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# Board of Supervisors Memorandum

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June 22, 2021

## Pima Early Education Program Agreements and Updates

### Background

On May 18, 2021, the Board approved nine Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with school districts, First Things First, the City of Tucson and Town of Marana, to implement Year 1 of the Pima Early Education Program (PEEP). The final set of agreements are on the Board's June 22 agenda, including a 3-year revenue IGA with the Town of Oro Valley for \$100,000; a 2-year IGA with Marana Unified School District for one preschool class; and a 1-year contract with Child-Parent Centers, the regional administrator of Head Start for extended day preschool for up to 205 children. This memorandum addresses the total committed expenses and estimated number of children to be served in Year 1, as well as other general program updates.

### Agreements for PEEPs Implementation

Tables 1 and 2 below show the IGAs and contracts approved by the Board on May 18, and those to be considered by the Board on June 22. Currently, no additional agreements are anticipated for Year 1, with the exception of a possible agreement with Pima Community College early next calendar year, and with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, for which recent discussion have begun. While we could discuss a direct agreement with Tohono O'odham Nation, the County is already funding a new 20-child preschool class at Indian Oasis Primary in Sells through the Baboquivari Unified School District IGA, as well as 29 additional scholarships to Tohono O'odham Head Start programs and Indian Oasis through our IGA with First Things First.

Every school district was offered funding for a new free preschool class, but some declined due to a lack of demand and the uncertainty created by the pandemic. Of those that declined, some already receive First Things First scholarships and have been allocated additional County-funded scholarships through our IGA with First Things First. There are also school districts that are receiving County-funding for new free preschool classes, as well as County-funded First Things First scholarships. First Things First recently made the initial scholarship allocations to preschools. Staff are currently developing maps and summary data for the 170 preschool providers participating in this first year of PEEP, and this information will be provided to the Board shortly.

**Table 1**  
**Pima Early Education Program Expenditure Agreements**

Agreement	Preschool Locations	# of New Classes	Estimated # of children served per Agreement	Total Not to Exceed Amount	Not to Exceed FY22	Not to Exceed FY23**	In-kind Contribution
Flowing Wells Unified SD	Emily Meschter ELC	1	20	\$ 264,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 35,000
Amphitheater Unified SD	Amphi HS, Hollaway, Walker	3	60	\$ 792,000	\$ 396,000	\$ 396,000	\$ 105,000
Sahuarita Unified SD	Sahuarita ELC	1	20	\$ 264,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 35,000
Tucson Unified SD	Kellond, Shumaker, Warren, Cavett, Ford, Borton, Robins, Vesey	8	160	\$ 2,112,000	\$ 1,056,000	\$ 1,056,000	\$ 280,000
Baboquivari Unified SD	Indian Oasis Primary	1	20	\$ 264,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 35,000
Sunnyside Unified SD	Ocotillo ELC	2	40	\$ 528,000	\$ 264,000	\$ 264,000	\$ 70,000
First Things First	147 preschools rated 2-5 Star	N/A	599	\$ 3,811,600	\$ 3,811,600	N/A	\$ 146,600
Marana Unified SD (6.22 BOS meeting)	Estes Elementary	1	20	\$ 264,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 35,000
Child-Parent Centers Head Start (6.22 BOS meeting)	11 locations	N/A	205	\$ 1,149,845	\$ 1,149,845	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>1144</b>	<b>\$ 9,449,445</b>	<b>\$ 7,205,445</b>	<b>\$ 2,244,000</b>	<b>\$ 741,600</b>

\* Assumes a max of 20 children per new school district class. As enrollment proceeds, schools will determine ages of children in classes. Classes with 3-year olds are limited to 18 and will reduce County funding.

\*\* County and school districts will determine whether to add more classes and children prior to FY23.

**Table 2**  
**Pima Early Education Program Revenue Agreements**

City of Tucson	\$1,000,000
Town of Marana	\$ 132,000
Town of Oro Valley (6/22 BOS meeting)	\$ 100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,232,000</b>

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Through these agreements in Year 1 we will gain experience with the three major providers of preschool scholarships and subsidies in Arizona (First Things First, CPC-Head Start and the Arizona Department of Economic Security - DES), as well as expanding the capacity of high quality preschool through our IGAs with school districts. These agreements were drafted to maximize state and federal dollars first to ensure that investment by these other entities and funding sources increases in Pima County. This first year experience will inform how we proceed in future years, with the intent of improving the system as a whole, as opposed to creating a duplicative or separate system. This is all consistent with the PEEP guiding principles, attached, which will become the basis for our quarterly reports to the Board.

#### Technical Assistance

The County IGAs with school districts require them to be contacted with DES to accept DES child care subsidies first to reduce local funding when state funding is available. A number of school district sites are not currently DES contacted. United Way and DES are working together to assist these school districts in becoming DES contracted prior to them submitting their first invoice to the County. United Way will also be offering assistance to school districts that are not yet participating in First Things First's Quality First program, also required by our IGAs.

The County will offer technical assistance workshops to school districts prior to the first invoice and performance report due date. Monthly reports are also required of First Things First and Child-Parent Centers. Job openings for a program manager and program coordinator should be posted on Friday June 18. These new employees will be located in Community and Workforce Development.

#### Enrollment and Outreach

Preschools are responsible for marketing their new free preschool classes and/or scholarships to eligible children and enrolling children. The approach for doing so will likely vary across the 170 participating preschools. For example, TUSD, which has the largest number of new free classroom slots and scholarships, developed the following webpage <http://www.tusd1.org/Information/2021-school-year/PREK-PEEPS> for their 8 new classes and announced this first-come-first-serve opportunity to over 20,000 TUSD families via email. Marana Unified School District, with one new class, already pre-enrolled children during regular enrollment last month. Preschools that regularly receive First Things First scholarships and were recently allocated additional County-funded scholarships from First Things First, will likely follow the same approach they've used in the past for enrolling children.

We are assisting with outreach to families by developing and distributing materials and messaging that refers families to Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). CCR&R is an existing state-wide program funded by DES for the purposes of helping families find

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preschool/child care and funding assistance. Fortunately, this state-wide program is headquartered in Tucson and is operated as part of Child and Family Resources. CCR&R has an information line at 1-800-308-9000, as well as a website at [www.azcrr.com](http://www.azcrr.com) that is searchable by zip code. This week CCR&R is updating their preschool provider profiles for the 170 preschools participating in PEEP. CCR&R reported an increase in calls last week as a result of our social media posts and were able to help families in the interim, but asked that we hold off on major outreach until end of this week when the profiles are complete. Regular communication with CCR&R will inform outreach efforts over time. While the County has developed a PEEP [web page](#) under Community and Workforce Development, we are not directing families to this site as CCR&R is better equipped to help interested families.

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board approve the three additional agreements on the Board's June 22 agenda for implementation of the Pima Early Education Program.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/nf – June 17, 2021

#### Attachment

- c: The Honorable Dustin Williams, Pima County School Superintendent
- Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
- Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer  
Health and Community Services
- Dan Sullivan, Director, Community and Workforce Development
- Amber Mathewson, Director, Pima County Library District
- Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department
- Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator

## Pima Early Education Program (PEEP) Framework

### Overall Goals:

To increase the number of 3-5 year-old children from low-income families attending high quality preschools in Pima County, and to increase the number of high quality preschools in Pima County.

### **Low-Income Preschool-age Population in Pima County**

Estimated number of children age 3-5 in Pima County <sup>1</sup>	28,076
Estimated number of low-income children age 3-5 in Pima County <sup>2</sup>	12,915
Estimated number in a subsidized high quality seat <sup>3</sup>	3,864
Estimated number unserved <sup>4</sup>	9,051
Estimated target number based on 60% uptake rate <sup>5</sup>	5,430

<sup>1</sup> Source: 2019 US Census 2015-2019 estimates, and assuming 33% of 5-year olds have birth dates after Sept. 1 Kinder deadline.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Calculation using 2019 US Census 2015-2019 estimates assuming a 46% rate of children ages 0-5 living under 200% FPL

<sup>3</sup> Source: Child Parent Centers, DES, FTF. Excludes Tribal Head Start programs.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Calculation

<sup>5</sup> Source: Calculation using 60% uptake rate of number unserved based on other communities' universal PreK programs

### Family and Preschool Provider Eligibility:

1. Families with three or four-year-old children (and five-year-olds not in Kindergarten), with a household income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.
2. Preschool providers must be located in Pima County, operate at least 6 hours a day for 10-12 months of the year, be contracted with DES to accept DES subsidies for eligible children, and be considered "high-quality" according to the State definition of high quality (Quality First rating of 3-5 stars; Head Start provider, or nationally accredited.) Providers not yet rated must design their program to attain high-quality standards, be pursuing Quality First rating, and have an active quality improvement plan.
3. Preschool providers include the existing mixed delivery system of school districts, centers and home-based licensed/certified family childcare providers.

### Guiding principles:

1. Increase high-quality preschool capacity while addressing existing need, by allocating scholarships to preschool providers that can add new classes for eligible children, increasing the number of high quality providers, and allocating scholarships to providers that can serve more eligible children in existing classes.
2. Distribute scholarships efficiently and effectively through existing programs and partners.
3. Do not supplant existing public assistance for preschool and utilize local funding as a "last dollar in" approach. Families eligible for a DES subsidy, FTF scholarship or Head

Start assistance should continue to receive assistance through those programs where available, and these agencies should not reduce their level of assistance.

4. Coordinate with existing agencies that provide public assistance for high-quality preschool to establish baseline need and simple system-level benchmarks, monitor progress and refine collaborative efforts to improve the system as a whole.
5. Establish scholarship rates that cover the full cost of providing high-quality preschool per child (salaries, classroom space, furniture and supplies, snacks and meals), based on accepted cost of quality and local market rate studies, considering wages necessary to attract quality teachers, and accounting for current DES subsidy rates and school district in-kind contributions, as well as increased costs related to the pandemic.
6. Ensure that participating preschool providers are geographically dispersed, with priority given to preschools serving lower income/higher need neighborhoods, tribal and rural areas.
7. Connect eligible families to high-quality preschools and financial assistance, including parents in local workforce development programs.
8. Collaborate with partners to connect participating families with other community resources to accelerate family and community wide benefits.
9. Maximize multi-year partner contributions to make the program more sustainable.
10. Advocate with partners for a long-term state-wide solution.
11. Remain flexible as providers and families recover and rebuild from the pandemic.
12. Review, reevaluate, revise, and report regularly with input from stakeholders, including outputs, outcomes and academic progress for this program and the system as a whole.