

FIRST THINGS FIRST

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Sam Leyvas

September 1, 2016

Honorable Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

Pursuant to Executive Order 2006-14-Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes, the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board (First Things First) respectfully submits the agency's annual Tribal Consultation Policy Report.

First Things First recognizes that Indian Tribes and Nations must have a strong voice in shaping the policies and programming that affect their communities. In that spirit, I am pleased to inform you of our efforts to dialogue and partner with Arizona's Tribes and Nations during State Fiscal Year 2016.

Sincerely,



Sam Leyvas
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure (1)

cc: Hon. David Gowan, Speaker of the House, Arizona House of Representatives
Hon. Andy Biggs, President, Arizona Senate

TRIBAL CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Agency Overview

First Things First (FTF), also known as the Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, is a public state agency that exists to increase the quality of, and access to, the early childhood development and health system that ensures children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Governed by a State Board, FTF is a decentralized organization that engages diverse constituencies to accomplish its mission to serve as one of the critical partners in creating a family-centered, collaborative and high-quality early childhood system that supports the development, health and early education of all Arizona's children birth through age 5. The vision of FTF is that all Arizona's children are ready to succeed in school and in life. Since inception, First Things First has partnered with tribes and nations throughout the state to ensure all of Arizona's children are ready for school and set for life. Indian tribes and nations participate in First Things First in one of two ways: tribes may elect to have their tribal lands treated as a separate region by the statewide FTF Board; or, tribes may elect to participate in the designated geographical region(s) in which their tribal lands are located. Currently, 19 of Arizona's 22 federally recognized tribes participate in First Things First; 10 tribes made the decision to have their lands treated as separate regions by the FTF Board, and nine tribes made the decision to participate in the region in their geographic area.

Tribal Consultation Activities

Each year, First Things First meets in formal consultation sessions with Arizona tribes. In FY2016, that consultation included the following topics: Public Policymaker Engagement and Cultural Responsivity. Tribal Representatives were asked to provide insight in to how FTF might better support them as early childhood policymakers and what the appropriate role might be for FTF regional council members in terms of sharing their early childhood expertise or experience with tribal, federal or state policymakers. Recommendations included the need to educate policymakers and community members regarding the importance of early childhood issues and the work of FTF by attending tribal council meetings, community meetings and events.

Tribal Representatives were also asked to share insights and strategies used to by their tribes to enhance cultural responsivity. Tribal representatives shared ways they are promoting the language and culture of their tribes, particularly with non-tribal organizations or individuals providing services to tribal members. Representatives also shared successful experiences with FTF in building awareness of the importance of early childhood and supporting families.

Every two years, tribes can determine how they would like to have their tribal lands treated for the purposes of participating in the FTF regional structure. In addition to these regular activities, FTF's tribal consultation activities work to: strengthen tribal-state relations; promote tribal considerations in early childhood development; build awareness in tribal sectors of the importance of early childhood; and enhance coordination and collaboration.

One of the major outcomes over the past fiscal year is FTF's securing of approvals to collect data for the 2016 Regional Needs and Assets Reports from the 10 tribes who have elected to have their lands treated as separate FTF regions. At the time of this submittal, FTF had also received approval from three of those 10 tribes to publish and disseminate the 2016 reports. In addition, FTF has received approval from 14 tribes so far to collect data for the 2018 Regional Needs and Assets Reports.

The table below outlines additional activities in this reporting period by goal area.

Goal	Objective	Activity and Performance Measure
Strengthen Tribal-State relations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide an overview about First Things First and activities/events in FTF regions such as: regional funding plans; needs and assets reports; and the progress of Quality First programs; 2) Seek guidance and direction on individual Tribe's approval processes; and/or 3) Seek tribal approvals in reference to data collection activities for regional needs and assets reports. 	<p>First Things First engaged in the following activities regarding one or more objectives listed in the previous column:</p> <p>Tribal Consultation participation and/or attendance: 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 FTF Tribal Consultation (agency hosted – nine tribes attended); Arizona Council on Indian Health Care (participant); Department of Health Services (participant); and Department of Child Safety (attende). <p>Presentations to Tribal Councils: 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ak-Chin Indian Community, Hualapai Tribe, Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Havasupai Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Salt River-Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Cocopah Tribe, San Carlos Apache Tribe and White Mountain Apache Tribe. <p>Meetings with Tribal Leaders and Staff: 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hualapai Tribal Chairwoman and Chairman; Navajo Nation President, Vice President, Council Delegate, staff in the Office of the President and Vice President, division staff, and Western Agency Council; Yavapai-Apache Nation Chairman; Gila River Indian Community Senior Assistant General Counsel; Ak-Chin Indian Community General Counsel, Truant Officer, Child Development Manager and Health and Human Services Director; Havasupai Tribe Head Start Director; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President; Tohono O'odham Chairman and Executive Education Director; and Inter Tribal Association of Arizona. <p>Meetings With Tribal Stakeholder: 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arizona Legislature Native American Caucus, Arizona Indian Tribes and Nations Legislative Day and Ak-Chin Indian Community Cultural Education Training.
Promote tribal considerations in early childhood development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Share information about FTF's government-to-government relationships and working effectively with Arizona's Tribes; 2) Learn about other early learning and health care systems/programs/committees and their efforts; 3) Discuss and prioritize public health issues in tribal communities; 4) Ensure tribal perspective is considered by other regional/state/federal entities; and/or 5) Provide insight on FTF's experience working with tribes on early childhood issues of initiatives. 	<p>FTF participated in 15 meetings involving one or more of the following entities regarding one or more objectives listed in the previous column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yavapai Montessori School; Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care; BUILD Equity Leaders Action Network; FTF Tribal Regional Forum; Tribal Liaison Roundtable; Navajo Nation Epidemiology Center Interim Director; Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs; Navajo Nation Indian Health Services (IHS) Associate Director for Program Planning; Phoenix Area IHS Executive Chief Medical Officer and Statistician; Tucson Area IHS Acting Director; Gila River Indian Community Manager Early Childhood Special Services and Tribal Education Director; Early Childhood Systems Coordinators Meeting and Quality First Symposium.
Build public awareness in tribal sectors on the	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduce FTF Staff to tribal/non-tribal entities; 2) Share an overview of FTF, provide updates on activities/events specific 	<p>FTF participated in 13 meetings involving one or more of the following entities regarding one or more objectives listed in the previous column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Association of Latino Elected Officials Deputy Director

importance of early childhood	to tribal, geographical regions, and/or in Tribal Affairs; and/or 3) Enhance understanding of tribal issues that may impact the provision of early childhood programs and services in tribal communities.	of Constituency Services; Hualapai Tribal Court; Arizona Youth Leadership Summit; Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs; Arizona Association for Economic Development; American Evaluation Association; National Indian Education Association; Tribal Liaison Roundtable; FTF Tribal Gathering at the Early Childhood Summit; Ak-Chin Indian Community Cultural Department staff; Colorado River Indian Tribes Councilwoman and Library/Archives; and Annual American Indian Indigenous Teacher Education Conference.
Enhance coordination and collaboration among partnering FTF entities, state/federal/tribal organizations and Tribes.	1) Seek guidance in appropriately accessing data from tribal, state and federal entities; 2) Discuss FTF's tribal consultation process; 3) Share information relevant to working groups, opportunities for collaboration and future work sessions; 4) Work with others to develop an American Indian cultural awareness training template for state agencies; 5) Discuss how to engage tribal colleges to support early childhood work; 6) Provide an overview of FTF and home visitation in tribal communities	FTF participated in 10 meetings involving one or more of the following entities regarding one or more objectives listed in the previous column: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona WIC Director; Phoenix Indian Center Executive Director; Tribal Liaison Roundtable; Phoenix Area Indian Health Services Acting Director; Hualapai Education Director and Coordinator; Arizona Commission on Indian Affairs Executive Director and state liaisons; Ak-Chin Indian Community Health and Human Services Director; ASU Assistant Vice President of Tribal Relations, Advisory Council on Indian Health Care Executive Director

Recommendations from Tribal Representatives

FTF will continue to build organizational capacity of regional directors, regional council members, and other tribal and non-tribal stakeholders to; 1) gain a better understanding of FTF's Tribal Consultation Policy and Tribal Data Policy, 2) better understand data collection procedures of specific data sets including methodology, source, and significance of data contained within the regional needs and asset (RNA) reports; and 3) better understand specific and unique tribal data approval and collection procedures for tribal communities within their region. This increased organizational capacity will help ensure that FTF staff and partners have the skills and knowledge needed to confidently and accurately address tribal entities and stakeholders with regard to FTF data collection, dissemination, strategic priorities, and services provided.

Revisions to First Things First Tribal Government Consultation Policy

First Things First recognizes and honors the government-to-government relationships that exist between Indian tribes, the federal government, and state government. In accordance with Executive Order 2006-14-Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes, a Tribal Consultation Policy was developed and adopted by the statewide FTF Board in 2009. There were no amendments to the policy this year. A copy of the current FTF Tribal Consultation Policy can be found at:

<http://azftf.gov/tribalconsultation/Documents/Tribal%20Consultation%20Policy-Bd%20Approved%2012-11-12.pdf>

For questions or more information, please contact:
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