

# How Federal Funding Strengthened Child Care in Arizona

First Things First (FTF) received over **\$160 million** in funding from the Department of Economic Security (DES) Division of Child Care through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This investment allowed us to:

Expand  
Quality First  
participation by

**635**  
programs

Provide Early Childhood  
Mental Health Consultation  
at approximately

**300**  
programs

Provide

**1,420**  
one-time incentive

opportunities to purchase education materials  
and equipment to enhance quality

Award

**116**  
FTF College  
Scholarships

for early educators to access  
Bachelor's degree courses

Add

**2,300**  
new one-year  
Quality First Scholarships

over two years, expanding access to  
quality care for more children

Award

**278**  
early  
educators

access to Child Care Education  
Institute's CDA Pathway

Open the

**Arizona Child Care Infrastructure  
Grant (LISC)** benefitting

**511**  
programs

with funding to improve their facilities

