

Summary and Conclusion

This Needs and Assets Report is the third biennial assessment of early education and health services in the First Things First Hualapai Tribe Region. Through both quantitative data assembled, and through the interviews with key informants in the community, it is clear that the region has substantial strengths. These include a strong Head Start program that provides care, early education and health services to a large proportion of three and four year old children in the area; a Maternal and Child Health Program that provides important parent education to expecting families and families with young children and that also serves as a hub for referrals to other services; and a strong sense among community members that children and youth are a priority population. A table containing a full summary of identified Regional assets can be found in Appendix B.

However, there continue to be substantial challenges to fully serving the needs of young children throughout the region. Many of these have been recognized as ongoing issues by the Hualapai Regional Partnership Council and are being addressed by current First Things First-supported strategies in the region. Some of these needs, and the strategies proposed to deal with them, are highlighted below. A table of Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council First Things First planned strategies for fiscal year 2013 is provided in Appendix F.

- **Low educational attainment combined with a need to raise the awareness of the importance of early childhood and a parent's role in supporting health and development** –Although the proportion of children who are enrolled in some kind of childcare setting is higher in the Hualapai Tribe Region than in the rest of the state, levels of adult educational attainment tend to be substantially lower than in Arizona as a whole. First Things First funding for the Maternal and Child Health program, coupled with the distribution of parenting kits, aims to educate and support parents in their role. In addition, tribal efforts to introduce age-appropriate developmental information to middle school youth through an after-school child care class (see *Professional Development*, above), provide a creative way to educate and engage youth early in the importance of healthy development.
- **Limited availability of qualified child care and early education staff and the need to increase the number of 'home grown' providers** – The construction of a new child care facility represents an important asset in the region, and should help alleviate some of the identified need for additional care slots. However, staffing of the facility may be a challenge. In addition, the Head Start program staff must also comply with requirements for increased educational attainment with limited opportunities available locally for professional development. The Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council support professional development of early care and education teachers through the T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) scholarships. However, additional linkage of existing efforts within the tribe and at the county and state level are likely to be needed to help alleviate the high need for trained early care and education professionals.

This report also highlighted some additional areas that could be considered as targets by stakeholders in the region.

- **Support for teen parents** – Because of the impact that unplanned teen births can have on the life of a teen mother and the health and welfare of her child, programs that encourage and provide prenatal care for expectant teen mothers, as well as education and support to enable them to continue their education and care well for their infant, are needed. Programs that involve and educate teen fathers would also help strengthen and stabilize young families.
- **A high rate of childhood obesity** – Childhood obesity is associated with a number of health and psycho-social problems, and with increased health care costs. Prevention and intervention programs that address the high rates of childhood obesity in the region can be highly beneficial for the community as a whole, as obesity is also a concern among the adult population.
- **Improved communication between tribal and non-tribal agencies providing services in the region** – Although some successful collaborative partnerships were identified by key informants, others noted substantial challenges to effectively working across agencies to provide coordinated prenatal care and to support families with children in public schools beyond Peach Springs.
- **Additional behavioral health services for young children** - - A number of interacting factors influence the young child's healthy development, including biological factors (which can be affected by prenatal and postnatal experiences), environmental factors, and relationship factors. Because young children who experience exposure to abuse, neglect or trauma are more likely to have developmental challenges--including difficulties with emotion expression, distractibility and developmental delays in motor and language skills--additional behavioral health support for high-risk young children can also be important to ensure they grow up physically and emotionally healthy.

Although families across the state, including those in the Hualapai Tribe Region, continue to face the challenges of tight economic times, the Hualapai Tribe has substantial strengths that it can leverage to help support young families in the region and to help assure that “the community’s children” enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

Appendix F. Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council First Things First planned strategies for Fiscal Year 2013

Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council First Things First Planned Strategies for Fiscal Year 2013*		
Goal Area	Strategy	Strategy Description
Professional Development	Scholarships T.E.A.C.H.	Provides scholarships for higher education and credentialing to early care and education teachers. Improves the professional skills of those providing care and education to children 5 and younger
Family Support	Home Visitation	The Maternal and Child Health strategy provides home visitation combined with community-based group training for pregnant women and parents of young children. It is a comprehensive intervention and home visitation program aiming for outcomes of healthier pregnancies, competent parents, and improved child development and health.
	Resource Distribution- Parent Kits (Statewide)Community-Based Training	Additional Parent Kits are distributed in the region through the home visitation provider to parents of toddlers, child care providers, and other family service programs.
	Food security	Increase access to nutritious food assistance for families with children ages birth through five in the region. The strategy is responsive to the additional needs of the region due to its remote location and extensive travel requirement to the nearest grocery store; it makes available a three-day supply of nutritionally balanced food for families in the region.
	Native Language Enrichment	Engage families in reading activities that encourage the development of early literacy skills and also reinforce the cultural importance of learning and preserving the Hualapai language. This strategy will support the development of a bilingual (Hualapai/English) children's board book and accompanying compact disc. The compact disc will correspond to the children's book to encourage literacy skill development in parents as well. The board book and compact disc will be assembled as a kit to provide to families with young children.

*In addition to the strategies described above, in FY 2013 the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council will providing one-time funding for the "Expansion: Infant/Toddler" strategy, under the Goal Area "Quality, Access and Affordability." This strategy "increases the number of child care providers who are state/tribal licensed or certified, and strengthens the skills of caregivers in those settings who are working with children birth to 5 years old. 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." Through this one-time funding strategy the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council will support cover the start-up costs for expanding high quality care for infants in the region available at the soon-to-be-built early childhood center.



Logo of the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Hualapai Health Education and Wellness Community Report July 3rd , 2013

Community Activities for January 1 to March 31, 2013

Group Treatment Meetings

1. Matrix Group held 3 times per week - Aftercare or as part of outpatient treatment
2. Wellbriety Group—Probation and Behavioral initiative
3. Parenting-Confident Parent Curriculum—Parent training held weekly as schedule by counselor

Community Programs—held January 1, 2013 thru March 31, 2013

1. Bullying 2/17/11 RC, AB Peach Springs School Presentation
2. La Paz 5/13/11 RC Community activity
3. Clinical Staff Meetings—Weekly meetings held by the counselors to coordinate care/activities
4. Staff meetings All staff meetings held monthly to communicate events and activities to all staff
5. Hwal'by...Coalition Meeting-Addresses underage drinking , injury prevention and substance abuse planning in an effort to implement prevent early interventions.
6. Youth Coalition Meeting—held monthly to plan for youth activities with the Youth Council
7. Health Board Meetings—Held monthly/as scheduled for local or Parker Service Units Health Boards
8. Sobriety Planning Meetings monthly/as scheduled meetings held before the yearly Sobriety event
9. Green Reentry Meeting—Coalition to support the Green Reentry Program held as scheduled
10. IHS—BH Teleconference—Communication from funding source on new BH information
11. Admin Staff Meeting—Admin meetings regarding internal updates and changes
13. NARBHA - Monthly meetings held to discuss tribal behavioral health –trainings, etc.
14. Health Advisory Board Meeting yearly/as scheduled meetings held with Headstart and their Support systems to coordinate changes, etc.
15. Enrollment Committee—Tribal Committee attended by staff
16. Justice Advisory Board - Tribal Council appointed directors to address justice and Substance abuse interventions, activities and coordination.
17. River Running Training HEW staff assists with this training yearly
18. Prosecutors-Probation Meeting - meeting to discuss issues and concerns regarding shared clients
19. Public Defender Meeting as above
20. Adult Detention Meeting as above
21. DV Code Meeting
23. Tribal Consultation Meeting
24. Health Prevention Meeting
34. Alternative Facility pre-bid meeting
35. Meeting with court
36. Collaboration to strengthen, Protect Young Women

Other events held at the Health Education and Wellness Facility in support of other programs
Events supported by the Health, Education and Wellness Department Jan—March, 2013

1. Young women are Sacred-Social Services
2. Headstart Advisory committee
3. Kingman High School
4. Youth Wellness Services
5. Alcohol Anonymous Meetings
6. Domestic Violence Group Meeting
7. Domestic Violence Code Meetings
8. Radio Station Committee Meeting

*In addition to the strategies described above, in FY 2013 the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council will providing one-time funding for the "Expansion: Infant/Toddler" strategy, under the Goal Area "Quality, Access and Affordability." This strategy "increases the number of child care providers who are state/tribal licensed or certified, and strengthens the skills of caregivers in those settings who are working with children birth to 5 years old. 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." Through this one-time funding strategy the Hualapai Tribe Regional Partnership Council will support cover the start-up costs for expanding high quality care for infants in the region available at the soon-to-be-built early childhood center.





ITCA WIC ALERT

Volume 12, Issue 3

June 2013

This WIC Alert covers the following changes effective July 1, 2013:

- ✓ Declared milk, cheese and eggs
- ✓ WIC Approved stickers
- ✓ Minimum package size change for cold cereal
- ✓ Pink salmon can size change
- ✓ Minimum Stock Requirements, Sanction Schedule and Vendor Manual

Food Item Declaration Form

In April 2013, all Vendors were notified of the requirement to submit the ITCA WIC Program Food Item Declaration Form to declare the store's authorized milk, cheese and eggs. Beginning July 1, 2013, the brands you declared for milk, cheese and eggs are the only brands that clients are allowed to purchase when using their WIC checks.

WIC Approved Stickers Now Required

ITCA is requiring all vendors to use the WIC Approved orange stickers to label the declared brand of milk, cheese and eggs to help clients identify and select what brands are allowed for purchase. If you are also authorized with the Arizona WIC Program, ITCA will accept the use of their WIC Approved stickers.



Cold Cereal Minimum Size Change

The minimum size package for cold cereal is 14 oz. or larger. When clients purchase cold cereal, they will have to select packages (bags or boxes) that are 14 oz. or larger from the brands and types listed on the Arizona WIC Programs Food List. Packages of cold cereal that are 12 oz. are no longer authorized. This change does not affect hot cereal.