MEMORANDUM

Date: October 27, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
   Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lesher  
   Chief Deputy County Administrator

Re: Pima Early Education Program First Quarterly Report

Attached is the first quarterly report for the new Pima Early Education Program, also referred to as PEEPs because of the core focus on preschool scholarships. As of September 30, 2021, 360 children from income eligible families are receiving assistance from PEEPs to attend high quality preschools across Pima County, with the intent of serving up to 1,200 children in this first year. Through statewide coordination with other partners, these reports will also track system-level progress in filling the high quality preschool gap. Already, when combined with partner programs, 740 additional children are receiving financial assistance to attend high quality preschool, in comparison to last fiscal year. This is due in large part to many more families accessing Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) child care subsidies.

The most significant challenge for all of these programs, locally and nationally, is a teacher shortage. PEEPs staff are working internally within Community and Workforce Development, and externally with community partners to better understand what incentives or actions may begin to address this issue.

Because of the change from General Funding to American Rescue Plan Act funding, there is a need to amend all nine Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) and contracts that are used to implement this program. Staff are also reviewing the school-district IGAs, which are for 2 years, to determine if other items could be included in these amendments at the same time. The Board can anticipate to see these amendments on meeting agendas within a couple of months.

Also attached are the individual quarterly reports to the City of Tucson, Town of Marana and Town of Oro Valley, as they are also contributing funding to this new program.

Overall, I am pleased with the progress of this new program, which is already impacting so many children in this community at a time when they and their families need it the most. Especially noteworthy are the quotes that reference that ability for parents to work as a result of these new scholarships.

Attachments

c: The Honorable Dustin Williams, Pima County School Superintendent  
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
John Moffat, Director, Pima County Office of Economic Development
Jen Darland, Deputy Director, Community and Workforce Development
Nicole Scott, Pima Early Education Program Manager
Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator
Overview

In the Spring of 2021, the Pima County Board of Supervisors took bold action to create Pima Early Education Program scholarships (PEEPS). In Year 1, PEEPs is designed to assist up to 1,200 children from income eligible families to attend high quality preschool at 170 locations across Pima County. Many of these preschools began offering the free or reduced-cost educational opportunities in July and August, 2021, serving 360 children. By actively collaborating with existing state and federal programs, the target is assist all income eligible families who want to send their children to high quality preschool in Pima County.

This is the program’s first quarterly report. It includes a summary of the Year 1 program components, metrics for the two program goals, revenues and expenses, staffing and oversight, successes and challenges, and highlights. Attached are the program’s guiding principles and a map of participating preschool providers.

Funding for Year 1 of PEEPs is provided by Pima County’s share of Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, the City of Tucson, Towns of Marana and Oro Valley, and participating school districts. Donations to the United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona from individuals, businesses, and non-profits complement the program.

Year 1 (July 1 2021-June 30, 2022) program components include:

- Contracting with seven school districts to serve up to 340 children at up to 17 new free high quality preschool classes.
- Contracting with First Things First (FTF), an established state agency focused on early childhood development, to offer 600 additional scholarships for preschools enrolled in Quality First (QF).
- Contracting with Child-Parent Centers, to offer extended day Head Start preschool programs for up to 205 children at 11 locations.
- Collaborating with United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and FTF, to increase the number of high quality preschool providers and those that accept DES childcare subsidies, as well as increase the number of eligible families applying for DES childcare subsidies.
- Referring families interested in financial aid for preschool, or families searching for high quality preschools, to Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) at https://www.azccrr.com/ or 1(800) 308-9000. Families complete financial aid and/or enrollment applications through the preschools.
By the Numbers

A wealth of data shows that investing in high-quality preschool, especially for economically disadvantaged, minority and dual language children, provides short-term and lasting benefits to children, families, schools, employers, taxpayers, and the community. Economists have estimated an economic return of $4 to $12 for every one dollar invested, based on increased school and career achievement as well as reduced costs in remedial education, health and criminal justice system expenditures. With this in mind, the Pima Early Education Program is focused on increasing equitable access to high quality preschool for families most in need.

Program Goal 1: To increase the number of 3-5 year-old children from families with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level attending high quality preschools in Pima County.

Progress for this goal will be tracked at both the system and program level. It is estimated there are 29,000 preschool age children in Pima County, half of whom are from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of four, this is currently $53,000, which is two times the Federal Poverty Level of $26,500 as set by the Department of Health and Human Services. At the end of this first quarter, the four programs that currently support children in high quality preschool (PEEPs, Head Start, FTF, and DES) report serving 4,440 preschool-age children, up from 3,660 last Fiscal Year. Our target is to fill the gap so that all income eligible families who want to send their children to high quality preschool in Pima County can do so.
At the program level, progress for this goal will be tracked according to the type of contracted agreement and against the contracted maximum.

### PEEPs Preschool Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEEPs Contract Type</th>
<th>First Quarter # of Students Served*</th>
<th>Year 1 Contracted Max Students Served</th>
<th>% of Contracted Max Served First Quarter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEEPs funded Quality First Scholarships</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEEPs funded School District Expansion Classes</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEEPs funded Head Start Extended Day Classes</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>360</strong></td>
<td><strong>1145</strong></td>
<td><strong>31%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Majority of data is from July & August reports

### PEEPs Funded School District Expansion Classes and Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>First Quarter # of PEEPs Classes Operational</th>
<th>First Quarter # of Students Enrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flowing Wells Unified School District</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marana Unified School District</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahuarita Unified School District</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyside Unified School District</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucson Unified School District</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>106</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of students served by PEEPs is increasing gradually as expected due to the following factors:

- Pandemic impacts on enrollment and labor (teachers and admin staff).
- One of the PEEPs guiding principles is to use local funding last, which means individual preschools are required to use all their First Things First funded QF scholarships before the Pima funded scholarships.
- Some preschools are receiving QF scholarships for the first time and are still onboarding with the QF program.
- Head Start’s policy to gradually bring new children into the classroom at the beginning of the school year to help children transition to school.
- Schools on the Tohono O’odham Nation are still largely virtual.

**Program Goal 2**: To increase the number of preschools recognized as high quality, as well as the number of high quality preschools participating in financial assistance programs for their students.

This is based on providers the State of Arizona’s Department of Economic Security (DES) accepts as high quality, which includes:
• Quality First 3-5 star providers
• Head Start providers
• Nationally Accredited providers that accept children with DES childcare subsidies

June 2021 Baseline – 199 high quality preschool providers

Changes in the number of high quality preschool providers will be reported every six months as there is unlikely to be much change on a quarterly basis. For the first time in many years, First Things First is in the process of rapidly enrolling providers into Quality First who were previously waitlisted. This process includes assessing the providers against quality indicators and assigning a quality star rating. Funding for this is being provided by DES with their share of Federal pandemic recovery funding. Additionally, DES has a number of new incentives to encourage more providers to contract with DES. DES data from September already shows 17 more high quality providers contracted with DES compared to last Fiscal Year. In addition, Pima County’s agreements with the seven school districts are intended to expand the number of high quality classes for preschoolers, increase the capacity of existing high quality preschools, and add new high quality preschool classes at elementary schools that had not previously offered preschool. All new PEEPs school district classes are required to either be enrolled in Quality First, Nationally Accredited, or proof shown that the school district has applied to participate Quality First.

The United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona’s new Accelerate Quality program is also focused on increasing the number of high quality preschool providers. Accelerate Quality is funded by donations from Tucson Medical Center, El Rio, Southern Arizona Leadership Council, Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, and other philanthropic donors.

As of September 30, 2021, seven preschool providers are actively participating in Accelerate Quality.

• Four preschools are seeking enrollment in Quality First. They have been notified by Quality First that they have been released from the waiting list, meaning that they are now waiting for their initial assessment. Supports for these preschool providers include: conducting informal assessments to identify what they might improve prior to their first official Quality First assessment; purchase learning materials, supplies and classroom furniture based on the results of the informal assessment; coaching and technical assistance; and other tools and resources such as materials checklists and playground design information.

• Two preschool providers are already rated as high quality and are working to expand their current enrollment by adding a preschool classroom.

• One site is a TUSD elementary school contracted with the County to open a new classroom. The classroom is not yet licensed or operational and is receiving support in the form of coaching and technical assistance and funding for a fence to meet licensing requirements.
Program Expenses and Revenues

The Fiscal Year 2022 Pima Early Education Program’s budgeted revenues and expenses are shown below, including Quarter 1 actual expenses. The First Things First scholarships and Head Start extended day program contracts are paid in advance, with any unspent funding to be returned to the County at year’s end. Usage and spending is reported monthly by both contractors. School districts invoice the County monthly, following the service month. School District expenses shown below only reflect the month of August. Overall, it is anticipated that school district and First Things First expenses will be lower than contracted due to challenges some districts are experiencing in recruiting teachers, and delays in scholarship usage reaching maximum capacity.

These agreements were originally approved to be funded with General Funds. In August 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of Pima County’s share of American Rescue Plan Act funding for this program. Therefore, each of these agreements will need amending and will be placed on the Board’s agenda for approval after concurrence with each contractor. This process is currently underway.

**FY2022 Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Sources</th>
<th>Budget FY22</th>
<th>Payment Received</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Rescue Plan Act</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
<td>$10,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Tucson</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Marana</td>
<td>$132,000</td>
<td>$132,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Oro Valley*</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$11,232,000</td>
<td>$11,232,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Oro Valley funding is for three fiscal years.

**FY2022 Budget and Expenses Paid Quarter 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IGAs &amp; Contracts</th>
<th>Budget FY22</th>
<th>Paid</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Things First Quality First Scholarships</td>
<td>$3,811,600</td>
<td>$2,541,066.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child-Parent Centers, Inc. Head Start Extended Day</td>
<td>$1,149,845</td>
<td>$574,922.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven School District IGAs New Preschool Classes</td>
<td>$2,244,000</td>
<td>$45,253.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEEP Administration</td>
<td>$190,567</td>
<td>$3,578.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$7,396,012</td>
<td>$3,164,820.61</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Staffing and Oversight**

Pima County recently hired Nicole Scott as Program Manager to administer the program as part of the County’s Community and Workforce Development Department. Ms. Scott has 15 years of early childhood education experience, starting as an educator at a national accredited preschool in Marana. Ms. Scott also served in an administrative role as Site Director of a high quality rated preschool in central Tucson, and most recently provided professional development training to educators while working at the Easterseals Blake Foundation.
In addition, PEEPs is overseen by a multi-departmental oversight committee made up of the following Pima County Departments: Community and Workforce Development, Library, Health Department, School Superintendent’s Office, and Economic Development Office.

**Successes and Challenges**

Successes of this new program include:

- **Flowing Wells and DES** - Pima County’s school district IGAs are structured to encourage DES eligible families to apply for DES child care subsidies. The Flowing Wells Unified School District’s Emily Meschter Early Learning Center succeeded in enrolling 10 children with DES childcare subsidies in their new 20-child PEEPs class. This means that DES will be funding those 10 preschool slots, not Pima County and its local partners. This is an excellent example of our “last dollar in” approach, which is one of the PEEPs guiding principles, and of “braiding funding.” At a recent coordination meeting with school districts participating in PEEPs, other school districts requested training so that they can also assist eligible families in accessing DES child care subsidies.

- **Preschool providers applaud use existing First Things First Quality First Scholarship Program administered by Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW)** – A recent survey of 25 providers that received additional Pima funded Quality First scholarships found that many providers are supportive of the decision to provide these scholarships through the existing Quality First program.

  “It is also helpful that the billing is all in one system that is already familiar instead of it being a new platform for the new funds,” said one provider.

  Another provider that had not received Quality First scholarships before praised VSUW’s scholarship training and the helpfulness of their staff.

  “Everything has been wonderful. I’m grateful to receive these scholarships and to be able to help families. The reporting process is easy, and every time I have a question and call, whoever answers is helpful and they go way beyond. They help us step by step.”

- **DES increasing reimbursement rates and number of Quality First providers** – DES is using a portion of its Federal pandemic recovery funding to substantially increase childcare subsidy reimbursement rates, and to contract with First Things First to enroll more child care/preschool providers into the Quality First program. Both of these actions should significantly expand the capacity of the high quality system to serve more children and families in need.

Challenges:

While there have been challenges with the initial implementation of this program, First Things First, DES, United Way and PEEPs program staff mobilized quickly to provide additional technical training, flexibility, and resources as each obstacle arose. It has also become apparent how important it is to have Pima County staff and local partners that have established relationships with preschool providers. Below is a summary of challenges during the first quarter, and steps that are being taken to address them.
• **A teacher shortage locally and nationally** – TUSD and Amphi have been struggling to hire teachers for the new PEEPs expansion classes. Amphi is contracted to open three new classes and was only recently able to hire teachers for these classes. Amphi is aiming to open one new class a month November through January. TUSD is contracted to open eight new classes, but has also been delayed due to the challenge of hiring teachers. TUSD opened its first PEEPs class at Schumaker Early Learning Center in September, and is planning to open a second at Kellond Elementary in October. Local and state wide groups are developing recommendations to hopefully improve this situation, but there does not appear to be a short term fix. There may be some increase in the workforce as the pandemic subsides, especially for school districts that pay preschool teachers at K-12 teacher salaries. **PEEPs staff will be working with colleagues within Community and Workforce Development, and partner agencies, to better understand how to incentivize educational training opportunities to develop more early childhood education professionals, as well as connecting trained professionals to preschools in need.**

• **Some preschool providers unaware they had received scholarships** - The provider survey, as well as communications from VSUW, show some providers that had not received Quality First scholarships before were unaware they had received scholarships, unsure of the process to provide the scholarships to families, and/or had not taken the necessary training on how to use the scholarships. **The PEEPs Program Manager and local United Way staff, who know many of these providers, called each provider and will continue to offer local support. It is anticipated that scholarship usage will improve as these providers gain experience with the program.**

• **Ensuring PEEPs is reaching and serving those most in need** – Research shows that economically disadvantaged, minority and dual language children benefit the most from these high quality early educational opportunities. The geographic distribution of preschools using scholarships and other assistance won’t be fully understood for several months, as well as the demographics of the children being served. For example, while we have mapped the 170 preschools that have been allocated scholarships (attached), usage of the scholarships in this first quarter varies widely across preschools, with some fully using all scholarships, and others that have not yet used any. Reallocations of unused Quality First scholarships will take place in November or December. **In the future, program staff will map usage rates by location to see if preschools located in rural areas, and areas that serve families most in need, have been able to make full use of the scholarships. In addition, school districts, Head Start programs, and DES will be reporting demographics of the children being served. This information will inform future program adjustments.**

• **Families experiencing challenges completing child care subsidy and scholarship applications** – The DES child care subsidy application and the Quality First application can be difficult for some families to complete, especially the required income verification documentation section. Some school districts are using the Quality First income verification process to enroll children in PEEPs classes. Head Start has a separate application. With the staffing shortages that some school districts are experiencing, there are less staff to assist families with these applications than in prior years. **In the coming months, PEEPs staff will explore options with these funding partners to make it easier for families to access the variety of financial aid available. This will include discussions with Child Care Resource and Referral, currently funded by DES, as the central portal for families seeking financial aid or help finding preschool and child care. PEEPs staff will also be participating in discussions with DES and FTF regarding the opportunity for one agency to**
perform the income eligibility verifications for both programs. Improving this basic system-level framework so that it is easier for families, will be a priority for the PEEPs program in order to support its future success.

**Highlights**

“The parent feedback has been extremely positive. I have been working closely with families to help them develop routines and schedules at home along with academic play learning they can bring home. In class we have been working through our emotions and social skills to engage in play based learning in each lesson. Thank you for this opportunity to enhance our early childhood community. I take this as a huge responsibility and am enjoying every minute of it”.

– Ms. Jessica, Teacher, Emily Meschter Early Learning Center, Flowing Wells Unified School District, September 2021

“Without the scholarship, we would not be able to send our son to the early learning center. We wouldn’t be able to afford it. This scholarship and the program has changed our lives. Our son has a hard time with speech, and the school has helped him become more verbal. It has changed his life. I have to work full time to make ends meet, and having this scholarship helps me be able to work. This scholarship has given me the opportunity to have a wonderful place for my son to go to school.” –Parent, Sept. 2021

“I have struggled my whole life, for instance, I worked three jobs and I am a full time student. It was such a struggle paying for child care. I even found myself giving up sometimes. Until I was able to get on the PEEPs program...through Little Ranch Preschool. This program lifted so much stress off my shoulders...”

– Parent, September 2021

“I have 3 children attending Miramonte Day School. The application was super simple to fill out. I am so grateful that they gave us the help especially with the pandemic going around. This scholarship has helped us a lot. Now we are able to have a fully time job. My kids love going to Miramonte Day School. They have learned so much and they made a lot of new friends.”

–Parent, September 2021
Summary

PEEPs launched July 1 and 360 children and their families are already benefiting from this new investment. This assistance could not come at a better time. As we begin to recover from the pandemic, this new program supports parents returning to work and provides children with the care and education they deserve. It is anticipated that the next quarterly report will show a substantial increase in the number of children participating in PEEPs, as well as the number of children supported by existing state and federal programs that are now receiving substantially more funding as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act. This systems-level approach to filling the high quality preschool gap for those most in need is truly a collaborative effort, and the early childhood education community in Pima County and Arizona has welcomed this new program with open arms.

Attachments
Pima Early Education Program Guiding Principles

1. Increase high-quality preschool capacity while addressing existing need for financial aid.

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.

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.
Fiscal Year 2022 Quarter 1 PEEPs Report for City of Tucson
IGA CTN-CR-21-126

A wealth of data shows that investing in high-quality preschool, especially for economically disadvantaged, minority and dual language children, provides short-term and lasting benefits to children, families, schools, employers, taxpayers, and the community. Through the new Pima Early Education Program (PEEPs), 360 children are now attending high quality preschools across Pima County, with the intent of serving 1,200 children this first year. The target is assist all income eligible families who want to send their children to high quality preschool by actively collaborating with existing state and federal programs. Funding for Year 1 of PEEPs is provided by Pima County’s share of Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, the City of Tucson and other local partners.

Program Description - The purpose of PEEPs is to increase the number of eligible 3-5 year old children attending high quality preschools, via local funding partnerships and state-wide coordination. Through an agreement that began on July 1, 2021, the City of Tucson contributed $1,000,000 to Pima County to reimburse school districts for the cost of operating new high quality preschool classes at schools located within the City of Tucson for an estimated 150 preschool age children from families with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of four, this is currently $53,000, which is two times the Federal Poverty Level of $26,500 as set by the Department of Health and Human Services. Participating school districts in the City include Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), Sunnyside Unified School District, and Amphitheater Unified School District.

Status - TUSD, Amphi and Sunnyside are contracted with Pima County to add 10 new high quality preschool classes within the City of Tucson. Sunnyside’s two new classes are operational, and are both located at Ocotillo Early Learning Center. TUSD has opened one of their eight new classes, located at Schumaker Early Learning Center, with plans to open a second class at Kellond Elementary in October. TUSD has been unable to hire teachers for the remaining classes. Amphi was only recently able to hire teachers and is anticipating opening the class at Amphi High School in December and Holaway in January. This teacher labor shortage is not unique to these school districts, and is a problem in many areas of the state and nationally. Without these classes being operational, the City’s funding contribution will not be fully spent by fiscal year end. In addition to these new school district classes, the Pima Early Education Program is funding PEEPs scholarships at 127 Quality First preschools, plus extended day Head Start programming at seven locations all located within the City of Tucson.
### PEEP Quality First Scholarships at Preschools within City of Tucson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Number of New Classes</th>
<th>Children Enrolled</th>
<th>Estimated August-September Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ocotillo Early Learning Center - Sunnyside</td>
<td>5702 South Campbell Ave</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$26,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schumaker Early Learning Center - TUSD</td>
<td>501 North Maguire Ave</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$23,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PEEP Participating School District Preschool Expansion Classes in City of Tucson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Star Rating</th>
<th>Number of New Classes</th>
<th>Children Enrolled</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ocotillo Early Learning Center - Sunnyside</td>
<td>5702 South Campbell Ave</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>$26,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schumaker Early Learning Center - TUSD</td>
<td>501 North Maguire Ave</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>$23,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PEEP Extended Day Head Start Classes within City of Tucson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of classes</th>
<th>Maximum Enrollment</th>
<th>Actual Enrollment</th>
<th>Expenses based on Aug Actuals/Sept Est.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>$72,241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Map of participating PEEPs preschools located in and near City of Tucson

- **PEEPs Participating School District Preschool Expansion Classes in City of Tucson**
- **PEEPs Quality First Scholarships at Preschools within City of Tucson**
- **PEEPs Extended Day Head Start Classes within City of Tucson**

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**Preschool**

- **Type**
  - Center
  - School District
  - Home

**School District**

- Tucson Unified School District
- Catalina Foothills Unified School District
- Tanque Verde Unified School District
- Sunnyside Unified School District
Highlights

“We absolutely adore the peeps program and the teachers at Ocotillo! My 4 year old son went from shy and hardly being willing to be away from me for any period of time, to excited every morning asking if he goes to preschool today. He loves his teachers and I have seen an improvement in his writing and drawing, as well as his confidence and excitement to learn. When I pick him up we can’t leave the parking lot until he shows me everything he made that day, and the drive home he tells me everything he learned and did. I would easily say that he is thriving in this program and we are so blessed to have found it!”

– Ocotillo Early Learning Center, Parent, September 2021

“I heard about the PEEPs program through my employment at El Presidio preschool, and was able to apply with the help of our Directors. I was working to simply pay the childcare. With the help of the PEEPs program I am able to provide so much more for myself and my family. I am grateful for how easy it was to apply.”

--El Presidio Preschool, Parent and Employee, September 2021

Summary – As a result of the bold action of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, and the support of the City’s Mayor and Council, and others, **227 children are attending high quality preschool within the City of Tucson, supported by the Pima Early Education Program!** This City’s funding is currently supporting 48 of these children at school district preschools. This number will most certainly continue to grow. However, if by January 2022 additional school district PEEPs classes in the City are still not fully operational, the City could consider amending the IGA to allow a portion of the City’s funding to be spent on PEEPs scholarships or extended day Head Start classes for the children enrolled in other quality preschools located within the City.
A wealth of data shows that investing in high-quality preschool, especially for economically disadvantaged, minority and dual language children, provides short-term and lasting benefits to children, families, schools, employers, taxpayers, and the community. Through the new Pima Early Education Program scholarships (PEEPs), 360 children are now attending high quality preschools across Pima County, with the intent of serving 1,200 children this first year. The target is assist all income eligible families who want to send their children to high quality preschool by actively collaborating with existing state and federal programs. Funding for Year 1 of PEEPs is provided by Pima County’s share of Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, the Town of Marana and other local partners.

**Program Description** - The purpose this program is to increase the number of eligible 3-5 year old children attending high quality preschools via local funding partnerships and state-wide coordination. Through an agreement that began on July 1, 2021, the Town of Marana contributed $132,000 to Pima County to reimburse Marana Unified School District for the cost of operating a new high quality preschool class at Estes Elementary School located within the Town for up to 20 preschool age children. Any remaining funds will be allocated to preschool scholarships for children attending other preschools within or near the Town of Marana through the state-wide First Things First Quality First network of preschools, many of which already receive a limited number of scholarships. To be eligible for the PEEPs preschool class at Estes Elementary, or the PEEPs scholarships, families must have incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of four, this is currently $53,000, which is two times the Federal Poverty Level of $26,500 as set by the department of Health and Human Services.

**Status** - The new PEEPs class at Estes Elementary School opened in August with 18 children enrolled between the ages of 3-5. To maintain high quality standards, classes that include 3 year olds are limited to a class size of 18. Reimbursement for an 18-child class is a maximum of $118,800 a year, which means it is likely $13,200 will be available for scholarships at other preschools. There are three preschool providers located within the Town that were allocated a total of 12 PEEP scholarships through Pima County’s contract with First Things First. Two of the three PEEPs participating providers within the Town have 3 and 4 star ratings. The Quality First rating system ranges from 1-5 stars, with 3-5 star providers considered high quality. Due to the pandemic and the impact on families and preschools, First Things First also awarded the 2 star rated provider PEEPs scholarships. According to the August 31st scholarships usage report from First
Things First, none of the PEEPs scholarships were being used. As this is a new program, some providers were initially unaware they had received the additional scholarships, a problem that has since been addressed. It is expected that usage will increase over time. Usage will be monitored and no more than $13,200 of the Town’s contributions will be allocated to these scholarships this Fiscal Year. As part of PEEPs, the County is also funding extended day preschool for two Head Start classes located in the Town. Both of those classes opened in August and have successfully enrolled 20, four-year-old children between two classrooms.

Map of participating PEEPs preschools located in & around the Town of Marana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th># Enrolled Children</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Aug. Actual/Sept. Estimate Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estes Elementary School, MUSD</td>
<td>11280 W Grier Rd</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>$23,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th># Enrolled Children</th>
<th>Age of Enrolled Children</th>
<th>Aug Actual/Sept Estimate Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marana Head Start (Classroom A)</td>
<td>13660 N McDuff Rd</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 years old</td>
<td>$13,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marana Head Start (Classroom B)</td>
<td>13660 N McDuff Rd</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4 years old</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A recent visit to the Estes Elementary PEEPs preschool class gave our Program Manager, Nicole Scott, the opportunity to see the PEEPs class in operation, speak with the teachers and administration, as well as engage with children in the program. The physical design of the classroom is set up with “Hands-On-Learning” in mind; the tables are arranged to encourage collaboration between peers, materials available to spark imagination and critical thinking skills, and the use of visual aids to increase children’s success. When talking with the site Director she noted, “Through conversations with families here we have simply heard so much gratitude and appreciation for the program. The fact that we were completely enrolled in a week and a half speaks volumes about the interest and need for this type of program in our area. I am just so happy with the success of the program so far and am looking forward to seeing these children grow within our preschool program here”.

### PEEPs Quality First Scholarships at Preschools in Town of Marana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Star Rating</th>
<th>PEEPs Scholarships Allocated</th>
<th>PEEPs YTD Children Using Scholarships</th>
<th>Expenses July-August</th>
<th>Notes from September Calls to Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childtime Childcare #1413</td>
<td>7090 N Thornydale Rd</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Recent awareness of scholarships; have not had previously but excited and hoping to use in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindercare Learning Center</td>
<td>7277 N Oldfather</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Just filled all FTF funded QF scholarships and has interest from families about PEEPs; hoping to use in October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.U.S.D.#6 - Rattlesnake Ridge L.E.A.P./Preschool</td>
<td>8500 Continental Reserve Loop</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Recent awareness of scholarships; hoping to begin to use them in upcoming months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Highlight**
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A wealth of data shows that investing in high-quality preschool, especially for economically disadvantaged, minority and dual language children, provides short-term and lasting benefits to children, families, schools, employers, taxpayers, and the community. Through the new Pima Early Education Program scholarships (PEEPs), 360 children are now attending high quality preschools across Pima County, with the intent of serving 1,200 children this first year. The target is to assist all income eligible families who want to send their children to high quality preschool by actively collaborating with existing state and federal programs. Funding for Year 1 of PEEPs is provided by Pima County’s share of Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, the Town of Oro Valley and other local partners.

**Program Description** - The purpose of the program is to increase the number of eligible 3-5 year old children attending high quality preschools via local funding partnerships and state-wide coordination. Through an agreement that began on July 1, 2021, the Town of Oro Valley contributed $100,000 to Pima County to fund preschool scholarships at high quality preschools in Oro Valley for three years. These preschools are part of the state-wide First Things First Quality First network of preschools, many of which already receive a limited number of scholarships. Families must have incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of four, this is currently $53,000 which is two times the Federal Poverty Level of $26,500 as set by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Town’s contribution to PEEPs increases the number of scholarships available.

**Status** - There are four preschool providers located within the Town that were allocated a total of 16 PEEP scholarships through Pima County’s contract with First Things First. Two additional preschool providers are just outside of the Town boundaries. While the Town is within the Amphitheater School District, none of these providers are affiliated with the Amphitheater School District.

The four PEEPs participating providers within the Town have Quality First 4 and 5 star ratings and three are Nationally Accredited programs. The Quality First
rating system ranges from 1-5 stars, with 3-5 star providers considered high quality. According to the August 31st scholarships usage report from First Things First, only 1 scholarship was in use for a total expense of $680. However, recent calls to providers show additional usage in September that is expected to be reflected in the next report, which Pima County receives by November 1st. As this is a new program, some providers were initially unaware they had received the additional scholarships, a problem that has since been addressed. It is expected that usage will increase over time. Usage will be monitored and no more than $33,333 of the Town’s contributions will be allocated to these scholarships this Fiscal Year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Star Rating</th>
<th>PEEP$s</th>
<th>PEEP$s YTD</th>
<th>PEEP$s YTD</th>
<th>Notes from September Calls to Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alphabest @ Copper Creek</td>
<td>11620 North Copper Spring Trail</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Existing students don't qualify; low enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Skies</td>
<td>7730 North Oracle Road</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recent awareness of scholarships; low enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KinderCare Learning Center</td>
<td>10455 North La Canada Drive</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$680</td>
<td>Provider reports using 6 scholarships in September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pusch Ridge Preschool</td>
<td>10361 North Oracle Road</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Provider reports using scholarship in September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|               |                               |             |         |            |            | $680                                                                 |
|               |                               |             |         |            |            |                                                                         |

**Highlight**

“The scholarship has been so helpful, if it wasn’t for scholarships I wouldn’t be able to afford childcare. My children love it! My son knows so many songs, learning letters, numbers, shapes and has been talking so much more.” – Parent, September 2021

During a recent visit to an Oro Valley preschool provider, our program manager Nicole Scott, was able to explore the preschool classrooms, visit with the children and teachers, as well as speak with the site Director about the PEEP scholarships. The site Director noted, “Having these extra scholarships has really helped our families be able to afford high quality care for their children and I have had countless conversations with parents receiving the scholarships who share how grateful they are to have this opportunity. I feel we are so blessed to be able to serve such a great community of families and I myself am incredibly thankful for the extra scholarships to help my families that need it.”