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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: February 8, 2023

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

From: Jan Leshner   
County Administrator

Re: **Pima Early Education Program Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 2 Update**

Attached is the Pima Early Education Program Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 2 Update, as well as individual updates provided to the three municipalities that contribute funding to the program. This year the program has served 1,165 children from low-income families at over 100 locations across Pima County. This is up from 856 children served last year. A map is attached showing the location of participating providers. Note that over 750 of the children served this year attend preschools located within the City of Tucson.

The number of children from families with incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level attending high quality preschool across multiple funding programs is also tracked by our staff and displayed in the form of a thermometer graphic. This program and our partners are serving about 38% of the need. This is down from last year because the pool of eligible families increased as a result of First Things First, our scholarship partner, and TUSD increasing income eligibility to 300%.

As you will remember, the capacity of high quality preschools is a key constraint to serving more children. To that end, staff also track the number of preschools recognized as high quality, which have increased from 199 in June 2021, to 256, currently.

While not referenced in the report, program staff are working with school districts to plan for additional classes next school year, expand the months of operation for some classes from 10 months to 12 months, and increasing all the school districts class income eligibility up to 300% of the federal poverty level to provide consistency across the program. Program staff will also be working with the City of Tucson and the Town of Marana on funding agreements for next year. This will result in the need for contract amendments with school districts and municipalities that will be presented to the Board before the end of this fiscal year.

Finally, a number of the Board offices have scheduled meetings with staff to discuss the Prosperity Initiative and initial policies that are being developed for regional adoption. You will see that one of those policies is related to early childhood education, as it is the most

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Re: **Pima Early Education Program Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 2 Update**  
February 8, 2023  
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frequently recommended strategy for reducing generational poverty and increasing individual and community wealth.

JKL/anc

#### Attachments

c: The Honorable Dustin Williams, Pima County School Superintendent  
Chris Cornelison, Town of Oro Valley Interim Manager  
Michael Ortega, City of Tucson Manager  
Terry Rozema, Town of Marana Manager  
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer  
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
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



## Pima Early Education Program Scholarships

Fiscal Year 2023 Second Quarter Report  
Quarter Ending December 31, 2022

### Overview

Year 1 implementation of the Pima Early Education Program scholarships (PEEPs) was one of learning and adapting to the community's needs in the ever-changing environment of the pandemic. PEEP S served 856 children at over 100 locations across Pima County.

Year 2 of the program is off to a great start. School districts added an additional 16 free preschool classes and the County raised reimbursement rates to match the cost of quality rates being offered by State programs. **At the end of Quarter 2, 1165 children from income eligible families are receiving assistance from PEEP S to attend high quality preschools across Pima County.**

Funding for Year 2 of PEEP S 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 support Accelerate Quality, which complements PEEP S.

### By the Numbers: Second Quarter Program Performance

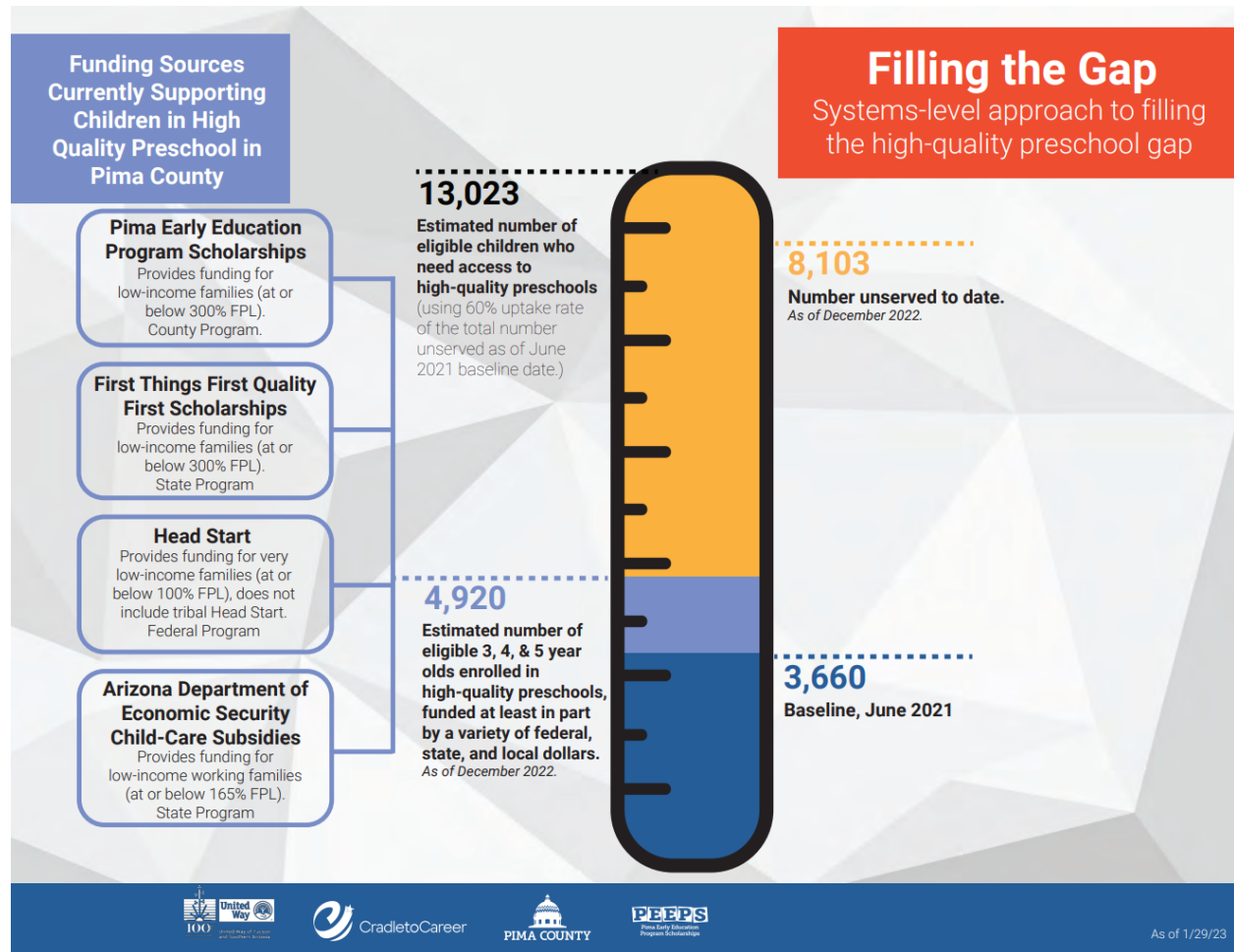
**The Pima Early Education Program is focused on increasing equitable access to high quality preschool for families most in need.**

**Program Goal 1:** To increase the number of 3-5 year-old children from families with incomes at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level attending high quality preschools in Pima County.

Progress for this goal is tracked at both the system and program level. For this quarter, **system level data** from the four programs that support children in high quality preschool (PEEP S, Head Start, First Things First and Department of Economic Security) report **servicing 4,920 preschool-aged children**. Our target remains 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. Note that this program goal has been updated to address the increase in income eligibility from 200% of the Federal Poverty Level to 300%, to align income eligibility with the State's First Things First Quality First scholarships, which increased July 1, 2022. This means that the target population has also increased since more families are eligible. The graphic below shows this change. Prior to increasing the income eligibility, PEEP S and our partners were serving almost half the need (4,690 out



of 10,014). With this change, PEEPs and our partners are serving about 38% of the need (4,920 out of 13,023).



At the program level, 1165 children are receiving assistance from PEEPs, up from 856 children at the end of Year 1.

**PEEPs Preschool Students**

PEEPs Contract Type	Second Quarter # of Students Served*	Year 2 Contracted Max Students Served	% of Contracted Max Served Second Quarter
PEEPs funded Quality First Scholarships	536	600	89%
PEEPs funded School District Expansion Classes	445	540	82%
PEEPs funded Head Start Extended Day Classes	184	205	90%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1165</b>	<b>1365</b>	<b>85%</b>

\*Majority of data is from November & December reports

*This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRP0180 awarded to Pima County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury*

**PEEPs Funded School District Expansion Classes and Enrollment**

<b>School District</b>	<b>Second Quarter # of PEEPs Classes Operational</b>	<b>Second Quarter # of Students Served</b>
Amphitheater Unified School District	10	169
Flowing Wells Unified School District	2	38
Marana Unified School District	2	37
Sahuarita Unified School District	1	20
Sunnyside Unified School District	4	79
Tucson Unified School District	8	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>445</b>

**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**

In 2021, the Department of Economic Security (DES) and First Things First (FTF) worked diligently to move more providers into Quality First to increase the capacity of high-quality providers both in Pima County and statewide. Since June 2021, the number of high-quality providers has increased by 57, bringing the **total number of high quality providers in Pima County to 256**. In addition to the statewide efforts, the United Way of Tucson’s program Accelerate Quality is designed to help more early learning childhood programs in Pima County access PEEPs by increasing the number of high quality providers. At the end of Quarter 2, 35 providers were participating, reaching over 1500 children enrolled in these programs. Pima County’s agreements with the six school districts are also intended to expand the number of high quality classes for preschoolers.

<b>Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) recognized high-quality providers</b>	<b>June 2021 Baseline #'s</b>	<b>Total # HQ Providers to Date</b>
Quality First 3-5 star preschools (some also Nationally Accredited)	142	205
Head Start centers and family child care homes	50	50
Nationally Accredited preschools (Not in QF) contracted with DES	7	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>256</b>

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**Program Expenses**

Pima Early Education Program’s expenses as of the end of Quarter 2 are shown below. The Child Parent Centers contracts for extended day programming and the Pima Community College Desert Vista class contracts are paid in advance, with unspent funding to be returned to the County at year’s end. The contractor reports usage and spending for both contracts monthly. School districts and First Things First invoice the County monthly, following the service month. Overall, it is anticipated that expenses will be lower than contracted based on PEEPs guiding principle that local funds should be used last, use of DES childcare subsidies by school districts and other providers, and continued capacity constraints.



**FY2023 Budget and Expenses Paid Quarter 2**

IGAs & Contracts	Budget FY23	Paid
First Things First Quality First Scholarships	\$6,813,100	\$922,108.00
Child-Parent Centers, Inc.	\$1,361,211	\$438,797.50
Six (6) School District IGAs New Preschool Classes	\$3,110,904	\$2,219,158.88
PEEPs Administration	\$200,000	\$120,844.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,485,215</b>	<b>\$3,700,908.85</b>

**Highlights**

During a recent visit to the new PEEPs class at Amphi’s Donaldson Elementary School, Pima County Supervisor Rex Scott read a winter themed story to a class full of eager learners. The PEEPs class at Donaldson Elementary School opened in September 2022 as a mixed 3-5 year old class and is at full capacity.



“I am able to work now and understand my child’s places to improve. Thank you to all the teachers and staff this is such a great program and place for my kids to grow”.

--Parent, Sunnyside’s Ocotillo Early Learning Center

“The Head Start extended day classroom has benefitted my family because I was able to get a job and he is learning and getting ready for kindergarten. Thank you for this program”.

--Parent, CPC Head Start Extended Day Class

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“My child’s vocabulary has increased; our family is able to work more hours. The teachers have done a wonderful job and we are happy at the progress we have seen in our daughter social and developmental skills”.

--Parent, Tucson Unified School District PEEPs Class

“PEEPs helped our family economically since we did not have enough income to pay out of pocket”.

--Parent, Sahuarita’s Early Childhood Center



At Emily Meschter Early learning Center, teachers and staff decided to create a “Nature Classroom” that will connect children back to nature and create a space for further educational development. The space is designed to include an archeology dig site, bug farm and so much more. Ms. Jessica, one of our PEEPs teachers at Emily Meschter, shared the following experience with us during one of their construction days; “This week our class was able to help alongside Escalante Concrete where they donated a concrete slab for us to create a sensory path. Each student helped create a triangle sensory of nature items placed into the wet concrete. At the end one student yelled, “I never knew Construction Workers were real outside of stories until I met you guys!”.

-- Ms. Jessica, FW Emily Meschter Early Learning Center

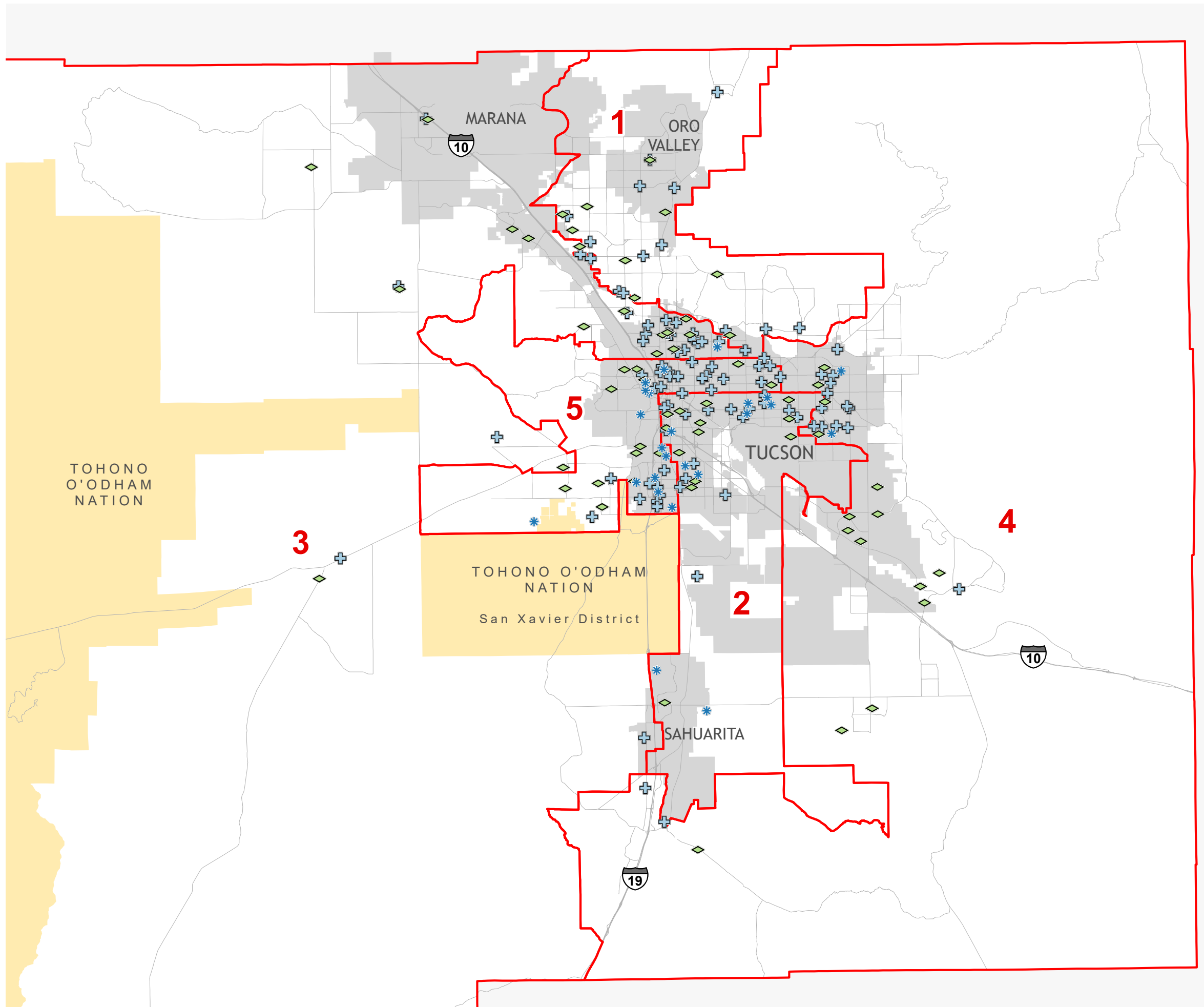


For questions about PEEPs, contact [PEEPS@pima.gov](mailto:PEEPS@pima.gov). For families looking for preschool financial assistance, or help finding a high quality preschool, please call the Child Care Resource and Referral Information Line at 1-800-308-9000, or conduct a search at CCR&Rs website at [www.azcrr.com](http://www.azcrr.com).

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# PEEPs Participating Preschools

January 2023



## Preschool

Type

-  Center
-  School District
-  Home

 Supervisor District



0 2 4 8 Miles



**PIMA COUNTY**  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

January 24, 2023





*“My child is now getting comfortable with her soon to be elementary school and it has allowed us to have a concrete routine.”*  
-Parent, December 2022

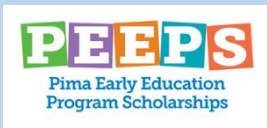
*“We love the PEEPs program, I can get things done during the day and I’m able to work more.”*  
-Parent, December 2022



For families looking for preschool financial assistance, or help finding a high quality preschool, please call Child Care Resource & Referral’s Child Care Information Line at 1-800-308-9000. The line is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to noon. You may also conduct a search at CCR&R’s website at [www.azccrr.com](http://www.azccrr.com).



For Questions about PEEPs contact [PEEPS@pima.gov](mailto:PEEPS@pima.gov)



# PEEPS

## Pima Early Education Program Scholarships

### Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 2 PEEPs Report for City of Tucson IGA CTN-CR-21-126

At the end of Quarter 2, the Pima Early Education Program (PEEPs) has provided scholarships and free preschool opportunities to 1,165 children from income eligible families to attend high quality preschools across Pima County. More than 750 of the children enrolled in PEEPs participating programs this year are attending locations within the City of Tucson.

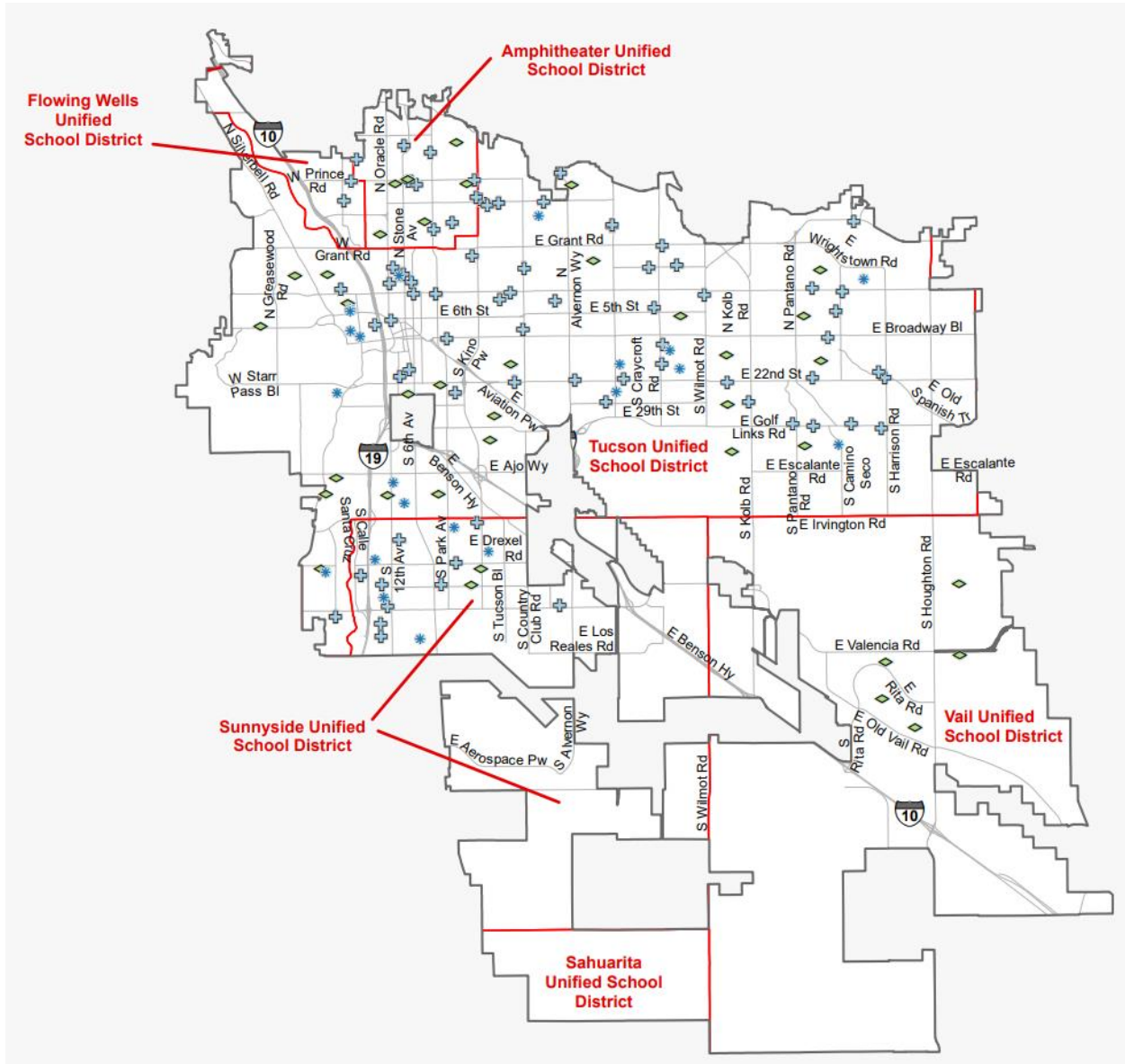
Funding for PEEPs continues to be provided by Pima County’s share of Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, the City of Tucson, Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, and other local partners.

**Program Description** - The purpose of PEEPs is to increase the number of 3-5 year old children from low-income families attending high quality preschools and to increase the number of high quality preschool classrooms in Pima County via local funding partnerships and statewide coordination. **In year two of PEEPs, the City of Tucson has contributed an additional \$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.** With the \$1,000,000 additional contribution and Year 1 savings of \$327,416, Year 2 is budgeted at 1,327,416 for these 10 classes. Participating school districts in the City for year two include Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) and Sunnyside Unified School District. The City of Tucson contribution is funding ten classes within TUSD and Sunnyside benefitting up to 200 preschool age children.

**Status** – Tucson and Sunnyside Unified School Districts are contracted with Pima County to operate 10 high quality preschool classes within the City of Tucson, funded by the City. At the end of Quarter 2, all 10 classes are operational with 142 children benefitting from the program this year, and expenses totaling \$681,853. Included below is a map of the PEEPs participating providers in the City of Tucson. In year 2, there are over 100 participating providers within the City’s limits.



### Map of PEEPs Participating Providers within the City of Tucson



**Highlights** – In recent visits to Tucson Unified School District, City of Tucson representative Eryck Garcia, TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gabriel Trujillo, TUSD administrators and staff, as well as Pima County representatives were able to see PEEPs teachers and children engaged in learning activities in two of the districts expansion preschool classes. This was a great opportunity for partners in this program to see the impact that the City’s contribution has had on the community and the children benefitting from these programs.



*“My child is very happy with her class and teachers and that gives me piece of mind that she enjoys school while we are at work”.*

*--Parent, November 2022*

*“The program is helping with family transitions and helps my child have more confidence in not being by my side constantly. Communication is awesome, I love how Ms. Brennan shares pictures from the week, it’s nice to see what my child gets to do”.*

*--Parent, November 2022*

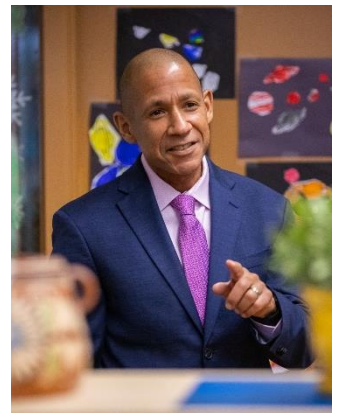


*“PEEPs has helped our family by helping to identify areas or things my child may need help with”.*

*--Parent, November 2022*

*“It was very important to me for my child to start learning in a structured environment and after one quarter my child is more mature and helpful at home”.*

*--Parent, November 2022*



For questions about PEEPs, contact [PEEPS@pima.gov](mailto:PEEPS@pima.gov). For families looking for preschool financial assistance, or help finding a high quality preschool, please call the Child Care Resource and Referral Information Line at 1-800-308-9000, or conduct a search at CCR&Rs website at [www.azcrr.com](http://www.azcrr.com).

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*“The program has helped with my child’s behavior and social skills and has benefitted my family a lot!”*  
- PEEPs Parent

*“I appreciate the attention and care they have given my son, especially the way they are educating him, for me they are excellent teachers, the staff is very friendly and makes me feel confident.”*  
- PEEPs Parent



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# PEEPS

## Pima Early Education Program Scholarships

### Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 2 PEEPs Report for Town of Marana IGA CTN-CR-21-128

At the end of Quarter 2, the Pima Early Education Program (PEEPs) has provided scholarships and free preschool opportunities to 1,165 children from income eligible families to attend high quality preschools across Pima County. Forty-five of these children are participating in PEEPs programs within the Town of Marana.

Funding for PEEPs continues to be provided by Pima County’s share of Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding, the Town of Oro Valley, Town of Marana, City of Tucson and other local partners.

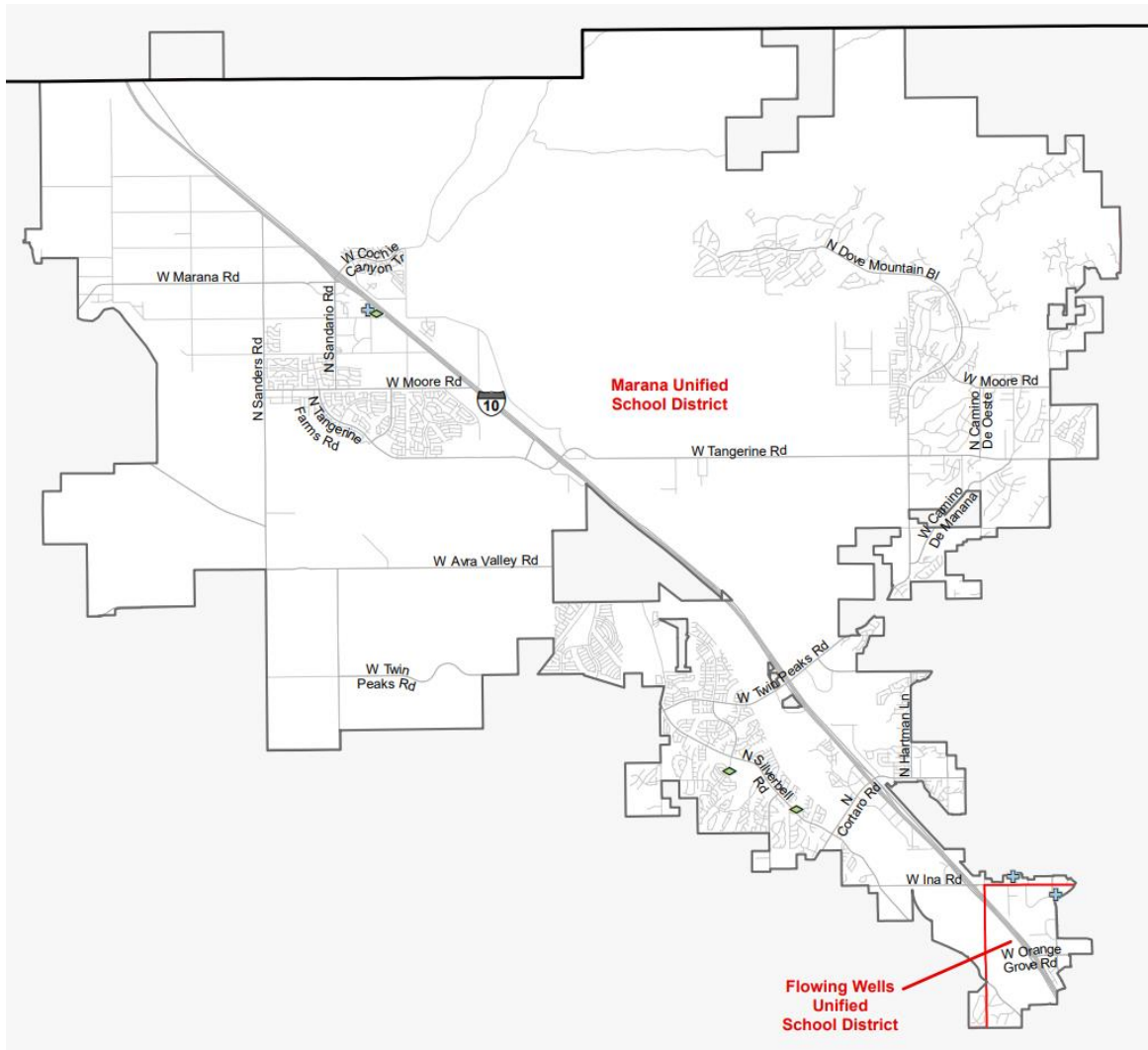
**Program Description and the Town of Marana** - The purpose of the program is to increase the number of 3-5 year old children from low-income families attending high quality preschools and to increase the number of high quality preschool classrooms in Pima County via local funding partnerships and statewide coordination. **For year two of PEEPs, the Town of Marana has contributed an additional \$142,345 for the cost of operating the PEEPs class at Estes Elementary School for up to 18 preschool age children.** To be eligible for the PEEPs preschool class at Estes Elementary families must have incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of four, for this Fiscal Year it is \$55,500, which is two times the Federal Poverty Level of \$27,750.

**Status** – The Town funded PEEPs class at Estes Elementary School continues to be a four star high quality rated program with 17 children enrolled. Pima County also funds preschool scholarships at five other locations within the Town of Marana. Four of these programs are high quality providers with 3 and 4 star quality ratings and one is a Head Start program. Due to the pandemic and continued impact it has on families and preschools, First Things First has also awarded the 2 star rated provider PEEPs scholarships. According to our December reports, one of the three participating Quality First scholarship providers has served 3 children this year. PEEPs is also funding



extended day preschool for two Head Start classes located in the Town. Both classes opened in August and have successfully enrolled 25 children between the two classes.

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



PEEPs School District Preschool Expansion Class in Town of Marana					
Name	Address	Total # children enrolled	Ages	Quality First Star Rating	Town of Marana Expenses Thru Q2
Estes Elementary School, MUSD	11280 W Grier Rd	17	3-5	4	\$74,113.37

PEEPs Extended Day Head Start Classes within Town of Marana		
Number of classes	Total # children served thru Q2	Pima County Federal Fund Expenses thru Q2
2	25	\$51,054.14

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PEEPS Quality First Preschool Scholarships Used within Town of Marana		
Number of Preschools	Total # of Unique children served thru Q2	Pima County Federal Fund Expenses thru Q2
1	3	\$6,688.00

**Highlight**

In November, the PEEPs class at Estes Elementary School welcomed Town of Marana Mayor Honea and Councilmembers John Officer and Jackie Craig as well as Pima County PEEPs and Marana School District representatives. Visitors were able to tour both the PEEPs classroom as well as the four-year-old preschool class with the opportunity to see children in action on the playground and in learning centers.



“The teachers do a great job of giving well rounded care and interaction in a calm and kind environment that allows for kids creativity and personality to shine”.  
 --Parent, December 2022

“Pima Early Education Program staff are very helpful in taking care of Keana and that helps me a lot to be able to work on my school work. Thank you Pima Early Education Program staff”.  
 --Parent, December 2022



For questions about PEEPs, contact [PEEPS@pima.gov](mailto:PEEPS@pima.gov). For families looking for preschool financial assistance, or help finding a high quality preschool, please call the Child Care Resource and Referral Information Line at 1-800-308-9000, or conduct a search at CCR&Rs website at [www.azcrr.com](http://www.azcrr.com).

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*“Our child is growing and making friends, he has improved skills needed for Kindergarten”.*

*-Parent, December 2022*

*“Love the program and am very thankful! I can focus on school, work and home life”.*

*-Parent, November 2022*



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# PEEPS

## Pima Early Education Program Scholarships

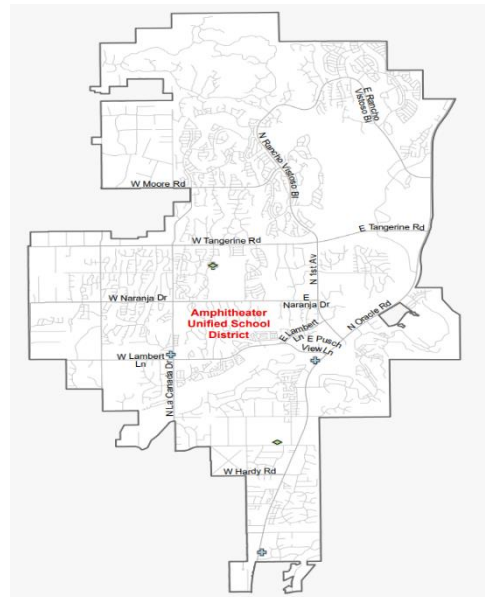
### Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 2 PEEPs Report for Town of Oro Valley IGA CTN-CR-21-142

At the end of Quarter 2, the Pima Early Education Program (PEEPs) has provided scholarships and free preschool opportunities to 1,165 children from income eligible families to attend high quality preschools across Pima County. Forty-three of these children are participating in PEEPs programs within the Town of Oro Valley. We would like to invite the Oro Valley Mayor, Council and staff to join Pima County representatives for a preschool site visit to see first-hand the impact that your contribution has had on our children thus far.

Funding for PEEPs continues to be provided by Pima County’s share of Federal American Rescue Plan Act, the Town of Oro Valley, Town of Marana, City of Tucson and other local partners.

**Program Description and the Town of Oro Valley** - The purpose of the program is to increase the number of 3-5 year old children from low-income families attending high quality preschools and to increase the number of high quality preschool classrooms in Pima County via local funding partnerships and statewide coordination. **The Town of Oro Valley has contributed \$100,000 to the Pima Early Education Program to fund needed quality capital improvements to indoor and outdoor preschool facilities at Canyon del Oro High School, Copper Creek Elementary and Painted Sky Elementary within the Amphitheater School District.**

**Status** – There are six PEEPs participating providers within the Town of Oro Valley. Four providers offer preschool scholarships funded by Pima County via a contract with First Things First. In addition, Pima County funds two preschool classes within the Amphitheater School District within the Town. Five of these PEEPs participating providers have Quality First 4 and 5 star ratings and three are nationally accredited programs. The Quality rating system ranges from 1-5 stars, with 3-5 star providers considered high quality.



At the end of Quarter 2, data reports show that 43 children have benefitted from the six PEEPs participating providers within the Town of Oro Valley this year.

PEEPs Participating School District Preschool Expansion Classes in Town of Oro Valley			
Name	Star Rating	Total # of Unique children Served thru Q2	Pima County Federal Fund Expenses thru Q2
Copper Creek Elementary School	Pending Rating*	14	\$ 61,813.60
Canyon Del Oro High School	4	20	\$ 82,957.34
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>\$ 144,770.94</b>

\*awaiting their CLASS assessment for rating

PEEPS Quality First Preschool Scholarships Used within Town of Oro Valley		
Number of Preschools	Total # of Unique children served thru Q2	Pima County Federal Fund Expenses thru Q2
4	9	\$18,696.00

**Capital Improvements** - \$19,598.71 of the Town’s \$100,000 contribution to the PEEPs program for the Amphitheater School District improvement project has been expended on materials for the STEAM classroom at Canyon Del Oro High School. The process for the playground improvements is well underway and is anticipated to be completed by Spring. These playground improvements are being designed with ADA accessibility guidelines in mind so that they will provide an inclusive environment for children of all abilities to access and increase positive motor development. **The immediate impact is that up to 168 children will be able to use the newly constructed sites, and 34 of those children are PEEPs students.** We have also included below a sneak peek at the design of the new inclusive playground environment that is set to be installed on the Copper Creek Elementary School campus in the Spring.



For questions about PEEPs, contact [PEEPS@pima.gov](mailto:PEEPS@pima.gov). For families looking for preschool financial assistance, or help finding a high quality preschool, please call the Child Care Resource and Referral Information Line at 1-800-308-9000, or conduct a search at CCR&Rs website at [www.azcrr.com](http://www.azcrr.com).

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