
Evaluation	2,001,517
Coordination	1,142,964
Community Awareness	3,588,371
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$132,367,443</b>



### FY2013 Revenues by Fund

Administrative Account	\$13,243,212
Program Account	119,188,905
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$132,432,117</b>



Notes: At the time of printing, the final reconciliation of FY2013 expenditures was not complete. As such, expenditures reported include June plus those expenditures reconciled as part of the state's Period 13, but are not inclusive of final adjustments that tie the appropriation year to the fiscal year under an accrual accounting methodology. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

*A child who receives early childhood education and health care services before age 5 is more likely to succeed in grade school, high school and beyond.*





**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

The First Things First annual report is produced and submitted in accordance with A.R.S. 58-1192 A(4) and is distributed in accordance with section 41-4153.

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