



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 1, 2022

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

From: Jan Leshner 
Acting County Administrator

Re: **Pima Early Education Program Contracts Update**

On [January 24, 2022](#), I transmitted a memorandum to the Board concerning the need to amend contracts and enter into new contracts as a result of the Board's decision last August to convert funding for the Pima Early Education Program from the General Fund to the America Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA-CSLFRF). The Board approved ARPA-CSLFRF funding for this program in the amount of \$30.2 million over three years. These contract amendments will also allow the County to begin to address one of the most significant program challenges – the recruitment and retention of teachers, which has greatly impacted the number of children that preschools are able to enroll.

The Board will begin to see these contracts on agendas starting April 5, 2022, under Community and Workforce Development. The first contract amendment is for PEEPs preschool classes operated by Flowing Wells Unified School District. It converts the existing contract to ARPA-CSLFRF funding, extends the contract through school year 2024 to match the 3-year term of the APRA-CSLFRF funding, increases the number of PEEPs classes from 1 to 3, increases reimbursement rates to align with new Department of Economic Security (DES) child care subsidy rates, requires increased funding to be spent on increasing teacher compensation and improving quality, requires that DES eligible families apply for DES child care subsidies instead of being funded by PEEPs, and continues to require the school district to provide an equivalent of \$1,750 of in-kind funding per child.

The remainder of the contracts, as well as contributions from the City of Tucson and Town of Marana, will be placed on the Board's April 19 and May agendas.

While negotiations are still underway for a few of the contracts, the table below shows the estimated contract amounts over three years. Some school districts will have two contracts in order to keep County ARPA-CSLFRF funding separate from City/Town funding for reporting and transparency purposes. The maximum reimbursement amount per school district is likely to be more than the actual reimbursement amount as school districts are now required to require eligible families apply for DES child care subsidies for children in PEEPs classes. This means the school district then invoices DES for those children, not Pima County. However, by Year 3, school districts may be able to add additional classes not reflected in this table, and the number of preschools eligible for PEEPs funded FTF scholarships will increase. FTF is using State ARPA funding to enroll more preschools, and provide quality assessments and star ratings following evidence based practices. Currently 140 preschool providers are receiving PEEPs funded FTF scholarships for eligible children. This additional capacity should increase the projected number of children served by Year 3.

Conversely, the time it takes to recover and rebuild from the pandemic could negatively impact the projected number of children served.

In addition to the contracts shown below, staff are in discussions with Pima Community College about funding Head Start style preschool classes at their campuses, funding bonuses for non-school district teachers in high quality preschools through an established vendor, and issuing a request for proposals for an outside organization to inform program design for years 4-7 of the program after the contracts below and ARPA funding have concluded.

Quarter 3 reports for this program will be provided to the Board and contributing cities and towns by the end of April. PEEPs staff will be contacting Board offices to offer site visits to PEEPs preschool providers in May.

PEEPs Contracts and Estimated Expenses

Contractor/ Subrecipient	Agreement Type	Number of Classes Year 1 (Projected #children)	Max Expenses Year 1	Number of Classes Year 2 (Projected #children)	Max Expenses Year 2	Number of Classes Year 3 (Projected #children)	Max Expenses Year 3	Total Max Expenses Years 1-3
Sahuarita SD	ARPA	1	\$132,000	1	\$172,828	1	\$172,828	\$477,656
Marana SD	City/Town	1	\$118,800	1	\$172,828	1	\$172,828	\$464,456
Marana SD	ARPA	NA	\$0	1	\$172,828	1	\$172,828	\$345,656
Flowing Wells SD	APRA	1	\$132,000	3	\$518,484	3	\$518,484	\$1,168,968
Tucson SD	City/Town	4	\$368,280	8	\$1,382,624	8	\$1,382,624	\$3,133,528
Sunnyside SD	City/Town	2	\$237,600	2	\$345,656	2	\$345,656	\$928,912
Sunnyside SD	ARPA	NA	\$0	2	\$345,656	2	\$345,656	\$691,312
Amphitheater SD	City/Town	2	\$158,400	0	\$0	0	\$0	\$158,400
Amphitheater SD	ARPA	1	\$92,400	10	\$1,728,280	10	\$1,728,280	\$3,548,960
Baboquivari SD	ARPA	0	\$0	1	\$172,828	1	\$172,828	\$345,656
CPC Head Start*	ARPA	11	\$1,149,845	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$ 1,149,845
FTF Scholarships	ARPA	NA	\$3,811,600	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$ 3,811,600
FTF Scholarships	ARPA	NA	NA	NA	\$4,600,000	NA	\$6,811,600	\$11,411,600
Total		23 (700)	\$6,200,925	29 (1180)	\$9,612,012	29 (1180)	\$11,823,612	\$27,636,549

*CPC contract is for extended day Head Start programming and is only for Year 1 as contract requires CPC to contract with DES to fund extended day with DES funding in future years

- c: The Honorable Dustin Williams, Pima County School Superintendent
- Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
- Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services
- Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department
- Regina Kelly, Director, Grants Management and Innovation Office
- Amber Mathewson, Director, Pima County Library District
- Dan Sullivan, Director, Community and Workforce Development
- Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, Director, Pima County Office of Economic Development
- Jen Darland, Deputy Director, Community and Workforce Development
- Nicole Fyffe, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator
- Nicole Scott, Pima Early Education Program Manager