



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 1, 2023

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

From: Jan Leshner *Jan Leshner*
County Administrator

Re: **Additional Information for the June 6, 2023 and July 11, 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting – Pima Early Education Program Contracts**

Background

As noted in the April 4, 2023 memorandum to the Board, the Pima Early Education Program (PEEPs) will continue to be funded primarily from Federal American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA-CSLFRF) through the end of the fourth year of the program (Fiscal Year 2024/25). When the program transfers to Library District funding in Year 5, new funding contracts will be necessary to implement the program.

Contracts

As a reminder, the program is currently implemented via three types of contracts:

- Free high quality preschool expansion classes operated by school districts across the County;
- Extended day Head Start classes across the County, and a new preschool class at Pima Community College - Desert Vista Campus, operated by Child-Parent Centers, Inc., this region’s Head Start operator; and
- Individual scholarships allocated by the First Things First state agency to a variety of high quality preschool providers across the County that participate in the First Things First Quality First scholarship program.

In addition to ARPA funds, the County receives funds from City of Tucson, Town of Marana and Oro Valley to fund the program. Tucson and Marana funding agreements are annual, whereas the Town of Oro Valley’s funding agreement was for the first three years of the program – through next Fiscal Year. Amendments for the Tucson and Marana funding agreements will be on the July 11, 2023 Board of Supervisors agenda, to provide funding for next Fiscal Year.

The June 6, 2023 and July 11, 2023 Board of Supervisors agendas will include contracts with school districts and Child-Parent Centers. If approved, those contracts funded by ARPA will have terms through Year 4 of the program (FY2024/25). Contracts funded by Tucson and Marana will have terms through Year 3 of the program (next Fiscal Year) to match the terms of the revenue contracts. Amphi, TUSD, and MUSD school districts will increase the number of free preschool classes that they operate with PEEP’s funding. Family income eligibility will be increased to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The Federal Poverty level for a family of four, for example, is

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\$30,000 for 2023. This means that for a family of four the income eligibility will be \$90,000 (3 times \$30,000). This aligns with the First Things First scholarship income eligibility.

Note that some school districts have two contracts with the County; one for those classes funded by ARPA, and another for those classes funded by the municipalities. This is necessary to keep the funding sources segregated.

June 6 Board of Supervisors Agenda

Flowing Wells Unified School District (ARPA funded)
Marana Unified School District (MUSD) (ARPA funded)
Sunnyside Unified School District (ARPA funded)
Sahuarita Unified School District (ARPA funded)
Child-Parent Centers, Inc. Extended Day Head Start (ARPA funded)

July 11 Board of Supervisors Agenda

Marana Unified School District (Town funded)
Sunnyside Unified School District (City funded)
Amphitheater Unified School District (Amphi) (ARPA funded)
Amphitheater Unified School District (City funded)
Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) (ARPA funded)
Child-Parent Centers, Inc. PCC Desert Vista Campus (ARPA funded)
Town of Marana revenue contract
City of Tucson revenue contract

The County's contract with First Things First is funded with ARPA funds and has a term through next Fiscal Year (Year 3 of the program). Staff are not recommending extension of this contract at this time since a few more months of data is necessary to determine the optimum funding level for Year 4 of the contract.

In closing, preliminary data shows that PEEPs has served 1,322 children this year, and through these contracts is estimated to serve 1,500 children next year.

JKL/anc

c: The Honorable Dustin Williams, Pima County School Superintendent
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Regina Kelly, Director, Grants Management and Innovation
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
Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, Director, Pima County Office of Economic Development
Jen Darland, Deputy Director, Community and Workforce Development
Nicole Fyffe, Senior Advisor, County Administrator's Office
Nicole Scott, Pima Early Education Program Manager